



For Immediate Release:

June 12, 2018

Contact:

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 215-801-3043 (cell)
Aaron Stemplewicz, Senior Attorney, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 215-369-1188 x 115

**The Delaware Riverkeeper Network Files Complaint against Sunoco for
Clean Water Act Violations**

Philadelphia, PA – Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) filed a complaint in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania against Sunoco Pipeline L.P. for their failure to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES permit) for the Mariner East II pipeline project.

NPDES permits are required under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and Pennsylvania's Clean Streams Law (CSL). The complaint states:

“During construction of an industrial scale natural-gas liquids pipeline, Defendant Sunoco Pipeline LLC (hereinafter “Sunoco”) illegally discharged, and continues to discharge, pollution in the form of sediment-laden stormwater to Pennsylvania’s waters on multiple occasions, causing or contributing to violations of water quality standards on numerous occasions and in various counties across the state of Pennsylvania.”

Construction and operation of the pipeline has resulted in numerous unlawful discharges of sediment-laden water and other pollutants into waters of the United States in violation of the CWA and the CSL. Sunoco has been operating without the necessary permit for 399 days, which subjects Sunoco to civil penalties as high as \$14,962,500.

“Sunoco is polluting our waterways and violating the law. The violations are blatant, willful and having devastating impacts on our environment. Neither the state nor federal government has enforced this critical permitting requirement on the pipeline company, which is one of the many reasons we are seeing so much environmental harm. Our laws were passed for a reason, to protect the environment from environmental degradation and harm. Pennsylvania’s government is failing miserably when it comes to these fracked gas and fracked gas liquids pipelines. Once again, we the people are having to stand up in our own defense,” **said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

“Sunoco’s Mariner East II project has a notorious and well-documented history plagued with technical, environmental, and legal problems since the beginning of construction in early 2017. The fact that

Sunoco has been operating without the necessary permits provides yet another example of the way in which Sunoco has sought to recklessly push this project into service without the appropriate environmental protection and oversight,” **said Aaron Stemplewicz, Senior Attorney at the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

DRN is requesting the Court require Sunoco to obtain and comply with a NPDES permit, perform ground water assessments, provide relief to nearby residents if assessments show water contamination, and pay all civil penalties associated with the permit violations.

Sunoco has faced several fines and permit suspensions throughout construction of the Mariner East II project for violations such as drilling fluid spills and water contamination. Sunoco’s construction activities have also caused large sinkholes to open up in a residential neighborhoods, threatening the integrity of the parallel Mariner East 1 pipeline and consequently leading the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“PUC”) to issue an Emergency Order temporarily suspending Sunoco’s operations to prevent “catastrophic results impacting the public.” A judge at the PUC specifically noted that Sunoco has “made deliberate managerial decisions to proceed in what appears to be a rushed manner in an apparent prioritization of profit over the best engineering practices available.”

The pipeline would cross the state of Pennsylvania and carry highly volatile hazardous liquids at very high pressure to the Marcus Hook Industrial Complex straddling Delaware County, Pennsylvania and New Castle County, Delaware, where such compounds would be stored and shipped overseas.

###