

CLEAN AIR COUNCIL ~ DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK

MOUNTAIN WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUDGE ORDERS HALT ON ALL MARINER EAST 2 DRILLING

(PHILADELPHIA, PA – July 25, 2017) On Tuesday, the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board granted the petition of Clean Air Council, Mountain Watershed Association, Inc., and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network to halt all drilling operations associated with the construction of the Mariner East 2 natural gas liquids pipelines. This ruling comes after last week's filing which disclosed 61 drilling fluid spills and water contamination in multiple Pennsylvania regions. After hearing the argument about drilling spills and water well contamination from Sunoco's drilling operations for the Mariner East 2 pipeline, the Environmental Hearing Board issued an order stating, "it is hereby ordered that the Appellants' application for a temporary partial supersedeas is granted."

"It is unconscionable that Sunoco has inflicted such irreparable harms on our environment and communities, and that the Pennsylvania DEP has knowingly allowed such harms to continue. The fact that nonprofits, supported by donations and grants, had to be the ones that stopped such devastating harm, is wrong," said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network

"Residents living along the route of the pipeline have been assailed over the last few months by drilling spills and damage to water wells and water quality due to Sunoco's reckless drilling," said Joseph Otis Minott, Executive Director and Chief Counsel for Clean Air Council. "Today's decision provides residents with much-needed protection over the next two weeks."

"The relief is not permanent and the public must continue to call on elected officials and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to defend the public interest by putting a long-term halt to the drilling, which Sunoco has been unable to do safely," said Alex Bomstein, Senior Litigation Attorney, Clean Air Council.

The shutdown of Mariner East 2 drilling will remain in effect until a full hearing can take place on the organizations' petition, which is scheduled for August 7 – 9, 2017. The

Environmental Hearing Board left open the possibility of modifying its order to allow certain drilling activity to resume if Sunoco can provide “detailed affidavits explaining why it would cause equipment damage, a safety issue, or more environmental harm than good to stop drilling at the 55 locations where drilling is actively underway.” Sunoco reported to the Environmental Hearing Board Tuesday morning that drilling is underway at 55 locations, and has not begun at an additional 168 locations.

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING BOARD



CLEAN AIR COUNCIL, THE DELAWARE :
RIVERKEEPER NETWORK, AND :
MOUNTAIN WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, :
INC. :

v. :

EHB Docket No. 2017-009-L

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, :
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL :
PROTECTION and SUNOCO PIPELINE, L.P., :
Permittee :

ORDER

AND NOW, this 25th day of July, 2017, following two conference calls during which the parties presented extensive argument in support of their respective positions, it is hereby ordered that the Appellants’ application for a temporary partial supersedeas is **granted**. The permits that are the subject of this appeal are hereby superseded effective immediately to the extent they authorize the Permittee to conduct horizontal directional drilling. However, this Order may be modified in part if the Permittee provides the Board with detailed affidavits explaining why it would cause equipment damage, a safety issue, or more environmental harm than good to stop drilling at the 55 locations where drilling is actively underway. This temporary partial supersedeas shall expire at 9:00 a.m. on August 7, 2017, unless further extended by the Board. The hearing on the Appellants’ petition for a partial supersedeas shall commence in the Board’s Harrisburg hearing room on the date requested by the parties; namely, **9:00 a.m. on August 7, 2017.**



ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING BOARD

s/ Bernard A. Labuskes, Jr. _____

BERNARD A. LABUSKES, JR.

Judge

DATED: July 25, 2017

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