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PA DEP Southcentral Regional Office  
Waterways and Wetlands Program  
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RE: Sunoco Pipeline LP Chapter 105 Permit, Permit No. E38-194

Dear DEP Representative

It is very disheartening, as private citizens, to be exhorting our Department of Environmental Protection to protect our constitutional rights under Article 1 Section 27 of our Pennsylvania Constitution, and to uphold the integrity of DEP's Mission and Statement of Values. These documents must inform and direct all decisions made on behalf of our resources, and the welfare and safety of Pennsylvanians.

As a point of reference, it is relevant to state the Mission of the PA Department of Environmental Protection which "is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment. We will work as partners with individuals, organizations, governments and businesses to prevent pollution and restore our natural resources."

And equally important is DEP's Statement of Values:

- Protection- We are responsible for the protection of the air, land and water of the Commonwealth
- Teamwork- We recognize that, as a Department, our responsibilities are great and our numbers few. Just as our air, land and water together make up our environment, our goals can only be accomplished if we work cooperatively and support each other in the achievement of our common purpose.
- Communication- We encourage the broadest two-way communication possible with all our constituencies by involving the public in decision-making opportunities through such techniques as regulatory negotiation and stake holder groups and by disseminating information through all means possible.
- Pollution Prevention- We promote the goal of **zero** discharge through pollution prevention and encourage compliance assistance and problem solving to stop pollution before it starts.

The pipelines involved in the Pennsylvania Pipeline Project are proposed to cross at least 581 wetlands and 1,227 streams. They would permanently degrade at least 35.3 acres of wetlands and 8.6 acres of streams. DEP cannot justify granting permits for this or any other project that violates its own mission and values, and our constitutional “right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment. “

Every engineered stream and wetland crossing will cause environmental harms. Open cut, bore and horizontal directional drilling will cause direct sediment disturbance. Lebanon County has 528.61 stream miles and more than half were impaired according to the most recent Lebanon County Implementation Plan of 2006.<sup>1</sup> How can DEP reasonably and credibly protect our dynamic water resources without having current data? This outdated study is one more reason not to accept any further impacts on our streams and wetlands, and it calls into question any justification for allowing pollution/sedimentation from Chapter 105 permits.

The proposed project’s 19.7 miles through Lebanon County would cross 13 streams and many more tributaries and wetlands. Specifically, Sunoco cannot be allowed to cut through exceptional value wetlands and tributaries of the Hammer Creek, a cold water fishery. And Sunoco cannot be allowed to withdraw water from the Snitz Creek. I live very close to the Snitz Creek and I care about its future and the wildlife it supports. The Snitz Creek is a tributary to Quittapahilla Creek, a tributary of Swatara Creek in the Susquehanna River Basin.<sup>2</sup> The mainstem of Quittapahilla Creek and all of the major tributaries, including the Snitz Creek are listed as impaired in 303(d).<sup>2</sup> Sources of impairment include nutrients, silt, suspended solids, organic enrichment, low dissolved oxygen concentrations and flow and habitat alterations.<sup>2</sup> It is also important to note that Lebanon County is part of the Lower Susquehanna Regional Water Resource Committee, which is one of the six statewide regional committees for the Water Resource Planning Act.<sup>3</sup> This committee identified four priorities for the region:

- An inventory of water resource supply (sources, geologic influences, and quantity and quality issues) and demand (current and projected consumption rates by use, critical water planning areas, impacts of flood and drought conditions on demand); development of a water budget for each watershed
- Promotion of water resource conservation, including wise and efficient use, water re-use practices, and protection of critical water bodies and function
- Minimize land use impacts, i.e. reduce or eliminate point and non-point sources of water pollution; protect, restore and reclaim floodplains, wetlands and waterway corridors
- Unification of water resource management initiatives via intergovernmental coordination (communication, data collection and sharing, and regulatory linkages), regional planning and advancement of priorities, and promotion of water resource stewardship.<sup>3</sup>

These priorities would be profoundly compromised and subverted by all of Sunoco’s proposed stream crossings, wetland encroachments and water withdrawals.

