

Is this Pipeline Safe?

NGLs are transported in a pressurized liquid state but become an odorless and colorless vapor once they hit the air when leaks occur. NGL vapor is heavier than air and will stay low to the ground, settling in valleys, creeks, rivers or other low points. These vapors are highly flammable and can be ignited by heat, spark or flame – which is why one of the companies involved warned people on its website (since removed) to turn off all tractors or car engines and move to higher ground in the case of a suspected leak.

According to the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration data, there is a “significant incident” involving a hazardous liquids pipeline every 3 days (a significant incident is defined as one involving a death, injury requiring hospitalization, \$50,000 or more in property damage, or the release of 5 barrels or more of highly volatile liquid). There is, on average 1.6 leaks or incidents *per day* from all types of pipelines (crude oil, natural gas and hazardous liquids).

In December 2012, an NGL pipeline operated by Williams in Parachute, Colorado began leaking but was not discovered for 2 weeks (and then only by accident) and continued to leak months later! The **Denver Post** reported in June that more than 369,000 gallons of groundwater contaminated with cancer-causing benzene had been siphoned from the spill, which was still growing and covered 10.6 acres. That spill, in which 48,300 gallons of natural gas liquids was released into the soil and water, came from just a four-inch pipeline. The Bluegrass Pipeline would be a 24-inch line!

Are Hazardous Liquid Pipelines More Dangerous than Other Types of Pipelines?

Many landowners who have been approached later reported that the land agent never mentioned what would be running through the pipeline, or said natural gas and left off the “liquids.” In public forums and literature, the pipeline partners have touted natural gas and “energy independence” – what some believe are intentional attempts to confuse the NGL pipeline with the more common natural gas line.

There is good reason the pipeline partners want to avoid the realization that this is a hazardous liquids pipeline. There are 26,751 miles of pipelines in Kentucky, but only 908 miles (3.4%) carry hazardous liquids (and just 4.1% of these are NGLs). However, these hazardous liquid pipelines represent

- 30.9% of all incidents between 2003 and 2012;
- 66.6% of all injuries;
- 67.3% of all property damage and
- 100% of the gross barrels spilled in these incidents.

Moreover, despite clean up efforts, 29.1% of the barrels spilled from hazardous liquid pipelines in Kentucky *were not recovered or removed from the environment.*

Research courtesy of Dr. Lorraine Garkovich (University of Kentucky)

Are the Bluegrass Pipeline partners deliberately creating confusion about the product that will be transported through their proposed pipeline?



A slick booklet titled “Bluegrass

Pipeline” given out at company open houses prominently displayed the words “natural gas” as seen below. In their literature and op-eds they talk about “American energy independence” even though NGLs are used primarily by the chemical industry, and in this case are intended primarily for export.

**Natural Gas:
American Energy,
Kentucky Jobs**

The Bluegrass Pipeline is another step towards American energy independence. It's being built by American companies and will employ American workers, boosting our economy and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.