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Written testimony, A People's Budget: The Environment

We are a family living with a contaminated well in Edgmont Township, and the DEP, the EPA and environmental laws have failed to protect us. We strongly feel that if a company laying a pipeline wants to drill through an area that only has private wells and no public water access, that company should be responsible for bringing public water access to all properties that may be affected by drilling activities.

Prior to construction of Sunoco/Energy Transfer's Mariner East 2 pipeline, our original well yielded clean, potable water and did not require any treatment; we were able to safely drink the water directly out of the ground without any filtration. After an Inadvertent Return (IR) at the Mariner East 2 drill site behind our property, that required continuous sucking of groundwater to clean up the spill, our original well water suddenly changed in quality and quantity and was ultimately deemed inoperable.

Our only option was to drill a new well, as public water access is not available where we live. We drilled a new well and discovered that the new well is contaminated with legacy contaminants from a previous Sunoco pipeline rupture of jet fuel that was not fully remediated back in the 90s. For months, we were unable to use the water to wash our hands or to brush our teeth; we had to use hand sanitizer to wash our hands and bottled water to brush our teeth. We were unable to shower or bathe our toddler in our own home. We drove our dirty dishes and dirty laundry to family members' homes to clean the necessities. We ultimately installed two granular activated carbon filters to remove the contaminants/volatile organic compounds (VOCs), in addition to two water softeners, a 5 micron and a 1 micron filter, and a UV light to treat bacteria. The installation of the equipment proved to be a short-term solution, as the harshness of the water has ruined the equipment beyond repair. We are back to showering and bathing our toddler at family members' homes and loading the car with dirty laundry to bring to our relatives and neighbor's homes to clean.

We have spent over \$40K attempting to get clean water, and we are back to square one, needing to invest in new equipment in order to treat our only water supply. We can't just drill a new well, because we don't know where exactly on our property and at what depth the legacy contamination exists. We would need to get hydrogeological studies done to determine the water quality underground, but that would set us back another \$50-100K, money that we simply do not have.

The DEP has stated, "the Commonwealth is one of only a few states where the legislature has chosen not to regulate private drinking water wells." While the DEP sampling has confirmed our VOC contamination, they have stated, "none of the (VOC) samples taken indicate any exceedances of USEPA's maximum contaminant levels or primary State medium specific concentrations... risk assessment would demonstrate that there is no need to replace your water supply for the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) found in your well."

Well water is supposed to be a natural, free resource. We have had to install multiple pieces of equipment to treat our water, we had no other option. We cannot simply live with (drink, bathe in, etc.) water that has trace amounts of jet fuel in it, even though it is "below EPA limits." It is not fair to my family to have to live with this contaminated well. According to both the PA constitution and the United Nations, clean water is a basic human right. We need clean water to live. Are profit margins for a big oil company more important than life itself?

The ultimate solution to our contaminated water supply and the legacy contaminants underground is public water. We do not have the resources and funding to extend the public water main 0.4 miles to our property for the \$500K that was quoted by Aqua, the public water supplier.

We live in Edgmont Township, in Delaware County Pennsylvania. Edgmont Township is 9.8 square miles in area and there have been three Sunoco pipeline leaks in history that have led to ground contamination leaving behind legacy contaminants. The Mariner East 2 pipeline was drilled next to all three contamination sites in Edgmont Township, none of which have access to public water at this time. Myself, in addition to my neighbors who live on the properties surrounding the contamination site, drafted a public water petition documenting the reasons why public water access should be made a priority for our general vicinity. There were 24 properties who signed and supported the petition. The petition was presented to Edgmont Township's board of supervisors who reached out to Aqua to get a quote. Without underground hydrogeological studies to "prove" the contamination, the Township could not present legal action against Sunoco/Energy Transfer and force them to pay for the installation of the public water main. The Aqua quote stated that each property would need to agree to tie in, and the fee would be approximately \$30K per property for the install of the water main, not including the connection fee to the house which would cost between \$10-15K depending on the distance away from the street to the water main. This needs to be addressed by the pipeline company, local, and state officials. Resident's water supplies have been impacted and it is unacceptable to force private well owners to fend for themselves and drown in their water woes without any assistance from the responsible parties.