Petition

Zoning Petiton Form
City of League City
Planning Departmet
nhttp://tx-leaguecity.civicplus.com/index.asp?NID=49

Zoning Case # and Description: Z10-05, SUP10-04, and SUP10-03.

We, the undersigned, with relation to Z10-05, SUP10-04 & SUP10-03, by living/owning property in the vicinity of the 2.8 lot and the proposed natural gas pipeline, that is the subject of these zoning cases, hereby express our OPPOSITION to the requested zoning change and special use permit applications for the following, but not limited to, reasons, in no particular order.

- We are currently zoned RSF-5 (Single Family Residential with a minimum lot size of 5,000 square feet) and there are concerns that this zoning change could lead to the "domino effect" allowing surrounding properties to be re-zoned.
- Concern over safety for our homesteads, health, and peaceful enjoyment of our homes.
- Concern over potential harm to the environment from a spill, leak or blow out violating the Clean Water Act.
- Concern over noise, light, and environmental pollution (including but not limited to potential violations of the Clean Water Act) affecting the surrounding area.
- Concern over the effect on property values in the surrounding community.
- Concern over the use of city water for this industrial application and the effect it will have on water pressure and water supply issues in the community.
- Concern that this project could cause additional subsidence in the surrounding area.

I, Vaness Hamilton, do hereby verify that I collected the information contained on this document and that the persons whose names are listed hereon did sign this document in my presence and that I witnessed their signature for the purposes stated herein.
Signature of Person Collecting Names Vaness Hamilton
Address 950 Power Street, League City, TX
Telephone Number 281-554-8085
E-Mail Address vanesshamilton@mac.com

	Property Owner Signature	Printed Name	Address or Tax ID #
1.	Martin Hamilton	Martin Hamilton	950 Power St.
2.	Vaness Hamilton	Vaness Hamilton	950 Power St.
3.	Mary Tarlton	Mary Tarlton	651 Power St
4.	Jean Jaccon	Jean Jaccon	651 Power St
5.	Mark Parker	Mark Parker	751 Power St
6.	Paula Foreman	Paula Foreman	550 Power St.
7.	David Foreman	David Foreman	550 Power St
8.	Carol Brabant	Carol Brabant	611 Power St.
9.	Thomas Brabant	Thomas Brabant	611 Power St

	Property Owner Signature	Printed Name	Address or Tax ID #
10.	Tina Smith	Tina Smith	957 Power St. League City, TX 77573
11.	Wayne Smith	Wayne Smith	957 Power St. League City TX 77573
12.	Mark A. Smith	Mark A. Smith	955 Power St LC, Tx 77573
13.	Brandy Smith	Brandy Smith	955 Power St LC TX 77573
14.	Hazel V. Smith	Hazel V. Smith	955A Power St LC, Tx 77573
15.	Maria C. Allen	Maria C. Allen	1010 Power St. LC, Tx 77573
16.	Brett T. Allen	Brett T. Allen	1010 Power St LC TX 77573
17.	G. F. Hensley	G. F. Hensley	1148 Power Street League City, TX. 77573
18.	Audie L. Northcutt	Audie L. Northcutt	510 Power St League City TX 77573
19.	Teresa Clemshaw	Teresa Clemshaw	830 Dickinson ave League City, 77573
20.	George Shattuck	George Shattuck	606 Beaumont St League City, 77573
21.	Carl Moratto	CARL MORATTO	604 BEAUMONT LEAGUE CITY TX
22.	Lana Gunhouse	LANA GUNHOUSE	604 BEAUMONT L.C. TX
23.	James Potter		603 BEAUMONT ST L/C TX 77573
24.	Diana J. Dornak	Diana J. Dornak	1013 Texas ave League City TX 77573
25.	Jerry E Dornak	JERRY G. DORNAK	1013 Texas ave League City TX 77573
26.	Kae Matolnes	Kae Matolnes	959 Power St LC 77573
27.	Michael J. Moore	michael J. Matolnes	959 Power St LC 77573

28.	Loretta L. Nolen Loretta Nolen	740 Power St.
29.	Paddy L. Nolen Paddy L. Nolen	740 Power St.
30.	Ray Tutt (Ray Tutt)	888 DICKINSON AVE
31.	Chris Schmidt	840 DICKINSON AVE
32.	Deborah Schmidt	840 Dickinson Ave.
33.	Walter Hilemon Jr	830 DICKINSON AVE
34.	T. Shawn Simmons	631 TEXAS AVE.
35.	Colin D'Agostino	624 Texas Ave.
36.	Galen & Lenore Calista	1308 Texas LARIMORE LLC
37.	Deborah D. Rhoden	1213 Texas Ave.
38.	Howard Rhoden	1213 TEXAS AVENUE
39.	L.A. Porter L.S. Porter	1405 Texas Ave.
40.	Shirley Porter SHIRLEY PORTER	1405 TEXAS AVE.
41.	Nancy Wood Nancy Wood	1306 Texas Ave
42.	Gerald Mathis Gerald Mathis	610 Power ST.
43.	Maxine Mathis Maxine Mathis	610 Power St.
44.	Dale Blankenship Dale Blankenship	621 power St
45.	Debbie Blankenship Deborah Blankenship	621 Power St.
46.	Raymond Dowd	912 S. Illinois
47.	Rosemarie R. Williams Rosemarie R. Williams	1010 Williams
48.	Gerald Norris	903 EFFIE ST LLC
49.	Katie Ellen	905 Effie
50.	[illegible]	906 Effie Ave
51.	DAVID AMES	540 POWER ST.
52.	Linda Ames	540 Power Street 77573
53.	Robert Ames	620 Power St. 77573
54.	Robert Ames	912 EFFIE ST 77573

Maps

Google maps

Get Google Maps on your phone
Text the word "GMAPS" to 466453

Letters of Opposition

To: Planning and Zoning Board
RE: Z10-05, SUP10-04 & SUP10-03

Sept. 13, 2010

I'm writing to oppose above re-zoning and special use permits to allow a gas rig and pipeline to run through my neighborhood.

