

August 18, 2016

Rita Coleman, Program Manager
Waterways and Wetlands
400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

re.: Mariner East II Permits

Good evening. I'm Tim Schultheis, president of Schultheis Electric. We're a full-service electrical contractor serving both commercial and industrial clientele throughout the Greater Pittsburgh region. We're also based right here in Westmoreland County, a few minutes northeast of here in Latrobe.

Schultheis Electric is also a member of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) - Western Pa. Chapter, which represents electrical contractors throughout Western Pennsylvania. For more than 65 years, WPA NECA has provided its members with an effective channel through which to express their collective voice on issues affecting the electrical construction industry.

And one of those shared priorities is energy infrastructure --- and projects like Mariner East 2. We support this pipeline and encourage the Department of Environmental Protection to approve all environmental permit applications for the project in a timely manner.

A key issue in any major infrastructure project is safety. Study after study show that pipelines are the safest, most efficient form of transportation for energy resources.

Beyond that basic fact, for the Mariner East 2 pipeline, Sunoco Logistics has committed to using union skilled craftsmen, which ensures the highest quality and safety measures are maintained throughout the process. I can tell you that our team is among the most qualified, reliable and experienced contractors in the region. We take great pride in ensuring our work will meet and exceed safety requirements.

And, because our trades ensure compliance and a safe workplace, you can be sure this project will be developed and operated with minimal disruption or impact to landowners and the environment, which are keys to DEP's review today.

As I said, our company is based right here. This is our backyard. We're committed to caring for the environment around us and making sure developments are safe for our families and beneficial for our communities.

And this project will bring benefits. The project could create 30,000 direct and indirect jobs during the construction phase and approximately 300 to 400 permanent positions throughout Pennsylvania once it is built. Moreover, the Mariner East 2 pipeline will enable greater access to domestically produced natural gas liquids (NGLs) for manufacturers and businesses throughout the region, creating a catalyst for industrial activity throughout the entire Northeast. NGLs have a wide range of uses --- from the production of plastics and petrochemicals to residential and commercial heating.

For these reasons, we support the safe, responsible development of the Mariner East 2 pipeline project and encourage DEP's swift approval of the related permits. Thank you.

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