

### **Pipeline safety trends**

The failure rate of pipelines constructed post 2010 exceeds that of pipelines built before the 1940s. The national average for the number of serious pipeline related incidents occurring annually stands at a shocking 49. However, these trends do not take into account the numerous incidents that go unreported due to their relatively 'minor' consequences, keeping these numbers highly deflated. According to PHMSA, between 2010 - 2015, a total of 12.8 billion cubic feet of methane leaked from the natural gas gathering and transmission lines nationwide, resulting in a total of 700 incidents where 70 people were killed and nearly 300 were injured. In their rush to complete the already delayed project, it is highly likely that the construction of the pipeline undertaken by Dominion and Duke will be hasty and shoddy, thus contributing to these deteriorating statistics.

### **How safe is your neighborhood?**

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is a 36 inch pipeline traversing 8 counties in eastern North Carolina and operating at a pressure of 1440 psi. The 'Potential Impact Radius', also called the **Blast Zone** or **Incineration Zone** extends up to 943 feet, which is 43% greater than the 660 feet radius assumed by Dominion. The **Evacuation zone** for the pipeline is 3071 feet from the center. However, these numbers do not account for wind and other factors, and thus might be much greater than anticipated.

### **A tale of lies and deceit**

Time and again, Dominion officials have fabricated stories about the economic boom that will follow the pipeline construction and the rising demand for natural gas in the state and time and again, these claims have been refuted. What they haven't mentioned is that the residents whose lands they are so keen on seizing via eminent domain won't even get to reap the benefits of the pipeline due to the exorbitant cost of installing a tap. That the pipeline is a done deal and the necessary permits have been obtained for its construction is another lie widely propagated by Dominion to dissuade people from voicing their opposition. Their claims of having sent notifications to all residents living within half a mile of the pipeline route in NC have also been widely discredited during several of our surveys. To add to the mounting pile of lies, the topographical maps submitted with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement do not delineate a majority of the houses along the pipeline's path that currently exist.

### **Dominion's history of mishaps and misconduct**

Dominion has had a colorful history as far as pipeline safety is concerned. Dominion East was fined \$500,000 by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) for a natural gas explosion and fire in Fairport Harbor, Ohio in January 2011, occurring as a result of the failure of two low pressure regulating devices at the regulating station. PUCO officials charged Dominion with several violations of the Code of Federal Regulations and the company's standard operating procedures and guidelines, which resulted in 11 homes being severely damaged. Again in July 2013, Dominion East had a gas leak in Spring Lakes Campground, resulting in the leak of 200 gallons of an oily substance which led to the evacuation of 170 people. The September of the same year saw an explosion and a fire at a natural gas plant run by the Dominion and Caimen Energy Partnership in Natrium, WV, resulting in 25 evacuations.

### **Safety no guarantee**

While Dominion officials continue to exaggerate the degree of safety ensured during their operations, the fact remains that no strict protocols exist to regulate pipeline safety in the US. The remotely operated sensors that Dominion wishes to install to detect leaks have a high failure rate, with more leaks being detected by the general public than the sensors. Moreover, it is anticipated that the pipelines constructed in rural areas might be half an inch thinner and hence their safety compromised, leaving the residents with all its dangers but no benefits! The proposed pipeline will travel through multiple "**High Consequence Areas**", regions that have a high density of structures and vulnerable individuals such as school children and nursing home residents in close vicinity. Due to the size of the pipeline and the volume of gas pumped through it, the magnitude of the danger posed by the pipeline is such that training and personnel that the local emergency first responders have will just not be enough.

So come out and join us in actively resisting the construction of a pipeline that is bound to bring about widespread social and environmental injustices to our beloved home!!