



LOCAL 66

Operating Engineers
66-A, B, C, D, O, and R

June 2, 2021

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

SUBJECT: Mariner East Pipeline Permit Modification in Chester County

My name is Tom Melisko and I am the business manager for the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 66, which represents nearly 8,000 men and women across 33 counties in Pennsylvania who work in construction, pipelines, and the heavy equipment service industries. **I am writing to DEP to express my support for the recent application for a major modification to the construction method used in Chester County for the Mariner East pipeline.**

Pennsylvania's energy industry has grown to support real jobs and significant investments --- and Mariner East is a big part of that. Energy Transfer's pipeline network continues to be a strong catalyst for our state's energy infrastructure buildout. The Mariner East pipeline alone has provided thousands of jobs for skilled Operating Engineers, millions in tax revenue, and has brought about real energy savings for Pennsylvania consumers.

At IUOE, we pride ourselves on having some of the best expertise for major project needs, which is why the developers of Mariner East came to rely on us for work all along the 300-plus-mile pipeline. We need this cross-state pipeline to ensure every region in our commonwealth continues to benefit from our vast energy resources.

For IUOE, these essential infrastructure projects keep our members working in the state and allow them to be close to their families while earning wages that will help them invest in their futures and their communities. Despite falling rates of union membership nationally, Pennsylvania's rate of union membership has grown, thanks to projects like this one.

To continue to develop our energy industry, we must continue to utilize construction methods that are environmentally beneficial while also providing opportunities to expand our economy. Energy Transfer's commitment to finish this pipeline utilizing a trench cut method as opposed

to horizontal directional drilling is a testament to their effort to complete the project with as little environmental impact and community disruption as possible.

Pipelines are the safest means to transport natural gas and energy across the state. Doing so lowers the risks of accidents, like oil spills and other hazards that would harm our environment from shipment by railways or highways.

I strongly encourage the approval of Energy Transfer's plans to finish constructing this part of the Mariner East pipeline. As a manager for thousands of skilled workers in this industry, I implore you to keep us in mind as our members rely on those jobs and they will continue to benefit Pennsylvania's growing energy industry.

SINCERELY,

Tom Melisko

Tom Melisko, Business Manager
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 66