

CP 15-558

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January 25, 2017

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20540
OFFICE OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

2017 JAN 26 P 3: 34

FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

MATT CARTWRIGHT
17TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH CARE, BENEFITS, AND
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
RANKING MEMBER

INTERIOR

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

FEDERAL LANDS

DEMOCRATIC REGIONAL WHIP

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE, Room 11H
Washington, DC 20426

To whom it may concern:

Enclosed please find a Privacy Release Form and correspondence from my constituent, Phyllis Jacewicz. Mrs. Jacewicz is concerned about the installment of the Penn East Pipeline specifically its route through Plains, PA. She resides near a section of the pipeline that travels near a quarry. She is concerned that the blasting from the quarry could compromise the structural integrity of the pipeline.

Mrs. Jacewicz has attempted to correspond with FERC to address these issues has gone unanswered. I would appreciate your careful review of this situation and any information which may be helpful to my constituent. Please give this matter your full and fair consideration.

Please direct your response to Brian Dowd, at my district office:

226 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503
(570) 341-1050.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



MC/BD

2016-00006

Office of Congressman Matt Cartwright

PRIVACY RELEASE FORM

Authorization in Accordance with the 1974 Privacy Act

Name: Phyllis Jacewicz Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Address: 95 East Saylor Ave.

City: Plains State: PA Zip: 18702

Home Phone: (570) 822-2459

Other Phone: (570) 817-5863 (cell)

Email: jacewiczm@wmconnect.com

Social Security Number/ VA Number / Alien Number: [REDACTED]

Have you contacted any other elected official regarding this case? Yes/No (circle one) If so, who? Congressman Barletta who referred me to you.

Please describe in detail the information you are requesting or the exact nature of the problem you are experiencing. Send copies of any relevant information. DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS. Use extra paper if necessary.

Re: Penn East Pipeline - See ALL enclosures
Asking for meeting with FERC before approval
of pipeline

Note: The Privacy Act requires the completion of this form in order for Congressman Cartwright or his representative to receive information on behalf of his constituents. I hereby authorize Congressman Cartwright or his representative to receive information on my behalf and/or to discuss my records with any federal agency involved.

SIGNATURE: Phyllis Jacewicz Date: 1/21/17

January 21, 2017

Attn: Brian Dowd
Office of Congressman Cartwright
226 Wyoming Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503

RE: Penn East Pipeline

Dear Brian:

As per our conversation of January 20, 2017, I am enclosing the following:

- Email addressed to Bob Morgan on 1/19/17;
- My Letters to FERC from August to December 2016;
- Anonymous letter addressed to me with astounding facts, sounding like a very nervous employee of quarry worried about a possible explosion?;
- Plains Twp. Fire Chief's letters (3) to FERC in March, May and June 2016;
- Plains Twp. Fire Chief's testimony at FERC hearing in Aug. 2016;
- Article in Times Leader from Plains Twp. Fire Chief re "major qualms to construct gas pipeline";
- Privacy Release Form.

Please forward to FERC as soon as possible as the date of approval is set for February 17. I am asking for a meeting between FERC, our fire chief and affected residents. This situation is very serious, being that we will be living in fear of an explosion every moment of our lives, and I believe a meeting with FERC is not too much to ask. After all, they have never attempted to meet with any residents to even survey the situation. FERC, at their meeting in August, never gave residents a chance to discuss this dangerous situation. They took each resident behind closed doors for a limited 3 minute talk. I believe we deserve some consideration given they are taking over our properties by eminent domain and possibly ending our lives in the future.

Thank you.
Phyllis Jacewicz

Email to
Bob Morgan
1/19/17

My name is Phyllis Jacewicz
Plains, PA. My situation involves t
have been attending meetings and v
pipeline. I am extremely concernec
myself. This Penn East pipeline is :
in close proximity (feet) to my hom
of the situation is that there is an act
from my home), an asphalt plant ne:
my home) and a 12" gas line runnin
feet from my home), that feeds the a
Another dangerous concern is that th
used by Penn East as an access road to build the 36" pipeline and will have
heavy machinery running over the 12" line which is in the ground about 2-
3feet because of rock formation. It was put in ground in 2012. We have
pictures.

The Penn East pipeline is to run between my home and the active
quarry, which makes the pipeline only feet from the active quarry. Every
time there is a re-route the pipeline comes closer to my home. You cannot
imagine the impact the dynamite blasting will have on the 36" pipeline.
There will be an explosion and we will have an uncontrollable situation
killing many and destroying everything in its path. How can anyone not see
that this is a catastrophe waiting to happen? There are so many gas
explosions occurring every day and these pipelines are no where near a
dynamiting area. This pipeline needs to be re-routed far away from the
quarry where the dynamiting does not affect the ground where the pipeline is
placed so as the pipeline cannot feel the movement of the ground to cause
the pipeline to rupture and explode with the tremendous amount of gas
forced thru it (1 billion cu.feet per day).

FERC is set to approve this pipeline in February 2017. I am an
intervenor and have filed numerous letters with FERC before the deadlines
stating my serious concerns about the route the pipeline is taking. We are in
the incineration zone (900 feet+), my home being less than 100 feet away.
The pipeline alone is a serious project but an active dynamiting quarry,
asphalt plant and other gas lines create an unimaginable catastrophic
situation. My home has numerous foundation cracks, inside wall cracks,
cracked windows, etc. as a result of the weekly blasting. Our fire chief has
written FERC numerous letters stating his grave concerns. Penn East states
they will monitor the pipeline but when an explosion occurs their
instruments will be incinerated and there will be nothing left to inspect,
incineration destroys everything and everybody. We have worked all our

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lives and now reaching retirement we are being put in this situation while Penn East gets rich and has little or no responsibilities. They have no respect for life.

Penn East is pushing eminent domain on property owners that refuse to let them use their property for work space. A representative comes to your home after dark. Penn East threatens that they will take you to court and that there will be no money to offer at that time so it's best to settle now.

FERC is being told the quarry is moving away from the pipeline, and will have little effect, which is totally false as the quarry has applied for permits to go deeper-not away from the pipeline. Lies are constantly being told to FERC.

I believe you are aware of the Penn East pipeline, as Charlie Adonizio, a real estate broker, attended meetings last year and he mentioned Congressman Cartwright. I believe Penn East is not going through Adonizio's property now and I would like to let you know a dangerous situation still exists for others along the pipeline.

I am asking for your help and input so the people living on East Saylor Avenue in Plains, don't have to live in constant fear of an explosion every day for the rest of their lives. Home is supposed to be a safe place. We will never be safe if this pipeline is not re-routed, far from the weekly dynamiting quarry and asphalt plant.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Michael & Phyllis Jacewicz, Plains, PA.

