

Steamfitters

LOCAL UNION #449

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July 27, 2021

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
400 North Street
Keystone Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Docket No. M-2020-3004646

To the attention of Secretary Chiavetta,

My name is Ken Broadbent, and I am writing to the Public Utility Commission on behalf of the Steamfitters Local Union 449 to convey our support for the settlement laid out by ETC Northeast Pipeline (ETC) and the PUC's independent Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement (BI&E). In our view, this settlement would have a positive impact on Pennsylvania's commitment to working with private industry to make critical investments in the commonwealth and ensure the continued support of our growing energy sector. This would have positive implications for consumers, who depend on these products, the economy, which is seeing the impact of greater investment in our region, and for workers because this industry fuels employment opportunities that are uniquely-gearred for our hard-working and skilled members.

Based in Southwestern Pennsylvania, Local 449 is proud of our communities and commitment to our neighbors. Through a wide variety of construction projects and apprenticeship programs, we hold true to our priorities of ensuring that our members are expertly trained to deliver high-quality and safe results. The wealth of careers that stem from the work that we do ultimately has a tremendous impact on the livelihood of many Pennsylvania families.

Consistent with our values, we are pleased that the settlement is directly focused on key safety and integrity measures. Furthermore, it is clear that ETC Northeast has been forthright in its approach to comply with concerns flagged by regulators in a timely fashion. The extent of ETC's geotechnical engineering, reconnaissance and due diligence to accelerate assurances of pipeline systems and secure sound operations cannot be understated.

Robust use of high-fidelity LiDAR programs greatly reinforces data processing mechanics, which in turn contributes the integrity of management of pipelines and the environments that surround them. The enhanced predictive modeling allows ETC to readily adapt to and accommodate potential challenges stemming from geohazards, subtle surface infrastructure changes, surface hydrology risks, and the technologies also enable a wealth of on-site classification and identification measures.

The successful reroute of the Revolution pipeline was instrumental to restore service back in March and ensure the flow of natural gas through Allegheny, Beaver, Butler and Washington Counties. The transportation of this critical energy source is important to reinforcing supply chains and ensuring certainty when it comes to powering many industries in Pennsylvania and far beyond.

While the vast economic benefits of pipelines in Pennsylvania are clear, such a settlement can only be fully endorsed knowing that environmental impacts are mitigated to the greatest extent possible. By not leaving any vulnerability in doubt, our organization is genuinely confident in the strong commitments of ETC to go above and beyond in its engineering, and to do so in an expedient manner.

ETC has undoubtedly surpassed expectations when it comes to the sophistication of its plans and driving comprehensive management of their pipelines in Pennsylvania. For these reasons, the proposed settlement is a thoroughly favorable plan for ETC, Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement, the environment, and Pennsylvania's businesses, families and communities.

The joint petition for settlement, as is currently drafted, represents the ideal path forward and I urge the PUC to approve it without delay. Pennsylvania, its workers and citizens stand to gain much from this judicious plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ken Broadbent
Business Manager
Steamfitters Local Union #449
1517 Woodruff Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

cc: ETC Northeast Pipeline
PUC Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement