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March 18, 2022

#### 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 REPORT ON SEPARATION FROM UNDERGROUND PIPES AND STRUCTURES AND CATHODIC PROTECTION AND DEPTH OF COVER, MARINER EAST 1 AND 12-INCH PIPELINES IN CHESTER AND DELAWARE COUNTY

#### Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for filing Sunoco Pipeline L.P.'s Report on Separation from Foreign Objects and Cathodic Protection and Depth of Cover for the Mariner East 1 and 12-Inch pipelines in Chester and Delaware County. The Appendix containing Confidential Security Information listed in the table of contents will be filed under separate cover via Federal Express consistent with the Commission's regulations and the Confidential Security Information Disclosure Protection Act. A tracking number can be provided to the Secretary's Bureau upon request.

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission March 18, 2022 Page 2

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me.

Respectfully,

/s/ Whitney E. Snyder

Thomas J. Sniscak Whitney E. Snyder

Counsel for Sunoco Pipeline L.P.

WES Enclosure

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#### SUNOCO PIPELINE L.P.

# REPORT ON SEPARATION FROM UNDERGROUND PIPES AND STRUCTURES AND CATHODIC PROTECTION AND DEPTH OF COVER

## MARINER EAST 1 AND 12-INCH PIPELINES IN CHESTER AND DELAWARE COUNTY

#### **PURSUANT TO**

Flynn et al v. Sunoco Pipeline L.P., Docket Nos. C-2018-3006116 et al, Opinion and Order at  $\P\P$  24-28 (Opinion and Order entered Nov. 18, 2021)

March 18, 2022

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	1
II. 12-INCH PIPELINE NO LONGER IN HVL SERVICE	2
III. ME1 PIPELINE SEPARATION AND CATHODIC PROTECTION, AND DEPTH OF COVER	2
A. PIPELINE SEPARATION AND CATHODIC PROTECTION	2
B. Depth of Cover	3
IV. ME1 CORRECTIVE ACTIONS	5
A. AREAS OF LOW POTENTIAL COINCIDING WITH FOREIGN CROSSINGS	5
B. DEPTH OF COVER	5
V. CONCLUSION	5
Appendix A – ME1 Separation Data Correlated With CP Data*	

\*This appendix contains Confidential Security Information. Act of Nov. 29, 2006, P.L. 1435, No. 156. Consistent with the Commission's regulations at 52 Pa. Code Ch. 102, these materials will be submitted to the Commission under separate cover.

#### I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

On November 18, 2021, the Commission entered a final Opinion and Order in the consolidated action Meghan Flynn et al. v. Sunoco Pipeline L.P., Docket Nos. C-2018-3006116, et al. (the Order), which set forth certain submissions that Sunoco Pipeline L.P. ("SPLP") must provide to the Commission on identified schedules. Paragraphs 24-28 require SPLP to submit to the Commission a report for the Mariner East 1 (ME1) and 12-inch pipelines so long as these pipelines are in Highly Volatile Liquid (HVL)/Natural Gas Liquid (NGL) service: (1) certifying the pipelines are "buried so that they are below the level of cultivation and so the cover between top of pipe and ground level, road bed, river bottom or underwater natural bottom is in compliance with minimum regulatory requirements;"<sup>2</sup> (2) certifying "the distance between pipeline exteriors and the exteriors of other underground pipelines/utility structures are at least twelve inches apart unless adequate corrosive control action can be shown;" and (3) containing "a corrective action plan regarding any areas of operating pipelines (including Mariner East 1, 8inch pipeline, and the 12-inch workaround pipelines) carrying highly volatile liquids in Delaware and Chester Counties in need of remediation where there is lack of required cover and/or proper distance between other structures/pipelines in order to bring these pipelines up to federal minimum codified requirements."

