

June 16, 2021

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

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

Dear Sir or Madam:

Over four years have passed since the Mariner East 2 Pipeline broke ground and its developer is determined to finish the project in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. Accordingly, Sunoco Pipeline LP would like to change the installation method from horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to open cut trench at one location, thereby, eliminating the potential for an inadvertent return. To move forward with the new plan, they have submitted two permit amendment requests—Chapter 102 Permit No. ESG0100015001 and Chapter 105 Permit No. E15-862. I would ask that you approve both amendment requests and continue Pennsylvania's strong track record of energy infrastructure investment.


The Keystone State has been blessed with an abundance of natural gas—production reached close to 7 trillion in 2019, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. This increased production served as a catalyst for a flourishing energy industry that now supports over 300,000 jobs and gives billions to the economy annually. Pennsylvania's environment has also emerged as a winner with the production boom enabling coal to be phased out in favor of natural gas and lowering the total carbon dioxide emissions in its power sector by 30 percent. All is for naught, however, without a strong infrastructure system in place to transport energy resources reliably and efficiently to consumers and businesses. For that, pipelines like Mariner East fit the bill—they are the safest method to transport energy products, far better than tanker truck or rail. In fact, a Fraser Institute study found pipelines are 4.5 times safer than rail transportation where there is a greater chance of a spill that causes potential environmental damage.

Investing in pipeline infrastructure not only ensures safe energy

transportation, but brings an economic boost once construction begins. Mariner East is a great example—during construction alone, it has had a \$9.1 billion economic impact. The project has also been a stable source of employment for skilled pipeline workers in these uncertain times.

The proposed modification is being made to ensure the safe install of the pipeline. Trench installation as compared to an HDD removes the threat of an inadvertent return of nontoxic bentonite and water. The modification also provides local residents a more defined construction timeline. Large construction projects are always a nuisance, but they are absolutely critical. The modifications being proposed are absolutely within reason and should be approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Melancon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C".

Charlie Melancon

Fmr. U.S. Congressman