



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Citizens Question the Safety and Timing of the DEP Approval
of the Shell Falcon Pipeline**

Environmental groups opposed to the route of the Shell Falcon Pipeline issued a joint statement today that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has failed to ensure that residents will be protected from dangerous, polluting and explosive pipelines at a time when officials in the eastern part of the state has halted all work on the Sunoco Mariner East due to technical deficiencies of the pipeline.

In addition, the DEP's failure to fully address the technical deficiencies that were raised by Shell's plan to run the pipeline underneath the raw service line of the Ambridge Reservoir puts the drinking water of 75,000 water customers at risk.

"We are at a moment in time when the state of Pennsylvania is studying the dangers of the Sunoco Mariner East Pipeline, and we have witnessed and explosion this year connected to poor erosion control reviews and practices, the very subject of what DEP has permitted today. In fact, the District Attorney in Chester County just today opened a criminal investigation into the construction of Mariner East," said Matt Mehalik, executive director of the Breathe Project. "There is no reason to rush this and potentially risk lives and people's health."

Lisa Graves Marcucci of the Environmental Integrity Project noted that the timing of the DEP's decision, immediately before people retire for the holiday break, shows a disappointing lack of empathy for the concerns of residents of our region.

"It is very disheartening with all the other problems with pipelines across the state and country that the DEP would issue this hasty decision now," said Marcucci. "We're still reeling from the pipeline explosion in Center Township. The issue of public safety remains our central focus."

"This is sad news that we receive on the same day we learn of the death of the MarkWest worker who died in Houston following a gas-related explosion last week," said Terrie Baumgartner of the Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community and a member of Citizens to Protect the Ambridge Reservoir. "We remain concerned that the DEP has not shown care for the health and risks faced by the residents of this region."

The Breathe Project will issue a more complete press release on the DEP decision once the details of this decision have been studied.

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