Honestly, I'm disappointed that anyone has to tell you that installing a gas rig less than 1.3 miles from not one, but two elementary schools is a bad idea. This should be common sense, especially for those who are commissioned to look after the best interests of their residents.

I realize there is a common argument for safety and have read the applicant's letter outlining safety pre-cautions and only have 2 words for you – San Bruno. If the chance is even 1 in a Million that this rig or pipeline explode – it is too great a chance to take with the life of my child.

I understand, although disagree, the provisions for requiring a three-quarters voter from this board is only applicable if residents are within a mere 200 ft and as such, we will not meet it. I'm hoping though, that you will listen to the 14 of 16 residents on Power Street that have all signed the petition and oppose this intrusion into our neighborhood. Not the recent explosion in San Bruno, or any other that I have found has the explosion only effected the 200 ft. adjacent to it. The entire neighborhood is affected – just ask the hundreds of residents still waiting to get back into the San Bruno area. This makes all of our input valuable.

This neighborhood already houses a power utility on Dickenson; we do not need to be anchored on the opposite end with gas.

This came before you a little over a year ago and another group of residents stood in front of you saying the same things. And now here we are. How many residents does it take to get your attention?

I have lived here for 10 years. I do so because I love my day to day life here. I bike my son to and from League City Elementary every day – then on over to Kahuna Joe's, the Library, or a friends house on Austin. We bike to Shipley's donuts every Saturday to enjoy donuts with Mr. Kiki. We count the squirrels on the way to school and catch leaves falling from the trees covering Austin Street. Please allow me to continue raising my son in such a unique place I'm proud to call home.

Please come up with another plan for this gas rig and pipeline that utilizes the Limited Industrial areas the voters approved 5 years ago. Please take the hint that none of our residential neighborhoods are for sale to the gas company.

Sincerely,
Paula Foreman
550 Power Street, cell: 281.217.3303

September 9, 2010

To the Members of the Planning and Zoning Board,

RE: Z10-05, SUP 10-04 & SUP10-03

When my daughter was young, we listened with great delight to a song about The Cat that Came Back. No matter what the man did, gave it away, drove it 500 miles away, put it in a barrel and sent it over the falls, the cat came back the Very Next Day. This re-zoning and special use permit application is like the cat that came back.

I, along with 51 or more people in my neighborhood oppose the re-zoning of the Hammock parcel from SFR to Light or Limited Industrial (LI) and the Special Use Permits 10-04 & 10-3 associated with it and the natural gas pipeline. Paula Foreman has helped me circulate a petition in opposition to this project and will attend the hearing on September 13.

These zoning change and special use requests have come before staff and P&Z since February 2009. Each time you, the P&Z Board, have approved the permits given conditions to be met. You have made your decision based upon the objection of the landowners and residents within the 500 ft notification as well as concerns raised by staff and your selves. When the obstacles were too great to surmount with the previous route of the pipeline, it was re-routed to a path of least resistance. Now, the pipeline is in City Right of Way and crosses less than 10 private properties. According to the statutes, many of us who oppose this may not have legal standing. You, on this Board, and staff are well aware this project would go against the will of the community, particularly those of us in near proximity to it.

Your authority on the Board is to maintain the health, safety and welfare of the community. Further, you are to support the original intention of the Zoning Ordinance as voters elected just 5 years ago. The original layout concentrates light industrial along the railroad track and existing pipeline right of way. There is wisdom in this design and you are duty bound to support the original intention of the zoning ordinance.

Currently, LI is not in our neighborhood. Those of us on the westerly end of Power and along Dickinson Road are in near proximity to the boundary of the LI in League City. Since I first saw the sign go up on Texas Avenue, I have asked staff for the percentage of land within the City designated as LI and have yet to

get an answer. If you look at the map, you realize there is very little LI and it is concentrated in one area.

Our neighborhood is rural with most of the residences sitting on 5 to 10 acres. Several landowners have horses, goats, chickens, and other wildlife. We all have coyotes, raccoons, opossum, rabbits, shrews, snakes, frogs, deer, songbirds, hawks, herons, owls, ibis, egrets, and even fireflies, a rarity in any city these days. Last weekend during the mowing of the Hammock parcel, two adult deer and a fawn ran startled and confused down into the drainage ditch. This setting is the polar opposite of LI. The original Zoning Ordinance saw the beauty of the neighborhood as it is today and preserved it by zoning this area SFR. When we bought our home in late 2007, we understood the impacts upon our property values and the risks associated with the existing Limited Industrial along Dickinson Road. However, our neighborhood DID NOT have an oilrig and high-pressure natural gas pipeline running through it when we purchased here. We must consider the potential decline in property values within the area.

This project is inappropriate for this neighborhood and I implore you to join your fellow citizens in opposing this re-zoning change and special use. First for the health, safety and welfare of those of us who own property here but further for those people who rent property immediately adjacent to the proposed well site. The social injustice toward the tenants (not having to be notified nor having standing in this matter) must weigh heavily in your deliberations. They have no voice in this matter and you must consider them. The young people and children living in the trailer parks utilize the Hammock parcel as I did Arolflo's truck farm in my backyard growing up here in League City. As kids, we played in the wildscapes and plowed furrows, enjoying green space and nature.

