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West Goshen Township Files Petition for Injunction Against Sunoco Logistics for Violation of Settlement Agreement

Township contends Sunoco Logistics began construction on controversial Mariner East pipeline project in violation of settlement agreement terms

WEST GOSHEN, Pa. (July 10, 2017) – West Goshen Township has filed a Petition for Emergency Order with the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission (PUC) against Sunoco Logistics Partners, LP, also known as Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. and Sunoco Logistics. The township alleges that Sunoco Logistics breached the terms of a settlement agreement regarding the Mariner East 2 highly volatile natural gas liquids pipeline. The township seeks to halt and prevent further construction of an aboveground valve station at an unapproved and unagreed-upon location.

In an effort to protect its residents and their properties, West Goshen Township in 2015 reached an agreement with Sunoco Logistics regarding the installation of remotely operated valves at two separate Mariner East 1 pipeline markers. Sunoco Logistics also agreed that any additional aboveground facilities related to the Mariner East 2 project would be located on an existing site where other aboveground facilities were located with one exception, and if unable to do so, Sunoco Logistics was required to notify the township.

Sunoco Logistics recently began construction to install and operate an aboveground pipeline valve at a different location, at Mariner East 2 pipeline mile marker 344, near Greenhill and Boot roads, without notifying township officials.

Construction started in blatant violation of the settlement agreement, without the required notice, erosion barriers, other site construction and public safety protocols, and engineering justification. As recently as July 6, Sunoco's construction vehicles were parked in the township fire department's parking lot, blocking emergency response vehicles from exiting the property. In addition, the construction began before a hearing scheduled for July 18 could be held at the PUC to address construction-related matters.

West Goshen Township also has obtained Sunoco's construction plans regarding the pipeline that are contrary to the terms of the settlement agreement. The plans pre-date the settlement agreement and indicate that Sunoco Logistics planned to site an aboveground valve in the township all along while agreeing to contrary terms. The township believes that Sunoco Logistics is acting in a cavalier manner not in the best interest of the township and its residents.

According to attorney David Brooman, special counsel to West Goshen Township from High Swartz LLP, "Sunoco Logistics continues to disregard and ignore their commitments. Their behavior is in violation of the 2015 settlement agreement." He said, "West Goshen Township fully intends to continue to protect its residents by holding Sunoco Logistics to the letter and spirit of the settlement agreement." "The interest of our residents is our first priority, and we will continue to advocate on their behalf," West Goshen Township Manager Casey LaLonde said. "We urge Sunoco Logistics to honor the terms of the agreement and to provide the township with proper notices. We will not be stonewalled."

All five township supervisors voted unanimously to file this legal action to protect the township's residents.

About West Goshen Township

Named one of the Top 10 Places to Live in the United States by Money Magazine, West Goshen Township is located in Chester County, Pennsylvania. The township is home to nearly 22,000 residents and 500 businesses.

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