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## **PEIA Members Testify at DEP Hearing to Support Mariner East Construction Modification at Marsh Creek in Chester County**

**HARRISBURG, Pa. (June 16, 2021)** --- Members of the Pennsylvania Energy Infrastructure Alliance (PEIA) turned out in force today to endorse a plan by the developer of the Mariner East pipeline network to modify the method of construction for a portion of the line in the Marsh Creek area in Upper Uwchlan Township, Chester County.

More than two dozen PEIA members and other stakeholders and partners from across the state submitted remarks or testified during a virtual hearing held by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on Wednesday night. The comment period runs through June 22.

“Pennsylvania’s energy industry has grown to support real jobs and significant investments --- and Mariner East is a big part of that,” said **Tom Melisko, Business Manager for International Union of Operating Engineers Local 66**, one of the founding members of PEIA. “Energy Transfer’s pipeline network continues to be a strong catalyst for our state’s energy infrastructure buildout.”

The pipeline stretches more than 300 miles across the commonwealth, linking natural gas drilling sites in western Pennsylvania to processing plants and market opportunities in eastern Pennsylvania. The Marsh Creek site is the final link for finishing the cross-state pipeline so the commonwealth can finally realize its full potential.

“This section is one of the last links of the west-to-east network to be completed and households and businesses will continue to see savings in their monthly energy bills,” said **Jeff Kotula, President of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce**, another founding member of PEIA. “Others in the northeastern United States could benefit as well as Mariner East has led to the repurposing of the Marcus Hook Industrial Complex, which serves as a critical processing, storage, and transport hub for natural gas developed in our state.”

In September 2020, DEP halted construction at the worksite in Upper Uwchlan Township and ordered a construction review after an inadvertent return (IR) impacted a stream that fed Marsh Creek Lake in August 2020.

The pipeline developer had been performing horizontal directional drilling (HDD), the approved and permitted method of construction, in the Marsh Creek area to connect two existing pipes already in the ground on either side. HDDs are often the preferred method of construction in developed areas, but IRs can sometimes occur.

Horizontal directional drilling is a steerable, trenchless method of installing underground pipe. Open trench installation is an excavation where the pipeline is lowered into the trench and covered. The open trench method eliminates the potential for an inadvertent return and the modification is being pursued based on geological realities in the field.

“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,” **said Dennis Rochford, President of the Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay.** “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.

This is Pennsylvania’s largest infrastructure project, and it remains vital to the entire commonwealth. Pipelines remain the safest means for transporting the vast energy resources the state needs to power and sustain its economy. The pipeline is critical to local businesses, too.

“As a business owner here in Pennsylvania, I make decisions and form opinions based on facts rather than ideology. I owe that much to my employees and to the community I call home. And the facts, as I see them, show this modification to be the right move for the environment, for the workers, and for the nearby community,” **said Thom Ferro, President of Ferro Fuel Oil Inc. in Boothwyn.**

“Manufacturers depend on reliable and affordable natural gas access to remain economically competitive. Total natural gas demand is poised to increase by 40% over the next decade and researchers at the National Association of Manufacturers found the key drivers of this demand will be for manufacturing and power generation. Therefore, projects such as Energy Transfer’s Mariner East are so vitally important to the productive sector of our commonwealth’s economy,” **said Carl A. Marrara, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Pennsylvania Manufacturers’ Association.**

Marking its six-year anniversary in June, the Pennsylvania Energy Infrastructure Alliance has advocated for the safe, responsible development of critical infrastructure. For more information:

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