Secondly, from what I understand, most everyone involved with this matter – neighbors, staff, and yourselves do not have the oil and gas industry perspective or knowledge to fully understand the impacts, hazards, and implications of putting this well and its pipeline here. The economic benefits will be to just a few individuals and I am most disheartened to say even the City seems to be in line to benefit since the pipeline is now mostly on City Right of Way. Let us look to the good of the whole and not just the hoped for promise of striking oil or natural gas to benefit a few. The City is constantly looking for ways to pay for its rooftops. What lies in the balance here is the income from this oil & gas operation versus the decline in property values of the homes within its vicinity and decline in the quality of life of our city.

I have gained more knowledge of the oil and gas industry since Deep Horizon and this proposed oil & gas drilling operation. We all know what can happen. Yes, the statistics can support the notion the likelihood of an accident is very low.

Do we know the size and dimension of the crater created when an 800 to 900 psi gas pipeline explodes? Have you stood within 500 feet of a oil rig when it is flaring and heard the roar of the fire, seen the glare of the flame, and felt the heat and the ground trembling? Just the seismic testing I understand occurred a few years ago, causes foundation damage. UTube has plenty of footage for you to view. Our parks department is sitting on undeveloped parkland severely impacted by oil and gas operations there. If you do not have a picture in your mind of what this project will look like and entail, I encourage exploring that 108 acres tract. What are we going to do with that? How will we afford to clean it up? Do you want to allow another operation like that within the City? I hope not.

There are many other issues of concern as noted on the petition but too numerous to mention here. I trust my neighbors will discuss these with you. Please forgive my absence from the meeting on September 13. Your meeting conflicted with my travel plans to enjoy the natural beauty of Yellowstone National Park.

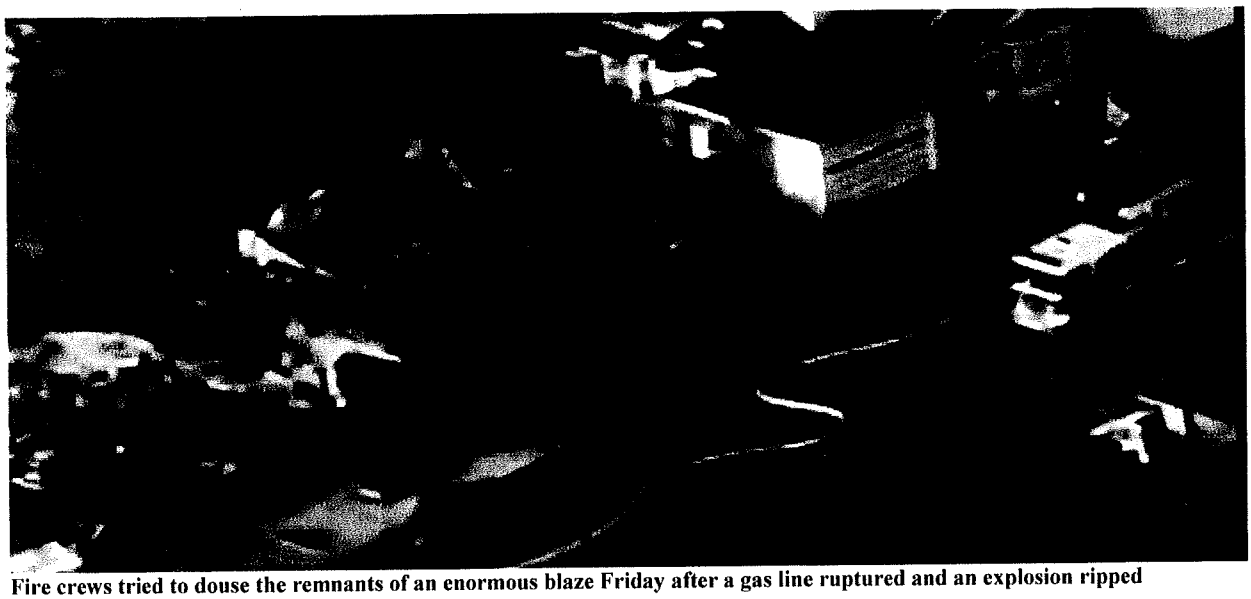
Your service on the Planning and Zoning Board is vitally important to the future of League City and its residents. Please stand firm in your position to support the original intent of the Zoning Ordinance and deny these permits. Make this proposed oil & natural gas rig project go away and never come back!

Sincerely,
Vaness Hamilton
950 Power Street
League City, TX 77573
281-639-3503 cell

cc: Tony Allender, Dausha Moore

Historical Data

CBS News – Sept. 10th, 2010
Gas Explosions Not Uncommon



Fire crews tried to douse the remnants of an enormous blaze Friday after a gas line ruptured and an explosion ripped through in a neighborhood near San Francisco.

According to federal data, incidents related **to natural gas pipelines** are not uncommon, occurring nearly every other day, causing millions of dollars in property damage and several deaths each year.
There are three basic types of natural gas pipelines. "Gathering" pipelines carry natural gas from production wells. "Transmission" pipelines transport natural gas across the country. And, "distribution" pipelines carry natural gas to homes and businesses.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) data shows an average 155 incidents happen annually related to distribution pipelines. In 2009, there were 158 natural-gas distribution pipeline incidents reported to PHMSA that killed 10 people, injured 50 and caused almost $32 million in property damage.

Los Angeles Times | ARTICLE COLLECTIONS

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San Bruno explosion death toll climbs to seven; six are missing

Search of the devastated neighborhood continues.

