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September 28, 2020

#### Via Electronic Filing

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (filing room) Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Meghan Flynn, et al., Docket Nos. C-2018-3006116 & P-2018-3006117 (consolidated) Melissa DiBernardino, Docket No. C-2018-3005025 (consolidated) Rebecca Britton, Docket No. C-2019-3006898 (consolidated) Laura Obenski, Docket No. C-2019-3006905 (consolidated) Andover Homeowner's Association, Inc.; Docket No. C-2018-3003605 (consolidated) v. Sunoco Pipeline L.P.

#### SUNOCO PIPELINE L.P.'S ANSWER OPPOSING FLYNN COMPLAINANTS' MOTION FOR LEAVE TO SUBMIT ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed you will find Sunoco Pipeline L.P.'s Answer Opposing Flynn Complainants' Motion for Leave to Submit Additional Evidence in the above-referenced proceeding. Because this document does not contain new averments of fact, it does not require a verification.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Whitney E. Snyder

Thomas J. Sniscak Whitney E. Snyder

Counsel for Sunoco Pipeline L.P.

WES/das Enclosure

cc: Honorable Elizabeth Barnes (by email ebarnes@pa.gov) Per Certificate of Service

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the forgoing document upon the persons listed below in accordance with the requirements of § 1.54 (relating to service by a party).

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/s/ Whitney E. Snyder

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Dated: September 28, 2020

#### BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

MEGHAN FLYNN et al.	:	Docket Nos.	C-2018-3006116 (consolidated) P-2018-3006117
MELISSA DIBERNARDINO	:	Docket No.	C-2018-3005025 (consolidated)
REBECCA BRITTON LAURA OBENSKI	:	Docket No. Docket No.	C-2019-3006898 (consolidated) C-2019-3006905 (consolidated)
ANDOVER HOMEOWNER'S	:	Docket No.	C-2018-3003605 (consolidated)
ASSOCIATION, INC.	:		
v.	:		
SUNOCO PIPELINE L.P.	:		

### SUNOCO PIPELINE L.P. ANSWER OPPOSING FLYNN COMPLAINANTS' MOTION FOR LEAVE TO SUBMIT ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.103(c), Sunoco Pipeline L.P. (SPLP) submits this Answer Opposing Flynn Complainants' (Complainants) September 21, 2020 Motion for Leave to Submit Additional Evidence (Motion). SPLP will respond to the substantive arguments of the Motion but will not and is not required to<sup>1</sup> provide a paragraph by paragraph response to the Motion particularly as it contains unnecessarily lengthy, repetitive, and irrelevant allegations and arguments.

1. The Motion is at least the fourth time Complainants have attempted to sidestep the Omnibus Order and 52 Pa. Code § 5.243(e), which prohibit "the introduction of evidence during rebuttal which should have been included in the party's case-in-chief or which substantially varies

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> *Compare* 52 Pa. Code § 5.61(b) (requiring answers to complaints admit or deny specifically all material allegations), *with* 52 Pa. Code § 5.103(c) (containing no such requirement for answers to motions).

from the party's case-in-chief."<sup>2</sup> Your Honor properly denied each of Complainants other attempts and should deny this untimely Motion too.

2. Complainants' current Motion seeks to admit evidence that substantially varies from their case in chief and that is simply not allowed, particularly now, one day before the hearing begins. Moreover, Complainants are attempting to use these materials in an improper attempt to introduce evidence of reputation, which is not allowed under the Pennsylvania Rules of Evidence. Pa. R.E. 404(a), (b). The DEP Administrative Order regarding Marsh Creek was appealed on Friday, September 25, 2020<sup>3</sup> and that is the forum for resolution of these issues, which provides for the public's participation, including Complainants here. These issues are not relevant to Complainants' Direct case. Admitting this evidence now without delaying the hearing to provide SPLP the time necessary to respond with written testimony will violate SPLP's due process rights.

