

February 21, 2025

The January 31, 2025 discovery by Sunoco/Energy Transfer (“Energy Transfer”) of a jet fuel leak from their Twins Oaks pipeline has had a devastating effect on countless families and residents in Upper Makefield Township (the “Township”). Since the leak was announced, the Township has facilitated three public meetings to offer residents the opportunity to share their concerns and questions directly with Energy Transfer as well as the agencies that have jurisdiction over their operation and cleanup efforts, PHMSA and DEP. As a result of those meetings and upon review of subsequent communications by Energy Transfer, the Township has determined that additional context is required from the Township so that all residents have a full understanding of the status of the situation, the response by various parties, and how the community can take next steps:

- **The pipeline is not safe to operate and should be shut down immediately.** According to Energy Transfer, the section of the pipe in which the jet fuel leak was found was removed and the pipeline was repaired. Despite the fact that Energy Transfer and PHMSA are still conducting an investigation into the integrity of the pipeline, operation of the pipeline was restarted less than 48 hours after the discovery of the leak and with no notice given to the Township. A representative from PHMSA indicated publicly on February 6, 2025 that he did not have faith in Energy Transfer’s ability to detect leaks in the pipeline. The Township continues to call for the pipeline to be shut down until a full investigation is completed and PHMSA can say with 100% certainty the pipeline is safe to operate.
- **Despite what is stated in Energy Transfer’s communications, many more than six homes have been impacted by this incident.** The Township has observed that Energy Transfer has adjusted their language in their communications from initially stating that “six wells have hydrocarbons present” to now stating that “six wells have hydrocarbons present above statewide health standards.” Numerous residents have shared their well water test results with the Township, and the results that the Township’s consultants have reviewed show that a variety of harmful chemicals, likely from the pipeline, are present in many more than six wells. Many of these results were provided by Energy Transfer’s own testing firm, GES. The Township continues to call on Energy Transfer to acknowledge that the effects of their pipeline failure and jet fuel leak extend beyond just six wells and to refrain from any attempts to minimize the impact to the community.
- **Energy Transfer is responsible for fully funding a permanent clean drinking water solution for residents.** The Township believes that Energy Transfer, as the direct cause of the polluted groundwater, is responsible for all costs associated with implementing a permanent clean drinking water solution for all residents in proximity to the leak site. This is not the first leak in the pipeline. The pipeline is 68 years old and our residents should not have to live wondering where and when the next leak will occur. The Township is committed to researching options and, in consultation with residents, will identify an option that the Township expects Energy Transfer to fully fund and implement as quickly as possible.
- **Energy Transfer’s plans and timeline to detect, control, mitigate, and remediate well water, soil, groundwater, The Canal and The Delaware River are not adequate.** Energy Transfer has, to date, not communicated a clear plan and timeline for the identification and removal of these toxic chemicals from all water wells, soils, and waterways. The Township demands that Energy Transfer move with more urgency to develop and share a clear plan to ensure that all chemicals leaked from their pipeline are recovered and removed from the environment as quickly as possible.

- **Energy Transfer must clearly communicate their intentions for any property they purchase in Upper Makefield Township.** The Township is aware Energy Transfer has purchased at least one home in the community and expects Energy Transfer to explain in detail their intentions for that property as well as any future property they purchase in the Township. The Township intends to enforce all ordinances to the fullest extent possible to make sure Energy Transfer does not negatively impact surrounding residents, negatively impact home values, or detract from the character of the community.
- **Energy Transfer must provide ongoing water testing for all residents.** The Township will continue to call on Energy Transfer to provide immediate and ongoing well water testing for any resident who requests it until all affected wells are continuously and conclusively shown to be unaffected by the pipeline. Additionally, the Township continues to call on Energy Transfer to provide reimbursement for any resident who has an independent well water test conducted by a third-party company of their choice.
- **Energy Transfer must provide immediate access to clean water for drinking and all uses.** The Township continues to demand that Energy Transfer supply appropriate water filtration systems upon request to all residents or reimburse residents in a timely manner who have filtration installed by a third party company of their choice. The Township also believes that while residents await a permanent solution, Energy Transfer must supply all residents with immediate access to clean water in their homes by whatever means necessary, including but not limited to bottled water and potable water for other activities such as bathing, laundry, cooking, etc.

Upper Makefield Township is committed to advocating for short-term and long-term actions by Energy Transfer that prioritize the health, safety, and welfare of every Township resident. The Township intends to stand alongside residents to hold Energy Transfer fully accountable for their failure to operate their pipeline safely in our community.

For additional information and resources, there are links and phone numbers provided below for the various parties and agencies. If you are unsure which agency to contact for assistance, please call the Township Building at (215) 968-3340, and a staff member will be available to guide you to the appropriate resources. Updates will continue to be provided as new information becomes available.