



# THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



## COMMISSIONERS

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## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS

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January 25, 2019

Honorable Gladys M. Brown, Chairman  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 N. Street, Third Floor, Room N-304  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Brown:

On Sunday, January 20, 2019 at approximately 4:30 p.m. a five-foot-wide by ten-foot-deep sinkhole opened up in the 400 block of Lisa Drive in West Whiteland Township, Chester County. Local police and fire officials responded and found a section of the Sunoco Mariner East 1 Pipeline exposed in the sinkhole. Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco and PUC also sent representatives to the site and quickly determined that the pipe was not damaged and there was no need for any evacuations. Neither Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco nor the PUC communicated their findings with the residents. While no threat to public safety was evident, the residents of the neighborhood were left uninformed and concerned for their safety and wellbeing, turning to Chester County officials and their State Representatives for answers and assistance.

Having no information from Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco or the PUC, the Chester County Department of Emergency Services (DES) released an initial press release in an attempt to alleviate residents' concerns. Later, a generic, lackluster statement released from Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco only raised additional concerns that residents remained without vital information related to the incident. At no time on Sunday, January 20, 2019 did Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco or the PUC notify the residents or Chester County officials that Mariner East 1 was shut down.

On Monday, January 21, 2019 DES made numerous attempts to contact Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco and PUC representatives seeking better information for the residents of Lisa Drive and the surrounding community. Once responsive, the PUC representative assisted in pressuring Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco to return DES's calls and advised that any assurance of site safety had to be announced by Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco and not the PUC. Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco eventually responded to DES saying that Mariner East 1 was shut down, there was no public safety danger, and mitigation efforts were taking place. At 10:00 a.m. DES requested Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco immediately release a statement advising the residents of such. At 7:00 p.m., more than 26 hours after the initial incident, Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco finally released a statement.

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Sunoco had vital public safety information that would allow emergency management officials to keep the public informed. Only after contacting the PUC to pressure Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco to make contact with the DES did that information begin to flow. Even after communications were initiated, the information provided was ambiguous. Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco's continual delay in getting information regarding this incident to the public and emergency management officials is unacceptable.

On behalf of our Department of Emergency Services staff, Chester County's dedicated first responders and the citizens of Chester County, we need answers to some very important questions. We must have information that is crucial to ensuring the safety of all residents and first responders, and are relying on you to provide our Department of Emergency Services with this information.

Questions regarding the Lisa Drive sinkhole incident:

1. Why was there no notification by the PUC and Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco that Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco and PUC personnel were responding to a possible pipeline emergency?
2. Why was there no immediate notification by the PUC and Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco when it was determined that there was no danger to public safety resulting from this recent incident?
3. Why was there such a long delay in providing public information about this recent incident?
4. Why wouldn't the PUC provide the public the assurance that the site was and is safe?
5. Why was there no immediate notification by the PUC and Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco when Mariner East 1 was shut down?
6. Why was there no immediate notification that Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco was posting armed security at the site?
7. When will the PUC and Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco conduct an after-action review of this incident, and how will DES be involved?
8. Will the PUC and Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco release information to the public, municipalities, first responders, and DES once the after-action review of this latest incident is complete?

Questions regarding future emergency notification preparation:

9. DES has formally requested a copy of Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco's Emergency Plan many, many times. When will this be given to us?
10. When will DES receive a comprehensive list of PUC and Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco 24 hour, responsive, emergency contacts?
11. What types of events, involving or in the immediate area of a pipeline, do the PUC and Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco consider to be emergencies or events of potential public interest?
12. What is Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco's policy on notifying the public, municipalities, first responders, and DES of potential pipeline emergencies and events of potential public interest?
13. What is the PUC's recommendation for Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco to make timely notifications for potential pipeline emergencies and events of potential public interest?

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14. What will the PUC do to ensure that Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco is responsive to the concerns of the public, municipalities, first responders, and DES?
15. What actions will the PUC and Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco take to build the trust of Chester County citizens that public safety is the utmost priority to the PUC and Energy Transfer Partners/Sunoco?

We thank you in advance for your immediate attention to this matter and your prompt response to our questions.

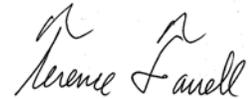
Sincerely,



Michelle Kichline  
Chair



Kathi Cozzone  
Commissioner



Terence Farrell  
Commissioner

Cc: David W. Sweet, Vice-Chairman, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Norman J. Kennard, Commissioner, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Andrew G. Place, Commissioner, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
John F. Coleman Jr., Commissioner, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission