

PIPELINE SAFETY TOWN HALL MEETING
APRIL 26, 2018 · QUESTIONS

The following responses are from questions asked at the Pipeline Safety Town Hall Meeting held on April 26, 2018. The complete video of the evening is available [here](#).

FAQ Topics

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CONSTRUCTION RELATED/NEXUS SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

When will the gas start flowing? Nexus informs us that the pipeline will be in service by the end of September 2018.

How deep is the pipeline buried? The pipeline is required to be a minimum of 3 feet deep. Some homeowner easements and the City's easement have stipulated deeper depths per their individual easement agreements. Under roadways and areas with other utility infrastructure (gas distribution lines, water lines, cable lines, etc.), the line may be deeper in these areas. For example, the City of Green required a minimum depth of 5 feet in the public right of way through the city.

What is the diameter of the pipeline? 36 inches

What is the depth of the pipeline? 3 feet minimum although some areas are deeper for example, under roadway crossings, etc.

What is being done with all the trees/lumber cut down? According to Nexus, the tree removal contractor mulched or removed the trees for lumber per their contract.

Where will the nearest upstream shut-off valve east of Green be installed? 7 miles to the East.

Do we know where the shut-off valves are located? There is one located in Green off of Killinger. One seven miles east of Green and another one in New Franklin to the west of Green.

What is the gas pressure of the Nexus pipeline? Maximum 1440 psi

Can local resident go on the construction site and watch the pipeline being installed? No. It is an active construction site and safety is a key concern. Residents are not permitted in the construction area at any time.

Who do we contact if a valve needs to be closed? Contact the Nexus hotline at 1-844-589-3655. In a shut-off emergency, call 911. The valves are automated and can be shut off remotely.

COMPRESSOR STATION INFORMATION

Will Nexus build compressor stations in the City of Green? No. The nearest compressor station is being constructed in Wadsworth.

Are there pressure relief valves that releases the “gas” into the air? Pressure relief valves are located only at Nexus compressor stations. The nearest location of a relief valve is approximately 20 miles away at the Wadsworth Compressor Station.

How often do they release gas? Frequency of controlled releases depends on a host of operational factors, but generally controlled releases will only be used during planned maintenance activities. We seek to minimize the amount of controlled releases. During controlled releases, natural gas is vented and safely dissipates into the atmosphere.

Impacts of air emissions around compressor stations? Air emissions from operation of the NEXUS Project will comply with all applicable federal and state air quality regulations. These regulations include comprehensive permitting requirements for the proposed compressor stations and restrictions on the emission of air pollutants. The Ohio EPA has issued minor source air permits for all NEXUS compressor station facilities. The permitted emissions under a minor source air permit are comparable to a dry cleaner or gas station.

How would this effect our health? Short term/ long term- Do you know? Research studies done? The standards governing sources of air emissions are set by the federal and state governments to be protective of public health and welfare. The principal standards are the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and State Ambient Air Quality Standards (SAAQS) established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), respectively. The basis for these standards are clinical and epidemiological studies that specifically consider the health of “sensitive” populations such

as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. They also account for potential impacts to animals, crops, vegetation, buildings, and visibility.

Under governing law, each regulated source of emissions must be permitted. The permit process entails analysis of source-specific emissions, existing ambient air quality, and appropriate technologies for limiting emissions at the source. When analyzing a source, the permitting agency considers adjacent or contiguous sources under common ownership or control within the same major industrial sector. Air emission permits include monitoring requirements at the source.

Ambient air quality is also monitored, primarily by the states, to determine compliance with NAAQS and SAAQS.

Is this gas dangerous and if it is released near a home can it spark (for eg. If you are having a bonfire and it releases in the air can it spark)? Pressure relief valves are located at Nexus compressor stations. The nearest location of a relief valve is approximately 20 miles away at the Wadsworth Compressor Station.

What are the health risks to living so close to the pipeline? Under normal operating conditions there should not be any health risks.

How long does it take to lay the pipe and then how long after that until the gas flows? Nexus will begin laying pipe in June and July. They have stated the pipeline will be in service by the end of third quarter.

Will we hear the gas flowing? No. Between the depth of the pipe and the thickness of the pipe, you should not hear gas flowing through the pipeline.

PIPELINE SAFETY QUESTIONS

How long will Nexus monitor the pipeline 24/7? Nexus will monitor the pipeline, once in service, remotely from their headquarters in Houston 24/7 indefinitely.