As SPLP explained in its testimony in this proceeding, both the 12-inch and ME1 pipelines would be taken out of HVL service in the near future because the Mariner East 2/2X pipelines would provide for the capacity to make the necessary HVL deliveries.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> SPLP has appealed the Order to the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court, *Sunoco Pipeline L.P. v. Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission*, Dkt. Nos. 1415 C.D. 2021, 1416 C.D. 2021, 1417 C.D. 2021, 1418 C.D. 2021, 1419 C.D. 2021, 1421 C.D. 2021. SPLP has not sought to supersede or otherwise suspend the compliance requirements of the Order during the pendency of the appeal, and therefore is making this compliance submission in accordance with the deadlines established by the Order; however, this compliance submission shall in no way be construed as a waiver by SPLP of the legal and factual challenges to the Order as set forth in the appeal and related pleadings.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> SPLP disputes this is a regulatory requirement for the operation of pipelines.

Consistent with this testimony, SPLP notifies the Commission that the 12-inch pipeline is no longer in HVL/NGL service. Thus, pursuant to the Order, SPLP is not required to complete the reporting or other requirements of Paragraphs 24-28 of the Order. Additional details on the 12-inch pipeline are provided in Section II.

SPLP projects that in mid-May 2022, the ME1 pipeline in Chester and Delaware Counties will no longer be in HVL/NGL service. SPLP is currently transitioning ME1 out of HVL service. Nonetheless, SPLP in good faith is complying with the Order regarding the ME1 pipeline. Section III provides an overview of the governing regulations and a summary of the data SPLP has collected regarding the depth of cover of the ME1 pipeline portions located in Chester and Delaware County, and identification of areas where there is less than 12-inches of separation between the pipeline and another underground structure that coincide with areas of low potential on the cathodic protection system. Section IV explains corrective actions to be taken.

#### II. 12-INCH PIPELINE NO LONGER IN HVL SERVICE

As of February 17, 2022, the 12-inch pipeline was purged and is no longer in HVL/NGL service. The pipeline has been deinventoried and is under a nitrogen blanket.

### III. ME1 PIPELINE SEPARATION AND CATHODIC PROTECTION, AND DEPTH OF COVER

#### A. PIPELINE SEPARATION AND CATHODIC PROTECTION

Paragraphs 26-27 of the Order require SPLP to certify to the Commission that any areas along the ME1 pipeline (while it is in HVL service in Chester and Delaware County) where the distance between pipeline exteriors and the exteriors of other underground pipelines/utility structures are less than twelve inches apart, that adequate cathodic protection exists and to the extent adequate cathodic protection cannot be shown, to submit a corrective action plan.

Regarding cathodic protection (the primary means by which SPLP controls corrosion on the ME1 pipeline), SPLP conducted its most recent Close Interval Potential (CIP) survey in

October/November of 2021. The CIP survey measures pipe-to-soil potential across the entirety of the pipeline. A technician walks from test station to test station with a small filament pack and takes a measurement every 3-5 feet of pipe-to-soil potential. Pipe-to-soil potential measures the voltage between the pipe and a standard reference electrode in electrical contact with the soil. If voltage is too low to provide the necessary level of cathodic protection, that is called "low potential." Consistent with PHMSA regulations and SPLP's standard operating procedures (SOPs), when areas of low potential are discovered, an operator must take steps to remediate the low potential (ie. increase the voltage flowing to the pipe) within a specified timeframe.<sup>3</sup> These remedial actions are required regardless of whether there is a foreign crossing in the area.

SPLP correlated the low potential data from its 2021 CIP survey with the locations of foreign crossings. This data shows there are seven areas of low potential (a total of 350 feet) coinciding with a foreign crossing. The specific locational data is included in Appendix A. The method and timeframe for remediation of these areas of low potential is discussed in Section IV.A. below.

