

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Southwest Regional Area
Waterways and Wetlands Program
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Dear Sir or Madame –

At the September 10th, 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 continued 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 40,000 PA residents. This letter is subsequent to two other letters from the Bell Acres Council sent in February and April of 2018 expressing similar concerns to the PA DEP.

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 now in the process of responding to DEP deficiency letters re: issues of sedimentation and erosion control on the proposed routing of the pipeline. In light of these issues – and the Shell Falcon responses – our concerns are the following:

1. The pipeline is still 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 still 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.
4. Shell Falcon has erroneously stated that the Ambridge Water Authority is not concerned about the potential for contamination of the Ambridge Reservoir. Council members and other Borough officials have attended Ambridge Water Authority meetings, and we can confirm that they have been – and continue to be - very concerned about the potential for contamination from the proposed route of the pipeline. It is difficult to trust the reassurances of a company that so blatantly misrepresents the concerns of an important stakeholder in the project’s outcome.

Our concern for the drinking water of our residents is not without basis in fact:

- In January, 2018, 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.

- On August 28th, 2018, the construction of a pipeline for transporting natural gas liquids near Route 30 in Beaver County was suspended due to the discharge of drilling mud into a tributary of Raccoon Creek.

Pipeline construction is flawed, and despite promises of “best management practices”, it is very 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 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 strongly urge the DEP to deny the Shell Falcon pipeline sedimentation and erosion control permits.

Very sincerely,

Dennis Young, President
Bell Acres Borough Council