This is a preliminary letter as I am an intervenor and have many concerns about the Penn East pipeline. I live at 95 East Saylor Avenue, Plains, Pennsylvania next to an active quarry (Popple) and this pipeline will run between the active quarry and my home, the quarry being approximately 300 feet from my home (the closest home to the quarry). My lot is triangular and on one side there is an already existing approximately 12 inch pipeline (approximately 20 feet from my home backdoor) which supplies gas to an active asphalt plant owned by Popple located on the top of the hill which can be seen and heard from my home. When this asphalt plant is in operation, which is at least nine months out the year, my inside plants on my windowsill in my home vibrate. Can you imagine the impact of this plant (besides the dynamiting every week) on the 36 inch proposed gas line, being that the pipeline will run between my home and the asphalt plant.

When Penn East starts to install their pipeline I am concerned that they will have to blast their way thru the rocky formation near to my home. (There is plenty of rock that is why we have a quarry). Then upon installation I am concerned about the weekly ongoing blasting from the rock quarry and the effects on this 36 inch gas pipeline. I have many cracks in the foundation of my home and have had windows crack. This blasting is not going to stop as the quarry will be here for many years to come. The blasting, no matter what Popple says, will never be far from this pipeline. They say they monitor it but you have to live here to see what goes on. It is monitored when someone checks and the moment the monitoring is gone, a giant blast occurs. The fire department has been appearing near my home just about every week the dynamiting goes off since DEP stepped in a few years ago but sometimes they arrive a little late. Does this not tell you this is a dangerous situation? In the future what and who can you contact once this project begins - no one will care and there will be no contact person.

I am also concerned about a dusty right of way dirt roadway that I mentioned that has the above-mentioned 12 inch gas pipeline running down the center of the roadway all the way up the hill to the asphalt plant. (The Penn East pipeline, when built, will cross this 12 inch gas pipeline somewhere close to my home on the hill.) The roadway is approximately 20 feet from my home back door. Right now there is very little traffic. Since this pipeline is so close to my home and only about three feet (if that) down in the ground (because of the rock formation), what effect will heavy trucks, machinery and equipment have on this 12 inch gas pipeline and will this pipeline be in danger of shifting and moving and possibly exploding? What about all the dust and dirt when it is used as an access road to build the 36 inch pipeline? Who will be the contact person for problems?

I am concerned about the depreciation of my property. Taxes is said to never decrease but yet my home will be worth nothing. What about homeowners insurance? We have lived here for more than 40 years - ready to retire - too late in life to start looking for another home being retired - and put all of our money and hard labor into making this home,

our home for life. On the other hand, no one in their right mind would ever buy this home being in such a situation. We will never be able to feel safe in our home once this pipeline goes into operation, always being filled with anxiety as to when an explosion may occur as the weekly quarry blasting has to effect this pipeline at some point. Isn't home supposed to be a safe place? If a disaster occurs and we are not home, what do we have to come home to? All I can see is the homeowner, burned, running from his home after a gas explosion not far from the Pittsburgh area this past March. Remember, our home is only about 100 feet from this pipeline. Everything and everybody will be incinerated.

Also, what about the coal mines? What effect does this pipeline have on them and how safe are we? What about our beautiful environment? Everything as we know it will be gone.

I also just learned that Penn East has sent letters to homeowners who Penn East wants to use their land for installing this pipeline. Apparently Penn East is saying they will give the homeowners x amount of dollars and then go on to say if they do not accept, they will be forced into eminent domain and then get nothing as Penn East will have no future money. Are these the tactics Penn East is using, to scare or bribe homeowners so Penn East can have their way and say everyone is in agreement with this pipeline?

When and if an accident happens and property and lives are lost you can say you are sorry but you cannot undo a tragedy but... you can stop it from happening. YOU HAVE THE POWER NOW TO SAY NO TO THIS PIPELINE AND WITHDRAW THE DEIS.

Thank you for now.

Michael and Phyllis Jacewicz
95 East Saylor Ave.
Plains, PA 18702
(570)822-2459
Email: jacewiczm@wmconnect.com

This is a follow up to my 8/7/16 submission letter. I have been speaking to some neighbors and they are horrified by the thought of this pipeline being built so close to their homes (some homes less than 100 feet away). Along with that they also ~~do~~ live close to an active quarry and with dynamiting occurring, have many cracks in their home foundations, driveways, windows, and inside their homes with doors that won't close.

We are all concerned about the dynamiting the pipeline company will have to do in order to get their pipeline in ground. The area is all rock. It seems every home has a story of either sitting on rock or a rock formation in their yard. Dynamiting by the pipeline company is the only way they will be able to get their pipeline into the ground. Who will be responsible for damage to homes? Who are the contact people? How much can our homes withstand? Who pays for the anxiety and frustration the homeowners have to deal with and why should the homeowner have to go thru this? And don't say take pictures for this is a long drawn out process and much damages needs to be corrected immediately without cost to the homeowner.

This whole situation creates an enormous amount of terror for all people living on East Saylor Ave. and surrounding streets knowing they will be living in fear of a pipeline explosion once the gas starts to be transported with dynamiting occurring nearby. No matter how far away the required

distance is supposed to be between the pipeline and quarry, this pipeline is going to feel the effects of this dynamiting. It's only a matter of time until an explosion occurs. Also the whole valley is honeycombed with mines. When one can see vapors coming from a hole in the ground in someone's backyard, you know the mines are not very deep. Boreholes can still be found in the neighborhood.

And what about the amount of noise in our homes because of the proximity of the pipeline to our homes when this gas starts flowing? You yourself would never want this pipeline next to your home so please don't approve this pipeline so it gets built next to our homes.

Human lives are very precious. I ask that any thoughts of approving this pipeline be abolished before any devastating event occurs. I ask that the government put human lives first before large company profits. The government is supposed to protect the people not huge profit making companies.

Phyllis Jacewicz, Plains, PA.

My name is Phyllis Jacewicz and this is a supplement letter on the DEIS for the Penn East Pipeline project - docket CP15-558. I am an intervenor and live in the township of Plains, 95 East Saylor Ave.

In August, Penn East sponsored a baseball game at Montage Mountain and emphasized safety. Safety - you are kidding! They haven't a clue what safety is or they would not be building a pipeline between an active, dynamiting quarry and homes (some less than 100 feet) in a residential area. Did they mention that at the baseball game? And the quarry owners are lying to Penn East and FERC telling them they are moving away from dynamiting close to the proposed pipeline when in fact they are going deeper and deeper (permit just issued) at the same site and the dynamiting blasts are more extreme -(readings on 8/15/16 when the seismograph was placed in my yard - PPV-.68; decibel-115(harmful to a person's hearing)). The reverberations from this blast could be felt by residents about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile down the street.

