



June 11, 2021

Department of Environmental Protection
Southeast Region
Waterways and Wetlands Program
2 Main St.
Norristown, PA 19401

Chapter 102 Permit No. ESG0100015001
Chapter 105 Permit No. E15-862

To Whom It May Concern:

PennAg Industries Association supports Mariner East network and urges the state Department of Environmental Protection to approve the proposed permit modifications for construction along a portion of the pipeline route running through the Marsh Creek area in Upper Uwchlan Township, Chester County.

Energy Transfer wants to alter the construction method from horizontal directional drilling to an open cut, with alterations to the pipeline route. Horizontal directional drilling is a steerable, trenchless method of installing underground pipe. Open trench installation is an excavation where the pipeline is lowered into the trench and covered. The open trench method eliminates the potential for an inadvertent return. This is the best option to ensure minimal environmental effects and limit disruptions to neighbors.

Mariner East ensure the safe, efficient, affordable delivery of domestic fuel, especially propane, which is critical for Pennsylvania agriculture.

Pennsylvania's farmers rely on propane to power their daily operations in many ways. In the case of agriculture, the fuel is just as important as the tractor. Not only is propane used to run equipment, but it is especially critical for two of the state's fastest growing agricultural sectors: pork and poultry production. Both have grown by approximately 25% over recent years. Reliable, consistent and comfortable propane heat is a key part of keeping piglets hearty and healthy, and propane brooders are highly efficient because they provide more even heat over a larger area with fewer units, keeping young chicks warm and healthy.

Farmers can't control the weather, but they do have a choice when it comes to the fuels they use. Propane heaters offer unmatched reliability because they continue to operate even during electric power outages, making access to this domestic fuel source critical for sustaining operations and helping these vital agricultural operations keep grocery store shelves stocked and neighbors across the Commonwealth fed.

For farmers, this budget-friendly fuel means the opportunity for improved production with lower input costs and the flexibility to solve problems by providing a clean, cost-effective, reliable source of off-grid energy.

Poultry farmers use propane-fueled poultry house sanitizers that generate heat from propane flames housed under a steel hood to sanitize poultry litter. The intense heat kills pathogens, reduces ammonia levels and controls harmful diseases that can affect bird weight and vitality. Propane-fired grain dryers give farmers the opportunity to save money and reduce spoilage, while also offering them flexibility in their harvest schedule and providing insurance against unforeseen issues with bringing their crops to market. Reliable access to affordable propane allows these farmers to grow their operations and increase their self-reliance.

Pennsylvania farmers have a rich tradition as stewards of the land. They support projects that strike the right balance between respecting the land and putting it to proper use for the benefit of all Pennsylvanians. The proposed permit modifications for the Mariner East pipeline do exactly that, which is why we support the change and urge DEP to give the plan its approval as well. Thank you.

Chris Herr, Executive Vice President
PennAg Industries Association