



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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July 19, 2021

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Attn: Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Chiavetta,

We respectfully request you stop operation of Energy Transfer's Mariner East 1 eight-inch natural gas liquid (NGL) pipeline (ME1) and it's 12-inch NGL pipeline (sometimes referred to as the "workaround" pipeline) until further investigation can be conducted into the risks presented to these lines by the sinkholes that are occurring on a regular basis. Both of these pipelines have been in the ground for about 80 years, but only began carrying NGLs under high pressure much more recently.

Since January 1, 2021 there have been no fewer than seven sinkholes or subsidences along the Mariner East route caused by construction in the fragile karst geology in West Whiteland Township, Chester County and other geologic factors. A sinkhole has already exposed the ME1 eight-inch NGL pipeline, prompting the Commission to order the pipeline to be shut down. Another pipeline that had purportedly been recently taken out of service was also exposed in July of 2018.

When not exposing pipelines, the sinkholes have formed dangerously close to the aged pipelines. It seems to us that the significant risk of exposing these pipelines makes the potential for a catastrophic leak that much easier to occur and renders the ME1 and 12-inch pipelines "unreasonable, unsafe [and] inadequate". See 66 Pa.C.S. §§ 1501, 1505(a). On July 14, a sinkhole formed, literally swallowing an entire tree. We have attached that video to the e-mail that delivered this letter. What would have happened if that tree had struck the existing lines carrying NGLs? This question must be answered by the Commission and swift action taken for the safety of Chester County residents.

This is why we are asking that you order operations of the ME1 and 12-inch pipelines be ceased until the Commission can better understand the cause of these sinkholes and the risks that they present to the operation of the operating NGL pipelines.

We ask the Commission to investigate and take swift action on this issue because you have access to the necessary geological and engineering studies and reports provided by Energy Transfer. We, as County Commissioners, have engaged our own independent pipeline engineer and geologist to study the issue, but have limited access to the information needed to fully evaluate the situation. Instead, our experts must rely on publicly available information only.

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Should our independent experts find reason for concern based on what they can review publicly, we stand ready to take action to ensure our residents' safety. However, you, the Commission, are one of the few bodies that can truly ensure our residents' safety by immediately stopping the operation of the current Mariner East lines, and fully studying the issue before allowing product to move again.

Kindly accept this letter as a direct appeal to the Commission and/or an informal complaint pursuant to 52 Pa. Code 3.111, whichever process will result in the quickest and most effective response to this pressing issue.

Please, help us in our efforts to keep our residents safe.

Sincerely,



Marian Moskowitz
Chair



Josh Maxwell
Vice Chair



Michelle Kichline
Commissioner

cc: West Whiteland Township Board of Supervisors
Chester County Legislative Delegation
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Joe McGinn, Energy Transfer