Doesn't Penn East know about the 900 feet incineration zone. Of course, they do but Penn East wants the shortest, cheapest route and if that route means endangering people's property and lives - they certainly don't care. This proposition is a risk that hardly seems taking, but what's an explosion and losing some property and a few lives. Nothing to them; money is their only objective. Penn East knows how to manipulate people into thinking they will monitor their gasline by stating they will plan safety maintenance but when a catastrophe occurs, nothing will be left of their "safety maintenance". But they will still collect their billions of dollars from distribution of gas. No property owners along the pipeline route are getting cheaper gas, only aggravation and anxiety disorders; this gas is meant for shipping abroad; we don't need this gas in PA or NJ and they know it. Penn East says it's for our use but in the end they will have an overabundance and then say they have no alternative but to ship it out of the country.

The effects of this pipeline on people living in the pipeline/quarry area are unimaginable. Residents have lived here more than 40 years and have put up with countless coal trucks, asphalt trucks, day and night, weekdays and weekends, traversing the two land road; dust, dirt, noise from an asphalt plant, dynamiting from a coal turned rock quarry and now a pipeline thrown in for good behavior. Now this is pure terrorism. One billion cubic feet of natural gas each day flowing through this pipeline with extreme dynamiting occurring weekly is asking for a major gas explosion. It's a ticking time bomb! How will Penn East explain an explosion especially when they have been warned? Surely it won't be their fault as corporate companies never have to admit they are responsible for any catastrophies. You can't bring lives back but you can stop this pipeline NOW before a tragedy occurs. I pray that someone will read this and bring it to the attention of FERC so they can evaluate the situation properly without being influenced by power and money. The pipeline alone is one big concern but putting it next to an active dynamiting quarry is totally unacceptable. The route is a hazardous, explosive and poorly chosen route which must be changed or the project abolished.

Phyllis & Michael Jacewicz, Plains, PA.

My name is Phyllis Jacewicz and this is a supplement letter on the DEIS for the Penn East Pipeline project - docket CP15-558. I am an intervenor and live in the township of Plains, 95 East Saylor Ave.

Another day (8/26/16), another severe blast of dynamite from the active Popple Quarry. Yes, it continues every week, and FERC and Penn East fail to realize what catastrophic effects this dynamiting will have on the 36 inch proposed gas pipeline, being the pipeline will be less than 100 feet from the dynamiting.

If one searches on Google for gas line explosions on the web, you can get the full, frightening picture of what is going to occur when this Penn East pipeline explodes. These pictures absolutely scare you to death, and they are real. There have been explosions in California, West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Minnesota, Montana and North Dakota to name a few. In Virginia, five people were injured and 2 homes destroyed. In Pennsylvania, this past few months, a man went running down his street severely burned and his home destroyed. In West Virginia four homes and part of I77 were destroyed by a 20 inch gas pipeline. In California, 8 people were killed. In Kentucky, a gas line exploded, flattening homes, burning barns and causing one casualty. The list goes on and on. And these gas lines were not situated close to an active dynamiting quarry. I am not sure what FERC does not understand if they approve such a pipeline to be put in the ground next to a quarry and a residential area being less than 100 feet away. Even the Plains fire chief speaks against this pipeline and has warned of catastrophic effects. He comes to the site of the dynamiting and cannot understand why FERC would ever even take into consideration the approval of such a project with human lives and property at such a high risk.

I know FERC knows about the many gas lines that have exploded causing homes to be leveled and lives lost. Shame on you if you turn your back and approve this pipeline. You are warned that an explosion will occur because this pipeline is going to be built next to an active weekly dynamiting quarry with some homes being less than 100 feet away. Yes, there is another route away from the Plains residential district but Penn East refuses to re-direct this pipeline away from homes and the quarry. This pipeline was to go another route until Penn East was threatened by a wealthy business and plans were changed. Everyone knows money talks. Penn East thinks lives are expendable. If any relatives of Penn East lived along the proposed route you can be sure this route would be changed in a minute. Penn East would never allow their families to live anywhere near to this disasterous area. It's simply inhumane to build a pipeline so close to an active weekly dynamiting quarry with a residential area less than 100 feet away. The impact on the residents is simply unimaginable, living every moment of every day filled with anxiety in fear of an explosion. You would not want this to happen to your family, now please don't allow this to happen to our homes and lives. It's not like we can pick up and move after 40 years of living in the area. Most residents are ready to retire or are retired and, is this what they have to look forward to? Is this America or communism? Sometimes I wonder!

Please do not allow this to happen to the residents in the pipeline area. I wish I could get someone's attention to this matter and come see

and feel the effects of the quarry when dynamiting occurs and no one from the quarry knows they are being monitored. It makes a big difference.

Penn East paints a picture that they will have safety measures and will work with officials but when an explosion occurs their safety measures will be completely destroyed from the intense heat and fireballs. Penn East will probably blame the officials for not acting fast enough; anything but the truth. Penn East will simply say this wasn't supposed to happen and they will look into it, as is said by most companies after an event occurs. Penn East will pass it off as an example what not to do next time. Do we have to be their example? What about the property and lives lost because of Penn East's stupidity and unwillingness to redirect this gas line away from a disaster ready to happen.

Please take the above into consideration and be mindful that this project can be completed but in a way not to impose on residents' lives and property. There is always another route but you can't bring back the lives of people nor their properties after an explosion. FERC and Penn East will have to live with this guilt and hopefully, you can.

Michael & Phyllis Jacewicz, Plains, PA.

My name is Phyllis Jacewicz and this is a supplement letter on the DEIS for the Penn East Pipeline project - docket CP15-558. I am an intervenor and live in the township of Plains, 95 East Saylor Ave.

I would like to respond to Ms. Kornick's "letter to the editor" in the Times Leader (Wilkes-Barre) newspaper (9/6/16) regarding the Penn East pipeline and the Plains Township quarry. Ms. Kornick is responding because of an article published last week from the Plains Township Fire Chief explaining the serious, dangerous, catastrophic consequences of running the pipeline only feet from the Popple quarry and the weekly dynamiting being done by the Popple quarry. Ms. Kornick states they are working with the owner of the quarry to avoid the active portion of the quarry but everyone knows the "working with the owner" has been done some time ago. That is why the pipeline was moved from one side of the quarry to the residential side on East Saylor Avenue because the quarry owner did not want the pipeline running near his home in the Hudson area, stating he wants to make a development on that side of the quarry. When money and threats intervened, the route was changed endangering the property and lives of the East Saylor Avenue residents. What the quarry failed to mention is the fact that the active side of the quarry (East Saylor Avenue) will be used for many decades to come, dynamiting deeper and deeper, not moving away from the proposed pipeline. The quarry permits guarantee that.

Ms. Kornick knows nothing about safety; if she did she would not defend the existing route of the pipeline. She would be concerned about the many homes and people living on the active side of the quarry. My home is about 300 feet from the blasting and recently when monitoring was placed in my backyard the numbers were downright dangerous and explosive to any pipeline (PPV-.68 and dec8bel 115). The Penn East pipeline will run between my home and the quarry. So much for safety!

Ms. Kornick states "the Penn East pipeline would be beyond the minimal distance that PA regulation requires for quarry operators to take special precautionary measures regarding blasting in the vicinity of the utility lines." What measures? Can someone check this out? No measures are taken now to prevent damage to our homes, so why later? None of the claims represented by the Fire Chief nor the residents are misguided as stated by Ms. Kornick. The only misguided facts come from Ms. Kornick; the only factor known to Penn East is how to cut corners when installing pipelines and the billions of dollars of profit to be made.

I have been writing numerous letters to FERC stating the active part of the quarry is close to my home on East Saylor Avenue and the pipeline will run between my home and the quarry with dynamiting so severe with no plans to stop, only to dynamite deeper and deeper into the earth. I am not sure what Ms. Kornick does not understand about the catastrophic situation that is being played out. When a serious catastrophe occurs, Ms. Kornick will never be found to respond. And of course, after lives are lost and property damaged, she'll explain they "worked with the quarry" and this will relieve her of any responsibility. So much for the people who die because of her lack of responsibility.

This route must be stopped and re-routed, not just feet from the quarry, but quite a distance so the extreme weekly dynamiting does not interfere with this giant gas pipeline.

Michael & Phyllis Jacewicz, Plains, PA.

My name is Phyllis Jacewicz and this is a supplement letter on the DEIS for the Penn East Pipeline project - docket CP15-558. I am an intervenor and live in the township of Plains, 95 East Saylor Ave.

I am submitting this letter with very serious concerns. How can FERC approve the Penn East pipeline knowing that the route the pipeline is taking is totally catastrophic in the Township of Plains because of an active dynamiting quarry (Popple) only feet away from the proposed pipeline and less than 100 feet from residences? I am not sure what FERC needs to convince them this pipeline is absolutely unsafe. The fire chief has expressed grave concerns; the residents have written many letters of personal concerns; please don't let this fall on deaf ears. Please be mindful of the seriousness of this situation. Ask yourself if you would want yourself or your family living next to this pipeline with an active dynamiting quarry. It is not like the pipeline is already inground and the residents are just building their homes. Residents have been living here over forty years. Is this fair to their existence? The only way to get your attention to this gravely serious situation is for a catastrophic event to occur, then and only then, but by that time it will be too late. How can you let such a devastating occurrence happen? To approve a pipeline is one thing - it's another, when you know the deadly circumstances and still approve a pipeline.

Dynamiting close to a pipeline is sure to damage the welds of the pipes - the welding can hold up to only so much pressure of severe dynamiting every week. And yes, dynamiting does occur every week, no matter what the owner of the quarry tells you or what Penn East is telling you because Penn East is trying to push this pipeline through, taking the shortest route possible. Nothing may happen as a blast of dynamite goes off at first, but what about in the middle of the night when everyone is sleeping, and with the force of gas pushing through this pipeline, one of the welds may just break apart. It can happen at any time. This pipeline is running in a residential area where there many homes. I wish I could count the homes in the incineration zone but that should be your job, before even thinking of approving this pipeline route. This pipeline also crosses other gas lines close to homes, the mines, and an asphalt plant, to name a few in the township of Plains. But the dynamiting next to the pipeline should be the number one concern because you are placing peoples' lives and property at risk every minute of every day.

Please know that this dynamiting has been occurring for decades and our homes have many foundation cracks, cracked windows, cracks in the plaster walls inside our homes and even cracks in our driveways. Can you imagine the impact of the dynamiting on the welds of the pipeline. It is too frightening to think about, especially when you have to live in fear and anxiety every day and night not knowing if you are going to die because you live in the incineration zone of the pipeline (less than 100 feet).

There have been many gas pipeline explosions over the past few years and there was no dynamiting from a quarry close to these pipelines. These explosions just happened. How long do you think the welds of the pipeline can safely hold together with severe weekly dynamiting affecting the welds of the pipes? Not too long, right?

Like I said, this is a very serious and dangerous situation no matter what Penn East or the quarry company says. They surely don't have to live next to it. It is truly unimaginable for all residents concerned. How can a pipeline be approved by a government agency whose job it is to protect the citizens of this country? Do you call this protecting? This is murder and manslaughter. The facts have been made known to FERC and now FERC should act and search out the truth from reliable sources before ever even considering approving such a pipeline and the route it is taking. The route can be moved a distance away from the active dynamiting quarry. If this route is approved as set forth, you can be sure a catastrophic event will occur in the future no matter what Penn East tells you about their safety measures, which safety measures will be totally destroyed when a gas line explosion occurs. My only wish for all residents' lives, is that you DO NOT APPROVE THIS ROUTE for the Penn East pipeline or better yet, please do not approve this pipeline as no one along this pipeline route will benefit from the pipeline, no matter what Penn East tells you. This pipeline is, and will, create excessive fear emotions for each and every resident along this route for the rest of their lives. Please think about it. Please do not allow this to happen. You, and only you, have the power to say NO to this pipeline. Thank you.

Michael 7 Phyllis Jacewicz, Plains, PA.

My name is Phyllis Jacewicz and this is a letter on the DEIS for the Penn East Pipeline project - docket CP15-558-000. I am an intervenor and live in the township of Plains, PA, 95 East Saylor Ave.

Regarding the pipeline re-route, I would like to reiterate the danger and complete disregard of the safety of residents living feet away from the pipeline. I am one of those residents.

When a public meeting was held in August 2016 in Wilkes-Barre, PA and complaints were heard, because of this pipeline running adjacent to the Popple Stone Quarry and Asphalt plant (crusher), Penn East decided to re-route the line. Changing this route simply saves Penn East money because it is shorter, straighter and totally disregards safety. The new route only comes closer to the homes on East Saylor Ave., Plains Twp., PA and contributes to a more dangerous situation to the homes than the old route.

As I stated in my previous letters, this pipeline route needs to be scrapped and a totally new route needs to be taken, not FEET from the quarry and asphalt plant, but MILES for all residents' safety, or better yet, this project needs to be stopped entirely. I already explained in previous letters the weekly dynamiting in the quarry and the damage it has caused to my home. You can imagine the impact the quarry and asphalt plant will have on a 36" pipeline, this pipeline existing feet from homes! What will it take to get FERC's attention to this most dangerous situation? And what about the impact of Popple's crusher asphalt plant on this pipeline? All gas pipelines vibrate and this pipeline next to the asphalt plant will have added vibration from the plant and this vibration is sure to cause the metal to fatigue and eventually fail. You see, this asphalt plant operates at full capacity most of the year and the vibration can be registered on an earthquake scale. This continuous vibrating will wear on the pipeline and create a "Perfect Storm" for an accident. This plant vibrates the plants on my windowsill and I can show you how they vibrate when the plant is in operation and I believe I have stated this in my previous letter to FERC.

When Penn East re-routed this pipeline just recently they put this route even closer to the homes on East Saylor Ave. than the previous route. Did they think putting this pipeline 50 more feet away from the quarry and closer to homes would solve the problems? The fact is they created a more catastrophic event to happen for homeowners and be assured this pipeline will fail with the weekly dynamiting from the quarry and the continuous vibrations from the crusher plant. Every home in the vicinity of this pipeline should have at least 900 feet between the pipeline and themselves to at least have a chance of some survival. Also, I would like to point out it takes months to configure a new pipeline route, let alone a few days, as did Penn East. Was this done to pacify the complaints of the August meeting?

I would also like to reiterate that there is also another smaller pipeline running in an access road to the Popple asphalt plant that Penn East plans to use to build their 36" pipeline. What impact will heavy machinery and trucks have on this existing pipeline in the access road to contribute to an explosion just feet from my home? I have explained this in my previous letter.

Additionally I would like to mention that heavy equipment (dozers, loaders about 40-75 tons each and rock trucks about 75 tons) used at the quarry and crusher plant will be passing back and forth continually over the 36" pipeline creating external pressure on the pipeline that will contribute to cracking of the pipeline and eventual explosions. Even the Plains Twp. Fire Chief has written several letters to FERC stating the catastrophic events that will occur. Please give consideration to these letters by an official of the township. I would also like to note after this pipeline goes into operation, every home in its path will suffer from the high pressure gas noise going through this pipeline.

It has been noted in newspapers that this pipeline will make the price of customer's gas bills go down; anything to make the public think that this is a good project and will save them money. It never tells what profits the gas companies will yield. It never states the catastrophic events that can happen and the lives and property that are in danger everyday. This pipeline passes through PA and NJ and goes right out to the shore to be shipped overseas. This is never told to the public. Of course, this is denied, but in the end, it will be said there is so much excess gas that they have to do something with it! Penn East has been playing with the public for some time, showering money wherever they need, to make sure public support is on their side. And yet, threatening those along the pipeline to take their property away by eminent domain.

What does one need to do to get the attention of FERC to confront and investigate this most dangerous situation that Penn East is creating? It's dangerous enough to have a pipeline run alongside your home but when an active dynamiting quarry and active asphalt (crusher) plant also is in the vicinity, you can rest assured the homes and properties nearby are in grave danger every day.

I ask that you investigate this project thoroughly before even thinking about approving such a project. Maybe you can put yourselves in the shoes of the people that are going to have to live with the fear of an explosion every day of their lives. PLEASE REJECT PENN EAST'S APPLICATION AND DO NOT APPROVE THIS PIPELINE AS PEOPLE'S LIVES AND PROPERTY ARE AT STAKE.

Thank you.

Michael & Phyllis Jacewicz, Plains, PA.

My name is Phyllis Jacewicz and this is a letter on the DEIS for the Penn East Pipeline project - docket CP15-558-000. I am an intervenor and live in the township of Plains, 95 East Saylor Ave.

Attention, attention, FERC: I am submitting this letter, along with other letters, with the hope that ALL letters submitted to FERC are read thoroughly by FERC regarding the dangerous and life-threatening situation that Penn East is creating when they submitted an application to install a 36" inch pipeline running in the residential section of Plains Township, right next to the Popple active dynamiting quarry and active asphalt plant. I hope FERC realizes the magnitude of the seriousness of this situation. What Penn East is proposing is unthinkable.

If FERC is being told that the Popple active quarry is moving away in the future from the proposed pipeline and will not affect the pipeline, that is the most inaccurate statement made to FERC by Penn East or Popple. My property is about 300 feet from the active quarry and the pipeline is to run between my property and the active quarry. Just yesterday I observed that instead of moving away from my home, Popple is piling up a mountain of dirt, digging deeper and widening the quarry, closer to my home and closer to the proposed pipeline. Is this what you call moving away from the pipeline? Every week severe dynamiting is conducted by Popple which rattles my home. How can anyone say this dynamiting will have no effect on this 36" pipeline? This pipeline has tolerance for only so much pressure and the weekly dynamiting will affect this pipeline immediately. And with the billions of cubic feet of gas running through this pipeline, it will be impacted and will explode because of all activity around it, and then it will impact another gas line which it crosses, which feeds the Popple asphalt plant (crusher), and this smaller gas line runs only FEET FROM MY HOME. We will have a double pipeline explosion! What kind of situation is Penn East trying to create - a catastrophe? My home will be incinerated along with my family with no chance of survival. Homes should be at least 900+ feet from any such 36" high pressured gas line in order to have at least a small chance of survival. My home and our lives could never withstand such a disaster. Does this make sense to you or do I have to die in order to get attention?

In case you have not investigated this scenario, the Popple crusher is next to the quarry which will add vibration to this 36" pipeline. This crusher can be seen from my home and adds a spotlight on my home at night. At times this crusher runs all night and all day and the noise surrounds my home constantly. My home vibrates from this asphalt plant as I can see my plants vibrating on my windowsill when this plant is operating. This vibration will have a tremendous effect on the pipeline which will be carrying billions of cubic feet of gas every day!

The original route of the Penn East pipeline was not proposed for the residential area of East Saylor Avenue in Plains Township. But because someone with money and power threatened Penn East because the route was too close to their business, the route was changed in an instant, to go around the business. This put the homes on East Saylor Avenue in grave danger and totally disregarded any safety factor. And any re-routes Penn East has recently proposed actually puts the pipeline

closer to homes and makes the situation even more volatile! Penn East only added more to the frustration of the homeowners. We don't need any more re-routes, we need the project STOPPED IMMEDIATELY so lives and property are not incinerated in the future and residents do have to live in fear every day of their lives. The residents of the area have been living here for decades, putting up with the Popple quarry, the Popple asphalt crusher and all the noise and damage to their homes. Now Penn East wants to add to this by putting the residents' lives and property in constant fear of pipeline explosions. Of course Penn East is only looking at enormous profits to be made. After all, they are a utility and plan to push their way in any direction by threatening eminent domain on all those who reject them.

Having a pipeline alone, without the effects of an active quarry and asphalt plant makes for immense danger to any homes nearby. With the ongoing weekly quarry dynamiting and the constant operation of the asphalt plant, I believe this situation is of immense magnitude and seriousness and this pipeline application should be squashed immediately and never approved by FERC. Please do not rubber stamp this project as the future of many residents will be wiped out. The government is supposed to be for the people, not run by huge corporations with disregard for people, especially when so many people are making the government aware of their serious concerns for their lives and personal property. Please do not turn your back on the citizens. PLEASE HELP THE RESIDENTS SAVE THEIR LIVES AND PROPERTY AND PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE THIS APPLICATION BY PENN EAST.

