

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105

Bureau of Investigation and  
Enforcement

v.

Sunoco Pipeline, L.P.

Public Meeting: February 27, 2020  
3006534-ALJ

Docket No. C-2018-3006534

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ANDREW G. PLACE

Before us today for consideration is the Initial Decision of Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Elizabeth H. Barnes approving the Joint Settlement Agreement (Agreement) addressing the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement's (BI&E) Complaint against Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. (Sunoco) which alleged violations of federal and state gas pipeline safety regulations regarding a leak of highly volatile liquids of ethane and propane from the Mariner East 1 (ME 1) pipeline in Morgantown, Berks County, Pennsylvania on April 1, 2017. The Joint Settlement Agreement was filed with the Commission on April 3, 2019 with a subsequent amendment filed in June 2019. The matter including responsive pleadings was referred to the Office of Administrative Law Judge and substantive comments were filed by several intervenors. No exceptions or replies were filed to the Initial Decision.

While I concur with the ALJ's approval of the Joint Settlement Agreement, I remain concerned about one provision. The Agreement directs that a Remaining Life Study be completed by an independent expert within six months of being contracted to perform the work. The Agreement also directs that a summary of the expert's findings shall be made public, excluding, of course, proprietary or confidential security information. I would have preferred that all of the expert's findings be made public, in a redacted version with the same caveat that no proprietary or confidential security information remain in the document, not, as stipulated in the Agreement, simply a summary. I believe that a redacted version of the expert's full report findings would provide more transparency and additional information about the remaining life of ME1.

I support the Initial Decision approving the Joint Settlement Agreement with this one articulated reservation.

DATE: February 27, 2020

  
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Andrew G. Place, Commissioner