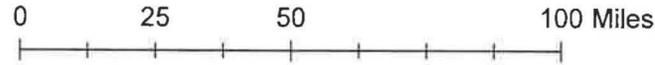
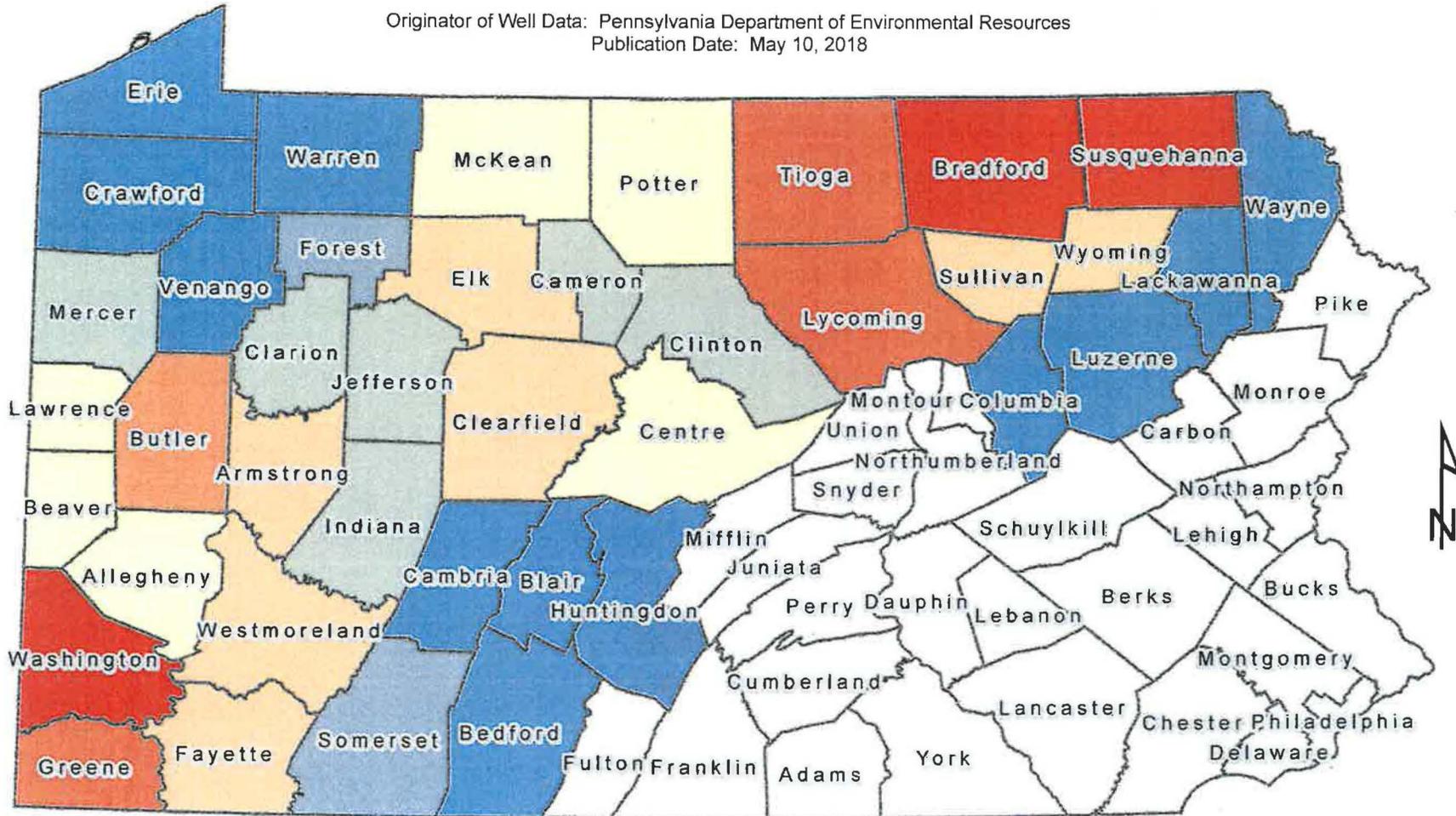


# MARCELLUS SHALE GAS WELLS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Scale 1:1,000,000



Originator of Well Data: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources  
Publication Date: May 10, 2018



**Total Permitted Marcellus Shale Gas Wells 20,341**

**Legend**



Oral Testimony of Bibianna Dussling, Middletown Coalition for Community Safety  
Before the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee  
30 May 2019

Good morning Chairman Barrar, Representative Sainato and all members in attendance. My name is Bibianna Dussling. I am a resident of Middletown Township in Delaware County, parent of three, and a Veteran Naval Officer. I served nine years as a helicopter pilot where my main "ground jobs" were in Operations, Aviation Safety, and Emergency Preparedness. I served in these roles and as an aircraft commander on two deployments in the Persian Gulf, and during evacuation and humanitarian relief efforts following both the 2005 Indonesian Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. I coordinated emergency response plans for one base, covering a wide range of potential threats from natural disasters to hazardous materials leaks. I know that planning for anything less than a worst case scenario puts lives at risk.

That is how I began when I testified before this committee and your Senate counterparts in November 2016 regarding the Mariner East pipeline system. I thank you for the opportunity to testify again but I am utterly disappointed that I must reiterate my conclusion from two and a half years ago. This proposed pipeline system poses an unacceptable level of risk to our lives, our children's' lives, and the lives of thousands of Pennsylvanians. Sadly, Sunoco/Energy Transfer's own conduct during construction of this project and operation of the workaround hybrid line they now refer to as Mariner East 2 has further proven this to be the case.

The current regulatory structure has allowed this project to continue despite Sunoco's egregious conduct on this project. It has left over one hundred municipal entities (counties, school districts, townships) scrambling to develop individual safety plans for a project already underway, based on incomplete information and Sunoco's generic safety guidance of self-evacuation on foot. Yet the idea that the unique hazards of Mariner East's HVL pipelines in immediate proximity to schools, recreational centers, senior living facilities, densely populated residential and commercial areas can be made "safe" through planning is simply a fallacy. These municipal entities are bearing the burden of our government's responsibility for the public's health, safety, and welfare and in finding they can not adequately do so in the face of Mariner East's risks, have communicated this to the Governor and the PUC. State Senators and Representatives have sent communications, insisting that this project be halted. Formal complaints have been filed with the PUC and multiple municipal entities have intervened as impacted parties, sounding the alarm on this project.

Despite all this, we are still left to grapple with the impact on our communities, townships and first responders left without the power to adequately safeguard us. Reliance on regulation by the PUC has led to these pipelines being sited without consideration for public safety. The bravest, best trained, and most well equipped first responders can only seek to minimize casualties, not prevent catastrophe, with the circumstances presented them with Mariner East. If Sunoco were as interested in public safety as they claim, where are the zero ignition gas-meters for first responders and homeowners, carbon detectors and early warning systems for all impacted communities? These are basic safety considerations, the lack of which demonstrates Sunoco's priorities. This project was routed for their convenience and bottomline, leaving us to face harsh realities when it comes to the concept of safety plans.

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In reality, the PUC as the default regulator of this project and Sunoco's penchant for secrecy leads to little to no regulation of activity along the route in the interest of public safety.. Given the potential catastrophic results of a rupture, it is unacceptable that municipalities have no say in activities by these companies, such as excavation along active pipelines or maintenance on active pipelines in their community. First responders and municipalities are not even given prior notice unless other aspects are involved, like shutting down a lane of traffic.

On April 24th, in my township of Middletown, a sinkhole measuring 12'x12'x12' developed on the Mariner East easement in front of the State Police barracks, across the street from an active Mariner East drill site installing the 16" and 20" pipes under Route 1. This is also across the street from Granite Farms Estates, a large senior citizen community, and on the shoulder of the busiest highway in town. In immediate proximity to the sinkhole, is the 1930s era 12" liquids line now repurposed by Sunoco to bypass incomplete sections of Mariner East and transport highly volatile liquids. Township engineers and public safety officials were not even able to inspect or verify any impact on the active 12" line because Sunoco immediately filled in the sinkhole. Despite the lack of immediate inspection, or determined cause of the subsidence, drilling was allowed to continue unabated and the 12" line remained operational. From communications with our Township Council, I know they were told a safety investigation was commenced by the PUC and would be complete within 10 days. More than 30 days have now passed with no answers as to the cause or remedies. Yet construction and drilling has continued and the 12" line is still operational.

