



Credible.  
Independent.  
In the public interest.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For More Information Contact:

Kenneth Clarkson  
Communications & Outreach Director  
[kenneth@pstrust.org](mailto:kenneth@pstrust.org)  
360-543-5686 x104

**Pipeline Safety Trust Opposes Gas Transmission Northwest LLC's Proposed GTN Xpress Expansion Project**

Glaring safety risks, GTN's failure to meet regulatory requirements, and an extensive incident history from GTN's parent company, TC Energy, make the proposed project unsafe to build.

**BELLINGHAM, Washington** [March 29, 2023] – TC Energy has submitted an application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to substantially increase the capacity of the GTN Xpress pipeline that runs from British Columbia, Canada to Northern California. If approved, the project would increase the volume of gas transported by the pipeline by another 150 million cubic feet. Due to TC Energy's poor safety history, GTN's failure to meet regulatory requirements, and the project's potential to increase methane emissions, Pipeline Safety Trust (PST) has submitted a letter to FERC asking the agency to deny TC Energy's application for the GTN Xpress Project.

Since 2003, GTN and TC Energy have had a history of accidents and controversies directly related to the safety and reliability of its systems. Over the last 20 years, the federal pipeline regulator, the US Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has initiated five Notice of Probable Violation cases, three Notice of Amendment cases, and nine Warning Letter cases against GTN, and 21 cases against TC Energy from 2006 to 2023, with five corrective action orders (CAOs) issued.

Most recently, TC Energy's controversial Keystone Pipeline, which carries crude oil from Canada to the United States, spilled over 530,000 gallons of crude oil into a Kansas Creek. TC Energy determined that the cause of the largest crude oil spill in 10 years was a faulty weld and stress

on the pipe from land movement. In the last 12 years, the Keystone Pipeline has had 12 significant incidents causing millions of dollars in damage and unimaginable amounts of pollution to the environment.

“The most recent spill by TC Energy’s Keystone Pipeline was an unconscionable disaster,” PST Executive Director Bill Caram said. “It’s incidents such as these that underscore TC Energy’s problematic safety record,” Caram said.

While PST is aware the aforementioned incidents happened on a crude oil pipeline as opposed to a natural gas pipeline like the GTN Xpress, the large number of enforcement actions is more than a call for concern considering the current application before FERC seeks to increase the amount of pressure in GTN’s natural gas pipeline, increasing the probability of a pipeline failure.

“We encourage FERC to carefully consider whether the benefit of increased capacity on this line is outweighed by this risk,” Caram said.

In addition to an increase in operating pressure, the GTN Xpress Project plans to construct new compressor stations, which could increase the pipeline’s total emissions. Compressors are prone to leaks and are gas-fired systems themselves.

Three of the proposed areas for upgraded compressor stations are located in communities identified by FERC as “potentially affecting minority populations.” Although the compressor stations themselves will not be located near densely populated communities, air pollutants move uncontrolled through the atmosphere, meaning they could negatively affect air quality for environmental justice communities, especially if and when blowdowns occur.

“The approval of yet another project that places people and the environment at increased risk, including environmental justice communities, is unwarranted,” said Caram. “FERC should heed the warning of GTN and TC Energy’s PHMSA enforcement records and not authorize this expansion.”

###

**About Pipeline Safety Trust:** The Pipeline Safety Trust is a nonprofit public watchdog promoting pipeline safety through education and advocacy by increasing access to information, and by building partnerships with residents, safety advocates, government and industry, that result in safer communities and a healthier environment.