

FILE

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Secretary's Office
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

ORIGINAL

RE: Rockies Express Pipeline
Docket # CP07-208-000

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I attended the Putnam County Zoning and Planning Commission meeting last Monday night, March 10, 2008. The Rockies Express (REX) Pipeline Committee presented an application for a zoning variance from Residential-Agricultural to Commercial Zoning for their proposed compressor site and meter station in Northern Putnam County near U.S. Hwy. 36 and County Road 25 West. The current site proposal is in a residential development area.

I am opposed to this site because there is another more appropriate site on the REX proposed pipeline route. It lies one mile to the East of the present site and is already zoned commercial. The sixty (60) acre site owned by Tom Herbert lies next to the Co-Alliance Agricenter. Co-Alliance already has approval for hazardous chemical and pumping facilities. Mr. Herbert has expressed an interest in selling his property to Rockies Express.

Mr. Herbert's property is on a paved secondary road with frontage on two sides. It is also comparable in terrain and drainage to the current site and is closer to the fire department. Most importantly it does not lie within the immediate vicinity of new homes and current residential construction. The current proposed pumping station facility would be literally within 662 yards from my front door. My neighbor's homes are even closer.

There is an active stone quarry that owns the property to the south of the proposed REX site. The quarry regularly blasts and continues to dig toward the proposed site and will eventually end up at the property line. Additionally, the proposed site is near the corner of one of the busiest intersections in the County as well as the proposed four lane highway expansion route of U.S. Hwy 36 that Indiana Department of Transportation has planned for this area. I am told that "the pumping station would be in the way".

Another area of major concern is the impact on our valuable resource, water. The previous REX Land Agent (I believe Johnny McGee) talked to me about the pumping

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station. He stated that eventually two (2) million cubic feet of underground storage was going to be put in alongside the pumping station. He stated that it is currently not being presented but that it is in the future development of the area. Along with the blasting at the quarry, this constitutes a huge possibility of water contamination. I was told the method of storage would be to pump the gas into the substrata (no tank). Since the substrata are largely porous limestone, there would be no way to prevent contaminating the underground aquifer and our wells. The homes in the area are all on their own well system. I was also told by that Former Land Agent and the REX Attorney that REX would have city water supplied to us to compensate for our loss of usable water. There is also the question of how much water consumption the pumping station will use. Will the local wells decrease in production of this valuable resource and, if so, who will pay for the water supply to come from somewhere else as well as pay for the loss of our underground aquifer which is a valuable commodity?

Noise pollution is also a factor. At the zoning and planning meeting, we were told by the REX Committee the noise pollution would be 50db or less at our home. A constant noise of this magnitude will be a long term health impact to the neighboring residents as well as a detrimental effect to the resale and valuation of their property. No one will want to buy or build near that type of noise.

Along this line, the detrimental affect to the property values because of the safety, water and noise pollution will cause surrounding residential property values to decline and discourage future home owners from building near there. We are not being compensated for this.

The biggest issue of all is the safety factor. On February 6, 2008 near Nashville, Tennessee, a similar pumping station exploded and obliterated everything for thousands of yards in every direction. The related death toll is still being considered. The fact remains that placing the REX station where it is now proposed would put the public in danger unnecessarily. How will this affect our Homeowner's Insurance? My insurance won't assume any liability for Rockies Express. Will they have documented insurance coverage supplied to us to compensate us for our losses or will we be at the mercy of our own resources and the legal system?

All of these problems could be alleviated if the site were moved to the Herbert property.

The Land Agent for REX stated at the zoning variance meeting that he had not considered these issues because he had already secured the commitment for the property now being considered and he was only required to find one possibility. The property now being considered is owned by an absentee landowner not of this community and his only

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interest in the site is financial gain from the sale of it. Apparently, the landowner approached REX and the deal was completed without checking out other possibilities.

The REX Land Agent further stated and agreed with the Zoning Committee there were better sites. After being questioned by the Zoning Board members, the REX Engineer also confirmed there are better sites. The REX Engineer acknowledged it (the Herbert property as well as other points to the East along the pipeline route) would be better for the pipeline from a hydraulic pumping stand point than the current proposed site. He also stated that because of convenience and expedience for REX, no other site was considered nor is currently being considered.

I ask you not to approve the current site because it is not the only suitable site.

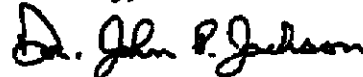
In summary, the Herbert property is a better site for the following reasons:

1. Safety – Further away from the population and everyday activities
2. Already Zoned Commercial
3. Not in State Highway Expansion Plans
4. Land Usage – not in residential area
5. Environmental – Noise Pollution Won't be a Problem
- No Water Contamination for New Homes or New Home Construction
6. Per the REX engineer, better hydraulic pumping

As a property owner and resident of Putnam County for forty years, I can tell you it is particularly egregious that a company can come into the community and disrupt the lives of the homeowners and their property with such impunity and disregard to their consequences. Especially, when with a little planning and fore thought, the company could construct and develop their facilities with little or no disruption or harm. We are not opposed to the pipeline coming through. We just want it done in the best suitable manner.

Please protect us and our property from this needless haphazard development.

Sincerely,



Dr. John P. Jackson

cc: Putnam County Zoning and Planning Commission