In Middletown, we are just one community in which Sunoco now plans to resort to open trench construction through areas where HDD attempts failed. The pipes will now be buried only a few feet deep through even more backyards, along yet another of our busiest roads, leaving us even more vulnerable to potential catastrophe after tearing up the community. One of the main residential streets impacted by this change is War Trophy Lane, in my neighborhood of Riddlewood. We are a neighborhood with many original, elderly residents. We have many young families just starting to have children. And like all neighborhoods, we are home to disabled individuals. I have a statement to read from Michelle Strain, the mother of one of our disabled residents, who happens to live on War Trophy Lane. I would like you to consider her statement in the context of Sunoco's plan for residents to self-evacuate on foot in case notified of a pipeline leak.

"I have 4 children, but I am most concerned about evacuating my child with special needs. He is 15 yrs old and weighs more than I do. He has a severe Intellectual Disability, Autism, PTSD, is legally blind along with numerous other conditions. He sustained a Spinal Cord Injury 4 years ago. He can not walk without his braces, and some days the muscle spasms make it nearly impossible for him to move. He has medical procedures that need to be completed every three hours around the clock and needs numerous supplies in order to facilitate those procedures; if this is not completed every 3 hours it could cause fatal complications. If we were to leave the

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house in an evacuation we would need to pack his braces, walker, wheelchair, catheters, diapers, wipes, sterile alcohol pads, castile wipes, pulse oximeter, thermometer, blood pressure cuff, inhalers, injections. He takes 54 pills each day, plus up to an additional 6 pills as needed. A lot of his medical supplies are specialty items and must be ordered and are not available at local pharmacies. How can I keep him safe and reasonably carry all of his medical supplies? Is this pipeline worth the risk? Who will be looking out for the young, elderly and disabled?

Sincerely, Michelle Strain

48 War Trophy Lane"

Our community and all communities along Mariner East are being put in an untenable position. The combination of lack of effective PUC regulation and consideration of public safety in planning this project, plus Sunoco's disregard for public safety as it has progressed, leaves one option. Mariner East must be shut down. At this point, the best attempts at safety plans can not sufficiently mitigate the risks. In 2016, I asked the committee to take a step back, to look at the bigger picture of Mariner East. We do not have that luxury now. We need action. Reverting back to my training as a military pilot, I say reverse course. I had an oath to uphold, as do you. I had people whose lives were in my hands, as do you. It is unfortunate you are being put in this position but leadership often involves difficult decisions. This one is clear. The concept of "public safety" no longer exists in the context of Mariner East. Shut it down.

5/29/19

I have 4 children, but I am most concerned about evacuating my child with special needs. He is 15 yrs old and weighs more than I do. He has a severe Intellectual Disability, Autism, PTSD, is legally blind along with numerous other conditions. He sustained a Spinal Cord Injury 4 years ago. He can not walk without his braces, and some days the muscles spasms make it nearly impossible for him to move. He has medical procedures that need to be completed every three hours around the clock and needs numerous supplies in order to facilitate those procedures; if this is not completed every 3 hours it could cause fatal complications. If we were to leave the house in an evacuation we would need to pack, his braces, walker, wheelchair, catheters, diapers, wipes, sterile alcohol pads, castile wipes, pulse oximeter, thermometer, blood pressure cuff, inhalers, injections. He takes 54 pills each day, plus up to an additional 6 pills as needed. A lot of his medical supplies are specialty items and must be ordered and are not available at local pharmacies. How can I keep him safe and reasonably carry all his medical supplies? Is this pipeline worth the risk? Who will be looking out for the young, elderly and disabled?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Strain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "M" and a distinct "Strain" ending.

Michelle Strain

48 War Trophy Lane

Media, PA 19063