

Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board:

All the hearings and legal documents have been filed in the Duke Central Corridor Extension Gas Pipeline Request and now you have the task to evaluate all the information and make a decision.

I am writing to you now to remind you that the safety of the project is an implicit requirement — but not just the safety of the pipeline — **the safety of the people affected by the pipeline as well.**

While I don't believe Duke has proven the Need for the pipeline, I recognize that you may. However, the risk to the people who live and work on the proposed pipeline routes is significant and must be given the highest weight possibility in your deliberations. The proposed routes will affect tens of thousands of people in their homes, schools, where they shop and worship, their businesses, and even hospitals!

Pipeline accidents occur all the time. Just two days ago a service line in my neighborhood was ruptured by a construction crew working on storm sewers — despite having such lines marked byUSIC!

A recent article in Popular Mechanics¹, “The Day the Town Blew Up,” provides full details on the chain of events that caused the explosions in **Massachusetts** on September 13, 2018.

In February, in **San Francisco**, a small, only 4-inch diameter pipeline was **ruptured by utility workers** installing fiber optic cables². The resulting fire destroyed five buildings and it took over two hours for the gas to be shut off! Less than a month earlier, a major transmission pipeline exploded in **Noble County, OH**, less than a 2-hour drive from Columbus³. That explosion injured one person and destroyed three homes. You are unlikely to have forgotten the explosion that destroyed a Domino's restaurant in December 2016, on West Broad Street, just a few miles from PUCO Headquarters in **Columbus**, when a **utility contractor** struck a gas line⁴.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has reported 775 Serious Pipeline Incidents⁵ over the past 20 years (as of November 2018), with over 1200 injuries and almost 300 fatalities! They report almost 12,000 total incidents costing over 300 lives with total financial costs over \$8 billion!

The **San Bruno, CA** pipeline explosion⁶ is probably the most infamous incident (September 2010, 30-inch, 400 PSI pipeline. 4-ft underground) because of the extent of the damage (8 people killed, at least 66 injured, destroyed 38 homes, damaged 120 homes) and dramatic images, but it is hardly the only one. Here are several more:

Salem Township, Westmoreland County, PA, April 2016, 30-inch diameter pipeline⁷. The explosion burned 40 acres. One person sustained 3rd degree burns on 75% of his body.

Sissonville, Brooke County, WV (across highway 77), January 2015, 20-inch diameter, 5 acres burned, 3 homes destroyed and others damaged⁸. Snow was thought to have lessened the damage. Cost: over \$9 million.

Fresno, CA, April 2015, 12-inch diameter, MAOP 369 psig, accidentally hit by county worker using a front loader on a highway, killed 1 person and injured 13 with damage to vegetation, cars and rail lines⁹. Total damages: \$1.9 million.

St Cloud, MN, December 1998, 1-inch, high pressure pipeline, struck when installing a utility pole anchor, precipitating a leak that exploded with 4 killed, 16 injured, and six buildings destroyed¹⁰.

In case you're thinking none of this applies to Duke Energy, Duke was fined \$500,000 by PUCO over the 2010 natural gas explosion in Lebanon, citing poor “compliance with natural gas pipeline safety standards”¹¹ and Duke's own data¹² reports ~600 corrosion-related leaks, ~25 damage incidents due to poor records and or maps, ~150 leaks due to operator error, and ~600 3rd party damage incidents per year on average in recent years.

I could list many, many more pipeline leaks and explosions, but you surely get my point: if any of these incidents were to occur on the proposed pipeline (a large diameter, high-pressure pipeline) that is planned to run

in high population areas, the costs in lives and property will be enormous — **and each of you will bear responsibility!**

Don't approve this dangerous pipeline!

Alan Ullman
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Citations

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4. Columbus, OH: <https://www.10tv.com/article/columbus-fire-evacuating-building-west-broad-due-natural-gas-leak-fire-explosion>
5. PHMSA: <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/data-and-statistics/pipeline/pipeline-incident-20-year-trends>
6. San Bruno: <https://abc7news.com/news/san-bruno-still-recovering-five-years-after-deadly-pipeline-explosion/975464/>
7. Salem Township, PA: <https://www.wtae.com/article/flames-shoot-into-sky-after-natural-gas-explosion-in-salem-township/7198272>
8. Sissonville, WV: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2012/12/11/west-virginia-gas-explosion/1761757/>
9. Fresno, CA: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/eleven-hurt-gas-line-explosion-fresno-california-n343911>
10. St. Cloud, MN: <https://www.sctimes.com/story/news/local/2018/12/06/st-cloud-downtown-explosion-20-year-anniversary-courthouse-toms-bar-bookends-ballenttis-howies-death/2131517002/>
11. PUCO Fine: <https://www.puco.ohio.gov/media-room/media-releases/puco-fines-duke-energy-500000-following-investigation-of-lebanon-apartment-explosion/>
12. Duke Leaks: DEO Integrity Management Cost Deferral Program Audit, 16-387-GA-AAM, Attachment C, 11/28/17.

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