



June 10, 2021

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

**MARINER EAST: Chapter 102 Permit No. ESG0100015001  
Chapter 105 Permit No. E15-862**

Dear DEP-SERO:

The Mariner East 1 pipeline ships natural gas liquids 350 miles from Marcellus shale deposits in western Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia to the former Sunoco Refinery in Marcus Hook. It is one of the state's largest infrastructure projects, linking our commonwealth and uniting us all with shared economic opportunity. My company relies on the safe, efficient, affordable transit of these clean, domestic energy resources, which is why I support the proposed permit modifications for a small section of the line in Chester County.

The Mariner East pipeline network is a multi-billion-dollar project that strengthens both the region's vital energy transportation infrastructure and our broader economy. But activists have been dogged in opposition to Mariner East 2 throughout its lengthy permitting process --- an endeavor that took tens of thousands of man hours of regulatory review, public hearings, and more. And while opposition to Mariner East should come as no surprise --- energy infrastructure of all stripes has fallen victim to instant opposition regardless of merit in recent years --- the predictability of the opposition doesn't make it right.

As a business owner here in Pennsylvania, I make decisions and form opinions based on facts rather than ideology. I owe that much to my employees and to the community I call home. And the facts, as I see them, show this modification to be the right move for the environment, for the workers, and for the nearby community.

The company has submitted to DEP a “major modification” for its permitted work at this site to alter the construction method from horizontal directional drilling to an open cut in the area, with alterations to the pipeline route. Horizontal directional drilling is a steerable, trenchless method of installing underground pipe. Open trench installation is an excavation where the pipeline is lowered into the trench and covered. The open trench method eliminates the potential for an inadvertent return and the modification is being pursued based on geological realities in the field.

Mariner East and the revitalization of the Marcus Hook Industrial Complex is huge for my business as a transport operator for a variety of fuels such as propane to local residents in southeastern Pennsylvania. Some have tried to act like Mariner East provides zero local benefit, which couldn't be further from the truth. My employees visit Marcus Hook daily to fill up with products shipped by Mariner East and deliver those fuels to local residential customers. This portion of pipeline in Chester County really is the final piece to get this network fully operational so our entire commonwealth can realize the full potential of the project.

At the end of the day, every single one of us depends upon reliable energy resources every day. And while renewables are no doubt the wave of the future, resources like natural gas are essential in today's economy. As one of the nation's leading producers of natural gas, Pennsylvania has a vested interest in ensuring that the infrastructure used to safely, reliably and efficiently transport resources to market are as strong as possible. Pipelines like Mariner East are, without dispute, the best option available --- and this proposed modification is the right way to finally finish the job.

I urge DEP to approve the Chapter 102 Permit No. ESG0100015001 and Chapter 105 Permit No. E15-862 modifications. Thank you.

*Thom Ferro*

Thom Ferro  
President  
Ferro Fuel Oil Inc.  
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