



June 16, 2021

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

**Comments Re: Permit Modifications for the Mariner East Pipeline**

To DEP SERO's Waterways and Wetlands Division:

My name is Jimmy Gittens and I am a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 542. I am writing to you today to stress the importance of approving the major modifications to the DEP sections 102 and 105 permits for the Mariner East pipeline. These modifications will lessen the environmental impact during construction and is based on realities ascertained from ongoing work on the pipeline.

Mariner East pipeline construction provides many union members employment and the opportunity to develop their expertise in a growing field. The natural gas industry in Pennsylvania has created over 21,000 jobs with escalating promise. The shale region holds an abundance of energy resources, vital to our country's energy independence, which means that additional pipeline infrastructure, beyond even Mariner East, is absolutely necessary. At IUOE Local 542, our No. 1 objective is ensuring that the pipeline is safely constructed to ensure it operates safely.

As members of communities across Pennsylvania, our members have a personal interest in ensuring this project is done correctly. They, like other Pennsylvanians, reap the benefits of the natural gas industry and how it lowers the price of energy. These machine operators also care about their state and its environment. With increasing concern for protecting the world's health, they understand the importance of minimizing any project's impact. The safety of their home and families will always come first.

Our members work on this project and have witnessed Energy Transfer's dedication to the environment and ensuring a safe, sound way to transport energy resources. Pipelines are the safest way by far to transport these resources. The modifications under consideration are necessary to ensure minimal environmental impact at the three locations identified and I encourage the Department of Environmental Protection to approve them in a timely manner.

SINCERELY,

**Jimmy Gittens**  
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 542