Where can I get safety information for apartment tenants to hand out with their application so aware from day one how they may be affected? There are many general awareness and pipeline safety literature available from the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA). Visit <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/safety-awareness/pipeline/pipeline-leak-recognition-and-what-do>

How will you alert people in the evacuation zone should there be an emergency? Currently residents are notified of an emergency through our text messaging and reverse 9-11 system. In the event of an emergency these systems will be used as well as other methods deemed necessary by the safety director and the severity of the incident.

Why is odorant not added to Nexus pipeline? Odorant is added to gas distribution lines (the types of lines that run to homes) because if there is a leak in your home gas line gas can build up to dangerous levels and even explode in a confined space. On a gas transmission line, if there was a leak, natural gas is lighter than air, and would rise into the atmosphere, so the odorant most likely would go undetected. If a gas transmission line would rupture, the odorant would help in alerting the public.

How does one inspect the exterior of a pipeline when the line is underground? They run interior inline inspection that can detect any interior or exterior issues to ensure the integrity of the pipeline.

How is the pressure maintained from starting point to end? There are compressor stations typically located every 50 to 100 miles along the pipeline to keep the gas compressed. There is not a compressor station in the City of Green.

REGULATION QUESTIONS

Does federal law require tree replacement in the construction corridor? There are no PHMSA requirements for replacement of trees, vegetation, etc.

What degree of bend in pipe is allowable? The Federal requirements for bends in pipe (natural gas) are found in 49 CFR 192.313, however it does not get specific. It depends on the specifications of the pipe. You will need to see ASME B31.8, Section 841.2.3 “Bends, Miters, and Elbows in Steel Pipelines and Mains” for more detail. That standard is provided in the table.

Table 841.2.3-1 Pipeline Field Cold Bend Requirements

Nominal Pipe Size	Deflection of Longitudinal Axis, deg	Minimum Radius of Bend in Pipe Diameters [see 841.2.3(a)(3)]
Smaller than NPS 12 (DN 300)	841.2.3(a)(4)	18D
NPS 12 (DN 300)	3.2	18D
NPS 14 (DN 350)	2.7	21D
NPS 16 (DN 400)	2.4	24D
NPS 18 (DN 450)	2.1	27D
NPS 20 (DN 500) and larger	1.9	30D

Does PHMSA or the PUCO require reporting on the operability of SCADA*? Generally, no, however if SCADA or control room actions contributed to an event that is reportable under 49 CFR 191, then the operability of SCADA would be reported as a possible contributing factor. SCADA and control room management is addressed in 49 CFR 192.631. PUCO may have

additional requirements in addition to the federal regulations. *SCADA is a technical acronym for the computer system that collects data from field sensors and control valves.

How often are pipeline construction workers required to be drug and alcohol tested? At a minimum 50% of the covered employees are randomly tested annually. There are many factors to take into consideration for the operator to schedule of drug/alcohol testing. The federal requirements for random drug and alcohol testing can be found in 49 CFR 199. Specifically, in 49 CFR 199.105 (c)

Will there be air testing at compressor stations? Gas detection at compressor stations is covered under 49 CFR 192.736.

Since FERC has delegated all safety issues to PHMSA under the memorandum agreement, why doesn't PHMSA consider or participate in the siting process of pipelines before FERC? PHMSA's pipeline safety jurisdiction only begins once construction has begun. PHMSA does not have the authority or enforcement jurisdiction during the siting phase that FERC does.

How much does it cost per automatic shutoff valve to install? This depends on the manufacturer, supplier, what the operator decides to install, and many other factors. This question would best be answered by industry, not PHMSA.

What time frame do pipeline operators have to correct maintenance items found during a PHMSA or PUCO inspection? It differs between a pipeline construction and a pipeline that is already in operation. While there is no specified time frame in the regulations that address timeliness of repairs; generally, if a corrective action order is issued, it will have a specified time frame for the operator to comply with. Routine maintenance issues are generally not written up, unless they are determined to be a threat to the integrity of the pipeline. During construction, if an issue is found it is usually corrected on the spot or addressed soon after discovery depending on the severity of the problem.

What is the operator's responsibility to report maintenance, leaks, and emissions to PHMSA and / or the PUCO? The federal reporting requirements are found in 49 CFR 191. Again, PUCO may have more stringent leak reporting requirements than at the federal level.

Are aerial inspections simply an aerial survey identifying ROW encroachments such as buildings or vegetation? NEXUS regularly performs aerial and/or on-the-ground inspections of the pipeline rights of way to monitor for leaks, damage or other factors that might impact the integrity of the pipeline. Weather permitting, aerial patrols are conducted once a week to provide a bird's-eye view of the rights of way and surrounding areas, and allow us to monitor ground changes, construction activities, or other conditions that could affect the pipeline.

