

11TH DISTRICT
JUDITH L. SCHWANK

SENATE BOX 203011
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3011
717-787-8925
FAX: 717-772-0578

210 GEORGE STREET
SUITE 201
READING, PA 19605
610-929-2151
FAX: 610-929-2576

EMAIL: senatorschwank@pasenate.com
WEBSITE: www.senatorschwank.com



COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS,
DEMOCRATIC CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS, VICE CHAIR
AGING & YOUTH
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SYSTEM
OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Senate of Pennsylvania

February 25, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer comment and express concern on the Joanna Road Crossing HHD Reevaluation Report (PADEP Section 105 Permit No. E06-701, PA-BR-0181.0000-RD-16; [SPLP HDD No. S3-0250-16] submitted on February 13, 2019 by Sunoco to the Department of Environmental Protection.

The department and other government regulators are acutely aware of the multitude of problems that the Mariner East pipeline projects have caused. There have been repeated reports of Inadvertent Returns (including several in my district); groundwater and surface water impacts; private and public well contaminations; and, sinkhole formation, among other issues. In January, sinkholes again appeared around the Mariner East pipeline in West Whiteland Township, Chester County. Last year PUC shut down this pipeline when similar sinkholes opened in this same neighborhood. And, DEP and other agencies have taken significant regulatory and enforcement action against the company.

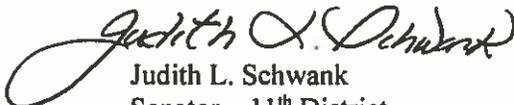
While there apparently was no "Karst geology" present at the Joanna Road Crossing Drill site nor at site of other apparent IR incidents (which I just became aware of) at a "Highway 222 Crossing" drill site (PA-BR-0071.0000-RD-16; SLP HDD No. S3-0200-16), geology in these areas apparently did play a role in these IR incidents. And, these IR incidents are no less of a concern than sinkhole incidents. More importantly, the proliferation of IRs, sinkholes, and other impacts, when taken cumulatively, indicate that the harms created by this project outweigh the benefits.

Further, it is clear to me that the operator of this pipeline does not fully know conditions of and around its infrastructure and certainly doesn't seem to grasp the threat it poses to public confidence and public safety. If the owner of this pipeline can't get it right now, then perhaps they should not be allowed to continue to operate, business as usual, as it seems they have been up until now.

As I stated in previous correspondence to the Department and other regulatory agencies: as the energy delivery infrastructure is built out in our state, Pennsylvanians have a right to know that their health and safety is being protected and the integrity of our environment is preserved, especially as these pipelines traverse heavily-populated areas."

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Judith L. Schwank
Senator—11th District

JLS/TG

CC All Concerned Citizens