

*Borough of Bell Acres
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Sewickley, PA 15143
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Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Southwest Regional Area
Waterways and Wetlands Program
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Dear Sir or Madame –

At the Feb. 12th, 2018 meeting of the Bell Acres Borough Council, a motion was made and approved that Council submit a letter to the PA Department of Environmental Protection expressing Council's concerns about the construction of the Shell Falcon ethane pipeline and the impacts it could have on the Ambridge Reservoir, the source of drinking water for 30,000 PA residents.

Bell Acres has a total of 520 households. Of that number, 403 households depend on the Ambridge Reservoir for their drinking water. Students from Bell Acres attend Edgeworth Elementary, the Quaker Valley High School, and Sewickley Academy – all dependent on water from the Ambridge Reservoir.

The Shell Falcon pipeline company is requesting permits that would allow the company to construct a 97-mile pipeline with the potential to contaminate the high water quality of the Ambridge Reservoir in the following ways:

1. The pipeline is proposed to pass directly under the main raw water line leading out of the Ambridge Reservoir which, after treatment, supplies millions of gallons of water a day to nine municipalities, including Bell Acres.
2. The pipeline is proposed to cross tributaries thirteen times that feed the three main High Quality/Cold Water Fishery (HQ/CWF) streams that supply the Ambridge Reservoir.
3. The "blast zone" of the pipeline – the area that would be most affected by a pipeline explosion – includes the raw water line of the Ambridge Reservoir as well as the high-quality feeder streams of the Reservoir.

Our concern for the drinking water of our residents is not without basis in fact. In January, the PA DEP shut down the construction of the Sunoco Mariner East 2 pipeline after significant damage had already occurred to local sources of drinking water. Pipeline construction is flawed, and despite promises of "best management practices", it is highly likely that contamination will occur with the construction of the Shell Falcon pipeline, that future leaks in these vulnerable areas are well within the realm of possibility, and that pipeline explosions do happen.

We want action by the PA DEP upfront to prevent contamination of our drinking water rather than to have us deal later on with the catastrophic consequences. If our water supply is contaminated, there is no long- term emergency plan – and pipeline accidents continue to occur in PA.

We have watched with growing concern the increase in oil and gas development within the watershed of the Ambridge Reservoir – both the increased number of signed drilling leases as well as actual drilling sites. We do not believe that a private company should be given precedence over the rights of every PA citizen to clean and safe water, and therefore we request that the DEP deny the Shell Falcon Ethane Pipeline permit as it is currently proposed.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Kulbacki". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Charles Kulbacki
Bell Acres Borough Manager