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Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

Secretary
Pennsylvania PUC
Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Public Comment: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Proposed Rule-making for Hazardous Liquids Pipeline

Docket: L-2019 3010257

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission,

I am grateful that the PUC has been working to develop more stringent guidelines/requirements around hazardous liquid pipelines. As a citizen of the Commonwealth, I would like to see that the Commission implement the strongest regulations possible that put people first over the gas industry's quest for profits. As a well-informed climate activist, it is my stance that we must do all that is possible to quickly phase out fossil fuels. The science is very clear that we need to drastically reduce heat-trapping emissions in order to prevent the worst impacts of climate change. The effects are already being felt here in Pennsylvania, with more frequent excessive heat days and severe storms. It takes time to transition to renewable sources of energy and heat, but in the process we mustn't allow further buildout of fossil fuel projects. And it is critical that we ensure that the current infrastructure operates at the highest of standards for the safety of our communities and the environment.

Pennsylvania ranks second among gas producing states, with thousands of miles of pipelines crossing our state. These pipelines carry not only gas, but also inherent risks that have already befallen many communities in which pipelines run through. The potential harms include contamination of surface and aquifer water, air pollution (ground level and atmospheric) and the potential for explosions. Pipelines are often placed exceedingly close to homes, businesses and schools and other places of public assembly, as well as existing utility infrastructure. Impacted communities typically have little choice or input as to placement of pipelines and how they are managed. In order to ensure the utmost safety of our citizens, it is essential that the PUC adopt regulations that, at the minimum, include the following:

- Strict accident reporting to government agency and communities
- Leak detection systems (monitoring)
- Emergency Procedures manuals prepared with input by EMS
- Routine drills (live and table-top) that include EMS
- No pipeline placement in the vicinity of homes, public places, tributaries, lakes, wetlands, critical habitats or other pipelines
- Emergency shutoff valves installed at closer intervals
- Mandatory testing of well water
- Inclusion of all stakeholders and impact assessment during the planning phase of pipeline construction

Article 1, section 27 of Pennsylvania's constitution states that people have the right to clean air, pure water and the preservation of our environment. It is the responsibility of our State government to ensure these rights prevail and thus I urge the PUC to devise, implement and enforce the highest standards as it relates to pipeline safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this matter.

Richard Cole