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Mariner East 2 Construction Permits Suspended
Environmental Organizations Demanded DEP Accountability

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has suspended construction permits for Sunoco’s Mariner East 2 pipeline project for violating the Clean Streams Law and several regulations, as well as for violating a settlement agreement between Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Clean Air Council, and Mountain Watershed Association, PADEP, and Sunoco. The environmental organizations have been demanding PADEP hold Sunoco accountable for several spills and for violating the settlement agreement.

“Today’s Order from DEP ultimately represents DEP’s understanding that Sunoco shamelessly broke a number of terms and conditions that Delaware Riverkeeper Network and others helped secure through litigation with the Department in a settlement agreement. This Project was flawed from the start, and it is disgraceful that these flaws have manifested themselves in such a way that the public’s health, and environment have been significantly impacted. This Order provides further evidence that the project should never have been authorized by DEP in the first place,” said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

In August 2017, the groups entered into a settlement with PADEP and Sunoco to prevent spills of drilling fluid associated with Sunoco’s horizontal directional drilling, to protect drinking water supplies and the state’s fragile ecosystems, to provide timely notification to PADEP and the public of any such spills, and to provide the public with additional opportunities to comment on Sunoco’s activities. PADEP cites violations to this settlement agreement in the administrative order to Sunoco.

The settlement agreement, adopted by the Environmental Hearing Board as a Stipulated Order, established protocol Sunoco and PADEP must follow to prevent repeat spills. Despite this agreement, there have been several instances of spills along the pipeline construction path, and other instances where Sunoco conducted activities that were prohibited by the agreement or other regulations. The environmental organizations urged PADEP to hold Sunoco accountable, requesting in October that the Environmental Hearing Board direct PADEP to abide by the settlement agreement. The case is ongoing with dispositive motions currently pending before the Board.

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