

## **BREAKING: Fracked Gas Pipeline Explodes In Noble County for Second Time in a Year**

Columbus - Today, residents in Noble County had their homes rocked by the second explosion of a fracked gas pipeline in less than a year.

This area of the state is packed with underground pipelines and more are coming to feed the proposed petrochemical hub. The explosion took place just 2.5-3.0 miles from Blue Racer Midstream and Texas Eastern Gas Pipeline's Berne complex to the east and MarkWest's Summerfield plant 2.5 miles to the north. It was a little more than a year ago today that a pipeline operated by Tallgrass Energy called the "Seneca Lateral" exploded roughly 5-6 miles north of today's explosion. "All these pipelines converge on the aforementioned facilities and have caused many in the area to worry that this is just the beginning of these kinds of events, with most concerned more about the gas gathering lines unregulated by FERC rather than the FERC regulated transmission lines," said Ted Auch, with FracTracker.

"Enough is enough; it's time that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the State of Ohio put the health and safety of people before corporate profits," said Teresa Mills, Buckeye Environmental Network. "We also want to thank our first responders for taking on this deadly task for the second time this year. We are concerned for local families' safety," she added.

"Why wouldn't the Ohio EPA respond to requests from local citizens to immediately begin air quality testing? We can see the devastation from the blast, but what about the health effects for all the families and first responders who were exposed to toxic gas for a prolonged period?" said Lea Harper, Director of Freshwater Accountability Project.

"This makes 5 pipeline explosions in the region in two years," said Cheryl Johncox, organizer with the Sierra Club, "What do local residents have to do to feel safe? An elementary schooler was injured in this explosion and three families have lost everything. There is no right way to build or operate these dirty, dangerous fracked gas pipelines and we will not stop fighting them until each and every one is permanently decommissioned."

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