



August 2, 2021

Chairman Gladys Brown Dutrieuille
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, Third Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Citizen Comment on Proposed Settlement for Safety Investigation of 2018 Pipeline Failure and Fire in Beaver County (Docket M-2020-3004646)

Dear Chairman Brown Dutrieuille,

On September 10, 2018, on the slope behind Ivy Lane in Center Township, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, heavy rain caused a landslide which resulted in Energy Transfer Company's (ETC's) natural gas pipeline erupting into flames. The damage was immense: Several acres of forest, a log cabin home, and many cars were destroyed by the flames. If this were not enough, treasured family pets were casualties to this disaster.

It truly seems like the prospective fine of 1 million dollars is not enough to prevent new hazardous construction or maintenance practices. While this disaster altered many lives, the Revolution pipeline was simply rerouted closer to population areas, and it resumed operation on March 01, 2021. One million dollars also simply doesn't account for the future risks to residents and emergency services or the toll this pipeline has taken on this neighborhood. The true cost is several million dollars greater.

As for the inspections, it is wonderful that they will be held annually for the next five years; however, there are still inspection issues to be raised with the current proposal.

First, if the data is collected by ETC itself or by a contractor in its employment, it would stand to reason that the data would itself be biased towards ETC. The success of ETC's partnership with this community needs to be based on a standard of trust, trust that has already been sorely abused by the results of the explosion. To build a forward future, we suggest that the inspections be conducted by a third party. Impartial transparency is the only way to win over residents after the grievous miscalculation that resulted in the explosion on Ivy Lane.

Secondly, ETC's 40-mile natural gas line travels across Butler, Beaver, and Washington counties; and as global climate change makes it more likely for extreme weather events to cause flooding and landslides, the terrain of each county will face these external forces head on, making independent inspections for ensuring the integrity of pipelines even more essential.

Beyond ensuring independent inspections, protecting the surrounding communities also requires establishing that the pipeline is equipped with a monitoring system that will patrol between inspections for potential threats to pipeline integrity so the community can be made aware in real time. Pairing a good monitoring and notification system with an independent quality control program to oversee ETC's pipelines in Pennsylvania could prevent the losses felt in the last explosion.

Respectfully,

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