September 12, 2010 By John Hoeffel, Molly Hennessy-Fiske and Christopher Goffard

Reporting from San Bruno and Los Angeles — The death toll mounted to seven Saturday and the search continued for six people still missing three days after a massive gas line explosion tore through a San Bruno neighborhood.

The cause of the disaster remained an open question, with gas company officials saying that the blown pipeline had been inspected just last year.

"We did the whole thing," said Chris Johns, president of Pacific Gas & Electric, which owns the high-pressure natural gas pipeline that ruptured Thursday. The blast injured dozens and destroyed 37 homes. Hundreds remain displaced.

Utility officials, city leaders and politicians who toured the devastated neighborhood Saturday said a premium is being placed on ensuring the integrity of the gas line and eliminating fear that Thursday's thunderous explosion could be repeated.

PG&E said it is reinspecting all three natural gas transmission lines serving the San Francisco Peninsula.

On Saturday, hundreds of San Bruno residents — some with gauze bandages wrapping their feet and arms — jammed a town hall meeting, expressing frustration and anger at being prevented from returning to their homes. Some were still wearing the smoky clothes they threw on as they scrambled from their burning homes Thursday evening.

But residents also gave a standing ovation to the city's fire and police chiefs and an even warmer reception to news that many residents of the 271 evacuated houses would be allowed to return to their neighborhood Sunday. Residents who live near the blast zone, including those in the 37 destroyed homes, will not immediately be permitted to return.

"In a split second, a flash, our lives changed forever," Mayor Jim Ruane told residents who packed the pews at St. Robert's Catholic Church.

"This has been a tragedy of immense proportion."

San Bruno Police Chief Neil Telford confirmed late Saturday that seven were dead and six were missing. Search-and-rescue crews continued to make their way through the disaster area with cadaver dogs.

Additional reports of missing people were filed Saturday, police said. Police officials said they do not know people are missing until relatives contact authorities to say they can't locate family members.

The San Mateo County coroner's office questioned the police department's body count, saying it has only four bodies. Michelle Rippy, senior deputy coroner, said, "We have four confirmed dead."

Although residents reported smelling gas in the days before the explosion, Johns said the utility had combed through two-thirds of the consumer calls received the week before the blast and found no record of any such complaints. Nor, he said, was there a record of crews responding to the area.

The burst pipeline, which had been installed in 1956, was not uncommonly old, experts said.

"Just like with an old airplane, the key is maintenance," said Christopher Hart, vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

Although the safety board's final report may take a year or more to complete, Hart said, any findings that merit "urgent attention" will be acted on.

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) said officials would push for "robust inspections" of natural gas lines that pass through residential neighborhoods.

"We cannot wait for the answers to this. Inspections are the way to go," she said. "We have to be very clear that we're trying to prevent this from ever happening again."

As officials worked to secure the area and restore services, people displaced by the explosion were growing increasingly frustrated. "We're trying to get back to our homes, but we're getting the runaround," said Cherie Sekulich, 35, who hasn't been allowed back to her property since flames chased her away and destroyed her backyard deck. "All I could grab was my two cats, my two birds and my dog."

On Saturday, the gymnasium and park outside the city recreation center were a bazaar of companies and organizations offering help for the displaced: carpet cleaners, insurers, animal services agencies, the Mexican consulate, even volunteer ministers with the Church of Scientology clad in firefighter-like yellow suits. The Lions Club served snacks, and donations of food, clothing and basic necessities piled up.

Sekulich and other evacuees outside the recreation center said they were grateful for the help. "It's nice to know that the companies around here that have a vested interest don't forget about us," she said. But she said she faced a third night using vouchers to stay at a hotel with her brother, mother, father and pets, and she was impatient with what seemed like a broken record from disaster officials: Keep waiting.

She said her family had no idea they were so close to a gas transmission line.

"I've lived here in this house my whole life but no one ever disclosed to us when my parents bought the house that there was something so dangerous so close to us," she said.

"It's just mind-boggling that they wouldn't tell us."

Neighbors closer to the blast site told Sekulich recently about smelling gas coming out of vents in the street, but she said she had not noticed it herself.

Many of the displaced said they were desperate for help.

"You felt like you were going to die," said Priscilla Tovar, 19, a student at Skyline College whose family home at 1631 Claremont Drive was destroyed. "It didn't hit me until today that we lost everything."

Tovar's cousin, Oselia Gomez, 22, said she heard a boom and "ran for my life" in her stocking feet as windows began exploding. A pet groomer at PetSmart, Gomez said she had moved to the house just two months ago from South San Francisco and did not have renters insurance.

She and family members ran for their lives. The blaze claimed their Chihuahua, Chula; their lizard, Izzy; and their cat, Carlos. But their boxer, named Boxer, was saved when she jumped into a neighbor's car.

Gomez hoped to secure financial help from PG&E or a public agency. "We struggled a lot to get approved for a house and then this happens," she said. "I'm just glad that everybody's OK."

As they waited to return to their homes, some spoke of what had drawn them to the neighborhood in the first place.

It was where Carlos Balagot, 29, and his wife bought their first home three years ago. The neighborhood was just about midway between his job in Mt. Pleasant and hers in San Francisco. "It felt like we were grown up," he said.

He said he was standing in his home Thursday when he heard the sound of the blast, a thunderous, rolling wave that reminded him of a rocket launch.

Balagot said he stood stunned and motionless until a piece of asphalt crashed through the roof and a ceiling beam fell to the ground. He ran into the backyard and jumped over neighbors' fences, one after another, until he was five or six houses away. From there, he walked to the street and watched his house burn to the ground. He called his wife and told her not to come home.

