

**From:** Carol DiPirro [<mailto:cmdipirro@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 21, 2016 7:37 AM

**To:** Houde, Patty; Walsh, Cheryl

**Subject:** Please support the SEC rules

Dear Rep McGuire (via Patty Houde and Cheryl Walsh),

I am writing to express my support of the new SEC rules concerning high pressure pipelines. I regret that I cannot be at the Thursday, July 21st hearings, but I am working and cannot get another day off yet.. However, I do wish to share my thoughts.

Thank you to the SEC for their hard work in revising our NH rules re high pressure pipelines. As a member of NHPlan and concerned citizen of Merrimack, I have been working to prevent a high pressure pipeline coming through my town and my water supply and keep it away from residences and schools. I have learned a lot in the past two years.

It is imperative that these new SEC rules be put in place to make sure that NH residents and their communities have adequate protections regarding the development of high pressure, industrial pipelines. A 30" - 46" industrial transport pipeline carrying fracked gas at high pressure (eg 1,400 psi) is not the same as a 3" - 6" domestic pipeline running at low pressure (eg 7 - 15 psi

There is a rush to use the gas in the Marcellus Shale Fields to move fracked gas to export ports for profit. The pipeline they wanted to run through southern New Hampshire was not for our benefit. Per a peer "In this rush it has been documented through organizations like the Pipeline Safety Trust and experts in the pipeline engineering field that in far too many cases the industry is cutting corners - either to save money or to save time as they compete to reach coastal areas and export ports." In that climate, rushed construction can lead to errors in construction or after it is running due to lack of proper oversight - problems that are often disastrous ones. Because of explosions like the ones seen in San Bernadino and the more recent Greensburg PA explosion on April 29, 2016.

Public concern has prompted a review of the situation by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). In response to those results, a revision of their rules began starting in the spring of 2016. The facts show that pipeline incidents and accidents have had an enormous upswing in the last ten years to levels seen prior to WWII as a direct result of the rush to build.

Further, because the fracking industry is relatively new - with the first fracked gas methane wells being deployed around 2008 - and because pipelines, compressor stations, pigging stations, valve stations and other related infrastructure are being laid in more densely populated areas impacts concerning community health are now emerging. The industry is being protected from revealing what chemicals are present with the gas in their pipelines and therefore the burden has fallen on communities to identify after the fact what is being emitted - and so we know that carcinogens such as benzene, toluene, radon and others chemicals are indeed being released as well as methane and particulates.

Along with this with the new knowledge about the massive amounts of leakage of methane and the intentional releases through blowdowns at compressor stations and a reminder that in New England we

are at the recipients of poisonous air because of our location downwind of air pollution being released and carried to us from states to the west of us ... all this adds up poorer air quality for our communities. This affects the children the most. With that comes the resultant costs to human health. Research on health and the negative impacts on humans is therefore growing as well. But without baseline testing, when an incident occurs a community has no leg to stand on for redress.

The bottom line for us in NH is that strong SEC rules must be in place because we must be vigilant. It is imperative that states keep a close eye on this fast moving industry. There are no easy answers to our energy needs, but complacency is not appropriate here where there is so much at risk and blind reliance on a complex industry and a complex technology is naive. SEC rules are a vital tool not only to help make sure that wise choices are made but to also help the public and committee members (now and new member in the future) understand the complexity of the decisions that NH faces when an industrial pipeline project is proposed and protect the citizens of New Hampshire.

Please accept the hard work of the SEC and accept these rules. They are vital to health and safety as well as the environmental and economic vitality of NH.

Thank you,

Carol DiPirro

Merrimack, NH