

September 29, 2020

Ms. Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17015

RE: Pipeline Spill at Marsh Creek State Park, 8/10/2020

Dear Secretary Dunn:

The Conservation & Natural Resources Advisory Council (CNRAC) is writing to express our concerns on the recent significant impacts of the spill from the Sunoco/Energy Transfer pipeline at Marsh Creek State Park on August 10, 2020.

CNRAC works closely with the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DNCR) in implementing Act 18, Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, which reads:

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all of the people, including generations yet to come."

Specifically, CNRAC would highlight the following concerns:

- The 1,784-acre Marsh Creek State Park contains the 535-acre Marsh Creek Lake, which is an important recreational and ecological resource, especially for fishing, sailing, and migrating waterfowl. Marsh Creek is among the most visited of Pennsylvania's parks, and water-based activities are the catalyst for that draw. The need for containment, water testing, and remediation because of the spill has restricted access to affected water and shoreline areas.
- The spill has severely impacted this significant natural resource and recreation facility at a time when outdoor recreation is critically important to Pennsylvania's citizens. During this time of COVID-19 pandemic concerns, visitation rates have skyrocketed, with more than a million additional visitors per month at state parks. Pennsylvania's citizens are utilizing state parks to maintain their mental and physical health which are more important now than ever.

- CNRAC supports actions taken by DCNR, as well as the Department of Environmental Protection and the Governor's Office, to ensure the impacted areas are fully restored to their condition prior to the spill or better for the use of the local community, citizens from across the Commonwealth, and out-of-state visitors, as well as for generations yet to come.

Please keep us advised as reports are issued and decisions are made regarding the remediation.

Respectfully submitted,



Geralyn Umstead-Singer
CNRAC Secretary

cc: Governor Tom Wolf

Secretary Patrick McDonnell, Department of Environmental Protection

Representative Daryl Metcalfe, Majority Chair, Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Representative Greg Vitali, Minority Chair, Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Representative David Millard, Majority Chair, Tourism and Recreational Development Committee

Representative Mark Longietti, Minority Chair, Tourism and Recreational Development Committee

Senator Gene Yaw, Majority Chair, Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Senator Steven Santarsiero, Minority Chair, Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Senator Tom Killion, Majority Chair, Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee

Senator Lindsey Williams, Minority Chair, Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee