

My name is Ginny Marcille-Kerslake and I am a resident of West Whiteland Township and a frequent visitor to Marsh Creek Lake to kayak and hike.

I am submitting these written comments which I spoke about at the public hearing on June 16, 202. At that hearing other residents raised similar and additional concerns for impacts to the environment, private property and public safety caused by this proposed construction. Energy Transfer had inappropriately registered over a dozen industry supporters to speak, not about the environmental impacts, but rather claims of profits, jobs and energy independence related to this pipeline project being built to ship fracked ethane overseas to make plastics. Their speakers were not members of the public but came from as far away as Louisiana. In advance of the hearing and this public comment period, Energy Transfer is running a campaign via social media and mailed flyers, misinforming residents that this proposed route directs construction away from Marsh Creek Lake. In actuality it is the closest of any of the options, including the original HDD, and far closer to the lake than the route the DEP has ordered them to use.

Last August, the DEP acted swiftly and appropriately, permanently halting construction and ordering a reroute away from Marsh Creek Lake in accordance with a plan that Energy Transfer itself had previously submitted as feasible. In response Energy Transfer has now submitted this entirely new construction plan.

This newly proposed plan to open trench along the same route with a detour TOWARD the lake risks impacting this valuable natural and water resource and surrounding residential properties once again.

The route crosses the same wetland. This will require extracting groundwater to keep the trench dry which presents multiple concerns which we are experiencing right now in West Whiteland Township at Meadowbrook Manor:

The extraction of groundwater will likely be in massive amounts similar to current Mariner East construction through a wetland in West Whiteland which requires pumping 700 gpm or 1 million gallons per day. To haul away this would require one 5000 gallon water truck every 7 minutes 24/7. This is unrealistic.

The alternative is to filter the water and discharge to a waterway. Again, in West Whiteland this is presenting problems. Twice the filtration system has failed and resulted in Notices of Violation. Two NOV's were issued this spring for illegal discharge of sediment into Valley Creek. A third was just issued for using the wetland inappropriately as a treatment facility for turbid, sediment laden water, and a depository for sediment and clay fill. The new backup plan to dump this massive amount of sediment and water into the public sewer when the filtration system fails next time raises potential impacts to residents in the Meadowbrook Manor neighborhood and downstream on the sewer system.

In addition to the sediment issue, the discharge of extracted groundwater itself can impact surrounding vegetation. I visited a property in Berks County where this has killed numerous mature conifers. This property also now has large swampy areas due to seeps formed during open trench construction.

The extraction of groundwater will contribute to sinkhole formation in this area where Mariner East construction has created multiple sinkholes. It's underlain by gneiss similar to the bedrock on Lisa Dr in WWT where multiple sinkholes permanently forced 5 families from their homes. We see this happening again in West Whiteland Township right now with several sinkholes forming as that groundwater is extracted, including one 23 feet long. In addition to the public safety risk, this has required dumping grout (at least 25 cement truckloads thus far) into this area adjacent to and in a wetland.

Why would the DEP permit open trench construction along this route close to Marsh Creek Lake, through the wetland and across two creeks feeding the lake knowing that impacts similar to those currently happening in West Whiteland could likely occur here? During public comments in 2018 the DEP was similarly warned about the problems that are now occurring in West Whiteland.

This proposal also requires diverting two creeks which feed into Marsh Creek Lake impacting the lake and the wetland, including its aquatic and wildlife habitat. These potential impacts have not been thoroughly assessed. For example, the only bog turtle field survey conducted for this proposal was by Energy Transfer's contracted consultants, not by the US Fish and Wildlife Service or other regulatory agency.

I ask that the DEP deny this proposal which is in the best interests of the corporation, NOT the environment. Furthermore, NO plan should be approved until Energy Transfer has secured the abandoned borehole and fully completed the remediation.

But really what the DEP must do is pull the permits for this project which has already been issued 123 notices by the DEP for violating its permits. Enough is enough.

Thank you

Virginia Marcille-Kerslake
103 Shoen Road
Exton PA
19341