For the first time since the blast, authorities offered a limited tour of the disaster area. In the 900 block of Glenview Drive, houses were plastered with orange tags indicating that they were uninhabitable. In yards, signs warned away unlicensed contractors. In roads and driveways, charred cars had been numbered with spray paint.

Officials with the NTSB said the source of the explosion had not been determined.

The sheer power of the blast, however, was evident in the size of the crater it left — 167 feet long and 26 feet deep — as well as a 28-foot section of pipe that was hurled 100 feet, according to Hart, the agency's vice chairman.

Hart said the investigation will consider whether automatic shutoff values should be required on transmission pipelines that run through residential areas. "That is one of the questions that we'll be looking at," he said. He said the valves on each side of the explosion are manual.

The NTSB has set up an e-mail address to encourage residents and witnesses to contact the agency, which will take between 14 months and 18 months to complete its final report.

A fuller picture of some of those killed in the explosion emerged Saturday.

One of the victims, Jessica Morales, 20, had decided to go to her boyfriend's house in San Bruno to watch the first NFL football game of the season.

"I wish she wouldn't have been over there on that day," said her mother, Rene Morales, describing her daughter as an outgoing woman with an interest in fashion and design. She worked at a Baskin-Robbins and attended the Academy of Art university in San Francisco.

Also killed were Janessa Greig, 13, an eighth-grader described as the student body president of St. Cecilia School in San Francisco, and her mother, Jacquelin Greig, 44, who worked for the Public Utilities Commission, which regulates such utilities as PG&E.

"The irony was that she worked in the gas section" of a division of the commission, said Michael Peevey, president of the commission.

The girl's father and older sister were attending a back-to-school function at the time of the explosion.

The other four people confirmed killed in the blast had not been identified.

At the town hall meeting Saturday afternoon, the mood seemed generally supportive of city, police and fire workers, though less so of Geisha J. Williams, a PG&E executive.

Echoing a common concern, a resident wanted to know where gas lines are situated in the neighborhood. Williams replied that "security" issues prevented the disclosure of specifics, leading to an indignant outburst from the audience, which drew applause.

Ruane, the mayor, reminded the audience to be civil, saying, "We've gone through enough," which elicited louder applause.

Williams said the utility was trying to determine how to provide information about gas lines without compromising security.

She told the audience that the utility would "do everything we can do to make you whole.... We are not going to abandon San Bruno."

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molly.hennessy-fiske@latimes.com

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Times staff writers Paloma Esquivel, Tony Barboza and Victoria Kim contributed to this report.

Los Angeles Times

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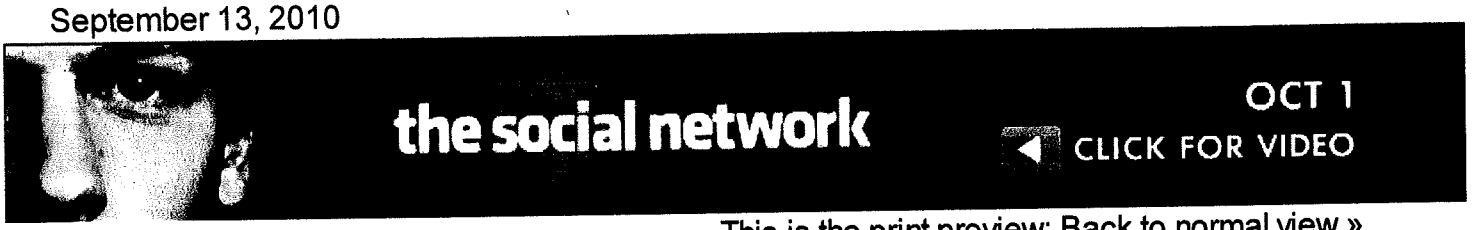
September 13, 2010



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Connecticut Gas Explosion: 'Mass Casualties' Reported At Kleen Energy Systems Power Plant

PAT EATON-ROBB and JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN | 02/ 7/10 11:24 PM | AP

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. — An explosion that sounded like a sonic boom blew out walls of an unfinished power plant and set off a fire during a test of natural gas lines Sunday, killing at least five workers and injuring a dozen or more.

The explosion at the Kleen Energy Systems plant in Middletown, about 20 miles south of Hartford, could be heard and felt for miles.

Deputy Fire Marshal Al Santostefano told The Associated Press on Sunday night that no one was known to be missing amid the rubble from the damaged plant. Still, crews planned to spend all night going through debris in case there were any more victims. The cause of the gas explosion was unknown, and the investigation was to begin Monday morning, he said.

The explosion left huge pieces of metal that once encased the plant peeling off its sides. A large swath of the structure was blackened and surrounded by debris, but the building, its roof and its two smokestacks were still standing. Rescue crews had set up several tents alongside the site, which is a few miles from Wesleyan University on a wooded and hilly 137-acre parcel of land overlooking the Connecticut River.

The explosion happened around 11:15 a.m., Santostefano said. Mayor Sebastian Giuliano heard the blast while leaving church.

"It felt almost like a sonic boom," Giuliano said at an evening news conference.

Santostefano said 50 to 60 people were in the area at the time of the explosion, and multiple contractors were working on the project, making it difficult to quickly account for everyone.

One of those killed was Raymond Dobratz, a 58-year-old plumber from Old Saybrook, said

his son, Erik Dobratz, who called the elder man "a great dad."

The 620-megawatt plant, which was almost complete, is being built to produce energy primarily using natural gas. Santostefano said workers for the construction company, O&G Industries, were purging the gas line when the explosion occurred.