Will aerial inspections employ fixed wing aircraft, helicopters, or both? Typically, fixed wing aircraft operated by experienced personnel; however, helicopters may be used in some circumstances.

What technology will be employed on the aerial inspections? Will technology such as Lidar be employed? Probably not. NEXUS will mainly conduct visual inspections using aerial or ground patrols, which are typically sufficient to detect issues in the pipeline corridor. (Lidar scanning is used to make high resolution mapping.) Depending on conditions observed, additional investigative methods may be employed as appropriate.

How often will inspection and maintenance audits be performed by either PHMSA or the Ohio PUCO? Any inspections or audits will be scheduled by the inspecting agency as determined by the director or administrator. There is no set schedule prescribed by the federal pipeline safety regulations.

What is the operator of an interstate gas transmission line's responsibility to report leaks or emissions to the Ohio EPA? This would have to be addressed by the Ohio EPA. There may be different reporting criteria at the state level than at the federal.

Which agency of government reviews operational data on gas transmission lines to ensure that they are being operated within design limits? Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the Public Utility Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

How often are the operational parameters audited by the responsible agency to ensure that operational parameters are not exceeded? The operational parameters would be reviewed during regularly scheduled inspections. There is no set schedule.

What will the PUCO's role be in inspecting an interstate pipeline such as the Nexus pipeline? To inspect the pipeline during construction and then during operation and maintenance of the pipeline to ensure that it meets the minimum federal pipeline safety regulations and any additional state regulations.

How often will the PUCO inspect the pipeline and what type of inspection (s) will be performed? The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has planned for its inspectors to spend 90 days performing construction inspections on the Nexus pipeline in 2018. These inspections consist of reviews of plans and records to ensure compliance with the construction standards contained in the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations as well as visual inspections of the pipeline's construction at locations throughout the state.

If the PUCO (a state agency) finds any serious deficiency with an interstate gas transmission line, can the PUCO order a shut-down of the pipeline? No. That authority resides with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety. If PUCO inspectors find any deficiencies they would be communicated to the U.S. Department of Transportation who would decide on any enforcement actions.

Does it need to be replaced after so many years? There is not regulated timeframe for when a pipeline needs replaced. A well-maintained pipeline will remain in good working order indefinitely.

CITY/SETTLEMENT RELATED QUESTIONS

What are the plans for youth sports? The City has assembled a youth sports impact group made up of representatives from various youth organizations and citizens to help determine the future of fields.

Are these fields “playable?” All fields are currently playable.

The city has said consistently for years that 1500 feet was the impact radius. Now we’re told it’s 943. What should residents living between 943 and 1500 do now?

Where is the “Hike and Bike” trail to be located? (Off Koons Rd or Thursby) As part of the settlement the City will receive 20 acres of land from Koons Road to Boettler Park. The access point on Koons will be just east of Sheaters Road. The timing of the construction of the hike and bike lane has not been determined.

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS

Who funds the Pipeline Safety Trust? On June 18, 2003, U.S. District Judge Barbara Rothstein ordered that four million dollars of the criminal fines imposed as a result of the Bellingham tragedy be awarded as an endowment to fund the Pipeline Safety Trust. Visit www.pstrust.org for more details.

How is all this information about pipelines and regulations supposed to put me at ease? As a City we are providing this safety information to assist residents in understanding the risks, knowing how to identify a leak or emergency, and having the information to respond appropriate in the event of an emergency.

How do we protect our wells during construction? Typically pipeline projects do not pose a threat to water wells. Water wells should be watched for surface water being redirected during construction that may pool up around water wells or even flow into wells during heavy rain. For more information on wells, see our [frequently asked questions related to wells](#).

In any type of construction activity involving grading surface water from rains could be redirected from their normal flows over to water wells. If your water well casing is located in or near an area that has surface water accumulating from rain water, it would be recommended to raise the casing height to be above the potential flood levels.

In general, it is never advisable to let surface water gather around water wells. This concentration of surface water located near a water well can cause excessive recharge to the aquifer potentially impacting water quality. Typically, it is advisable in most situations to keep even occasional accumulation of surface water at least 15' away from your water well.

If your well is up to current code specifications, the water well casing will be at least 12" above grade and the well will be equipped with a sealed vermin proof well cap with screen located on the underside of the cap. Some older wells may have casing and well caps located as low as ground level, increasing the risk of surface water contamination.

If your well is located near the pipeline right-away or even in the right-away, request that marking flags be placed around the well to prevent equipment from accidentally hitting the water well. Usually orange flags attached to marking stakes with a height of more than 4' is adequate for most construction sites.