

Incorporated April 19, 1867
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*Shirley Township,
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Pennsylvania*
Office of
Shirley Township Supervisors
15480 Croghan Pike
Shirleysburg, PA 17260
Gary Frehn, Chairman
Daniel McKeehan, Vice-Chair
Robert Allenbaugh, Supervisor

April 7, 2022

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, Filing Room
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Docket No. L-2019-3010267; Rulemaking Regarding Hazardous Liquid Public Utilities

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

I am writing on behalf of Shirley Township Board of Supervisors, Huntingdon County to express concern with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's recent Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR). Shirley Township is a rural community in Huntingdon County with significant agricultural resources. As you may know, construction of the Mariner East Pipeline system took place in our community for several years beginning in 2016. While Energy Transfer worked well with our community and maintained good lines of communication throughout the duration of the project, their activities did impact our roads and create occasional inconveniences in our community. Shirley Township provides the following comments for the Commission's consideration.

In addition to the fact that the proposed regulations will increase energy costs in a time when the cost of gasoline is at an all-time high, I am specifically troubled by the requirements in section **§59.137(e)** and **§ 59.137(f)** that overhaul the existing federal depth of cover and separation of pipe requirements. As you are aware, these proposed regulations are in conflict with the federal regulations that have ensured safe pipeline operations for many years. Exceeding the existing federal regulations in this case will create significant

additional impact in our community to the extent an operator is required to add additional depth of cover to existing pipelines.

As a rural community, our single largest expense is road maintenance and repair. To that end, I am also concerned by the proposal to require 12" of separation between underground structures. In addition to Energy Transfer's assets, Shirley Township, Huntingdon County has other gas transmission lines, water and sewer lines, local gas and electric utilities and communications conduit within our municipality. Many of these underground structures are located adjacent to or within roadways. To the extent this proposed regulation would apply to existing pipelines, complying with this proposed regulation would create a significant disruption to our community as roads are dug up to move and/or lower existing facilities.

While the proposed regulations may have been written with the intent to improve pipeline safety, I would urge you to consider the additional impacts, excavation and potential for accident that meeting this requirement would cause throughout Pennsylvania. The Township does not support implementation of the proposed regulations as drafted.

Sincerely,

Kathy J. Varner

Kathy J. Varner, Secretary/Treasurer
Shirley Township Board of Supervisors