



June 16, 2021

Pa. Department of Environmental Protection  
Southeast Regional Office  
Waterways and Wetlands  
2 East Main Street  
Norristown, PA 19401

**re: Chapter 102 & 105 permits for the Mariner East Pipeline**

Dear DEP,

My name is Jim Snell, Business Manager for Steamfitters Local 420, which covers the city of Philadelphia and its collar counties, including the Allentown and Reading areas. All told, our union is several hundred strong --- and more united than ever before, especially when it comes to matters that affect the work we do, like energy infrastructure.

**In order for that growth to continue, it is crucial for the DEP to approve the major modifications to the section 102 and 105 permits for pipeline construction. These modifications will help lower the environmental impact of pipeline construction, minimize community disruptions, and ensure the timely completion of Mariner East.**

Mariner East has had a tremendous impact thus far. Prices for natural gas have dramatically decreased, which directly impacts the about 50 percent of all Pennsylvanians who use natural gas for their primary heating fuel. The natural gas industry has grown 153 percent and created over 21,000 jobs in recent years.

Mariner East provides Pennsylvanians with family sustaining jobs and provides countless opportunities for union members to utilize their trade in a growing field. The abundance of natural resources in the shale region requires additional energy infrastructure, which the Commonwealth must develop. Having experienced labor available makes that process simpler and brings even more economic benefits to Pennsylvania.

Regulators have approved and provided strict oversight of the project to date, and the courts have consistently upheld the project at every turn. Those opposed to the pipeline are not just opposed to Mariner East; they oppose any and all pipelines no matter their merits, which is not helpful when the primary goal is to provide consumers with reliable, affordable energy in the safest way possible.

New realities in the field suggest that the modifications to the DEP section 102 and 105 permits are necessary for environmental safety at several locations in southeastern Pennsylvania. These modifications are simply modifications to the technique used for installation and are within the construction best practices --- much like the previously approved methods. This proposal ensures the environmental safety of the areas around construction and they should be approved by DEP. Thank you.

SINCERELY,

Jim Snell, Business Manager  
Steamfitters Local 420