

Zoning Commission Recommendation for Hazardous Liquid Pipeline

November 12, 2024

The enclosed draft document contains recommended changes to the current Worth County Zoning Ordinance to address concerns related to safety of citizens as it pertains to Hazardous liquid Pipelines.

The draft of changes are recommended based on work conducted by the Zoning Commission between Sept 23, and Oct 31, 2024. This work included several meetings of the Zoning Commission, independent research by individual commissioners, attendance at informational meetings hosted by members of the pipeline industry, and a public comment meeting on Oct 28, 2024 open to anyone wishing to comment on the proposed work of the Zoning Commission. The Commission voted on Oct 31, with a vote 4 to 1 to approve these recommended changes.

The changes were based on an initial draft of changes provided by the Worth County Attorney, but contains changes originated by the Commission to that original proposal. Two major changes that were introduced by the Commission were to;

1. eliminate fixed distance safety setbacks and replace them with requirements to identify the Blast Zone, Fatality Zone, Hazard Zone for the most dangerous product anticipated to be carried by the pipeline, and state that the pipeline may not be constructed so as to place a variety of structures, (homes, etc) within those zones. And specifically for Carbon pipelines, that such distance must be at least ½ mile.
2. that the county shall hire in independent inspector to ensure pipeline safety construction requirements are met.

I would also note that at the public comment meeting, the proposed changes were overwhelmingly supported by attendees, and the Commission was given written comments from over 70 citizens of the county.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Gorball

Chair, Worth County Zoning Commission.