

**L-2019-3010267**

## **Potential Enhancements to Pipeline Safety Regulations**

I am writing as a concerned citizen, business owner, and homeowner currently living and working in Middletown Twp, Delaware County. My business, my home, my local market, and the elementary school my children went to are within the blast radius of the ME2 pipeline.

Although I understand the risk of a blast are quite small, the results of such an event would be catastrophic.

In addition to my safety concerns, I take serious issue with the use of eminent domain, the use of public utility status, and the loss of property values associated with projects of this type.

Because of these concerns, I propose the following changes to pipeline regulations.

Consideration should be taken of the materials being transported in pipelines. Regulations that were written for the transportation of fuel oil are not sufficient to ensure the safety of citizens when NGE's and other highly flammable materials are being transported. There should be much stronger safety standards applied to more dangerous materials. Likewise, issuing public utility status for material that does not directly benefit the local community is a misuse of this application.

Permits should only be issued after complete economic review, including loss of property values and recreational opportunities, as well as a critical look at the impact to climate and other infrastructure. Local municipalities are forced to cover the costs of damage to roads and bridges as well as other infrastructure costs due to increases in fossil fuel production. This process should include an opportunity for input from the public.

Public utility status should be issued on a project-by-project basis. This should also include a public comment period.

PUC should require an emergency response plan be made available to the public. This emergency response plan must include protections and procedures for our most vulnerable citizens including children and the elderly. Currently, local municipalities are funding studies that should be paid for by the utility.

Finally, climate change is real and caused by the fossil fuel industry. Costs associated with climate change are being covered by the general public, not the industry that is responsible. Companies which are considered public utilities should cover the costs associated with their related increase in fossil fuel production.

In short, the public does not feel safe or protected under current regulations. Major corporations have the ability to run projects through municipalities against the will of the people. This must change.

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