

Greetings Concerned Citizens of Lebanon County and friends:

ET/Sunoco spilled drilling fluids into Snitz Creek during construction of its Mariner East pipeline in West Cornwall Township, Lebanon County, yesterday. Attached is a Notice of Violation (NOV) issued by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to Sunoco on 8/13/20 for violation of the Clean Streams Law. Today a tanker truck was parked on North Cornwall Road along the creek, near the intersection with Rt. 72, presumably pumping water out of the creek as part of the "clean up."

During Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) construction of a parallel pipeline in 2017 and 2018 at the same site, there were at least seven discharges of drilling mud for which DEP issued NOV's to Sunoco. The NOV's can be found on DEP's pipeline portal website. DEP required Sunoco to submit and have approved a Re-Evaluation Study after the earlier HDD pipe construction. This area is limestone geology, criss-crossed with fractures, solution channels and cavernous groundwater pockets. The new HDD under Snitz Creek was supposed to be 100 feet below the creek for this new pipeline, whereas previously the drill was only 8 feet below the creek, according to the Re-Evaluation Study for this site.

ET/Sunoco has been plagued with drilling mud spills (sometimes called Inadvertent Returns) during its construction of the Mariner East pipeline project at various HDD construction sites across the 350-mile pipeline. A large spill occurred earlier this week into Blue Marsh Lake, a drinking water source and at another site in Eastern PA. See link to news story by StateImpact:

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2020/08/11/mariner-east-construction-spills-10000-gallons-of-drilling-mud-into-chester-county-lake/>

This time, Sunoco is drilling from both ends of the approximately 3,000-foot long HDD profile at the Snitz Creek site. Called an "intercept drill" the drilling rigs are located along Tice Road in Cornwall Borough and along North Zinns Mill Road in West Cornwall Township, at the end of the Fairview Golf Course. The drill site associated with the spill was shut down, while DEP said operations at the other end of the drill could proceed. Sunoco must submit to DEP a "Restart Report" explaining how another drilling mud spill can be avoided at Snitz Creek, before the stalled drilling operations can resume.

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