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

Comment pertaining to:
Chapter 102 Permit No. ESG0100015001 & Chapter 105 Permit No. E15-862

Dear Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection,

On behalf of our members, I encourage the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to approve the Chapter 102 and 105 permit application for the Mariner East Pipeline in Chester County. The Mechanical and Service Contractors Association of Eastern Pennsylvania provides a partnership between labor and management amongst our Contractor and Allied Members, to enhance and perpetuate their business and profitability.

I have personally been a part of the Mariner East project since the building of pump stations on the Mariner East 1 line and am very excited to see construction on the overall project completed. Mariner East is a huge milestone for Pennsylvania because of the enormous benefits it ensures for the commonwealth and our residents. Mariner East will provide a critical transportation source for Pennsylvania's energy producers. Pipelines are the safest means to transport product and have proven to produce more environmental benefit through less emissions than alternatives.

Energy Transfer's Mariner East Pipeline plan has exceeded regulatory standards, recognition of key environmental and community concerns, and restoration. The current proposal is no different. The proposed alteration to the construction method is based off in-the-field realities and intended to ensure the safety of the local environment. This project has also shown a strong commitment to hiring Pennsylvania workers, which further proves their commitment to the commonwealth.

Both a horizontal directional drill (HDD) and an open cut trench installation method are amongst industry best practices. The switch to a trench installation removes the threat of the possibility of an inadvertent return, which has been a common problem at some sites in southeastern Pennsylvania due to the challenging karst topography. Not only does the current proposal take away this possibility, but it also ensures a more defined construction timeline, which will be appreciated by the residents who are undoubtedly experiencing construction fatigue. This shows the pipeline developers commitment to complete the project and to do it in a manner that produces the least amount of disruption.



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In closing, we encourage the approval of the permit for the alternative construction plans by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Sincerely,

Jim Dougherty
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