

101 Commerce Drive
Exton, Pennsylvania 19341



Tel: (610) 363-9525
www.westwhiteland.org

June 1, 2018

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, Filing Room
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Pennsylvania State Senator Andrew Dinniman v. Sunoco Pipeline L.P.; Docket No. P-2018-3001453;
Docket No. C-2018-3001451

Dear Secretary Chiavetta,

West Whiteland Township asks the Public Utility Commission to uphold the suspension of the Mariner East project ordered by Administrative Law Judge Elizabeth Barnes. During the hearing that led to that Order, testimony was provided about the impact of Sunoco's Mariner East construction in West Whiteland Township. While the testimony was extensive, it still barely touches on the extent of concern expressed by residents to the Township's Board of Supervisors and staff. It has been over a year now since construction started in West Whiteland and the community began to grasp the scope of the Mariner East construction project and learn more about the nature of the product now flowing through the existing Mariner East pipeline. In that time, residents have been asking questions, such as:

Is there a better route for the new pipelines that would impact fewer people or provide a larger buffer between the pipelines and occupied structures? What happens if there is a leak that is ignited? Will the pipeline explode and how extensively? What is being done to ensure such an accident never happens next to our homes, businesses and gathering places?

Many residents also have asked about evacuation plans in the event of a pipeline emergency. Our first responders have answered that question many times, explaining that there is no pre-set plan because the extent and direction of any evacuation depends on circumstances during the incident, such as weather conditions and the type of leak. Our first responders also have tried to reassure the public that they have trained extensively to respond to hazmat incidents, including pipeline accidents. Unfortunately, many residents found no comfort in these reassurances because, without more publicly accessible information about the pipelines and the products conveyed in them, the first responders could not dispel their fear that they were not safe in their homes.

West Whiteland resident Virginia Marcille-Kerslake testified about the noise she could hear in her home from a nearby drill site. She and her family are not alone. Other families who live near drill sites also have complained about noise that is loud enough to get under a person's skin, reinforced by vibrations that are significant enough to rattle glassware on shelves. Grating noise and vibrations like that can go on for 12 hours per day, six days per week, with an expected construction duration of up to three years. Added to that is diesel exhaust from the continuously operating pumps that neighbors can smell and taste. Neighbors' complaints have been expressed with increasing anguish as they realize how long they must endure this unreasonable disturbance – for far longer than any typical construction project. These residents want to know:

How can they expect us to live next to drill sites during construction that will last a couple years? How will the sustained noise, vibration and exhaust exposure impact our health? Why are these conditions permitted in the first place?

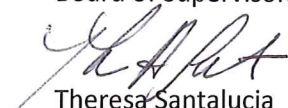
Now that our residents have seen subsidence in back yards created by drilling and heard about the residential wells that were impacted, they wonder what other kind of environmental damage will occur because of drilling or any type of pipeline construction. The volume of comments presented to the PA Department of Environmental Protection in response to Sunoco's requested permit modifications, which are still under review, attests to their concerns.

Township officials and staff know that the volume of comments submitted to DEP illustrates the level of mistrust that exists in our community for Sunoco and their representatives. This mistrust evolved from the mishaps during pipeline construction, as well as Sunoco's unwillingness to truly listen to the public's concerns and attempt to allay them, to explain publicly the measures in place for pipeline safety, and, most importantly, to do more to ensure that pipelines carrying volatile liquid gases right next to homes, schools and other gathering places are absolutely safe.

For the record, representatives from Sunoco and contractors working for them have answered numerous questions raised by Township staff about Mariner East construction and have tried to address many of the resident concerns. The Township appreciates their time and cooperation. However, the issues raised in this letter and during the testimony presented for this emergency petition and complaint go beyond their authority and responsibility.

Instead, these issues must be addressed by the leadership of Sunoco which has shown no regard for the extensive and unreasonable impact pipeline construction is having in West Whiteland Township or for the fear Mariner East has sown in our community about the risk of a pipeline accident. Until Sunoco provides comprehensive, clear and credible explanations demonstrating the safety of existing and future pipelines carrying natural gas liquids in close proximity to homes, schools and other gathering places directly to the public (not limited to residents within a short distance of the pipeline); and until Sunoco commits to taking steps to effectively muffle the noise, vibration and exhaust generated by construction, West Whiteland Township urges the Public Utility Commission to uphold the suspension of operation of Mariner East 1 and construction of Mariner East 2 and 2x.

West Whiteland Township
Board of Supervisors


Theresa Santalucia
Chairman


Michele Mole
Vice-Chairman


Beth Jones
Member

cc: State Senator Andrew Dinniman
State Representative Duane Milne
Virginia Marcille-Kerslake
Clean Air Council