

Steamfitters

LOCAL UNION #449

Kenneth J. Broadbent, Business Manager
Joseph M. Little, Secretary - Treasurer
William A. Yocum, President

James A. Harding, Business Agent
James C. Kirsch, Business Agent
Robert G. Lorenzi, Jr., Business Agent

William T. Panitzke, Business Agent
James E. Reynolds, Business Agent
Mark S. Rovnan, Business Agent

June 7, 2021

Department of Environmental Protection
Southeast Region
Waterways and Wetlands Program
2 Main St.
Norristown, PA 19401

Re: Chapter 102 Permit No. ESG0100015001

My name is Ken Broadbent, and I am writing to the DEP on behalf of the Steamfitters Local Union 449 to convey our support for the Mariner East pipeline project and outline the importance that this opportunity provides for our members and the state of Pennsylvania.

Local 449 members are hard-working, skilled laborers based in Southwestern Pennsylvania. We are proud of our communities and committed to our neighbors. We apply our expertise in gas pipeline distribution to provide high-quality, reliable, and safe results. Local 449 also conducts an apprenticeship program that offers promising technicians a comprehensive educational field training. Our work supports families and careers as we provide fundamental necessities to Pennsylvania homes.

COVID-19 has affected the amount of steady work available to our contractors, and the Mariner East Pipeline would ensure well-paid jobs for Local 449. I and several other business managers in the Philadelphia Building Trades met with Governor Wolf in March 2020 to convey the financial importance of our work to our contractors as well as the service we provide to the communities in which we work. After our conversations he classified our project sites as "essential" to guarantee they remained open. Since then, the pandemic has slowed our projects while health and safety concerns have kept some members from returning to open work sites. Considering the issues Steamfitters Local 449 has faced, the Mariner East pipeline is a valuable opportunity for our contractors to earn the good pay that they deserve while keeping jobs within the state.

Construction on the pipeline at the location under review is set to resume once allowed to employ an open cut construction method. This will ensure a safer process for the communities near the project site and reduce environmental risks. If construction does not resume, and the project remains stuck behind red tape, our members must look elsewhere for work. This would mean leaving their homes and families to travel to active worksites, likely outside of the state. Not only does this strain their families, but the state suffers economically from lost tax revenue. Our contractors want to stay local and so we should ensure they have the opportunities to do so.

A streamlined regulatory process for projects like this is absolutely necessary to ensure regulatory compliance while minimizing delays. This project has experienced massive delays since construction began, which is unfortunate. There are just a few locations where construction is still active, and I urge you to perform a timely review and approval of this proposal.

I urge the DEP to approve construction permitting on the Mariner East Pipeline for the financial stability of hard-working Pennsylvanians, for the continued growth and development of our communities, and for the economic wellbeing of the state. Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth J. Broadbent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Ken Broadbent

Business Manager

Steamfitters Local Union 449

KJB/nmf
Opeiu#457
Afl-cio