

# The Recorder

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## Pipe storage yards said to be harmful for nearby residents

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MONTEREY — A former Bath County resident and retired environmental regulator continues to allege public health threats posed by storage of vast quantities of pipes for the canceled Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Bill Limpert of Smithsburg, Md., formerly of Little Valley, told the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission last week the degraded pipe coating used to reduce corrosion “contains numerous carcinogenic, mutagenic, and toxic substances that could leach out, blow off stored pipes, or otherwise discharge into our environment. These substances could result in negative impacts to the health and safety of residents in proximity to the pipeline, or locations where pipes are stored. They could also result in harm to the environment and wildlife, including harm to endangered species.”

Large pipe storage yards in Morgantown, W.Va, Culpeper, Bealton, and Clarksville, Va., and Plymouth and Fuquay, N.C., have been subject to UV degradation for four years. Together, they contain roughly 80,000 pipes. The pipe yards neighbor housing developments, public buildings, churches, shopping malls, golf courses and major water bodies.

“FERC has failed to fully assess public health and environmental concerns regarding the coating, failed to reject the flawed ACP reports, and has failed to respond in writing to the public health and environmental concerns from VDH, DEQ, and NCDHHS,” Limpert said. “FERC’s failure to adequately respond to these concerns may already be negatively impacting the health of persons in proximity to the pipe storage yards, in proximity to other pipes on the ground, and in proximity to where pipe has been already placed in the ground. The environment in these locations may be negatively impacted as well.”

To protect public health, he recommended mediation measures to:

- Cover all pipe to prevent the inhalation of air borne degraded coating, or whitewash the pipe, or apply a UV resistant material to the pipe as recommended by (coating manufacturer) 3M to prevent further UV degradation for any pipes that will not be covered;
- Respond in writing to VDH, DEQ, and NCDHHS, and address the issues they raised;
- Require further information, and further testing from the ACP;
- Have a qualified independent agency evaluate the risk to public health;
- Conduct sampling of private drinking water wells and springs for coating constituents, and provide the owners with free health screening, treatment, and clean water if they have been exposed to toxic substances from the coating; and
- Should further tests reveal silica or other toxins in the degraded coating, provide free health screening and treatment for residents in proximity to pipe storage yards.