

Michael L. Hopkins
Assistant Chief, Permitting
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Air Pollution Control
50 West Town Street, Suite 700
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

I'm writing as counsel for the FreshWater Accountability Project of Grand Rapids, Ohio and Food & Water Watch, of Cincinnati, Ohio, respecting all compressor stations proposed to be located in Ohio as components of the E.T. Rover and NEXUS natural gas pipeline transportation projects.

It is our understanding that, presently, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is reviewing applications from E.T. Rover and Spectra Energy for the installation of compressors along the Ohio portions of their routes. If placed in operation, the compressor facilities collectively will emit hundreds of tons per year of toxic and polluted exhaust and chemically-complex, radioactive hydrocarbons. They would be located in places where human beings live, work and recreate, are essentially exempt from local zoning controls, and they will leak huge volumes of carcinogens and endocrine disruptors for decades, on unsuspecting people.

The applications are presently being reviewed, essentially in secret by OEPA, with the apparent intention being that the agency will simply issue permits and disallow any opportunity for public hearing or comment in advance of issuance. We understand that permit finalizations for Rover and NEXUS compressors may occur in as little as three to four weeks from now. It appears to us as though the Ohio EPA is conducting a mission for the pipelines and not the public.

There will be large volumes of expected chemically-toxic and radioactive air pollution which would become business as usual. Those pollutants will ultimately find their ways into the surface and groundwater cycles near each compressor station, consideration of which also appears to be ignored. The combined polluting effects of the compressors should be aggregated; the current permitting track appears calculated to circumvent the intentions of Ohio law and the Federal Clean Air Act.

It is incumbent upon OEPA to undertake significant publicity and opportunity for public participation. On behalf of FWAP and the general public, I hereby request that prior to finalizing air and water pollution permits for all Rover and NEXUS compressor stations under either Ohio or Federal law, that the Ohio Environmental Protection agency convene public hearings for the taking of testimony and other evidence. Further, I request that the public comment period be extended to 180 days, and the time period leading up to each public hearing be no shorter than 90 days, to allow expert opinion to be solicited and developed. Finally, I urge that I be timely notified directly via snail mail and email of all preliminary or final determinations on all Rover or NEXUS compressor station permit applications.

Thank you very much.

For Freshwater Accountability Project and Food & Water Watch,

/s/ Terry J. Lodge