

File: Mariner East Pipeline - Final.rtf

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From:

Lawrence D. Barrett

47 Skyline Drive

Glan Mills PA 19342

To: PADEP, Southeast Regional Office, RA-EPWW-SERO@pa.gov

Subject: Mariner East II Pipeline

Gentlemen,

Description: From available sources I believe the Mariner East II project proposes to create two new pipelines through our Township on an existing right-of-way : one 16 inch dia., the other 20 inch dia. The purpose is to carry hazardous petroleum liquids to Marcus Hook for refining and export. It is extremely difficult to find information on any aspect of this pipeline project. It is as though the information is deliberately kept from the public. I have based my review on information from apparently reliable sources.

I have several concerns concerning these pipelines and hope the PADEP will impose some safety improvements to the Sunoco apparent plans.

- o The new pipeline project is a profit making enterprize: not a public utility. It is planned to provide a petroleum product to the Marcus Hook refinery for export, not for the benefit of residents, and should not be allowed to use "eminent domain" takeover attempts, as has been rumored.
- o Pipelines and the industry are hazardous and need the best of materials, workmanship and controls during construction and operation. Apparently Sunoco has remarked that they do not intend to provide this approach. (See discussion below).

Horizontal Drilling Needed and Consequences: (Several areas of the pipeline need to be drilled far under the surface to avoid residences and buildings in the path of the pipeline.) The following, in quotes, is from a local reference and shows Sunocos apparent disregard for "Best Construction Practices".

" Sunoco is proposing to conduct underground "horizontal directional drilling" (HDD) in our area as part of its proposed hazardous liquids export pipeline construction project. As planned (see later discussion) this may lead to drinking water pollution. Even though Sunoco calls it horizontal drilling, they will be drilling to depths of 160 feet with an average depth of 72 feet in East Goshen and nearby townships, (as stated by Sunoco at recent township meetings in our area). This means they will be penetrating and

drilling deep into bedrock, but where the borehole reaches the surface they plan to leave a large void between the pipe and the bore. This void will serve as a conduit by which surface pollutants (such as bacteria and other pathogens including chemicals) may be able to flow directly into the aquifer, bypassing the natural filtration system of soil and rock layers. Sunoco representatives were asked at the Thornbury Township meeting whether they planned to grout between the borehole and the pipe to protect the groundwater supply, and they stated they would not. This proposed method of drilling poses a serious risk of contaminating the water in both private wells and the larger Aqua wells on which municipal water supplies in our area depend. "

The horizontal drilling process and the apparent intent by Sunoco to disregard "Best Construction Practice" by not sealing the void between the borehole and pipe, calls for more regulatory action for increased safety of residents. It would also be good practice to have mandatory water testing of residents water before construction and at regular intervals afterwards. According to a nearby resident at the West Chester hearing, Sunoco refused to discuss such testing.

Monitoring and notifications of malfunction: Although the fluid is said to be gaseous and hazardous at atmospheric pressure, there is no safety plan proposed by sunoco except to leave premines on foot (rather than a vehicle with possible ignition source. This is not particularly easy for the handicapped.

Sunoco Malfunction History: A local researcher discovered that Sunoco has a long record of hazardous liquids leaks, averaging more than two of them each month for the last ten years. Many of these leaks occurred right here in our part of Pennsylvania. I heard recently that there was a Sunoco pipeline incident in Edgmont (thought to be on Meadow Lane)

I experienced one spill in neighboring Edgmont Township that would have affected Thornbury as very much of the pipeline is in the Chester Creek Watershed. (Chester Creek is a drinking water source for much of the County, and Aqua PA, withdraws from Chester Creek, downstream near Aston). I retired from our local Edgmont Fire Company after more than 30 years as a volunteer fireman About 15 years ago our Edgmont Fire Company volunteers were out all night after a pipeline incident on Meadow Lane, Edgmont Twp. The spill threatened to pollute a tributary of Chester Creek. Our volunteers created earthen dams and kept the hazardous fluid from entering the tributary until the flow could be stopped .

Another time the entire Delaware County Emergency Response Teams - Volunteer Fire Fighters and Professional Teams were called out for a Marcus Hook refinery fire during my service with Edgmont.

Background: I am having a great deal of difficulty finding anything definite about the proposed pipelines. I attended the West Chester University PADEP hearing but did not hear any description from the PADEP; the only information I received was a map that had been prepared by Sunoco for the PADEP showing the route of the pipeline and comments given by attendees.

The Sunoco/PADEP map gave the approximate path of the pipelines through Delaware County, but was very poor in definition. I have observed the pipeline markings along Route 352 and Slitting Mill Road. The markings are along the property boundaries affected landowners given on the PADEP website. Using a large scale map of Thornbury as my guide, it appears that a little more than 4000 ft of

each pipeline will be in our township. It also appears that "horizontal drilling will be necessary to pass under several affected properties.

I am a Thornbury Township, Delaware County, resident, living approximately 2200 ft to the West of the site of the present Sunoco Pipeline and the proposed expansion of the site to accommodate two new pipelines. In addition I live approximately 1800 ft to the East of the path of the right of way of one or more of the pipelines that cross our Township. My water supply is from an on-site well. The wrong decisions on the proposed pipeline may have serious detrimental health and economic affects on my and my neighbors future. In addition decisions on this pipeline will set a precedent for future pipeline expansion or modification.

I would request that you require an increased emphasis on Best Practices, and responsible actions to assure health and safety

Thank you for your consideration.

Lawrence Barrett