3. The documents that the Motion seeks to admit consist of documents from DEP that all involve environmental permitting issues that have been or are being resolved with DEP and in a pending appeal before the Environmental Hearing Board. These issues have not been previously raised as part of Complainants' Direct case, as Your Honor has already found regarding materials Complainants attempted to use at the Deposition of Matt Gordon, which Your Honor denied twice at the deposition. *See* Attachment A (Excerpt of Deposition Transcript) at N.T. 120:3-8 (upholding SPLP's objection to introduction of DEP-related documents), N.T. 121:24-25 (declining to reconsider ruling). Complainants raised essentially the same arguments at the deposition that they raise here. Your Honor considered these arguments and rejected them:

> They have not established in any of their direct testimony that any of this has any relationship to the only thing that's at issue before the PUC and the PUC regulations, which is safety. They cannot point

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Order Granting Sunoco Pipeline L.P.'s Omnibus Motion at Ordering ¶ 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> EHB Docket No. 2020-085.

to a single thing that they put in their direct testimony that relates to that issue. He may want to argue this, that there's some pattern of conduct; but there's no direct testimony.

Your Honor, your omnibus order addresses this exact point and what the limitations are. And he has just conceded that it was not part of their direct testimony. That really ends the issue pursuant to the omnibus order.

JUDGE BARNES: I'm inclined to agree with Mr. Fox on this issue, that going into the permitting that was already resolved in the DEP consent orders is outside the scope of the direct testimony of the Flynn complainants' witnesses.

Attachment A at N.T. 117:12-21, 119:18; see also Id. at N.T. 120-2-8.

4. Your Honor likewise made the same ruling when Complainants again sought to introduce those same materials through a March 16, 2020 Motion to Admit Additional Evidence. Your Honor held in denying discovery on those issues and denying the motion to admit additional evidence that materials were "an attempt to introduce evidence after Complainants' direct case and they expand the scope of the proceeding. The scope of discovery is limited to relevant issues in the case as narrowed by the scope of Complainants' direct testimony." May 28, 2020 Order at p.

2.

5. Your Honor's prior rulings that DEP permitting issues are not within the scope of Complainants' direct testimony and would substantially expand their case in chief were correct and apply equally here. Complainants' arguments that this evidence is newly discovered is not supported with any evidence and is factually inaccurate. They could have put on evidence regarding DEP permitting and construction issues as part of their Direct case. Allowing admission of these documents significantly broadens the scope of issues Complainants presented on direct because Complainants presented no expert testimony or other evidence that SPLP's construction practices in Chester and Delaware Counties create a safety issue with respect to the operation of the pipelines or that they violate any law or regulation over which the Commission has jurisdiction. Simply put, Complainants had ample opportunity to raise and support construction issues as they relate to safety, but they neglected to do so. Just because they now want to raise a more recent DEP permitting issue does not mean they can expand the scope of their case. Moreover, Complainants do not even have a witness who can sponsor these materials into the record or testify about what they mean and whether they create a safety issue with respect to the operation of the pipelines. These materials are clearly not within the scope of their case, which could have included such issues, but did not.

6. Likewise, the documents are irrelevant as Your Honor already found. The Commission has jurisdiction over pipeline safety, and as SPLP argued at the deposition, these documents have no relation to safety and Complainants have shown none:

The third thing, and I think this is maybe the most important, is <u>they</u> <u>have no evidence whatsoever</u> and <u>have offered no evidence in</u> <u>their direct testimony</u>, expert or otherwise, <u>about how these prior</u> <u>violations which are related to construction permitting for</u> <u>things that have already been constructed are a *safety* issue now.</u>

Attachment A at 115:2-9 (emphasis added). Complainants admittedly failed to present any expert testimony on pipeline construction. Complainants' counsel previously stated on the record that the documents at issue would be a subject area of expert testimony. Attachment A at N.T. 118:5-9 ("The direct witnesses did not give testimony about this because it would not be within their competence."). Since Complainants' presented no expert testimony on pipeline construction, the documents necessarily substantially differ from their case-in-chief.

7. Complainants' attempt to manufacture a nexus via the unverified Motion fails because the evidence is not admissible for the purpose Complainants seek to use it - reputation. Complainants argue that because of alleged permitting and construction issues, that somehow equates to proof that SPLP "has a reckless and careless attitude of prizing expediency over safety and protection" and thus cannot be trusted to <u>operate</u> the Mariner East pipeline in high consequence areas. *See, e.g.*, Motion at pp. 5-7. Complainants attempt to make a case that SPLP is "wanton and reckless" and that therefore SPLP allegedly has a bad reputation. Such evidence is not admissible for this purpose. Pennsylvania Rule of Evidence 404 provides:

(a)Character Evidence.

(1)Prohibited Uses. Evidence of a person's character or character trait is not admissible to prove that on a particular occasion the person acted in accordance with the character or trait.

(b)Crimes, Wrongs or Other Acts.

(1)Prohibited Uses. Evidence of a crime, wrong, or other act is not admissible to prove a person's character in order to show that on a particular occasion the person acted in accordance with the character.

Pa.R.E. 404. Moreover, these allegations are not substantial evidence and cannot be used to show that SPLP has violated a law or regulation related to pipeline safety or over which the Commission has jurisdiction. Moreover, the assertions made are the subject of an appeal pending before the Environmental Hearing Board at EHB Docket No. 2020-085-L, and will properly be resolved in those pending proceedings, and that process provides for public participation. This proceeding is not the proper forum in which to litigate environmental issues present in DEP Orders.

8. The documents are irrelevant to Complainants' case-in-chief and if admitted will substantially vary from Complainants' case-in-chief and broaden the issues beyond what SPLP

had notice of and the opportunity to address in its testimony. The Motion is too late. It was filed only 6 working days before hearing is set to begin and will not be decided until the first day of hearing. The event that is the subject of the documents occurred on August 10, 2020, six weeks before Complainants belatedly filed their motion. The event was well publicized and one or more of the Complainants was aware of it when it occurred. Indeed, one of the Complainants, Michael Walsh, who has an active social media presence, posted on social media about the event on August 12, 2020. *See* Attachment B. Thus, Complainants cannot maintain that they only recently learned of this. In fact, one or more of the Complainants has been aware of it since it happened, yet Complainants improperly waited six week to file this Motion, denying SPLP its due process rights to contest the irrelevant evidence in these proceedings. Some of the documents Complainants now seek to admit were available beginning in mid-August, *see, e.g.*, Motion Ex. A (dated August 13, 2020), yet Complainants waited over a month to file the Motion. Complainants are attempting to add to their direct case after the deadline essentially at the hearing, which is not allowed, and the Motion should be denied.

9. Alternatively, if Your Honor does allow Complainants to supplement their direct testimony to admit these documents, SPLP must be given additional time from the date of that ruling for submission of SPLP's testimony as it will have to engage additional witnesses and prepare testimony on the issues raised. SPLP believes 60 days from the date of that ruling will be sufficient and that the entire schedule will have to be extended and reset.

WHEREFORE, SPLP respectfully requests the Motion be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

\_/s/ Whitney E. Snyder

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Attorneys for Respondent Sunoco Pipeline L.P.

Dated: September 28, 2020

## Attachment A

Page 111 MATTHEW GORDON 1 held off the record.) 2. 3 4 MR. BOMSTEIN: Your Honor, this is Mike Bomstein. 5 Can you hear me okay? 6 7 JUDGE BARNES: Yes. MR. BOMSTEIN: Thank you for 8 9 taking our call. We've been getting along just fine. We just have one very serious 10 11 disagreement and we're hoping you will assist 12 us. 13 JUDGE BARNES: Go ahead. 14 MR. BOMSTEIN: All right. 15 We've prepared, on behalf of the Flynn 16 complainants, a number of questions concerning 17 Sunoco's history of violating permits and violating regulations in connection with 18 construction of Mariner East 2 and 2X. 19 20 And we believe that this is, 21 first, within the scope of the complaint because we've alleged that Sunoco's practices 2.2 23 are reckless, that they're not safe, adequate 24 or reasonable; and that how they have persistently violated DEP permits and violated 25

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2	regulations is something that's relevant to
3	that.
4	In addition, the scope of the
5	deposition notice identified two areas that we
6	believe cover this. The first is DEP orders
7	and enforcement and consent orders relative to
8	Mariner East pipelines from 2014 to present,
9	including but not limited to January 3, 2020
10	in reference to the Revolution pipeline.
11	We also identified substance
12	of matters at issue in DEP orders and
13	enforcement and consent orders relative to
14	Mariner East pipelines from 2014 to present,
15	including but not limited to January 3, 2020
16	in reference to the Revolution pipeline.
17	So the substance of the
18	matters at issue in these orders, including
19	consent orders, is violations. And basically
20	that's what the orders are about. For
21	example, the incident at Raystown
22	JUDGE BARNES: Raystown.
23	MR. BOMSTEIN: Raystown, thank
24	you very much.
25	By way of example, the DEP

Page 113 MATTHEW GORDON 1 2. made certain findings with respect to repeated 3 conversion to HDD drilling, as opposed to the permitted kind of drilling, open trench, and 4 5 ultimately a consent order was entered. We believe that each of those 6 7 instances demonstrates a willful disregard for the law. 8 9 So, that's where we're coming 10 from, that's what we're interested in 11 inquiring about. Counsel has a different 12 notion both of what the scope of the 13 deposition is and whether or not these 14 guestions are relevant. I will leave it to Mr. Fox to 15 16 state their position. 17 MR. FOX: Good morning, Your 18 Honor. 19 JUDGE BARNES: Good morning. 20 MR. FOX: So I have a series 21 of objections to this. So first of all, this 2.2 is not a 30(b)(6) deposition, where a witness 23 is representing the company on all issues 24 relating to this matter or potentially 25 relating to this matter. As Your Honor said,

Page 114 MATTHEW GORDON 1 2. it's supposed to be narrowly tailored. So that's number one. 3 Number two, he is going into 4 alleged violation of DEP permits for things 5 that have happened historically. Those are 6 7 embodied in consent orders. Those are issues that have been resolved with the Department of 8 9 Environmental Protection. This is not a 10 relitigation of DEP regulations. This is in front of the PUC. 11 12 They had a full opportunity to 13 challenge any of those violations, to challenge the consent orders which resolved 14 15 those violations. They did not. They are 16 administratively final. They are not within 17 the jurisdiction of the PUC. In addition to that, the 18 issues that he is raising are not inside 19 20 Chester and Delaware County. He's asking 21 about the Revolution pipeline incident. 2.2 Again, not something that at 23 all relates to this particular matter, these particular lines. It's not even the same 24 pipeline. 25

Page 115 MATTHEW GORDON 1 The third thing, and I think 2. this is maybe the most important, is they have 3 no evidence whatsoever and have offered no 4 evidence in their direct testimony, expert or 5 otherwise, about how these prior violations 6 7 which are related to construction permitting for things that have already been constructed 8 9 are a safety issue now. 10 To the extent that 11 Mr. Bomstein has asked about ongoing 12 construction issues, we have allowed any of 13 that questioning that he has asked. He's asked about many incidents that are ongoing 14 that are still the subject of construction. 15 16 We have not objected. 17 But there is no direct 18 testimony that they've offered at all as to how these prior incidents are safety related 19 20 for things that have already been constructed 21 and been resolved with the DEP. It's far afield. This is supposed to be a narrowly 2.2 23 tailored deposition on specific topics, and we are not relitigating issues with DEP and DEP 24 permits that have been resolved and 25

Page 116 MATTHEW GORDON 1 2. administratively final. MR. BOMSTEIN: Your Honor, may 3 I respond briefly? 4 5 JUDGE BARNES: Yes. MR. BOMSTEIN: First of all, 6 7 the fact that Sunoco got caught in hundreds of instances and managed to pay fines to DEP 8 9 doesn't at all eliminate the concern that we 10 have for their pattern historically of 11 recklessness. 12 They're not suddenly a safe 13 company if the people who are making these 14 decisions over and over and over got slapped 15 on the hand and then they're given permission 16 to proceed. For example, the recent 17 \$30 million fine is nothing to a company that has billions and billions of dollars in 18 19 revenue. 20 So, it is very relevant. And 21 in fact, Your Honor ruled in a discovery 2.2 ruling concerning objections to questions 23 about the Revolution pipeline, that Sunoco was 24 to answer questions. And they did, after we went back and forth several times. 2.5 It's

Page 117 MATTHEW GORDON 1 2. certainly relevant. 3 If they have a pattern going back several years of unsafe practices in 4 hundreds of instances, the fact that those are 5 resolved at the DEP level doesn't mean there's 6 7 any less concern as to whether they should continue to operate and whether they are a 8 9 safe, adequate and reasonable operator. 10 MR. FOX: All of those 11 discovery issues were prior to their direct 12 testimony submission. They have not 13 established in any of their direct testimony that any of this has any relationship to the 14 15 only thing that's at issue before the PUC and 16 the PUC regulations, which is safety. 17 They cannot point to a single 18 thing that they put in their direct testimony 19 that relates to that issue. He may want to 20 argue this, that there's some pattern of 21 conduct; but there's no direct testimony. This deposition is not for 2.2 purposes of direct testimony. That ship has 23 sailed and this is supposed to be for 24 2.5 cross-examination. They have not put that