My name is Phyllis Jacewicz and this is a letter on the DEIS for the Penn East Pipeline project – docket CP15-558-000. I am an intervenor and live in the township of Plains, 95 East Saylor Ave.

I am submitting this letter with very serious concerns once again. Shame on the government (FERC) if they allow Penn East to proceed with this pipeline project. Of course it's all for the sake of gas companies' greed with no regard whatsoever for peoples' lives, property or the environment. As stated in my previous letters, I have great concern about this pipeline running through the Saylor Avenue, Plains Township, PA residential area. There is no need for this unnecessary, dangerous pipeline and it must be stopped. Every time Penn East enacts changes to this pipeline route, it gets worse for the residents involved. Never in my wildest dreams would I ever believe that FERC would approve such a pipeline to run feet away from an active dynamiting quarry and close to homes – quite unimaginable, would you say? Imagine you or your family living under such circumstances (36 inch gas pipeline with a blast radius of 900+ feet and an active quarry just feet away) and your home, on the other hand, feet away from the pipeline. I'm sure you wouldn't just, let it happen to your home and property!

Also, how can FERC approve Penn East to use an access road which has an existing active gas pipeline running in the middle of the access road?

This existing pipeline is in ground about 3 feet (rock formation prevented it from going deeper) and at this time this road is not used for traffic. If used as an access road, with heavy trucks and machinery driving over this existing pipeline, this is sure to cause the pipeline to move, possibly splitting apart causing a gas explosion. This pipeline is only 15-20 feet from my home! You see, my property lot is triangular and on one side runs this existing pipeline which feeds the Popple active asphalt plant next to the quarry in Plains Township. The other side of my property is where Penn East will run the new 36" pipeline so I will be surrounded by pipelines. You cannot imagine the tremendous amount of stress this is putting on my family. How can FERC approve using a dirt access road knowing a gas pipeline already exists in the road and is a potential dangerous situation? Has FERC inspected where Penn East is going to use access roads? Apparently not! So many more details have not been inspected. Penn East thinks they can take over whatever they want, no matter what the cost. Lives and property mean nothing to them, only large profits are their gods. Maybe if I had a lot of money and paid off or threatened Penn East, like I heard it's been done, then maybe the pipeline would be going in a different direction. But I don't.

The latest changes in route that Penn East has proposed around the Popple active quarry in Plains Township is actually worse for the homes nearby. Penn East pushes the pipeline route closer to the homes (allowing about 50 more feet away from the quarry, as though that will make a difference when the dynamite goes off weekly in the quarry) and actually installing the pipeline closer to the homes than the previous route. If and when an explosion occurs this brings the blast radius even closer to the homes. Every time Penn East makes changes to the route, the residential homes in the area become more susceptible. This pipeline now creates so much more danger to residents and homes. We're talking incineration of homes and people living in these homes when an accident occurs. With weekly dynamiting at the quarry, it's only a matter of time.

This pipeline must be stopped and a thorough investigation must be carried out. No consideration has ever been given to the residents. Every detail, large and small, must be thoroughly investigated before a catastrophic event occurs, killing people and damaging property. I ask that you not approve this Penn East pipeline project so people like myself can get back to normal living and do not have to live in fear of losing everything they have worked for in life. Please do not sit there with blindfolds on. Please see the future and what grave, deadly effects this pipeline is going to carry with it.

Anonymous letter
sent to me on 11/30/16.

Sounds like this is an
employee of the quarry
owner who is fearful
of losing his job.

Pipeline re-route

Only a quarry employee
would know this
type of info - not a
common person.

11/30/2016

This is an important issue
the latest re-route by the
completely disregards the safety of the residents living in close proximity of the
pipeline.

P. Jacewicz : attention. It concerns
is dangerous it

In regards to the public meeting held at the Best Western Hotel in Wilkes Barre pa
Aug.17 2016 to address complaints about the pipeline adjacent to the Popple stone
crusher and on going quarry operation, Penneast decided to re-route the line.

These are a few facts indicating the new danger of the changed route concerning the
recent decision to re-route the pipeline near the Popple quarry in Plains twp.

The previous route had the stone crusher approximately 400ft away from the pipeline
which was a safer distance, now the new route has the line within 200 ft of the
stone crusher which is now a more dangerous.

As indicated in the previous route the pipeline was routed in a circle around and
away not only from the stone crusher but also away from the on going mining
operation.

Changing to this re-route simply saved Penneast money because it is shorter and
straighter and that is the bottom line, it totally disregards the safety factor.

Two facts here must be considered;

First of all gas pipelines "vibrate" which may cause the metal to "fatigue" and
eventually fail.

Secondly, the stone crusher periodically operates at capacity causes a vibration
that can be registered on an earthquake scale.

Google this-'Vibrating 'noisy' gas pipeline has N.J. homeowner concerned'

This scenario of the pipeline and the stone crusher creating vibrations together may
cause "fatigue" on the pipe itself which may create the "PERFECT STORM" for an
accident.

Google this-"cyclic pressure induced fatigue"

Additionally; the re-route continues straight past the stone crusher and directly through the active[blasting and mining] quarry operation with heavy equipment including dozers, loaders weighing 40 to 75 tons each and rock trucks weighing an average of 75 tons continually passing back and forth over the pipeline creating external pressure on the pipeline which can contribute to fatigue and cracking of the pipe.

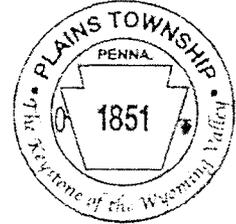
Why did the "new re-route" appear just a few days after the meeting in Wilkes Barre on the FERC site within a few days after the meeting. These routes require months to configure let alone just a few days. Albeit this route was an original one but was tabled because of all the opposition to it at the time. It is obvious this new "re-route" was slipped back in the guise of agreeing to re-route the line to pacify the complaints.

The pipeline should be stopped or a re-route should be addressed by FERC before final approval.



Plains Township Fire Department

Headquarters
126 North Main Street
Plains, Pennsylvania 18705



Carl Baker
Fire Chief

Mark Ritsick
Deputy Fire Chief

Charles Krommes
Captain

Michael Sebia
Captain

Russell Howell
Captain

Station (570) 829-3433

Fax (570) 829-3424

I am writing concerning Docket # CP15-558, the proposed Penn East project running to the rear of East Saylor Ave., Plains Township Pa. By way of introduction, my name is Carl Baker, my FERC user ID is the e-mail address being used here, and my FERC ID is F308874. My question is how can FERC possibly allow a 36 inch line to be laid within a few hundred feet of an active quarry, where blasting is a routine occurrence in the non-winter months? Years ago, Plains Township required Popple's Quarry to give the Township and nearby residents notice of when a blast would occur due to numerous complaints. Residents in the area expressed their displeasure with the blasting, feeling that the reverberations caused cracks in foundations, plaster, and so forth. Advanced notice or not, the residents of East Saylor, Clark Street and Driftwood Drive are well aware when a blast takes place as they can feel the reverberations in their home. One would have to question the integrity of a 36 inch line subject to the shaking of the blasts over time, and in the event of a rupture or something far worse, wonder why it was in such close proximity to an active blasting zone in the first place? Unless dollars and cents are the only concern and this is the cheapest route, the proposition is a risk that hardly seems worth taking, given the potential catastrophe that could occur. I am an East Saylor Ave. resident affected by this routing, but I am also the Fire Chief in Plains Township, and this proposed path is of great concern within the Department. It is my hope that this reaches someone within FERC that shares my concerns; a copy of this will also be sent to the Township Board of Commissioners and elected officials on the State level.

Respectfully,

Carl Baker
Fire Chief, Plains Township

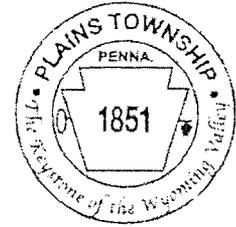
*Plains Twp
Fire Chief's
letters to FERC
(3)*

M. 829-3433



Plains Township Fire Department

Headquarters
126 North Main Street
Plains, Pennsylvania 18705



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Station (570) 829-3433

Fax (570) 829-3424

I am writing once again concerning Docket # CP15-558, the proposed Penn East project running to the rear of East Saylor Ave., Plains Township Pa. My name is Carl Baker, my FERC user ID is the e-mail address being used here, and my FERC ID is F308874. I noticed in the April Q & A session between FERC and Penn East that there were concerns about two quarries in New Jersey mentioning future expansion, proximity and so forth. Do these concerns not apply to Popple's Quarry in Plains Township? My writing in March makes mention that blasting occurs on a regular basis, and from what I see of the proposed line, it is certainly in closer proximity to our quarry than those in New Jersey. I would certainly hope that FERC will ask some questions regarding this hazardous and poorly chosen route; the residents of E. Saylor Ave., Driftwood Drive, Clark Street and the Plains Township Fire Department would be very interested in hearing what if anything Penn East has to say.

Respectfully,

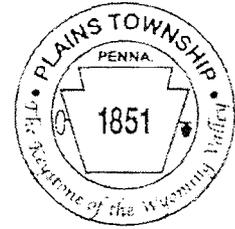
Carl Baker
Fire Chief, Plains Township

M.S.



Plains Township Fire Department

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126 North Main Street
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I am writing once again concerning Docket # CP15-558, the proposed Penn East project running to the rear of East Saylor Ave., Plains Township Pa. My name is Carl Baker, my FERC user ID is the e-mail address being used here, and my FERC ID is F308874. I had a chance to read Penn East's response to activities near the Hunterdon County quarry in New Jersey as prepared by Hatch, Mott, MacDonald. In the report mention was made of a pipeline being laid in much closer proximity to a quarry where blasting occurs in Pennsylvania. The name of the quarry was not given, but judging from the mapping I've seen, I would have to assume it is Popple's Quarry in Plains Township Pa. Many fancy calculations were presented as evidence that blasting will not have an effect concerning vibration if the distance from the blast to the pipeline is greater than 32 feet, but it was also stated that blasting at the quarry in Pennsylvania will take place WITHIN that distance. FERC, you have got to be kidding me, how can you possibly be onboard with magnifying the potential of a haz-mat incident by allowing blasting within a few feet of a 36 inch line? I wish I could employ Hatch, Mott, MacDonald to do a fancy calculation to measure the miniscule amount of reassurance I get when I read that Penn East will "almost certainly" be involved in planning the safety maintenance of the pipeline. Even less reassuring are the "protective measures" Penn East mentions, such as installing a seismograph above the pipeline and instrumentation of the pipeline in order to "mitigate" effects. After a rupture or explosion, I'm sure these tools will be very helpful in explaining why the event happened, assuming there's anything left of them. Perhaps my "protective measures" as Fire Chief should be the evacuation of all affected residents when a blast is about to occur. I really hope someone at FERC is listening; allowing blasting to occur within the dubious safe zone of 32 feet is nothing short of irresponsible, foolhardy and a catastrophe waiting to happen.

Respectfully,

Carl Baker
Fire Chief, Plains Township

John

1 ridiculous that FERC would permit something that is going to
2 benefit principally corporations in Texas instead of the
3 people of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, or the United States or
4 the national interest for this country.

5 In fact, if all exports were banned -- under
6 Obama imports have gone down from 60 percent to 35 percent
7 and if you ban all the exports of gas and oil you could down
8 to within 15 percent, which could be made up renewable
9 energy, which would definitely be in the country's best
10 interest.

11 I think FERC has lost its original mission to
12 benefit this country. I think it's an antiquated agency
13 that is self-funded by the permitting, not regulation of
14 giving these permits out and so I think it's a situation of
15 the fox watching the hen house instead of watching out for
16 the flock. The end. Okay, thank you.

17 MR. BAKER: Carl Baker, C-a-r-l B-a-k-e-r.

18 My question to FERC is the following: Is it
19 common practice for FERC to allow large diameter lines to be
20 laid within a few feet of an active quarry where blasting
21 occurs?

22 In June, PennEast found it necessary to address
23 the concerns at the Hunterdon County Trap Rock quarry in New
24 Jersey by hiring Hatch, Mott, MacDonald and having them
25 present a report. Keep in mind that any blasting operations

*Carl Baker is
Plains Trap Rock
Chief - This is
his Aug 2016 Aug
transcript.*

1 at this quarry will be at least 2000 linear feet from the
2 pipeline alignment.

3 The mathematicians at the firm working for
4 PennEast presented a very scholarly-looking equation that
5 concludes that a mere 32 feet is all the distance you need
6 between a detonation and a 36-inch line carrying natural
7 gas. This sentence comes from the report. "From the above
8 evaluation, a safe separation distance of 32 feet between
9 the pipeline and blasting should be maintained to avoid
10 pipeline safety concerns related to vibration effects from
11 blasting."

12 In the very next sentence they contract
13 themselves by saying that it doesn't mean you cannot blast
14 within 32 feet. You basically just have to attend to some
15 details and be a little more careful. I can't believe
16 anyone at FERC would actually buy into something like this,
17 especially after being presented with the dubious
18 calculations by PennEast's hired-gun.

19 Now why were all these fancy, highbrow
20 calculations even brought up when the distance at the New
21 Jersey quarry was 2000 feet you may ask. The answer comes
22 in the next sentence and reads as follows: "PennEast is
23 aware that at tone location along the current Project
24 alignment blasting may possibly be occurring within the
25 distance of the pipeline."

1 The next sentence stats it is a Pennsylvania
2 quarry that conveniently is not name, but from the mapping
3 I've seen sure looks like the Valley Stone Quarry located on
4 East Saylor Avenue in Plains Township.

5 One would expect a reputable⁴ firm to communicate
6 this information directly to the Board of Commissioners and
7 emergency responders rather than trying to hide it in a
8 report issued to a neighboring state, but I'm not sure
9 PennEast and reputable go together. It only makes one
10 wonder what other surprises PennEast has in store.

11 Getting back to the very debatable distance
12 issue, PennEast presents reassurances that are hardly
13 reassuring. For example, PennEast will "almost certainly"
14 be involved in planning safety maintenance of the pipeline
15 and will institute "protective measures" such as installing
16 a seismograph above the pipeline and using instrumentation
17 in the line to mitigate effects. These tools will be great
18 in explaining why a catastrophic rupture or explosion
19 occurred, providing there's anything left of them.

20 I am an East Saylor Avenue resident and affected
21 landowner, but I am also the Fire Chief in Plains Township
22 and this issue is of great concern to the Board of
23 Commissioners and the entire Fire Department. This will be
24 my fourth submission to FERC. And quite frankly, I'm
25 wondering if anyone is listening or cares. This reckless

1 and irresponsible routing is akin to someone smoking while
2 fueling their vehicle. If the smoker is careful he could
3 certainly come away unscathed, but sooner or later human
4 error will come into play and the results won't be pretty.

5 The question is why would someone do it in the
6 first place; why take a chance? Human error is also a very
7 real possibility when dealing with explosives, so the
8 question is why would anyone allow a 36-inch pipeline
9 carrying natural gas near a blasting area? Why take a
10 chance?

11 MS. LONCOSKI: My name is Mary Grace Loncoski,
12 M-a-r-y G-r-a-c-e L-o-n-c-o-s-k-i.

13 I reside at 37 East Saylor Avenue, Plains,
14 Pennsylvania. I'm a landowner, homeowner and taxpayer. My
15 husband and I built our home in 1972. It is a beautiful
16 home, as is all of our neighbors' homes. I am speaking for
17 all the people that are old and cannot fight against this.

18 This is 1,174 pages of DEIS. This is impossible
19 to address in this short period of time.

20 The PennEast Pipeline is dangerous, not needed,
21 not wanted, and will have negative impacts on our entire
22 area. All of our neighbors are upset. Many are elderly,
23 cannot come here to voice their concern.

24 This pipeline is life altering to property owners
25 who will live in fear of an explosion for the rest of their

Article in Times Leader by Plains Twp fire chief

← → <http://timesleader.com/news/local/579183p-plains-township-fire-chief> Times Leader | Plains Town...

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Carl Baker's written comments highly critical of document

By Steve Mocarsky - *Click for more information on Steve*
smocarsky@timesleader.com - @TLSteveMocarsky - 570-991-6386
More Articles By: [Steve Mocarsky](#)



The Plains Township fire chief has some major qualms with plans to construct a natural gas pipeline near two rock quarries in the township and is far from reassured by the pipeline company's impact plan submitted to a federal regulatory agency.

Fire Chief Carl Baker on Tuesday submitted written comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding PennEast Pipeline's Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

FERC held a public hearing last week at Best Western Genetti Hotel and Conference Center in Wilkes-Barre to allow the public to comment on the the statement submitted by PennEast for the project, which entails constructing a 36-inch, 118-mile natural gas pipeline from Dallas Township to Hopewell Township, N.J.

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POLL

Are you happy to see Madonna and her son, Rocco, having a fun dance after last year's tense custody battle with Guy Ritchie?

Yes - so sweet

No - nobody cares

Huh?

WCAIS - Dispute ... Inbox - pjacewicz... 2:58 PM 8/25/2016

Baker noted that he concentrated his comments at the hearing on a PennEast report addressing blasting at the Trap Rock quarry in New Jersey, and he tried to apply some of that information to the two local quarries, because "it seems that FERC is unwilling to speak to the potential hazardous condition at these Plains Township sites."

Baker said that in the entire 1,100-plus pages of the report, "I've been able to find a whopping three sentences committed to blasting at these Plains Township quarries."

The first sentence identifies the quarries as Pioneer Aggregates on East Saylor Avenue and Wilkes-Barre Materials on Ridgewood Road and states they are located "WITHIN 1,320 feet of the project." The previous report, he writes, "took great pains to emphasize the Trap Rock quarry in New Jersey is greater than 2,000 feet away from the pipeline."

The second sentence states that PennEast has contacted quarry owners and aligned the pipeline to avoid future expansion plans of the quarries.

"This one is priceless and a real keeper," Baker said. "How could future expansion possibly make any difference when by their own report's admission, PennEast is entertaining thoughts of blasting WITHIN 32 feet of their pipeline at one of these two quarries? How much closer to the pit do you think 'future expansion' will get?"

The third sentence addressing the quarries states that PennEast evaluated "AVERAGE" quarry blasting vibration and found there should be no effect on the pipeline from these activities.

Baker said no data was provided to back up the statement, and there was no mention that there may be blasting within 32 feet of the pipeline, "contradicting what their own report says is a 'safe' distance."

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"I'd bet the residents in close proximity to the blasting zone would like to know if this is a unique situation, and if they and their homes would be considered collateral damage should this experiment go horribly wrong," Baker wrote.

"Should FERC allow the present routing through the Plains Township quarries, I respectfully suggest you change your handle to the Federal Energy Rubberstamp Commission. It would be more forthright and better describe your mission, and you'd be able to keep the same acronym as well," he concluded.

Provided a copy of Baker's comments, PennEast spokeswoman Pat Kornick replied that PennEast is committed "to meeting — and in many cases exceeding — safety requirements and best industry practices to ensure the pipeline is constructed and operated in the safest manner. To this end, PennEast will continue working with first responders to ensure they have a complete and accurate understanding of the extensive measures PennEast will be employing to honor its safety commitment."

Kornick added that PennEast reviewed close to 100 route options and implemented dozens of modifications based on more than two years of input from landowners, public officials and the many state and federal agencies involved in the FERC review process.

"FERC's draft environmental impact statement is another major step in a lengthy, comprehensive review process, and provides yet another opportunity for public input," she said.

Reach Steve Mocarisky at 570-991-6306 or on Twitter @TLSteveMocarisky

http://autos.timesleader.com/places/widgetplace?id1=place&

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