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September 25, 2019

Richard Kanaskie, Director
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, Filing Room
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Boring for pipeline construction near Lisa Drive in West Whiteland Township

Mr. Kanaskie:

In March 2018 and January 2019, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ordered Sunoco to suspend operation of the Mariner East 1 pipeline following subsidence behind Lisa Drive in West Whiteland Township. The PUC also ordered Sunoco to fill underground voids in that area with a significant amount of grout.

The subsidence occurred as a result of construction of Sunoco's Mariner East 2 pipeline installed via horizontal directional drilling (HDD), apparently near an underground fault. Because of the problems caused by HDD in that location, Sunoco (now Energy Transfer) is seeking approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for a permit modification to allow Mariner East 2X to be installed via different construction methods – a combination of open trench construction and direct boring under the Route 30 bypass and Amtrak railroad. The exit pit for the boring will be located very close to the area that was grouted.

The prospect of pipeline construction so close to the grouted area that surrounds one natural gas liquid pipeline – Mariner East 1 – and is in close proximity to another – the 12" "workaround" pipeline that Energy Transfer recently put into operation – is unnerving for our community. If DEP issues the required permit and Energy Transfer prepares to begin construction of Mariner East 2X, on behalf of our residents we ask that the PUC order Energy Transfer to suspend operations of the 8" Mariner East 1 and the 12" workaround pipelines as a preemptive measure.

If our request is not granted, we would appreciate an explanation as to how pipeline construction can be approved so close to an underground fault and to a heavily grouted area without risking damage to nearby pipelines carrying natural gas liquids.

Thank you for considering our request.

West Whiteland Township
Board of Supervisors


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Chairman


Michele Moll
Vice-Chairman


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Member