Lynn Hawley, of Hartland, Conn., told The Associated Press that her son, Brian Hawley, 36, is a pipefitter at the plant. He called her from his cell phone to say he was being rushed to Middlesex Hospital.

"He really couldn't say what happened to him," she said. "He was in a lot of pain, and they got him into surgery as quickly as possible."

She said he had a broken leg and was expected to survive.

Officials had not released the conditions of the other injured people by Sunday evening, although they said at least a dozen people had injuries ranging from minor to very serious.

The thundering blast shook houses for miles.

"I felt the house shake. I thought a tree fell on the house," Middletown resident Steve Clark said.

Barrett Robbins-Pianka, who lives about a mile away and has monitored the project for years, said she was running outside and heard what she called "a tremendous boom."

"I thought it might be some test or something, but it was really loud, a definite explosion," she said.

Work on the plant was 95 percent complete, the mayor said.

Kleen Energy Systems LLC began construction on it in February 2008. It had signed a capacity deal with Connecticut Light and Power for the electricity produced by the plant, which was scheduled to be completed by mid-2010.

The company is run by former Middletown City Councilman William Corvo. A message left at Corvo's home was not returned Sunday. Calls to Gordon Holk, general manager of Power Plant Management Services, which has a contract to manage the plant, also weren't returned.

Energy Investors Funds, a private equity fund that indirectly owns a majority share in the power plant, said it is fully cooperating with authorities investigating the explosion. In a written statement, the company offered sympathy and concern and said it would release more information on the explosion as it becomes available.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell visited the scene Sunday and announced late in the day that the state had imposed a temporary no-fly zone for a three-mile radius around the site to ensure that the safety of the search and rescue workers would not be jeopardized. The restrictions were put in place until Monday evening.

The state's Emergency Operations Center in Hartford also was activated, and the Department of Public Health was called to provide tents at the scene for shelter and medical triage.

Daniel Horowitz, a spokesman with the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, said the agency is mobilizing an investigation team from Colorado and hopes to have the workers on the scene Monday.

Plants powered by natural gas are taking on a much larger role in generating electricity for the U.S. Gas emits about half the greenhouse gases of coal-fired plants and new technology has allowed natural gas companies to begin to unlock gas supplies that could total more than 100 years at current usage levels.

Natural gas is used to make about a fifth of the nation's electricity.

Safety board investigators have done extensive work on the issue of gas line purging since an explosion last year at a Slim Jim factory in North Carolina killed four people. They've identified other explosions caused by workers who were unsafely venting gas lines inside buildings.

The board voted last week to recommend that national and international code writers strengthen their guidelines to require outdoor venting of gas lines or an approved safety plan to do it indoors.

In February 2009, an explosion at a We Energies coal-fired power plant near Milwaukee burned six workers. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is still investigating.

In November 2007, an explosion at a Dominion Virginia Power coal-fired plant in Massachusetts killed three workers, and in January 2007 one worker and nine others were injured at an American Electric Power plant of the same type in Beverly, Ohio.

Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Eric Tucker in Middletown; Stephanie Reitz in Glastonbury, Conn.; Mark Williams in Columbus, Ohio; Mike Baker in Raleigh, N.C.; and Anne D'Innocenzio in New York.

History of Gas Rig/Pipeline Explosions in United States

- 1965: Gas transmission pipeline, north of Natchitoches, Louisiana, belonging to the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company explodes from stress corrosion cracking, killing 17 people. This accident led then-President Lyndon B. Johnson to call for the formation of a national pipeline safety agency. (March 4, 1965)
- 1968: Ruptured LPG pipeline, near Yutan, Nebraska. Repair crews responding to a pipeline rupture, thought vapors were dispersed, but ignited a vapor cloud by driving into it. Five repairmen were killed. (December 5, 1968)
- 1969: Low pressure natural gas distribution system, Gary, Indiana. (June 3, 1969)
- 1969: High pressure natural gas pipeline. A 14-inch (360 mm) natural gas pipeline running at 789 psi near Houston, Texas ruptures, causing a massive fire. Construction work downstream of the accident led to a pressure build up that caused the rupture. September 9, 1969.
- 1970: Colonial Pipeline Company, petroleum products pipeline, Jacksonville, Maryland, (September 3, 1970).
- 1970: 1970 Propane vapour cloud explosion in Port Hudson, Phillips Pipeline Company propane gas explosion, Franklin County, Missouri. Leak led to propane cloud explosion with a force of several tons of TNT. (December 9, 1970)
- 1970: Explosion of a 30-inch diameter 1100 psi inlet natural gas pipeline, bringing offshore natural gas into a gas drying plant in southern Louisiana. Two plant personnel were killed. Rupture was at a junction of a 12-inch gas line to the 30-inch main line. (December 1970)
- 1972: Rupture of propane pipeline, near Butler, Alabama. A road grader hit a high pressure propane pipeline. A short time after the line was ruptured, a car drove into the vapor cloud, igniting it and killing four people. (June 20, 1972)
- 1973: Natural gas liquids pipeline rupture. Austin, Texas A natural gas liquids (NGL) pipeline ruptured due to an improper weld. Six people killed. (February 22, 1973)
- 1975: Natural gas liquids pipeline rupture. An NGL pipeline ruptured due to previous mechanical damage at Devers, Texas. 4 killed in vapor cloud fire. (May 12, 1975)
- 1975: LPG pipeline rupture. An LPG pipeline ruptured near Romulus, Michigan, due to previous mechanical damage to the pipeline and over pressurization from operator error at a storage facility. Nine people were injured in the vapor cloud fire. (August 2, 1975)
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History of Gas Rig/Pipeline Explosions in United States