#### B. Depth of Cover

Depth of cover alone is not a safety issue and maintaining depth of cover is not regulatory requirement.<sup>4</sup> In voluntary compliance with requests from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, SPLP has addressed areas on its pipelines where erosion has caused a pipeline to be exposed at surface level<sup>5</sup> (washouts). For the ME1 pipeline in Chester and Delaware County,

3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The discovery of pipe-to-electrolyte readings that do not meet criteria is not a regulatory violation as long as appropriate remedial measures are implemented in the expected timeframe, usually before the next inspection cycle (49 C.F.R. § 18 195.573(e)). Notably, in this proceeding, the PUC rejected Complainant claims that SPLP had inadequate corrosion control or cathodic protection.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See 49 CFR Part 195 Subpart F, Operation and Maintenance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Exposure of a pipeline alone is not a safety issue or safety related condition. *Supra* n.4.

there were three areas of washout. SPLP has already addressed each of these areas as shown in the table below. Currently there are no areas where the ME1 pipeline is exposed.

Pipeline Washout / Exposures ME1 MNTL-TWIN (11190)

Project					
No.	Project Name	Township	County	Remediation Type	Completion Date
PA_E_51	Darlington Road Washout (Rocky Run)	Middletown	Delaware	Box Sag	5/13/20
PA_E_63	New Darlington Road Exposure	Middletown	Delaware	Stabilization / Revetment	4/12/21
PA_E_64	Slitting Mill Road Exposure 2	Edgmont	Delaware	Line Lowering	7/14/21

SPLP does not certify that the new depth of cover requirements contained in the Order are satisfied for ME1 pipeline. Corrective actions are discussed in Section IV.B. below.

#### IV. ME1 CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

#### A. AREAS OF LOW POTENTIAL COINCIDING WITH FOREIGN CROSSINGS

To address the areas of low potential discussed above, SPLP will be activating a new cathodic protection system for portions of the pipeline and investigating and clearing potentially shorted casings that could be interfering with cathodic protection on two portions of the pipeline. In one area, SPLP will be adding a new linear anode to the existing cathodic protection system. All remedial action for these areas is expected to be completed no later than September 30, 2022. More specific data regarding remedial actions at each location is provided in Appendix A.

#### **B. DEPTH OF COVER**

SPLP will continue to monitor areas of shallow depth of cover. To the extent any area of shallow depth of cover combines with other factors to present a safety related condition, SPLP will remediate it consistent with PHMSA regulations, SPLP's Integrity Management Plan, and SPLP's SOPs. SPLP notes that the planning and permitting process for addressing areas of the pipeline exposure or shallow depth of cover, may at times depending on the location of the work and amount of earth disturbance activity, require DEP permits, local township grading permits, and/or County Conservation District erosion and sedimentation approvals. The scoping, planning, and permitting process can take three to six months, or longer, far beyond the time frame for which the Commission's order applies to the ME1 pipeline, which will no longer be in HVL service as of mid-May 2022.

#### V. CONCLUSION

With the submission of this report, SPLP has satisfied the requirements of Paragraph 26-27 of the Order.

5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 49 C.F.R. § 195.452(h)-(i). SPLP's Integrity Management Plan and relevant SOPs are in the record of this proceeding as SPLP Exhibits

#### **VERIFICATION**

I, John Field III, on behalf of Sunoco Pipeline L.P., hereby state that the facts set forth in the foregoing documents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing in this matter. This verification is made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

John G. Field III

Staff Engineer – Corrosion Services

**Energy Transfer** 

#### **VERIFICATION**

I, Matthew Gordon, on behalf of Sunoco Pipeline L.P., hereby state that the facts set forth in the foregoing documents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing in this matter. This verification is made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Matthew Gordon

Senior Director of Operations

**Energy Transfer** 

#### **VERIFICATION**

I, Jay Dresh, on behalf of Sunoco Pipeline L.P., hereby state that the facts set forth in the foregoing documents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing in this matter. This verification is made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Jay Dresh

Director - Integrity and Relocation Projects

**Energy Transfer** 

#### **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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Dated: March 18, 2022