

From: Julia Steed Mawson [<mailto:islandview999@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2016 6:44 AM

To: Houde, Patty; Walsh, Cheryl

Cc: Bev Edwards; Julia Steed Mawson; Harriet St. Onge; George Hallisey; Paul Jones; Mark Godin; Alicia and David Hennesey; Mark Getty; Theresa Grant; Susan Snide; Susan Jones; Raffaelline Mahogany; Mary Beth Raven; Ginny Costa; Dennis and Denise Valliere; Terry Lameiras; Sheila Marcoux; Sharon and Pete Hone; Linda Oconnell; Sam Thomas; Linda Gallant; Janet Walters; Deandra Perruccio; Michelle Houle; Bruce Fontaine

Subject: comments re new SEC pipeline rulings to Rep Carol McGuire

Dear Rep McGuire (forwarded through the kindness of 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 teaching that week and cannot be released from those duties. However, I do wish to share my thoughts here.

First, please share my thanks to the members of the SEC for their hard work in revising our NH rules re high pressure pipelines. It has been a steep learning curve for the SEC as it has been for us in the community and we were honored to be given the opportunity to share our concerns and ideas over the many months with the SEC and assist them with that learning process. As a member of the Pelham Pipeline Awareness Outreach Subcommittee, working to help inform and serve over 600 residents in Pelham, please accept my thanks to them, and to you in advance, for your work on this vital process.

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 animal as a 3" - 6" domestic pipeline running at low pressure (eg 7 - 15 psi). While domestic pipelines can have problems too, industrial pipelines are proliferating and with them issues that we must understand. Here is the situation ...

Enormous amounts of money have been invested in the development of the Marcellus Shale Fields and as a result there is a "gas rush" to move fracked gas to export ports for profit. 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 cause problems either during construction or later in the life of the pipelines 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.

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 exactly is being used 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. Couple this with the new knowledge about the massive amounts of phantom leakage of methane. the intentional releases through blowdowns at compressor stations and a reminder that in New England we are at the end of what scientists call the “atmospheric sewer” 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. 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.

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.

I know that you are all busy, so your attention to this is all the more appreciated.

Regards,

Julia Steed Mawson
Member, Pelham Pipeline Awareness Outreach Subcommittee

17 South Shore Dr.
Pelham, NH 03076
603-315-4642

*if you think you are too small
to make a difference,
try sleeping with a mosquito.
Dalai Lama*