Testimony of

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Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP)

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Good Morning and thank you for inviting the Department of Environmental Protection to testify this morning regarding pipeline safety. My name is John Stefanko and I am the Executive Deputy Secretary for Programs for PA DEP. I am here to provide information on pipeline safety as it relates to DEP, how we respond to emergencies such as the recent Sunoco pipeline rupture and subsequent spill into Wallis Run (Loyalsock Creek) and address any questions that you may have.

Pipeline Safety is an important topic and one in which I will defer to PUC to address more specifically. PA DEP's role related to oil and gas pipelines includes the regulation of construction, operation and maintenance of these structures pursuant to various state environmental statutes in the same manner that other land development activities are regulated. Companies constructing pipelines must comply with Pennsylvania's water quality standards established in Pennsylvania regulations adopted to implement those standards such as erosion and sediment control, water obstructions and encroachments, and surface water discharges. PA DEP also has authority to protect air resources in Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Act, as amended in 2012, also includes certain provisions related to the construction, operation and maintenance of oil and gas pipelines. Once a pipeline is constructed, PA DEP, as an emergency response agency, may also participate or lead a field response to unforeseen pipeline emergencies and/or accidents.

The department's mission during emergencies and disasters is to respond quickly and proficiently to any incident that could adversely affect public health and safety or the environment. This response typically comes from the Environmental Emergency Response Program, which provides 24-hour availability for notification of pollution incidents and response to emergency situations. This program includes a staff of trained professional personnel, through six regional Environmental Emergency Response Teams, that respond to emergencies and supplements the capabilities of local response agencies by providing technical expertise and analytical capabilities not normally available to local emergency responders. The Environmental Emergency Response Program responds to identify, characterize, minimize, and mitigate the environmental consequences of emergency incidents and protect public health and safety. Following the initial response, the Environmental Emergency Response Program works with the specific PA DEP program staff (water, air, tanks, etc.) to determine next steps and, as needed, hand off follow-up response to the technical program staff to ensure that the environmental consequences of the incident are adequately and properly managed and resolved.

To provide some real world context, I'll summarize the Sunoco Pipeline rupture that occurred in Lycoming County on October 21. On October 21, at approximately 3 am, an 8-inch Sunoco gasoline pipeline was ruptured due to overnight flash floods. The location of the rupture was

near Wallis Run Road and Butternut Grove Road in Lycoming County. According to reports from Sunoco, the flow of product was stopped via automated safety apparatus within 5 minutes of the pipeline operator receiving a low pressure signal. It was reported initially that an estimated 55,000 gallons of product may have been lost. To date that remains the best estimate Sunoco has provided.

DEP was notified at 4 am and dispatched staff to respond at 5 am. Given the estimated product lost, DEP notified downstream water suppliers at 7 am of the pipeline break. Staff from the Department's Emergency Response Team remained on site or available from that time until October 24, when the incident ceased to be an emergency. The operational period for NCRO ERT during this period was from approximately 4 am to 9 pm each day and a total of 3 NCRO ERT members were assigned rotating on and off shifts.

The next day, Saturday, October 22, a sampling plan was developed and implanted in coordination with the DEP lab to expedite results. In addition, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission was contacted to develop Time of Travel estimates for downstream water suppliers. All water suppliers in the Northcentral region were kept apprised of the sample results and SRBC estimates. Water suppliers in the Southcentral region and into Maryland were also apprised of the sample results. On Monday, October 24, response activities transitioned from Emergency Response Team members to the Regional Programs of the Department. Unified command terminated at 7 pm and transitioned to incident command.

Department staff met with Sunoco representatives on Tuesday, October 25, to discuss necessary repairs to the pipeline. During this meeting, PA DEP staff issued emergency permits for the repair work at 10 locations near and including the pipeline break. Significant sampling efforts, remediation and pipeline repairs continued from October 25 until conclusion on November 13 when incident command shut down and it is our understanding that the pipeline was either back in service or very close to being so. PA DEP continues to work closely with the company to support the ongoing remediation of the area as Sunoco pursues Act 2 relief of liability for this incident.

In this instance PA DEP provided an initial response, coordinated with EPA Region 3 responders, communicated with Sunoco to ensure that the release was minimized and limited as quickly as possible, conducted numerous in stream samples, characterized the release, monitored and reported sample results as they were received to all interested and impacted parties, evaluated the reach of potentially impacted area and receptors, provided notification of the spill to downstream water systems, and issued needed emergency permits for the line to be repaired immediately.

I thank you for the time and am ready to address any questions.