

WESTTOWN

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TOWNSHIP

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SECRETARY'S OFFICE

November 7, 2016

NOV 16 2016

Mr. Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Dear Acting Secretary McDonnell:

Enclosed please find Westtown Township Resolution 2016-13 which expresses great concern with the Mariner East 2 Natural Gas Liquids pipeline projects proposed to be constructed by Sunoco Logistics through Westtown Township. If constructed, these pipelines will transport highly volatile natural gas liquids which may result in accidental explosions and fires, severely impacting the safety of Westtown's residents. Also enclosed is a November 7, 2016 letter to the chairmen of the State Senate and House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committees requesting that these committees hold public hearings to compile a thorough record of the current safety efforts and requirements in place to address the concerns of Westtown and other public safety-conscious municipalities along the pipeline's route.

We respectfully request your support of these requests and look forward to working with you to make certain that public safety is a priority in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Westtown Township Board of Supervisors

Carol De Wolf, Chair

Thomas Haws, Vice Chair

Michael Di Domenico, Supervisor

Enclosure

RESOLUTION 2016-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA expressing great concern about hazardous Natural Gas Liquids pipeline projects that increase the risk of catastrophic accidents which jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of Westtown Township residents.

WHEREAS, Sunoco Pipeline L.P. (Sunoco) has announced that it is currently transporting hazardous and highly volatile Natural Gas Liquids (NGLs) under high pressure through Westtown Township, a "high consequence area," using a repurposed underground pipeline installed in the 1930s with a capacity of 70,000 barrels (2,940,000 gallons) per day; and

WHEREAS, the NGLs, which are being transported through the township for the first time by Sunoco, are, if released, gaseous, invisible, odorless, toxic, heavier than air, and highly flammable; and

WHEREAS, additional Sunoco pipelines are proposed, identified by Sunoco as the Mariner East 2 project. These pipelines could, if constructed, transport through Westtown Township an additional 275,000 barrels (11,550,000 gallons) per day of NGLs; and

WHEREAS, these Sunoco pipelines have the potential to jeopardize public safety in Westtown Township by accidental NGLs leaks, explosions, and fire; and

WHEREAS, these hazardous NGLs are overwhelmingly intended for export to overseas markets and customers; and

WHEREAS, the transportation of these hazardous NGLs through Westtown Township provides minimal if any benefit to either the municipality or its residents; and

WHEREAS, a leak of these hazardous NGLs in Westtown Township has the potential to block or render unsafe the available evacuation routes for township residents; and

WHEREAS, Westtown has been informed by concerned residents that Sunoco has a record of 263 hazardous liquids spills since 2006, more than any other pipeline operator tracked by the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA); and

WHEREAS, Sunoco's plans for new NGL pipelines are currently undergoing review by PADEP under the provisions of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Code, Chapters 102 and 105; and

WHEREAS, the PADEP permitting process provides for intervention in the proceedings by interested parties such as Westtown Township, and such intervention will make need for impact mitigation in Westtown known; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Westtown Township believes the township should be permitted to intervene in the PADEP permitting process for the proposed Mariner East 2 NGL pipeline project pursuant to the Board's interests in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of township residents;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Westtown Township, Chester County that:

Section I

The Board has deep concerns with the high level of risk from the Sunoco pipelines, due to the nature of the highly volatile liquids transported through the Township. This risk must be demonstrably mitigated by such measures as the development of an incident response plan, including viable worst-case evacuation routes; enhanced safety equipment and safety training for first responders; and separation of new NGL pipelines from existing residences by a distance equal to or greater than the Potential Impact Radius (PIR) of those pipelines.

Section II

Westtown Township declares that it has an interest in being a party to all proceedings before any and all County, State, Federal, and any other regulatory agencies involved in the approval of pipelines and associated facilities that could increase the shipment of hazardous NGLs through Westtown Township, including but not limited to petroleum, petroleum products, and NGLs.

Section III

The Board of Supervisors of Westtown Township, Chester County authorizes the township solicitor, if so directed by the Board of Supervisors, to intervene in the PADEP permitting process for the proposed Mariner East 2 pipeline project, and any other proposed NGL transportation project within the municipal boundaries of Westtown Township that comes under consideration.

ADOPTED as Resolution 2016-13 this 7th day of November, 2016.

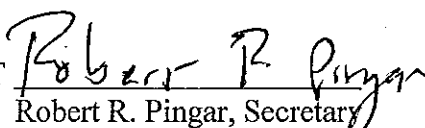
Westtown Township
Board of Supervisors:




Carol De Wolf, Chair



Thomas Haws, Vice Chair

ATTEST 

Robert R. Pingar, Secretary



Mike Di Domenico, Supervisor



VNF

September 9, 2016

MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

The Honorable Randy Vulakovich
Chair
Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee
168 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3038

VIA: HAND CARRY

The Honorable Stephen Barrar
Chair
House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee
18 East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2160

VIA: HAND CARRY

Dear Chairmen Vulakovich and Barrar:

As you well know, the recent discovery of abundant natural gas deposits in Pennsylvania has placed Pennsylvania square in the middle of an energy and manufacturing renaissance across the world.

There is no doubt this new chapter of energy production and manufacturing will have enormous impacts on the economy here in Pennsylvania and across the world. As the world continues to look to natural gas as a new energy source and feedstock for a multitude of manufacturing processes, it is incumbent upon elected officials to be engaged and informed as this transformation unfolds.

One of the many considerations that arises is how natural gas related products are moved to their final destination. As we understand it, the use of pipelines is often the most desirable mode of transportation for these products.

As we interact with our constituents we have had many conversations about an array of different issues related to the use of pipelines. Chief among them has been questions about public safety.

Recognizing there is a complex regulatory framework in place that governs the use of pipelines which spans state and national authorities, we are writing to you as the chairmen of the state Senate and House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committees to request that your committees hold public hearings to compile a thorough record of the current safety efforts and requirements in place. We believe this effort will help officials understand the current scope of safety regulations and also allow us to examine if there are any additional steps that our state should take to ensure the safety of those who entrust us with the honor to represent them.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make sure that public safety is always a top priority in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Tom Killian.

Senator Tom Killian
9th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Chris Quinn.

Representative Chris Quinn
168th House District