The Pipelines Are Here

What can we do?
Immensity of Pipelines

• Pipelines are needed to carry gas from drilled wells to transmission lines
• Only 7% of the projected 60,000 wells in PA have been drilled
• Estimated 10,000 – 25,000 miles of new natural gas pipeline will be constructed (enough to circle the globe at the equator)
Types of Pipelines

- Gathering lines take natural gas from wells to transmission lines.
- Transmission lines carry the gas to market and are often interstate.
- Distribution lines bring natural gas to places where it will be used, such as homes, gas service stations, businesses.
Laying of Pipeline

- **Size**: 24 – 42 inches in diameter
- **Depth**: 3’ – 6’ in the ground
- **Access**: 30 – 60 ft right of way
- **Pressure**: up to 1,440 lbs per inch
Heavy Equipment Required
Stream Crossings

• In our area, steam crossing are particularly prevalent and pose great risks.
Where Are Pipes Going?

- Everywhere and anywhere
- Connect the dots between well sites
- Power of eminent domain
- Right of way, 30 – 60 ft, is permanent; nothing can be planted there with the exception of grass and perhaps some crops.
Regulation?

- PHMSA, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, regulates interstate transmission lines.
- FERC, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulates gas transportation rates, pipeline capacity, pipeline siting and natural gas quality requirements.
- PUC, Public Utility Commission, handles 46,000 miles of lines owned by utility companies.
- State environmental protection agencies are supposed to regulate construction of pipelines.
Reasons for Concern

• PA regulators do not handle the large diameter, high pressured pipelines being constructed from wells to transmission lines
• No central record of where gathering lines are being laid or will be going
• Wave of construction caught PA safety regulators unprepared
• Rural areas, classified as Class I, no safety rules apply
How Can This Be?

• Gas/oil lobby has for years had extraordinary power in PA & US legislature
• Past attempts to regulate have failed; industry says gathering lines cause fewer problems and should not be regulated
• Bud Shuster, chair of subcommittee with oversight of pipelines; “If it’s not broke, why fix it?”
• Safety hinges on industry self-policing.
Shoddy welds, insufficient coating on pipes, substandard steel – what independent inspectors found
Problems with Industry Self-Policing

• “A bunch of bad things are going to happen in the next 10 or 15 years,” Don Deaver, a former pipeline engineer from Texas

• “Inferior construction practices mean pipelines that should last 70 yrs might last 10-20 yrs,” Danny Hendrix, Local 798’s pipefitters union, business manager

• Accidents go unreported and uninvestigated
Risk of Explosions
Problems

- Hundreds of miles of high pressure gathering pipelines have been installed in shalefields already with no government safety checks.
- Classification of gathering lines (unregulated) & transmission lines (regulated) is left up to the industry.
- Even regulated lines are dependent on thinly staffed agencies.
Compression Stations

• Expansion of pipes means more compressor stations, which emit carcinogenic & neurotoxin compounds, VOCs and nitrogen oxide

• Health risks with compression stations
Other Problems

• New shale lines not included in One Call system to prevent digging accidents from buried pipelines
• Have not kept track of gathering lines in shale fields or where new ones will go
More Problems

• Right of ways require use of chemicals to keep down new growth to maintain access to pipeline, further endangering health and ecology.

• Contamination of farmland from increased soil acidity around pipelines.

• Much of pipeline expansion is in **rural PA**, where gathering lines are subjected to NO REGULATION & NO SAFETY INSPECTIONS.
What Will Our Response Be?

United we stand...

...with our heads in sand!

Source: Truth in Media
Or In Honor of the Fighting Irish . . .
We Fight Back

• Transform anger into action
• Call and visit politicians about this issue
• Call and e-mail your representatives during a crucial vote (be on alert for pipeline legislation)
• Demand that municipal leaders in your township or borough join those who are challenging Act 13
• Come to the rally in Pgh on March 20th
• Educate others about no safety inspections or regulations of gathering pipelines in rural PA & the risks of explosions and health dangers.
Recommended Reads/Views

• Philadelphia Inquirer series *Battle Lines*

• AP article *Landowners fight eminent domain in Pa. gas field*

• Youtube *Double Secret Hop Bottom Compressor Tour*
  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ww2Dpw7dEHQ&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ww2Dpw7dEHQ&feature=youtu.be)