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October 17, 2019

#### Via Electronic filing

Rosemary Chiavetta, Esquire Secretary PA Public Utility Commission P.O. Box 3265 Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Re: Docket Nos. P-2018-3006117 and C-2018-3006116

Megan Flynn et al. v. Sunoco Pipeline, L.P.

Objections of The County of Chester to the Subpoena for W. Turner

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Attached for filing is The County of Chester's Objections to Rebecca Britton's Subpoena of William Turner.

A copy of the Objections has been forwarded in the manner indicated on the attached Certificate of Service.

If there are any questions, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

Reger Rizzo & Darnall LL

Margaret A. Morris

MAM/lam Enclosure

cc: The Hon. Elizabeth Barnes, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission [w/encl.] Thomas L. Whiteman, Esquire, Chester County Solicitor's Office [w/encl.] Service List [w/encl.]

Re:

Docket Nos. P-2018-3006117 and C-2018-3006116

Megan Flynn et al. v. Sunoco Pipeline, L.P.

Objections of The County of Chester to the Subpoena for W. Turner

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been served upon the following persons on the attached service list, *via First Class and Electronic Mail*, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

Dated: October 17, 2019

Margaret A. Morris, Esquire

Re: Docket Nos. P-2018-3006117 and C-2018-3006116

Megan Flynn et al. v. Sunoco Pipeline, L.P.

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Re: Docket Nos. P-2018-3006117 and C-2018-3006116

Megan Flynn et al. v. Sunoco Pipeline, L.P.

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Re:

Docket Nos. P-2018-3006117 and C-2018-3006116 Megan Flynn et al. v. Sunoco Pipeline, L.P.

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## BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Meghan Flynn :

Rosemary Fuller :

Michael Walsh :

 Nancy Harkins
 :
 C-2018-3006116

 Gerald McMullen
 :
 P-2018-3006117

Caroline Hughes and

Melissa Haines :

•

Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. :

Melissa DiBernardino :

v. : C-2018-3005025

Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. :

Rebecca Britton :

v. : C-2019-3006898

Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. :

Laura Obenski :

v. : C-2019-3006905

Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. :

# OBJECTIONS OF THE COUNTY OF CHESTER TO THE SUBPOENA APPLICATION TO COMPEL THE LAY TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM TURNER

The County of Chester (Chester County or County), by and through its attorneys, Reger Rizzo & Darnall LLP, pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Section § 5.421(f), hereby files its Objections to the Subpoena Application filed by *pro se* Complainant, Rebecca Britton (Ms. Britton) seeking to compel the lay testimony of William Turner, Chester County's Deputy Director of Emergency Services (Application). Contrary to Ms. Britton's assertion that she "is

not anticipating objections," Chester County has advised Ms. Britton on several occasions that Mr. Turner would be testifying as an expert witness at the scheduled July 2020 hearing. Ms. Britton will have the opportunity to cross-examine Mr. Turner at the July 2020 hearing. She has offered no reason why the Application should be granted which will result in preventing the County from calling its employee as an expert witness.

In support of its Objections, Chester County states as follows:

- 1. The Application is procedurally defective as it does not provide the mandatory notice required by 52 Pa. Code § 5.421(2)(b)(3) that a "response or objection shall be filed in 10 days." Rather the provided notice "asks that any responses [sic] are within 7 days in accordance with Judge Barnes' prehearing conference order. 1" Ms. Britton blatantly misrepresents the Prehearing Order, dated August 2, 2019 (August PHO). Judge Barnes specifically directed that a written application must be submitted in advance of the hearing date "so that the other parties have the required ten (10) days' notice to answer or object." August PHO at ¶ 15.
- 2. Chester County has listed Mr. Turner as an expert witness. The stated scope of the testimony sought by Ms. Britton is identical to the anticipated scope of his expert testimony to be presented on behalf of the County.
- 3. Pursuant to the Procedural Order, dated June 6, 2019 (*Procedural Order*), expert witnesses will prefile direct written testimony by January 15, 2020, surrebuttal written testimony

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ms. Britton specifically requests that Judge Barnes "consider expediting" her request so as to allow for response if one is needed. Application ¶ 11. Commission regulations do not permit the filing of a responsive pleading to an objection to a subpoena application. 52 Pa. Code § 5.421.

by May 14, 2020 and testify at the hearings scheduled July 15, 2020 through July 29, 2020. Procedural Order at 7.

- 4. Judge Barnes has ruled that lay witnesses are permitted to testify in person at the October hearing or through written direct or rebuttal testimony, but not both. *August PHO* at ¶ 6.
- 5. Ms. Britton was advised verbally, *via* email, and during the Prehearing Telephonic Conference held on September 5, 2019. A copy of an email, dated September 11, 2019, is provided as Attachment 1.
- 6. Granting the Application will deny the County, a party to the proceeding, its due process rights to present its direct case, as it sees fit, since Mr. Turner would be precluded from offering expert testimony at the July 2020 hearings.
- 7. Ms. Britton's due process rights are not affected since she will have the opportunity to cross-examine Mr. Turner at the scheduled July 2020 hearing.
- 8. Commission regulations authorize Judge Barnes to regulate the course of the proceeding<sup>2</sup> and control the receipt of evidence.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 52 Pa. Code § 5.483.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 52 Pa. Code § 5.403.

10. Ms. Britton's request that Mr. Turner be compelled to testify as a lay witness, rather than as expert witness on behalf of its employer, Chester County, should be summarily denied.

WHEREFORE, The County of Chester respectfully requests that this Honorable Commission deny the Subpoena Application filed by *pro se* Complainant Rebecca Britton to compel the lay testimony of William Turner.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 17, 2019

Margaret A Morris, Esquire

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Counsel for The County of Chester

Re: Docket Nos. P-2018-3006117 and C-2018-3006116

Megan Flynn et al. v. Sunoco Pipeline, L.P.

Objections of The County of Chester to the Subpoena for W. Turner

## **Attachment 1**

Email, dated September 11, 2019, to R. Britton

### Margaret A. Morris, Esquire

From:

Margaret A. Morris, Esquire

Sent:

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 4:40 PM

To:

rbrittonlegal@gmail.com; lissdibernardino@gmail.com

Subject:

County response to request for employee to testify as lay witness at October 2019

hearing

Importance:

High

Ms. Britton and Ms. DiBernardino:

I have consulted with my client, and based on my advice, the County will not agree to any employee testifying as a lay witness at the October 23-24, 2019 hearing. Furthermore, the County will aggressively oppose any request for subpoena of any of its employees.

The County will be presenting Bill Turner as an expert witness at the July 2020 hearing. You will also have the opportunity to propound discovery to the County's witness(es) after the written statement(s) is prefiled with PUC. The information/facts you seek to be placed on the record, can be elicited at the scheduled June 2020 hearing in Harrisburg.

## Margie Morris

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