

Comments regarding Sunoco Logistics' Mariner East 2 Ch. 105 permit applications

August 24, 2016

To whom it may concern at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection:

My name is Nancy Harkins and I am a resident of Chester County. I live within 1500 feet of the proposed pipeline. I am opposed to further expansion of oil & gas infrastructure in general and this project in particular because of the great harm that would result to our community health and safety and environmental degradation.

There is no safe or sensitive way to build these pipelines. The work is inherently destructive and dangerous. It requires deforestation, destruction of small waterways and wetlands, encroachment on wildlife habitat and conversion of wild spaces to industrial zones. According to Sunoco's Aquatic Resource Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation Plan, additional temporary workspaces are required for stream crossings. When riparian areas require greater care and protection, this seems counter-intuitive. Basically, in order to build major gas transmission lines, it is necessary to cause more environmental damage at more ecologically sensitive areas. Does allowing this fit in with DEP's mission?

Regarding concern for human impacts, construction and operation of gas lines puts drinking water at risk. Sunoco has admitted this risk by including in some easement agreements a plan for baseline water testing. They are, however, not offering to do baseline testing beyond landowners that are directly affected. The DEP's own work on groundwater contamination indicates that it is more extensive and pervasive than it was purported to be.

Further, of utmost concern, is the risk of accidents, spills and explosions. This is both a real and an unacceptable risk. These major transmission lines have no place near homes, schools, workplaces or recreation areas. However, Sunoco plans to cross thousands upon thousands of them. Since I began researching gas and hazardous materials pipelines in the fall of 2015, I have read about dozens of accidents in the United States, all of them resulting in property damage and pollution, many of them causing injuries, and some of them causing death. These issues are not beyond the department's scope. In fact, they should be one of your primary focal points. Your agency has a duty to protect the people and environment of Pennsylvania. Issuing permits for a project like Sunoco's Mariner East 2 would clearly be at odds with this duty.

As someone concerned about his project, I have taken time to voluntarily explore areas of impact. For instance, I have reviewed correspondence in nearby Edgmont Township Delaware County between Sunoco and Township officials that documents the issues with residents well water from a previous spill that was not detected by Sunoco.

Finally, I will tell you about my concerns for the Susquehanna River and Sunoco's planned crossing. This would prove to be an immense task. Is Sunoco up to it? They have shown

themselves to be extremely careless and accident-prone. They are driven by profit and pressure from their investors, not the rules and regulations put in place to protect our Pennsylvania environment. Our Susquehanna needs help. It needs recovery efforts. It is a river filled with pollution. These problems need to be fixed before more development takes place and more cumulative effects add up.

DEP mission statement: "The Department of Environmental Protection's mission 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."

I am aware that your agency risks being faced with a lawsuit if permits are withheld or refused. However, your agency and hence the taxpayers would likely pay the brunt of operator malfeasance should this project move forward. We would like to remind the department that any legal fees your agency would incur would be paid for out of our pockets as well. We ask you to accept this risk on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania, in order to avoid a much greater catastrophe. Please work with us, not against us.

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