



MARITIME EXCHANGE

for the Delaware River and Bay

Leading the Way to Port Progress

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

On behalf of the nearly 300 members of the Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay, we urge the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to support the proposed modifications for the Mariner East pipeline project.

Mariner East primarily supplies the Marcus Hook Industrial Complex in Delaware County and plays a major role in generating consistent revenue and economic stimulation in southeastern Pennsylvania and the regional port as a whole. The energy industry, responsible for generating \$45 billion in economic activity over the past decade, has consistently proven its importance in driving growth within local communities and throughout Pennsylvania.

Mariner East offers Pennsylvania and local communities an excellent opportunity to receive affordable and safe energy. The pipeline would generate significant revenue and boost employment through construction and maintenance. Mariner East also offers a safe and efficient means of transporting natural gas liquids. Pipelines protect local communities from dangerous transportation-related accidents that result from moving natural gas via trucks or trains.

The pipeline developer, Energy Transfer, has altered the construction strategy of the pipeline from horizontal directional drilling to an open cut method to protect the local environment and surrounding communities from inadvertent returns, another example of the company's responsiveness and environmental caution. These alternative construction methods also are an industry standard best practice and will ensure the timely completion of this project.

We respectfully urge DEP to approve the applications under review in a timely manner. Further delays for a project that is so pivotal to our economy are unnecessary, given the strict regulatory oversight this project already has undergone.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Dennis Rochford, President
Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay