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REX East

Post Meeting Comments

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**The REX pipeline and domestic need.** This is the longest and largest pipeline ever installed in the US. It is 1660 mi long and 42 inches wide, carrying almost 2 billion cubic feet of bitter gas per day from Wyoming and Colorado to the east to be mixed with sweet gas. It will be under pressure exceeding 1200 lb psi. Since there is not an expected increase of US consumption of gas over the next 20 years but Exports have doubled in the last 7 years it is likely this is not fulfilling a national need but rather an international need (www.eia.doe.gov). The gas will likely be exported.

#### General Problems

**Problem 1.** It has become very clear from letters posted on the website as well as comments from meetings, that REX has been coercing, trespassing and bullying landowners regarding surveys and easements. These comments should be taken seriously by FERC and not simply dismissed as irrelevant. Partly these reported incidents are a result of what appears to be a fast track approach by both REX and FERC to complete this project. Whatever the cause, there should be accountability for these problems.

**Solution:** Reevaluate the time line for approval and allow landowners more time to work with REX and for REX to resolve the problems that have so far arisen, of which there are far too many. Deliver some sort of punishment or penalty for such behavior.

**Problem 2.** REX has not followed through with the recommendations or conditions set forth by FERC during the development of and in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. There are so many examples of this that it would take an inordinate amount of time to make a list. However, Doug Sipes, and other FERC employees are very aware of many of these. The failure of REX to meet FERC recommendations and requirements by the time of the Environmental Impact Draft does not bode well and if REX West is an example they are unlikely to accomplish these recommendations by the deadline for the final document, if ever. The evaluation of the project has simply not been given enough time. Problems such as meeting recommendations and requirements of government agencies by REX West project are still pending even though much of the construction has taken place. It is not useful to repeat mistakes of the past but rather we should learn from them.

**Solution:** Reevaluate the time line for evaluation of the project and be more realistic in terms of allowing REX to accomplish the recommendations and requests of FERC and other government regulatory agencies before the final document is approved. Be certain the recommendations and requirements set forth by FERC and other

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government agencies have been met before approving the EIS and giving the final approval for the project.

**Problem 3. REX is not always following existing utility corridors.** This is true in many areas where there are existing corridor alternatives. Before crossing land without existing utility corridors it should be clearly demonstrated that to do otherwise would be difficult or impossible. Creating new corridors causes significant hardship and stress for landowners whose property will be torn-up and undeniably devalued. In Ohio there are so many existing corridors that developing new ones is inexcusable.

**Solution:** Follow existing utility corridors. If this is not done, a thorough study should indicate all the reasons it is not possible to follow existing utility corridors as closely as possible.

**Problem 4. Toxicity and contamination of drinking water.** Caesars Creek Lake is the source of drinking water for nearby Wilmington and other small communities in the area. The proposed REX route will cross the inlet to Caesars Creek Lake. The outside of the pipe will be hot because of the high-pressure delivery and the gas is bitter gas contaminated with a large amount of undefined contaminants. In addition the outside of the pipe is coated to prevent erosion. The chemical coating has not been tested for toxic byproducts under heat (per 3M Co.) thus contamination of soil and water from these two sources is possibilities. Although the possibility of explosion or accidental contamination may be small, the impact would be at the point of the inlet that could subsequently contaminate the lake and affect the health of tens of thousands of people.

**Solution.** The Little Miami or Mawrey alternative are at the other end of the lake. Any contamination would not affect the source of drinking water obtained from the lake.

**Problem 5. REX has not filed a wetlands crossing permit for the North Side of Caesar's Creek Lake.** The wetlands on the south side of the proposed crossing of Caesars Creek is composed of forested wetlands.

**Solution:** Permit application must be filed with the Corp of Engineers.

**Problem 6. Pipeline crossing the parking lot of the Chester Township Fire Station.** The proposed route crosses our property and then across the parking lot for the fire station across the street. From the markings, the proposed pipeline would cross within less than 50 feet of the fire station itself. This is the very facility that would be called on as a first line of defense against a pipeline accident.

**Solution:** Use the Little Miami or Mawrey alternative routes. If the proposed path of the pipeline is used then the proximity of the pipe should be no less than 200 feet from the fire station.

### **Problems Specific to our Property at 78 Mound Road**

**General Description of Property.** Our 20-acre horse farm borders Caesars Creek State Park. We purchased it in 2001 with the intent of starting a small horse business and as a 10-year investment to be developed and sold for retirement. We have successfully bred thoroughbreds and warm bloods and just finished our first year on the racetrack. Finally we are beginning to make money and along comes REX. We thought we would be safe

from such construction project since we border a state park wildlife preserve, buffered by a wetlands and there is no existing utility corridor. We have attended the FERC meetings from the start and entered our concerns verbally and in writing thinking that FERC was there to protect the landowners as well as supervise the overall project. The concerns we had appeared on documents to REX and in the Environmental Impact draft. Rex was asked by FERC to resolve our concerns. The only contact and conversation we had with REX was about permission to survey which we denied. FERC strongly recommended REX talk to us about our concerns. We have had no such discussions with REX representatives. Instead, on Dec 9 we received a summons to appear in civil court in front of a federal judge who was favorable to REX and did not represent the SW district of OH which we are in. The summons gave us 20 days from Dec 5 to respond which means the deadline was Xmas day. The summons claimed we were causing irreparable damage to REX. These are the kind of people we are dealing with. They could care less as to what our concerns are. In fact, the irreparable damage is without a doubt being done to the landowners.

**Specific problems on our farm.** Our horse business is in jeopardy because of this line. We have just started to make money this year and have two horses on the racetrack and two warm bloods for sale.

1. We have three fenced pastures that we depend upon for grazing and hay. The line will come through all three pastures. Our local seed store has told us it will take 3-5 years before we can get them back if the pipe has 7 feet of cover. It is unlikely they will ever recover otherwise.

**Solution.** Use the Little Miami or Mawrey alternatives. If the proposed path of the pipeline is used be certain to use 7 feet of cover and heavily seed the area for at least 2 years.

2. Our horses will not be able to stay on our property for at least 2 years because of the impact and even then we will not be able to graze heavily. That means we will have to board them somewhere else and that expense combined with the inconvenience of travel would basically put us out of business.

**Solution:** Use the Little Miami or Mawrey alternative routes. If the proposed path of the pipeline is used provide for the horses to be moved and boarded somewhere in the nearby area. Provide training and care for these horses for two years.

3. We are entering breeding season and the uncertainty surrounding the pipeline has prevented us from going forward. We will not be able to breed for at least two years.

**Solution::** Use the Little Miami or Mawrey alternative routes. If the proposed path of the pipeline is used provide an alternative breeding and care site specifically for the broodmares or provide some form of compensation for loss of breeding in 2008.

4. In 2008 we projected doubling the horse income and expanding by putting stalls and arena in our front pasture that is the only location logistically possible. However, if the pipeline went through the front pasture it would be impossible to do so. In addition, this

is a high-pressure line that emits low ultrasound frequency, which the horses will respond to negatively. The pipe is also very hot and must be buried at least 7 feet if you are going to expect good crop or pasture production or if you need to drive over the line. On our property it bisects our land and we haul manure out at least once per week. We would not be able to spread manure or in the unfenced area be able to produce crops for extra income.

**Solutions:** Use the Little Miami or Mawrey alternative routes. If the proposed path of the pipeline is used do not cross the front pasture. The arena is to be 80 by 100 feet. Be sure the pipe is covered to mitigate the ultrasound emissions. The excavation site should be left such that a two-wheel drive tractor pulling a full manure spreader can readily pass across it after a agreed upon period of time.

5. On our property we also have a mature windbreak. A line of trees that prevents storm damage to our house and front pasture and the Chester Township Fire Department when the storm is coming from the NW. The current pipeline would take 125 feet of that windbreak leaving our house, our pasture and the fire station across the street exposed. The windbreak also has a spring across which the pipeline will cross. The spring will surely become contaminated with chemicals from the pipe surface but also the flow of the spring disrupted.

**Solution.** Utilize either the Little Miami or Mawrey alternatives, which primarily follow the existing utility corridors if the proposed REX route is approved, do not disturb the mature windbreak during construction of the pipeline. This windbreak is essential both to our home and the Chester Township Fire Station. The springs should be avoided as a crossing point for the pipeline.