

February 7, 2019

The Honorable Gladys M. Brown, Chairwoman
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
3rd Floor, Room N-304

Dear Chairwoman Brown:

We respectfully write to you today to urge the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to take action regarding a recent sinkhole and other developments pertaining to Sunoco's Mariner East 1 pipeline.

Specifically, we urge the PUC to:

1. Follow the recommendation of its Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement to require that a "remaining life study" and "plan to retire" for the Mariner East 1 pipeline be completed and reviewed by independent experts prior to any consideration of restarting the pipeline.

Specifically, this urging comes as a result of the fourth sinkhole that occurred in the vicinity of the Lisa Drive neighborhood in West Whiteland Township, Chester County, on January 20, 2019, as well as a leak caused by corrosion of this pipeline in 2017. As you know, this pipeline was originally constructed in 1931 and has remained in operation for a period of 88 years.

2. Keep the Mariner East 1 pipeline shut down until an effective method is established for emergency responders to alert residents of a pipeline emergency.

According to a recent *Philly News* article, "Another sinkhole appears in Chester County neighborhood, exposing Mariner East pipeline," the sinkhole measured five feet wide and 10 feet deep and appeared less than a year after the PUC ordered pipeline operations to halt when other sinkholes were found in the same neighborhood of single-family homes. In addition, the article cited Chester County District Attorney Thomas Hogan, who announced in December 2018 that his office had opened a criminal investigation into the Mariner East 1 pipeline, citing the sinkholes on Lisa Drive, contaminated water, and "not so subtle bullying" of local residents.

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Chester County Commissioners Michelle Kichline, Kathi Cozzone, and Terence Farrell also issued the following joint statement regarding the issue:

“We remain very concerned and frustrated at the continued lack of transparency by Sunoco regarding the Mariner East pipeline project, and wonder whether this vote by the PUC to keep the pipeline open is an indication of placing profit over safety. Because of the nature of the material being transported through the pipeline, our Emergency Management staff still have no method to safely alert residents of a pipeline-related emergency.”

In addition, according to a *Delco Times* article, “School districts join complaint filed against Sunoco pipeline,” the Downingtown Area School District and Rose Tree Media School District recently filed “petitions to intervene,” which serve as formal safety complaints against Sunoco. By taking this action, the school districts joined seven residents of Chester and Delaware counties that filed an initial complaint in November 2018, which is currently pending before the PUC.

As elected officials, we believe it is imperative that the PUC look beyond the pipeline’s economic value to properly reflect on the potential risks posed by pipeline activities to the natural resources and residents of the Commonwealth. We believe that maintaining the current shutdown is necessary until there is an effective method through which emergency responders may alert residents of pipeline-related emergencies and other incidents.

3. Prioritize and move forward with the approval and implementation of its Pipeline Safety Division’s regulations pertaining to natural gas liquids.

It is our understanding that the regulations that were drafted by the PUC’s Pipeline Safety Division in September 2018 regarding natural gas liquids are currently being reviewed by the PUC’s Law Bureau. We ask that the PUC make this a priority in light of the recent events affecting residents of the Lisa Drive neighborhood and move forward with approving and implementing the regulations.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Comitta
State Representative
156th Legislative District

Kristine Howard
State Representative
167th Legislative District

Leanne Krueger
State Representative
161st Legislative District

Danielle Friel Otten
State Representative
155th Legislative District

Christina Sappey
State Representative
158st Legislative District

Melissa Shusterman
State Representative
157th Legislative District