- 1976 LPG pipeline rupture. An LPG pipeline ruptured near Whitharral, Texas, leading to vapor cloud fire that killed five and destroyed two homes. Electrical resistance weld (ERW) failure is suspected for the failure. (February 25, 1976)
- 1976 Petroleum products pipeline. A front loader hit an eight inch petroleum products pipeline in Los Angeles, California during a road widening project along Venice Boulevard. 9 were killed, and serious property damage occurred.(June 16, 1976)
- 1976 Natural gas pipeline rupture. A road grader hit a 20-inch (510 mm) gas transmission pipeline near Cartwright, Louisiana. Six people were killed in the ensuing fire. (August 9, 1976)
- 1977 LPG pipeline rupture. A LPG pipeline ruptured near Ruff Creek, Pennsylvania from stress corrosion cracking. The resulting propane vapor cloud ignited when a truck driven into the cloud stalled, then created a spark when it was restarted. (July 20, 1977)
- 1978 LPG pipeline rupture and fire. An LPG pipeline at Donnellson, Iowa ruptured from past mechanical damage and improper lowering for road improvements. The vapor cloud ignited several minutes after the rupture. Three people were killed. (August 4, 1978)
- 1978 A gas pipeline in Brookside Village, Texas ruptured and exploded, killing five people, and injuring 43 others. Seven mobile homes were also destroyed, (October 24, 1978)
- 1979 Natural gas pipeline rupture. An anchor handling boat, PETE TIDE II, damages an unmarked gas pipeline with a grappling hook offshore from New Orleans, Louisiana. Two of the crew were missing and presumed dead in the fire that followed. (July 15, 1979)
- 1980 A pipeline carrying naptha ruptured under a street in Long Beach, California, causing a fire that destroyed one home and damaged several others. Two people were injured. Lack of communication of pipeline valve setups, and pressure relief valves set to open at too high a pressure were identified by the NTSB as causes of the accident. (December 1, 1980)
- 1981 A 12-inch-diameter (300 mm) pipeline near Ackerly, TX, was hit by a rathole drill, releasing an ethane-propane mix. There was then an explosion & fire that killed 4 people. (September 27, 1981)
- 1983 An 8-inch (200 mm) LPG pipeline was hit by a rotating auger used for planting trees near West Odessa, TX. After several minutes, the escaping LPG ignited, killing 5 people & injuring 5 others. (March 15, 1983)
- 1984 An 8-inch (200 mm) NGL pipeline near Hurst, TX, was hit by a front loader, and the escaping gases ignited, causing burns to the equipment operator. (February 28, 1984)

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- 1985 A 30-inch-diameter (760 mm) gas pipeline weakened by atmospheric corrosion ruptured near Beaumont, KY. 5 people were killed, and 3 injured. (April 27, 1985)
- 1986 A 30-inch-diameter (760 mm) gas pipeline ruptures due to corrosion near Lancaster, KY. 3 people had serious burns, and 5 others had lesser injuries. (February 21, 1986)
- 1986 A backhoe snags a gas distribution line in Fort Worth, TX, causing a break that leaked gas into a unoccupied building. Later, that building exploded, injuring 22 people, destroying the unoccupied building, & damaging 40 other buildings. 57 automobiles in the unoccupied building were damaged or destroyed. (March 12, 1986)
- 1986 Petroleum products pipeline rupture at Mounds View, Minnesota. Gasoline at 1,434 psi sprayed a residential area around 4:20 am local time, then ignited. Two were killed, and many homes damaged or destroyed. Confusion by the pipeline company led to a delay in shutting down the pipeline. Electrical resistance welded (ERW) seam failure caused the rupture. (July 8, 1986)
- 1989 Petroleum products pipeline failure after the San Bernardino train disaster, California. Damage from derailment cleanup caused petroleum products pipelines to rupture, spraying homes with gasoline. Three killed in following fire.
- 1989 New York City Con Edison Steam Pipe explosion, rupture killing three people in the 3rd Ave./Grammercy Park area.
- 1990 Propane pipeline rupture and fire, North Blenheim, New York, March 13, 1990. Stress from previous work done on a pipeline caused a rupture as well as a vapor cloud that moved downhill into a town. Two people were killed and numerous buildings destroyed when the cloud ignited.
- 1993 On Sunday, March 28 at 8:48, a pressurized 36-inch-diameter (910 mm) petroleum product pipeline owned and operated by Colonial Pipeline Company ruptured near Hemdon, Virginia. The rupture created a geyser which sprayed diesel fuel over 75 feet into the air, coating overhead powerlines and adjacent trees, and misting adjacent Virginia Electric Power Company buildings. The diesel fuel spewed from the rupture into an adjacent storm water management pond and flowed overland and through a network of storm sewer pipes before reaching Sugarland Run Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River.[4]
- 1994 Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation Natural Gas Pipeline Explosion and Fire Previous damage cause a natural gas transmission pipeline to rupture at Edison, New Jersey on March 23, 1994.

