



# Township of Lower Makefield

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September 2, 2025

Acting Administrator Ben Kochman  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: PHMSA CPF No. 4-2025-054-NOPSO

Dear Acting Administrator Kochman:

On behalf of Lower Makefield Township, I am requesting immediate, decisive action regarding the Twin Oaks Pipeline (PHMSA CPF No. 4-2025-054-NOPSO) and the clear, ongoing threat it poses to the health and safety of our community. Since early 2025, residents of both Lower Makefield and Upper Makefield Townships have suffered the devastating consequences of the potentially catastrophic Energy Transfer/Sunoco pipeline leak—contaminated private wells with jet fuel, disruption to daily life, and severe, lingering questions about pipeline integrity, oversight, and transparency.

Although the initial incident occurred just beyond our shared border, the environmental risks do not recognize municipal boundaries. The potential for cross-boundary contamination and the uncertainty of whether the line is still leaking are intolerable. Residents and officials from all levels of government have expressed alarm and frustration, yet little meaningful progress has seemingly been made.

Moreover, even though leaks have not been expressly identified within Lower Makefield Township to date, the same pipeline of identical vintage runs through our community. This fact alone means our residents may face a direct and ongoing risk. It is not acceptable to wait for contamination to be discovered in Lower Makefield Township before action is taken—the danger is present now, and the responsibility to prevent future harm rests squarely with both Energy Transfer and PHMSA.

Energy Transfer, the operator of the Twin Oaks Pipeline, has repeatedly misled the public. For months, the company flatly denied the existence of additional anomalies in the area. Only after pointed questioning at a meeting on July 31<sup>st</sup> did Energy Transfer finally admit that multiple excavation sites had been identified within Upper Makefield Township. PHMSA has since confirmed that twelve such sites exist east of the Bucks Pump Station. Energy Transfer's repeated public misstatements—denials contradicted by its own recent admissions—are unacceptable and demand a forceful regulatory response.

Equally troubling is PHMSA's posture. While the agency has confirmed site visits and testing, it has refused to require even a temporary shutdown of the pipeline; allowing it to run at 80% capacity and inhibiting the ability to assess if there are further leaks within the pipeline. Additionally, PHMSA has not released any substantive findings, choosing instead to reassure the public that there is "no indication of a pipeline-related issue." Hiding behind a consent agreement to withhold critical safety information in the midst of a public health emergency is indefensible. This lack of transparency undermines public trust, shields Energy Transfer from accountability, and directly hampers our ability as local officials to protect our residents. Energy Transfer has not yet responded to our questions from our public meeting on February 19, 2025.

Accordingly, Lower Makefield Township joins others and demands the following immediate steps:

1. Full disclosure of all information related to the most recent inline inspection of the Twin Oaks Pipeline;
2. Immediate release of the complete report and findings from the PHMSA inspector's site visit; and
3. Immediate suspension of operations on the Twin Oaks Pipeline until the full investigation is complete, the line's safety can be unequivocally established, and Energy Transfer is held accountable.

We remind PHMSA that Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution establishes that "[t]he people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment." These resources are the common property of all Pennsylvanians, including generations yet to come. The Commonwealth—and by extension federal regulators entrusted with oversight—have a duty to conserve and maintain these resources for the benefit of all. Allowing Energy Transfer to continue operations in the absence of full transparency and demonstrated pipeline integrity is inconsistent with this constitutional mandate.

In its letter to Wolf Carbon, Summit, and Navigator Clarifying Federal, State, and Local Government Pipeline Authorities dated September 19, 2023, PHMSA notes that "*In the case of local governments that are not subject to federal certification of pipeline safety authority, they may still exercise other powers granted to them under state law but none that adopt or enforce pipeline safety standards or contradict federal law.*"<sup>1</sup> Absent significant action from PHMSA, we will likely seek to exercise other powers granted to us as aggressively as possible consistent with applicable law.

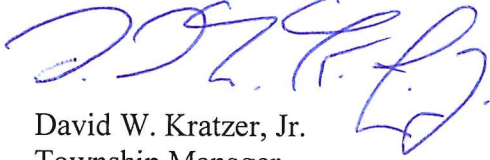
The people we serve are entitled to answers and action. Delay and obfuscation are no longer tolerable. We request that PHMSA act with the appropriate level of urgency that this situation warrants and demands.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/news/phmsa-issues-letters-wolf-carbon-summit-and-navigator-clarifying-federal-state-and-local>

We look forward to your communication. If you have any questions, please contact this office at (267) 274-1100 or via email at [dkratzer@lmt.org](mailto:dkratzer@lmt.org).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. W. Kratzer, Jr.', is positioned above the printed name.

David W. Kratzer, Jr.  
Township Manager

cc: The Honorable John Fetterman, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable David McCormick, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Steve Santersiero, PA Senator  
The Honorable Perry Warren, PA House Member  
Lower Makefield Township Board of Supervisors  
Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors  
Keith Coyle, Esq., PHMSA Chief Counsel