Page 118 MATTHEW GORDON 1 2. into evidence. They can't now start wanting 3 to put that into evidence, where they had the opportunity and did not do so. 4 MR. BOMSTEIN: Your Honor, we 5 have not had our ship sail. The direct 6 7 witnesses did not give testimony about this because it would not be within their 8 9 competence. 10 Mr. Gordon has been called as 11 a witness in accordance with the rules of 12 procedure. The scope is very clear. There's 13 no reason he, who is particularly in a position to talk about permits and violation 14 15 of permits in many instances, should not be 16 allowed to testify. 17 MR. FOX: Honestly, Your 18 Honor, Mr. Bomstein just made my argument, because he has admitted this this is not part 19 20 of their direct testimony. He could have 21 taken Mr. Gordon's deposition prior to the deadline for direct testimony. He could have 2.2 23 submitted that on cross as part of his direct testimony if he wanted to. They chose not to. 24 He's also admitted that it's 25

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2	not within their competence. He can't use a
3	deposition after the close of direct testimony
4	to establish direct testimony. That is a
5	violation of the PUC rules. He cannot do
6	that. It's outside the scope.
7	MR. BOMSTEIN: If Your Honor,
8	please, it is not outside the scope. It is
9	not outside the scope of what your procedural
10	order said. And we have no constraints on
11	general discovery rules up to this point.
12	They opposed his deposition.
13	Your Honor permitted it. There is nothing in
14	the rules or in your prior orders that limits
15	the scope, other than giving them fair notice
16	of the topics. And we gave them fair notice
17	of the topics.
18	MR. FOX: Your Honor, your
19	omnibus order addresses this exact point and
20	what the limitations are. And he has just
21	conceded that it was not part of their direct
22	testimony. That really ends the issue
23	pursuant to the omnibus order.
24	MR. BOMSTEIN: I believe, Your
25	Honor, the omnibus order does not direct

Page 120 MATTHEW GORDON 1 itself to this at all. 2 JUDGE BARNES: I'm inclined to 3 agree with Mr. Fox on this issue, that going 4 into the permitting that was already resolved 5 in the DEP consent orders is outside the scope 6 7 of the direct testimony of the Flynn 8 complainants' witnesses. 9 MR. FOX: Thank you, Your 10 Honor. 11 MR. BOMSTEIN: Your Honor, 12 before you conclude, we are not contending 13 that it was improper for DEP to make its 14 rulings. We are not contending that there was 15 anything improper about the DEP decision. We 16 are not challenging it and it was not 17 challenged. 18 What we are saying is that a matter that was not before the DEP, whether in 19 20 hundreds of instances they did these unsafe 21 things should not be part of our case, you've 2.2 ruled previously that matters involving 23 safety, including Revolution pipeline, are 2.4 relevant. 2.5 MR. FOX: Then you have to put

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2	on direct evidence of that, which you admit
3	that you have not. You could have taken his
4	deposition before the deadline for direct
5	testimony and put that on. You did not.
6	We're not relitigating DEP
7	consent orders or the underlying facts of DEP
8	consent orders. That's expanding the scope of
9	what you have identified as part of your
10	direct case. It's just simply too late to do
11	that.
12	MR. BOMSTEIN: Your Honor, we
13	disagree for obvious reasons. There are no
14	procedural orders, omnibus or otherwise, where
15	you stated that information obtained during
16	the course of routine discovery could not be
17	used obtained and used in the case.
18	You identified lay witnesses
19	who testified earlier, expert witnesses who
20	will testify later. We've already said this
21	in our motions. You did not, with all due
22	respect, preclude what we are doing today and
23	what we intend to do today.
24	JUDGE BARNES: All right. I'm
25	not convinced to reconsider my ruling.

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Page 122 MATTHEW GORDON 1 2. MR. BOMSTEIN: Very well. 3 MR. FOX: Thank you, Your Honor. 4 MR. BOMSTEIN: We will proceed 5 6 with it. And thank you for your time. 7 JUDGE BARNES: All right, thank you. Goodbye. 8 9 10 (Whereupon, a discussion was 11 held off the record.) 12 13 MR. FLANDREAU: Gentleman, Exhibit 32, which is a letter from my client 14 15 posting for public information, Mr. Bomstein, you correctly read into the record the date of 16 17 that letter; however, on its face, that's an 18 erroneous date and must be a typographical error on the date. 19 20 The body of the letter makes 21 it clear that the events described were 22 January and February 2020 timeframe; whereas, 23 the dating of the letter itself is January 31, 2019. Clearly a mistake. I didn't want there 24 to be confusion in the record, so I'm offering 25

# Attachment B

