

November 13, 2016—Middletown Coalition for Community Safety (MCCS)  
For Immediate Release

At 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 16, the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committees will hold a joint hearing on public safety and emergency response concerns with regard to Sunoco's proposed hazardous, highly volatile liquids export pipeline dubbed Mariner East. This hearing will bring together Senate and House Committee Members to hear testimony from four panels comprised of: oil and gas industry personnel; emergency responders selected by the Committee chairmen; the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission; and concerned citizens from Delaware County. These concerned citizens will offer testimony regarding the risk and potential severity of this unprecedented pipeline which Sunoco proposes to construct through the heart of densely populated Chester and Delaware Counties.

Sunoco proposes to construct this pipeline to transport byproducts of natural gas production such as ethane, propane and butane through densely populated "high consequence" areas on their way to Marcus Hook for refinement and export. These products can be condensed for transport into a partially liquid state under very high pressure, but in the event of a pipeline leak, will expand several hundred times in volume into a gas that is invisible, odorless, heavier-than-air, and extremely flammable or explosive. The massive amount of gas that would release from a leak in these densely populated areas could put thousands at risk of asphyxiation. If the migrating gas cloud finds an ignition source, there would be mass casualties and many more with serious thermal injuries. The so-called ATEX pipeline, similar to the pipeline proposed by Sunoco, ruptured in 2015 in rural West Virginia, spilling 1.2 million gallons of liquid ethane which ignited, causing thermal damage at a distance of 2,000 feet from the point of failure. In Delaware County, where there are over 3,000 people per square mile, a similar explosion could potentially impact thousands and damage hundreds of residences, businesses and schools.

No Pennsylvania or federal agency currently reviews or regulates where a pipeline operator can or should locate a natural gas liquids pipeline. Given Sunoco's poor safety record, averaging more than two hazardous liquids leaks per month since 2006, including highly volatile liquids leaks in densely populated Aston, Pennsylvania in May 2016 and again in October 2016, and the potential very serious consequences of failure of this particular type of pipeline, MCCS believes that it is neither appropriate nor responsible for this proposed pipeline to be constructed in close proximity to residences, parks, schools, and other vulnerable sites.

#### ABOUT MIDDLETOWN COALITION FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY (MCCS)

MCCS is a nonpartisan grassroots group that includes technical and engineering experts, medical experts, safety and emergency response experts, and business owners and parents concerned for their families' health, safety and welfare. MCCS serves as an information resource to educate our community and elected officials about the proposed pipeline's public safety risks.

# # #

Media contact: Eve Miari [eve.miari@gmail.com](mailto:eve.miari@gmail.com) or 484-326-6444