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- 1996 Butane Pipeline rupture and fire, near Lively, Texas, August 24, 1996. Two people were killed after driving into an unseen butane cloud. Leak was caused by external corrosion.[5]
- 1997 Pipeline Rupture and Fire, Indianapolis, Indiana, July 21, 1997.
- 1998 Natural Gas Explosion and Fire, South Riding, Virginia, July 7, 1998.
- 1998 Natural Gas Pipeline Rupture and Subsequent Explosion, St. Cloud, Minnesota, December 11, 1998.
- 1999 Natural Gas Explosion and Fire at a gas pressure station, Wytheville, Virginia, destroying a home and motorcycle store.[6] (January 3, 1999)
- 1999 Natural Gas Service Line and Rupture and Subsequent Explosion and Fire, Bridgeport, Alabama, January 22, 1999
- 1999 A pipeline in a Bellingham, Washington park leaked gasoline, vapor from the leak exploded and killed two 10 year old boys and an 18 year old man on June 10, 1999. Issues causing the rupture were found to be previous pipe damage by excavation, incorrectly set up pressure relief valve, unexpected remote valve closure, and new software tests on the live controlling computer.
- 2000 Hazardous Liquid Pipe Failure and Leak, Explorer Pipeline Company, Greenville, Texas, March 9, 2000.
- 2000 Natural Gas Pipeline Rupture and Fire Near Carlsbad, New Mexico This Explosion killed 12 Members Of The Same Family. Cause was determined to be severe internal corrosion of the pipeline. (August 19, 2000)
- 2000 Rupture of Piney Point Oil Pipeline and Release of Fuel Oil Near Chalk Point, Maryland, April 7, 2000.
- 2000 Natural gas explosion and fire. Bulldozer ruptured a 12 inch natural gas pipeline on rt 36 south of Abilene Texas, September 7, 2000. A police detective, with 21 years of service, was killed. A lady saved herself by going underwater in a pool.[7]
- 2002 Rupture of Enbridge Pipeline and Release of Crude Oil near Cohasset, Minnesota. On July 4, 2002 an Enbridge pipeline ruptured in a marsh near Cohasset, in Itasca County, spilling 6,000 barrels (~250,000 gallons) of crude oil. In an attempt to keep the oil from contaminating the Mississippi River, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources set a controlled burn that lasted for 1 day and created a smoke plume about one mile high and five miles long.[8]

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- 2003 Excavation Damage to Natural Gas Distribution Line Resulting in Explosion and Fire, Wilmington, Delaware, July 2, 2003.
- 2004 On November 21, 2004, a 14-inch-diameter (360 mm) petroleum multiproduct pipeline sprung a leak that was transporting gasoline at the time of the release. The pipeline, owned and operated by the California-Nevada Pipeline Company, a subsidiary of Kinder-Morgan Energy Partners, is the main source of petroleum fuel products for Las Vegas, NV. An 80 foot geyser was discovered on the morning of November 22, 2004, after numerous complaints of a strong gasoline odor on Interstate 15 in northern San Bernardino County, CA.[9]
- 2007 On January 1, an Enbridge pipeline that runs from Superior, Wisconsin to near Whitewater, Wisconsin failed, resulting in a spill of ~50,000 gallons of crude oil onto farmland and into a drainage ditch.[10] The same pipeline was struck by construction crews on February 2, 2007, in Rusk County, Wisconsin, spilling ~126,000 gallons of crude. Some of the oil filled a hole more than 20 feet deep and was reported to have contaminated the local water table.[11]
- 2007 2007 New York City steam explosion, on July 18, 2007
- 2007 A 12-inch (300 mm) propane pipeline explodes, killing two and injuring five others near Carmichael, AL on November 1, 2007. The NTSB determined the probable cause was likely ERW seam failure. Inadequate education of residents near the pipeline about how to respond to a pipeline accident was also cited as a factor in the deaths.
- 2008 Natural gas pipeline explodes and catches fire on February 5, near Hartsville, TN Believed to have been caused by a tornado hitting the facility.
- 2008 A gasoline release from a petroleum pipeline occurred on November 25, 2008 at a retail mall in Murrysville, PA. Officials said the release occurred from the six-inch line at about 9:30 a.m. while a Sunoco Logistics crew was working on a ball valve.[12]
- 2009 A rupture of pipeline near Cygnet, Ohio, owned by Philadelphia-based Sunoco Logistics Partners LP, resulted in one of the largest oil spills in Wood County history. Feb. 18, 2009.[13]
- 2009 Natural gas pipeline explodes and catches fire on May 5, 2009 near Rockville, IN in Parke County about 24 miles north of Terre Haute, IN. PHMSA indicated the possibility of external corrosion in its Corrective Action Order (CAO) to the pipeline company. Pictures have been released around the area showing the damage caused. 49 homes were evacuated in a one-mile area of the explosion. No injuries reported.

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- 2009 Bushland, Texas — Two people hurt when a natural gas pipeline exploded in the Texas Panhandle. The explosion early Thursday 5 November left a hole about 30 yards by 20 yards and close to 15 feet deep. The blast shook homes, melted window blinds and shot flames hundreds of feet into the air. The home nearest the blast — about 100 yards away- was destroyed. Bushland is about 15 miles west of Amarillo.[14]
- 2009 A new 42-inch (1,100 mm) gas transmission pipeline near Philo, Ohio fails on the second day of operation. There was no fire, but evacuations resulted. (November 14, 2009)
- 2010 On June 7, gas pipeline in Johnson County, Texas. Caused by workers installing poles for electrical lines. One worker killed, six injured.[*citation needed*]
- 2010 On Monday, July 26, the pipeline company, Enbridge Energy Partners LLP (Enbridge), reported that a 30-inch (760 mm) pipeline belonging to Enbridge burst in Marshall, Michigan. The company estimates over 800,000 gallons of crude oil leaked into Talmadge Creek, a waterway that feeds the Kalamazoo River.[15][16][17]
- 2010 On Thursday, September 9, a high pressure gas pipeline exploded in San Bruno, CA, a suburb of San Francisco. The blast destroyed 38 homes and damaged 120 homes. Four people died and many were injured. Ten acres burned in total.[18][19]