

San Bruno, California; Andover, Massachusetts; Durham, North Carolina. It seems that nearly every week there is another natural gas pipeline explosion in the news. The tragedy of the Durham pipeline is similar to many other explosions in that a construction worker who was digging in the area of a pipeline ruptured it. At this time, blame has not been assigned as to whether the worker ignored signs identifying the pipeline or if the company failed to post the proper warnings. News reports did state that the worker obtained all the necessary permits prior to starting to dig. Regardless of who was at fault, what is clear is that companies are not able to protect the community from pipeline explosions.

According to PHMSA Stakeholder Communications Serious Pipeline Incidents reports, between 1994 and 2013, the United States had 745 serious incidents with gas distribution pipelines causing 278 fatalities and 1,058 injuries with over \$110,000,00 in property damage. There were an additional 110 serious incidents with gas transmission lines, resulting in 41 fatalities, 195 injuries, and almost \$450,000,00 in property damage. In addition, a Wall Street Journal review article found there were over 1,400 pipeline spills and accidents in the period 2010–2013. Also frightening is that the study found that four out of every five of those incidents were discovered by local residents and not by the companies that owned and operated the pipelines and were supposed to be monitoring them. Generally, these pipeline accidents show up in the media for a few days or even a few weeks, until another critical incident replaces the pipeline explosion stories. Unfortunately, while the public may forget about the spills and explosions, many of the victims do not recover as quickly, if they do at all.

When an incident occurs, such as an explosion or a fire, that incident frequently causes trauma to the victims which causes a ripple effect that goes out well beyond the area of the initial impact. Not only are the people who were injured in the explosion affected, but everyone else who was in the area, as well as their families, partners, employers, co-workers, and friends, are also impacted. Not only do these explosions create physical injuries, they can also create long lasting, psychological trauma. Some of the survivors will develop symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder. These symptoms include hypervigilance, problems with concentration, exaggerated startle response, sleep disturbances, difficulty concentrating, anger outbursts, intrusive memories, and other symptoms. Nor is it necessary for an individual to be present at the explosion to develop symptoms of PTSD. Mental health professionals who treat victims of trauma, as well as the victims' partners and other family members, such as military wives, are also at a high risk to develop vicarious trauma, in the case of health professionals, or secondary trauma for the family members of individuals who suffer from PTSD.

Unfortunately, symptoms of secondary trauma are not limited to family members of the victims. In reading some of the thousands of letters that have been sent to the siting board regarding the proposed gas pipeline transmission line, many writers express feelings of fear for their safety and the safety of their family members, particularly their children and partners. They also report experiencing symptoms of helplessness, anger, a belief that they are about to lose everything they've worked for, concerns about their health, and a belief as one letter writer stated that they are "going to die." While these symptoms may not meet the diagnostic criteria for PTSD, they are having a significant impact on the quality of the lives of those who suffer from them. The fears are likely being exacerbated every time a new pipeline explosion occurs, or the central corridor pipeline proposal is back in the news. I notice that as the time for the decision regarding the pipeline gets closer, the number of letter writers is increasing, as well as the level of fear being expressed in the letters. Another concern is that since the pipeline is slated to go mostly through older suburbs, there is a higher population of older adults than you would find in the general population. Older adults are more likely to be socially isolated and experiencing a decline in health, which often leads to feelings of vulnerability and increases the risk for developing symptoms of PTSD. While experiencing symptoms of PTSD is unpleasant, they can also be extremely debilitating. Generally, the greater the perceived life threat and fear of personal injury the more likely an individual is to develop symptoms of PTSD, and the more severe those symptoms are likely to be. Some members of

the community, particularly the religious Jewish community, have reason to believe they make an attractive target for terrorism in general and that the pipeline would increase the risk that they will be targeted, particularly a concern since their schools and houses of worship are in the explosion zone. However, I suspect that if you took a survey of individuals throughout the community, who live in the high consequence zone, you would find that a significant number of them are suffering from symptoms of anxiety, depression, panic attacks, difficulty sleeping, difficulty concentrating, and other symptoms, as they anticipate the pipeline being installed on or near their property. Many of the residents are expressing a sense of hopelessness that no one really cares about what they are going through or that there is anything they can do to influence the decision of the siting board. Several residents of Reading talked about their feelings of betrayal regarding the government or siting board. They talk about feeling constantly worried and threatened and stated that their health has suffered as a result of the proposed pipeline. One resident stated that the pipeline will be 30 feet from her bedroom. The residents also believe that their property values will decline, and they will lose everything they worked for, if Duke is granted permission to install the pipeline close to their homes. Again, just as there is a ripple effect among family members when an explosion occurs, there has also been a ripple effect among the families of residents who are fearful that the pipeline will be installed within feet of their homes. Even members of the community who do not live in an area that would be directly at risk for an explosion should the pipeline rupture are frightened of the risk to their children or parents who do live in the area.

