



# THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



**COMMISSIONERS**  
**Marian D. Moskowitz**  
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July 16, 2021

Mr. Joe McGinn, Vice President of Public Affairs  
Energy Transfer  
3807 West Chester Pike  
Newtown Square, PA 19073

Dear Mr. McGinn,

We respectfully request you stop operation of Mariner East 1 eight-inch natural gas liquids (NGL) pipeline and the 12-inch NGL pipeline until further investigation can be conducted into the risks presented to these lines by the sinkholes that are occurring on a regular basis.

Since January 1, 2021 there have been no fewer than seven sinkholes or subsidences along the Mariner East route caused by construction in the fragile karst geology in West Whiteland Township, Chester County. As you know, a sinkhole has already exposed the existing ME1 eight-inch NGL pipeline, prompting the Public Utility Commission to order the pipeline to be shut down. Another pipeline that had reportedly been recently taken out of service was also exposed in July of 2018.

When not exposing the pipelines, sinkholes have formed dangerously close to the aged pipelines. It seems to us that exposing these pipelines makes the potential for a catastrophic leak that much easier to occur, and renders the ME1 and 12-inch pipelines "unreasonable, unsafe [and] inadequate". See 66 Pa.C.S. §§ 1501, 1505(a). On July 14, a sinkhole formed, literally swallowing an entire tree. We have attached that video to the e-mail that delivered this letter. This is why we are asking that you cease operations of the ME1 and 12-inch pipelines until we, including the public, and the Public Utility Commission can better understand the cause of these sinkholes and the risks that they present to the operating NGL pipelines.

We have engaged our own independent pipeline engineer and geologist to study the issue but they have limited access to the information needed to fully evaluate the situation. Instead, our experts must rely on publicly available information only. As a governmental entity, we cannot sign a non-disclosure agreement that interferes with our ability to take necessary action to protect the safety of our residents.

That is why we also ask that you provide geological and engineering studies and other information needed by our independent pipeline engineer and professional geologist, without the need for us to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Again, we ask that you cease operations of the ME1 and 12-inch line until the risks to these lines presented by sinkholes can be fully investigated and appropriate action taken. We also ask that you provide the much needed information to our independent experts without the need for a non-disclosure agreement.

Sincerely,



Marian D. Moskowitz  
Chair



Josh Maxwell  
Vice-Chair



Michelle Kichline  
Commissioner

cc: West Whiteland Township Board of Supervisors  
Chester County Legislative Delegation  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission