

RE: Docket No. L-2019-3010267

To whom it may concern:

The Mariner East fracked gas project has made it abundantly clear that strict requirements and regulations are necessary to protect the Constitutional rights and health of the people of Pennsylvania, as well as urgently address the climate emergency that faces the entire planet.

The “Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking and Associated Gas and Oil Infrastructure”, published by Physicians for Social Responsibility and available online at <https://www.psr.org/blog/resource/fracking-compendium-8/>, provides much more detail about the various health and environmental risks of fracking projects as determined by scientific and medical studies. The evidence is clear: fracking is harmful to health and environment.

I therefore support the stricter regulations proposed by PUC, and additionally call on PUC to ensure such regulations are properly enforced, with criminal investigations and charges aimed at non-compliant projects. There must be consequences for violating not just regulations but harming our health, our planet, and violating our Article 1 Section 27 Pennsylvania Constitutional rights to clean air and water.

Of course, it is not just our local environment in Pennsylvania at risk. Fracking projects also contribute to global climate change. In my view, given the huge risks of fracking and fracked gas pipelines to our health, environment, and planet, and the very short window of time left to act according to the recent IPCC report, we should be moving toward a complete ban on fracking and not merely stricter regulations and enforcement. There is ultimately no way to truly, safely, do fracking projects.

I hope you will ultimately carry this message to other Pennsylvania agencies, departments, and elected officials – it’s time for a Green New Deal for renewable energy and green infrastructure, not more fracking and fossil fuels. We must start planning a just transition accordingly, now.

Thank you,

Garret Wassermann
Coraopolis, PA