Sunoco is motivated by profits and money saving measures. Sunoco is not in the business of protecting, conserving or restoring our water resources. DEP is not funded nor staffed to adequately monitor and enforce best management practices. Last February, DEP Secretary John Quigley noted that DEP “does not have enough staff to meet the needs of any of its programs.” Sunoco is not prepared nor willing to implement best management practices in all stream crossings and all wetland encroachments, and the company has a lengthy list of violations.<sup>4,5,6,7</sup> This is an untenable situation that will result in more degradation and destruction of our water resources. In fact, Sunoco’s proposed pipeline project will traverse more than 300 miles across southern PA and transport industrial volumes of highly explosive, odorless, tasteless natural gas liquids (ethane, butane, propane) to Marcus Hook for shipment overseas. These pressurized pipelines have a high risk potential to cause devastating damage to people, animals, and our environment.

DEP must consider the aggregate and cumulative impacts of the gas industry in toto. Every aspect of this retrograde fossil fuel industry is causing harms to our environment; water, air and soil. DEP cannot ignore the fact that carbon compounds comprise highly potent greenhouse gases which are directly and significantly contributing to global warming. According to the 2015 Climate Change Action Plan Update prepared by DEP, Pennsylvania has undergone a long-term warming of more than 1<sup>0</sup>C over the past 110 years.<sup>8</sup> Models used in the update establish this warming is a result of anthropogenic influence, and that this trend is accelerating. Projections in the 2015 Update show that by the middle of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Pennsylvania will be about 3<sup>0</sup>C warmer than it was at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>8</sup> DEP can no longer aid and abet the continued use of fossil fuels and the development of fossil fuel infrastructure.

We, the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, demand the Department of Environmental Protection stops operating as a shill of the gas industry. We request DEP extend the public comment period to “encourage the broadest two-way communication possible” and accommodate “teamwork” according to its ‘values statement’.

The public needs more time to read applications and do appropriate research. We, the public, have a vested interest in the natural resources that sustain us. DEP working cooperatively and respectfully with the public it serves will ensure the best outcomes for all of us.

Sincerely

Elise Kucirka Salahub (Ellie Salahub)  
John Salahub, DPM

<sup>1</sup> Lebanon County Implementation Plan (March 2006): [pacd.org/webfresh/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/lebanonCIP.pdf](http://pacd.org/webfresh/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/lebanonCIP.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Snitz Creek Park Wetland Mitigation Bank Prospectus, PA Penn DOT District 8-0, (February 2010): [www.quittapahilawatershedassociation.org/documents/ProspectusSnitzCreekpark.pdf](http://www.quittapahilawatershedassociation.org/documents/ProspectusSnitzCreekpark.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Natural Resources Profile/2007 Lebanon County Comprehensive Plan: [www.lebcounty.org/Planning/Documents/CompPlanAppendix1/LCCP\\_App16\\_NaturalFeaturesProfile.pdf](http://www.lebcounty.org/Planning/Documents/CompPlanAppendix1/LCCP_App16_NaturalFeaturesProfile.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.justice.gov/archive/opa/pr/2006/August/06\\_enrd\\_534.html](https://www.justice.gov/archive/opa/pr/2006/August/06_enrd_534.html)

<sup>5</sup> <http://triblive.com/news/adminpage/5709670-74/sunoco-dep-board#axzz3GD7wewpl>

<sup>6</sup> [http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/reports/enforce/documents/320125002H/320125002H\\_CAO\\_011822pdf](http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/reports/enforce/documents/320125002H/320125002H_CAO_011822pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.shreveporttimes.com/story/news/local/2014/10/18/crude-oil-spills-caddo-bayou-kills-wildlife/17522017/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/Get/Document114163/FINAL%202015%20Climate%20Change%20Action%20Plan%20Update.pdf>