

Hon. Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary, Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission

26 July 2019

RE: Docket Number L-2019-3010267

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PIPELINE
HAZARDS

Dear Secretary Chiavetta,

I am submitting this document as a physician and health professional, and also as a homeowner in the vicinity of the Mariner East 2 Pipeline.

The overarching theme of my comments is the need to mitigate the health and safety hazards posed by the Mariner East 2 pipeline. **The highly volatile liquids carried by the pipeline are, as a matter of well-established medical fact, potent carcinogens**, as well as being, by definition, a massive fire and explosion risk. These risks must be mitigated to protect surrounding communities, and the real possibility of a mass-casualty emergency must be considered.

Our water supply must be protected. The PUC has siting authority over pipeline construction, and must locate pipelines away from watersheds and wetlands. There must be a transparent public process for approving any pipeline that may result in cancer-causing chemicals in the water supply. Pipeline operators must cover the cost of water testing, and detection of carcinogenic VOC's in any drinking water supply should trigger a shutdown of the pipeline until any leakage is found and repaired.

Pipeline depth, construction, and conversions of older pipelines to carrying more volatile compounds, must meet strict new-construction safety regulations. The conversion of older pipelines to carry highly volatile compounds under pressure, is a prescription for disaster. Any pipeline carrying these compounds should meet the most stringent requirements.

Pipeline locations must be clearly marked, indicating their contents. This enhanced awareness will speed emergency personnel and community response, in the event of a pipeline fire or explosion, as well as creating public awareness about risk areas. Residents should be

notified yearly with Materials Safety Data Sheets, of the health risks of compounds carried in neighboring pipelines.

Shut-off valves must be located closer together in densely populated areas, to limit the death toll and destruction of property which would result from a pipeline-related fire or explosion.

Maximum operating pressures, and testing pressures, within the pipeline must be limited to a safe margin, and monitored. Communities and local emergency response personnel should be notified in advance of all pressure testing activities. This enhanced awareness will speed emergency personnel and community response, in the event of a pipeline fire or explosion. The multiple fires and explosions which occurred in September, 2018 in Massachusetts, due to improper pressurization of hydrocarbon gases (less volatile than Mariner 2 pipeline contents), is a sober reminder of these risks.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R. Fleischman, M.D.
146 Simpson Rd.
Ardmore PA 19003