

Questions from Residents
February 7, 2018 Special City Council Meeting
Originally Posted February 13, 2018
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The City Administration has assembled the following list of questions asked of City Council by residents during the public comment at the February 7, 2018 Special City Council meeting.

Resident's question: Is this Agreement accounting for one 50-foot opening? A 50-foot right-of-way gives them a right to put up to four (4) pipelines in the right-of-way should they choose to. The 50-foot easement provided by the City as part of the settlement specifically restricts Nexus to constructing only one (1) natural gas pipeline. Although the temporary easements encompass a wider area, the post-construction permanent width of the easement is 50 feet.

Resident's question: Will they be unloading a large amount of gas into the storage fields? No. Nexus is constructing a transmission line with no connections within Summit County. The project scope approved by FERC does not authorize the use of existing storage fields in the area; nor the construction of new storage or other distribution facilities in the City.

Resident's question: To all Council, does anyone on Council live within ¼ mile (1,320 feet) of the gas pipeline? No Council Members live within ¼ mile of the proposed pipeline.

Resident's question: Can we stop them? No. FERC has approved the pipeline route and a Federal District Court has granted NEXUS the right to use eminent domain. In addition, the City has exhausted all legal options available that could be used to delay, stop the project, or change the approved route.

Resident's question: Can we continue to keep fighting? We have fought the pipeline route through the FERC process for the past three years, including legal challenges over the past year. While minor delays were possible, there are no legal options left to stop the project or change the approved route.

Resident's question: Have you tried to negotiate an automatic shut-off instead of a remote shut-off? There will be one (1) shut-off valve in Green. During negotiations we did ask about the shut-off valve. In response, Nexus explained that a remote shut off valve will be installed in Green and is preferred because it will be actively monitored and operated 24/7 from a remote location. All shut-off valves will be tested periodically to ensure that they are functioning properly.

Resident's question: In the negotiating did you negotiate a smell to be added to the gas? It was requested during the negotiations, but Nexus did not agree to the request because they are not required by federal law to include the additive. The vast majority of gas transported nationwide in interstate transmission lines, such as NEXUS, is not odorized.

Resident's question: Did you negotiate for every nearby well to be tested prior to construction and after construction? Although not specifically negotiated by the City in its settlement, pre- and post-construction water well testing has been offered to all homeowners within 150 feet of the easement.

The pipeline is a transmission line through Green. The pipe will typically be laid in a trench about 7-10 feet deep. Nexus is not drilling any gas wells in the City.

Resident's question: Have you filed a Motion to Stay regarding the construction on the eminent domain appeal? No. If the litigation had continued, we would have filed a motion for stay.

Resident's question: Did you negotiate any small variances, even just a few hundred feet? We did not because it would have moved the line onto another resident's property versus City property.

Resident's question: Did you negotiate with Nexus to let them pay for fields for us that are pipeline free? During negotiations, the City discussed with Nexus the proximity of fields to the line and requested compensation to replace certain fields.

Please note the following:

Three (3) fields at Greensburg are within 500 feet of the pipeline; and

Five (5) fields are within 1,000 feet of the pipeline (one (1) baseball at the Youth complex and four (4) baseball fields at Greensburg).

Resident's question: What happens if devastation hits? Will \$7.5 million pay for the help we need. No. The \$7.5 million dollars was not negotiated for this purpose. Although Nexus typically does not include provisions in their easements for insurance, the City negotiated \$25 million dollars of general liability insurance, along with other insurances, for its easement to cover any damage from the pipeline, including damage from construction, or while the line is in service. This amount of coverage, however, does not limit Nexus' liability.

Resident's question: Have any legal or other systems been put in place to safeguard the City's water supply? The City of Green's public water supply is provided by Aqua America. Its water source is in Massillon. The pipeline is a natural gas transmission line and is being installed at depths with techniques that minimize risk to aquifers, reservoirs or other features associated with water supplies. For individual wells, see the next question.

Resident's question: Is there a plan in place for the City to regularly monitor and test private wells and public water to make sure the water is safe to drink and to use? If so, what is that plan? And if not, do you pledge as a Council and City Administration to develop one? Nexus has agreed to provided pre- and post-construction water well testing to all homeowners within 150 feet of the easement. Natural gas, which is lighter than air, does not pose a risk of contamination to drinking water. The pipeline is a transmission line through Green. Well contamination issues are sometimes associated with well drilling activities, including fracking. Nexus is not drilling any gas wells in the City.

Resident's question: If water does become contaminated, what remedies are there both legal and otherwise? Unlike crude oil or liquids pipelines, natural gas in a transmission line does not pose an appreciable risk of contaminating water because it is lighter than air. If any damage of any kind is done to a property, the property owner has the right to pursue legal action against Nexus.

Resident's question: Why would the City take a settlement when individuals won't get a settlement?

Prior to the City's settlement, 89 of the 90 property owners in the City of Green, that were required to provide easements, had already settled with Nexus and received monetary and other compensation.

Resident's question: Did you ask them how they are going to do the oversight of these things? If there is an issue, how long will that take them? The City will be developing a number of processes and plans in coordination with Nexus to address any concerns. This includes communications and oversight during construction. The City will also be developing safety response plans, in coordination with our first responders, to ensure public safety during and after construction. More details will be shared as these processes and plans are formulated. It is expected that construction will be completed in September of 2018.

Resident's question: Did you ask how they will monitor it and how will they contact us? Nexus will be actively monitoring the pipeline 24/7 from its headquarters in Texas and conducting weekly physical inspections of the entire pipeline. We will be meeting with Nexus to determine the process of communicating with the City. As the plan is developed, more information will be shared. The City has set up a Green Nexus Info Line and an email contact for resident questions and concerns.

Resident's question: What makes you think they haven't lied to you? The City has negotiated a legally binding contract with Nexus. Any misrepresentation would be a violation of the contract and the law. The City will not hesitate to go back to the Federal District that retained jurisdiction over the settlement to enforce its terms, if necessary.

Additional questions received by the City:

Is Resolution 2018-09 subject to referendum? No. Resolution 2018-09 is an administrative action and is not subject to referendum per Ohio Constitution Article II, Section 1f. [Learn more.](#)