While Duke may claim that the pipelines are risk free and never leak or rupture (as their witness testified in the adjudicatory hearing on April 10, 2019), there is evidence to the contrary, as the statistics indicate. Construction workers can and do cause pipeline leaks and ruptures and Duke has not addressed concerns about terrorism. It also has not helped that Duke has done nothing to meet with the residents and address their fears. During the public meeting that they did hold, Duke representatives refused to take public questions from the audience giving the impression that they were not being upfront about the impact the pipeline will likely have on the community. Furthermore, Duke has not reached out to the interveners to discuss these concerns. The recent statement by a high-level Duke official that everyone who has not written a letter to the siting board in opposition to the pipeline is therefore in favor of it, shows how incredibly out of touch the Company is. I am also concerned that the members of the siting board are similarly uninformed, since they are newly appointed, did not attend any hearings, and may not even be aware of the many letters that have been written or the overwhelming opposition to the proposed pipeline.

As of this date (April 11, 2019) thousands of letters have been written to the siting board expressing in many cases, absolute panic about the probability that the pipeline will be installed on or near their property. Again, keeping in mind the ripple effect of trauma, each letter probably represents several other family members who either live in the same home as the writer or live elsewhere but are worried about the safety of their loved ones. It is obvious that the level of fear is increasing as the date for a decision becomes closer. Some of the letters writers talk about the psychiatric and physical health problems they have developed as a result of the proposed pipeline and that neither Duke nor the siting board show any evidence that they are hearing those concerns. One resident referred to the siting board as being a “rubber stamp” for whatever Duke wants. It does not appear that those symptoms will be alleviated any time soon. Unlike a traumatic event such as an explosion or a car accident, when the incident is over and the victim has had time to heal, this fear of the residents is an ongoing problem with no easy solution. Long term, unresolved issues of trauma frequently have a negative impact on every area of a victim’s life, including relationships, employment, physical health, and quality of life. Studies have shown that long term effects of trauma have high comorbidity rates and can lead to substance abuse, domestic violence, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, numbness, gastrointestinal problems, emotional dysregulation (emotional outbursts), and feelings of shame, depression, and anxiety, to name a few symptoms. Unfortunately, neither Duke nor the siting board show evidence that they are aware of the extreme pressure these residents are experiencing.

Unless Duke and the siting board drop the pipeline proposal, or at the very least modify it so that it goes through less populated areas and maintains a much greater distance from the houses and businesses along the routes, these symptoms are likely to continue and there is a good chance that they will get worse.

Susan J. Ullman, MSW, LISW

## Hunter, Donielle

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**From:** Ohio Power Siting Board <contactopsb@puc.state.oh.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2019 9:16 AM  
**To:** Puco Docketing  
**Subject:** comment 16-0253 [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0GKI7l:ref ]

Good morning.

As a resident along one of the proposed routes of Duke Energy's pipeline, I want to express my outrage at the callous indifference to the public displayed by Duke Energy. This is nothing but sheer corporate greed! There is absolutely NO reason to install a pipeline that will have so many negative effects. The environment surrounding the pipeline will be permanently changed as a result of all of the trees cut down, roadways disrupted, and homes/other buildings destroyed. It is a safety hazard for any homeowners within 900 feet of the pipeline when -not if- a spill or explosion occurs. Finally, there is no justification for raising the Utility rates to pay for this monstrosity in an area already paying exorbitant energy rates. Do not allow this travesty to continue. Kill this proposal now!

Regards

Steven Damaska

ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0GKI7l:ref

Farber  
Oakley Station Boulevard  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45209

April 8, 2019

Dorothy Pelanda, Director  
Ohio Department of Agriculture  
8995 East Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

From April 9 – 12, 2019, details will be shared so a decision can be made as to Duke Energy's request to install a Central Corridor Pipeline through Hamilton County, impacting traffic, property values, business and people who live in the vicinity of the proposed path of this pipeline.

Over time, many citizens, businesses and municipalities have expressed their resistance and opinion that this pipeline is undesirable and unnecessary. Citizens and business do not want to cover the cost of this pipeline through increased fees (based on past practices of Duke Energy).

There are safety concerns.

There is a lack of evidence that this pipeline is needed (how this pipeline supports the power grid has not been explained).

Civic leaders of municipalities directly affected by this pipeline have communicated throughout this process that it is unwanted. Too many people live too close to the path of this pipeline. This pipeline does not serve the public interest, convenience and necessity (criterion #6).

Major roadways will be reduced to one lane during proposed construction. Schools, homes, houses of worship are too close to the path of the pipeline to assure safety for residents and the public. Delayed traffic flow will impact air quality thereby contributing to air pollution (criterion #5).

Please reject Duke Energy's application.

Sincerely,

Susan & James Farber



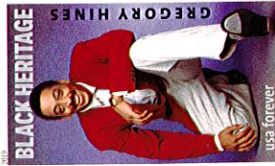
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**APR 15 2019**

**OHIO DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
ADMINISTRATION**



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Susan & James Farber



FYI: J. Anderson  
(LEGAL)



**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

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Summary: Public Comment submitted via website electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing