

**Madison Brame**

From: jen@green-weaver.com@mg.gospringboard.io on behalf of Jennifer Nichols
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Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 9:17 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Approve the PUC's enhanced pipeline safety standards

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Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in support of the enhanced safety standards recently approved by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for the construction, operation, maintenance, accident reporting, and public awareness for intrastate hazardous liquid pipelines. Please approve these long-overdue stronger standards.

According to the PUC, there have been 71 hazardous liquid pipeline accidents in Pennsylvania since 2010 that resulted in a release or spill. Between just 2017 and 2018, one pipeline operator, Energy Transfer, had four accidents in Pennsylvania: a pinhole leak on ME1 in Morgantown, an explosion on Revolution in Butler County, an excavator striking ME2 in Delaware County, and a leak on the 12" pipeline that was later repurposed for Mariner East. The frequency of these leaks is frightening, knowing that a pipeline like Mariner East has the potential for a catastrophic event in densely populated communities.

The proposed enhanced standards do not address all hazardous liquid pipeline concerns, but they would address some of those witnessed across Pennsylvania during Mariner East construction. Here are a few examples:

- Residents witnessed construction failures countless times on Mariner East that resulted in inadvertent returns of drilling fluids, subsidence events, and contamination of water wells, rivers and lakes as a result of poor planning and inadequate analysis beforehand of geological and environmental impacts.
- In a number of locations, particularly in High Consequence Areas in Chester County and Delaware County, Mariner East pipes were installed almost touching, much closer than PHMSA's suggested twelve inches apart.
- Across Pennsylvania, property owners experienced unscrupulous behavior by land agents for Mariner East. Property owners were told misinformation and outright lies, and felt threatened and pressured into signing easements.

To protect the the public from hazardous pipelines, Pennsylvania desperately needs stronger rules for the construction, operation and maintenance of these pipelines through our communities and Commonwealth.

I urge you to approve the safety standards for intrastate pipelines transporting hazardous liquids which the PA Public Utility Commission has approved in its Final Form Rulemaking Order.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Nichols
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