

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 worse-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.

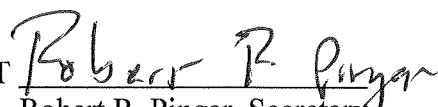
Westtown Township
Board of Supervisors:




Carol De Wolf, Chair



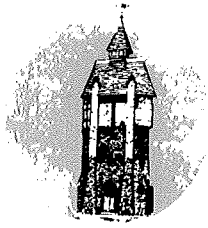
Thomas Haws, Vice Chair

ATTEST 

Robert R. Pingar, Secretary



Mike Di Domenico, Supervisor



WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP

1039 Wilmington Pike
West Chester, PA 19382
610-692-1930

Post Office Box 79
Westtown, PA 19395
FAX 610-692-9651

www.westtownpa.org

November 7, 2016

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

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

A stylized, cursive signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol De Wolf'.

Carol De Wolf, Chair

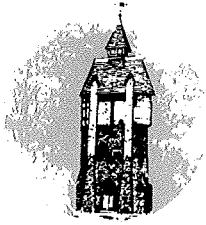
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Thomas Haws, Vice Chair

A stylized, cursive signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Di Domenico'.

Michael Di Domenico, Supervisor

Enclosure



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November 7, 2016

Ms. Kathleen Shea-Ballay, Corporate Secretary
Sunoco Partners LLC
1818 Market Street, Suite 1500
Philadelphia, PA 19103-3615

Re: Mariner East 2 Pipeline Project
Westtown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. Shea-Ballay:

As your due diligence should have revealed, many township properties in the area of the proposed pipeline are served by private on-site wells. The township and its residents are concerned that the activity associated with the construction of the project, as well as the on-going operation of the project, may have adverse impacts on the natural groundwater systems which provide drinking water to residents. Westtown would like to provide our residents with your written plan and procedures for ensuring the integrity of these wells is maintained and hereby request that such plan be forwarded to the attention of the Township Manager, Robert Pingar, as soon as possible.

Westtown's understanding is that proposed construction methods may create voids between the proposed pipeline and surrounding earth and that it is Sunoco's intention to leave those voids open and unfilled, thus creating a potential pathway for groundwater contamination. The township therefore believes it would be appropriate for Sunoco's construction methods to include grouting those voids. Additionally, Westtown requests that Sunoco complete pre-construction benchmark water quality testing of each well within a specified distance along the project, and monitor those same wells for an acceptable period of time post-construction to document any degradation of the groundwater.

Finally, Westtown requests that Sunoco Logistics meet with the Chester County Department of Emergency Services to identify potential threats during construction and operation of the project to ensure that a viable evacuation plan is established in the event of an emergency. Furthermore, Westtown requests an invitation to that meeting so we can ensure the appropriate safeguards are in place to best protect our residents and their property.

If the Mariner East 2 pipeline project moves forward, Westtown Township may have additional questions and concerns; however, given the importance of those stated above, it would be best to have these addressed first. We anticipate hearing from you regarding this issue as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Westtown Township Board of Supervisors



Carol De Wolf, Chair

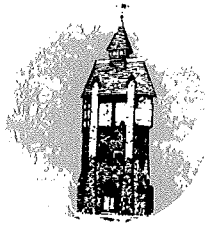


Thomas Haws, Vice Chair



Michael Di Domenico, Supervisor

cc. State Representative Dan Truitt
State Senator Tom Killion
Robert Kagel, Director, Chester County Emergency Services



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November 7, 2016

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

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

Dear Chairmen Vulakovich and Barrar:

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.

As the chairmen of the State Senate and House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committees, Ninth Senatorial District Senator Tom Killion sent you a September 9, 2016 letter (copy enclosed) requesting that your committees hold public hearings to compile a thorough record of the current safety efforts and requirements in place to address these concerns of Westtown and other public safety-conscious municipalities along the pipeline's route. The Westtown Township Board of Supervisors would likewise request that these hearings be held.

Along with Senator Killion, we believe this effort will help Westtown officials understand the current scope of safety regulations, and compel the state to employ any and all measures to ensure the safety of all those who have entrusted you with the honor of representing 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,

Westtown Township Board of Supervisors

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Carol De Wolf, Chair

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Thomas Haws, Vice Chair

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Michael Di Domenico, Supervisor

Enclosure