



# THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



## COMMISSIONERS

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## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS

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11 December 2018

Mr. Paul J. Metro  
Manager of Gas Safety  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, Second Floor  
Harrisburg PA 17120

Dear Mr. Metro,

As the Board of County Commissioners, we write to further the discussion regarding the Mariner East pipeline project.

Your reply on November 1<sup>st</sup> to the joint letter from the Superintendents of the Downingtown, Rose Tree Media and West Chester School Districts (dated October 23<sup>rd</sup>) provided valuable information regarding the oversight that the PUC has exercised over the project. While your letter outlined the inspections and activity, the lack of open communication from Sunoco during this project has created the perception that important safety information is not being provided to those impacted by Mariner East.

County Emergency Management staff work continuously with schools and municipalities to ensure their plans are updated in the event of a public emergency. But without all pertinent information regarding hazards and risks with regard to, for example, the Mariner East pipeline, these plans fall short of providing the guidance that our citizens require to feel safe in their homes and schools. Should a leak in the Mariner East pipeline occur, current technology for mass notification could potentially be a further danger instead of a help, leaving mass notification as a gap in planning.

We ask that the PUC urgently review and provide observations of Sunoco's Hazard and Risk analysis and continue to participate, with our Emergency Management Staff, in community meetings to provide information and answer questions.

Further, we request your views on an important mitigation strategy regarding pipelines. Pipeline valves and pumping stations are soft targets, exposing components of critical infrastructure to potential attack. Would it be feasible to enact safety regulation requiring that valves and pumping stations be hardened so as to protect them from a vehicle (or other) attack?

We thank you in advance for providing prompt answers to our questions and PUC actions to our requests regarding this most important public safety concern.

Sincerely,

Michelle Kichline  
Chair

Kathi Cozzone  
Commissioner

Terence Farrell  
Commissioner