

February 21, 2018

By Email

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**Re: Sunoco’s Response to DEP’s request for information on HDDs
PA-CU-0203.0000-WX & PA-CU-0203.0000-WX-16**

Dear Mr. Muzic,

On February 14, 2018, Sunoco submitted a letter to the Department in response to the Department’s request for additional information regarding horizontal directional drilling (“HDD”) Sites PA-CU-0203.0000-WX & PA-CU-0203.0000-WX-16 (the “Site”). Pursuant to the Corrected Stipulated Order entered on EHB Docket No. 2017-009-L on August 10, 2017 (“Order”), and on behalf of Clean Air Council, Mountain Watershed Association, Inc., and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (“Appellants”), we respectfully submit these comments in reply.

From the onset of the re-evaluation process for this Site, Appellants have been concerned that the lack of available groundwater data, Sunoco’s refusal to conduct its own groundwater modeling, and Sunoco’s failure to analyze well-production zones, make it impossible to adequately protect water supplies near the Site. The Department has twice requested additional information regarding water supplies. It appears from Sunoco’s latest reply to the Department that Sunoco has made contact with all landowners with water supplies within 450 feet of the Site. Nevertheless, Sunoco has still not analyzed well production zones and has not gathered the data needed for that analysis. Sunoco’s revised re-evaluation admits again that “there is the potential to create a drain for groundwater flows and temporarily lower the groundwater table on the east side of this HDD.” It has still not addressed this threat. As Appellants have pointed out before, diminishing the water table leads not only to wells running dry—which Sunoco must avoid—but also can make wells vulnerable to bacterial contamination. Furthermore, Sunoco’s claim that its draining of the water table would be temporary is vague and unsupported. Sunoco has provided no data to demonstrate how long it would take for the

aquifer to be restored after Sunoco drains it. This is all critical information for the landowners who may be impacted, and Sunoco should be required to provide it. Simply monitoring for problems without taking needed steps to prevent them is insufficient.

The Department also asked Sunoco to evaluate fracture traces at the Site due to a public comment that included aerial photography that was less obstructed than the photography Sunoco had relied on. Sunoco dismissed the notion that there might be fractures it had not identified, noting that the fractures mentioned in the comment were not independently verified, and that fracture features were not “clearly visible” in the commenter’s photograph. The burden, though, is on Sunoco to ensure its analysis is accurate and complete, and Sunoco has still failed to verify its analysis in the field.

Thank you for considering these comments. Please keep us apprised of your next steps on this HDD Site.

Sincerely,

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