



May 26, 2026

submitted via FERC Online e-Filing Portal

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Public Comment in Opposition to Kosciusko Junction Pipeline Project_Docket # CP25-547

Dear Secretary Reese:

The Center for Constitutional Rights (“CCR”) writes to formally express CCR’s urgent opposition to the construction and operation of the interstate natural gas transmission pipeline and appurtenant facilities (hereinafter referred to as the “Kosciusko Junction Pipeline Project” or “KJPP”), proposed by Gulf South Pipeline Company, LLC’s (“Gulf South”) and Texas Gas Transmission, LLC’s (“Texas Gas”), subsidiaries of Boardwalk Pipeline, LP (“Boardwalk”). On behalf of Black communities and other communities of color who live and work in the 9 Mississippi counties through which the KJPP will run, CCR urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) to deny the proposed KJPP based on the extensive risks that the pipeline poses to local community members’ physical and mental well-being. The cumulative impacts would be insurmountable and lasting, threatening the health, stability, and character of multiple Mississippian (and other Southern) communities—harms that are further exacerbated by the absence of any verifiable need for the expansive project and the availability of cheaper, cleaner energy alternatives.¹

Since its founding in 1966 to represent civil rights activists in the South, CCR has become very familiar with corporate interests that place heavy industry in, and introduce pollution into, communities of color, without consideration of, and to the detriment of, the historic and cultural significance and residential character of those neighborhoods. As a national, not-for-profit legal and advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and advancing rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, other federal civil rights, and international law, CCR has litigated numerous landmark actions protecting the rights of citizens and noncitizens alike in state, federal, and international fora. For decades, we have worked with grassroots organizations and other community partners in Mississippi and throughout the Deep South, challenging decades of environmental racism in Mississippi, Louisiana, and other Southern states. Such advocacy has

¹ S. Alliance for Clean Energy, *Analysis Disputes Alleged Need for Methane Gas Pipeline Projects in Southeast*, Apr. 22, 2026, [cleanenergy.org/news/analysis-disputes-alleged-need-for-methane-gas-pipeline-projects-in-southeast/](https://www.cleanenergy.org/news/analysis-disputes-alleged-need-for-methane-gas-pipeline-projects-in-southeast/); Giannetti, Gillian, NRDC, *Reconsidering the Economics of Gas Pipelines*, Sept. 10, 2019, <https://www.nrdc.org/bio/gillian-giannetti/reconsidering-economics-gas-pipelines>.

included the discriminatory siting of industrial facilities in predominantly Black communities in the South. Based on our and our partners' advocacy work on these issues, we have seen how the siting and expansion of industrial projects like the KJPP in Black and other marginalized communities harm residents. Accordingly, based on extensive leak records of pipeline companies, including those of Boardwalk's subsidiary companies; the detrimental role that pipelines play in environmental hazards throughout the South and nation; and the ways in which pipelines have contributed to our worsening climate crises, KJPP's operations will undoubtedly harm the public interest in Mississippi.

Pipelines leak dangerous pollutants like benzene, which can cause anemia and immune system diseases, and climate-warming methane. Compressor stations, which push gas through the pipeline, can release cancer-causing pollutants. And the toxic dangers do not end when the pipelines reach the gas plant: when methane is burned at power plants, it not only pumps out huge amounts of climate-warming carbon dioxide, but it also releases dangerous volatile organic compounds, like formaldehyde, that can cause cancer and respiratory problems in nearby communities.² And gas infrastructure leaks—even when properly functioning—produce much more pollution than previously thought.³ Additional harms from gas pipelines include destruction of endangered species habitats, taking of private property without public benefit, contamination of drinking water sources and streams and rivers, ruination of farms and landscapes, deaths and injuries from explosions, and damage to natural ecosystems.⁴

Furthermore, pipelines in the United States lack adequate regulation, enforcement, and inspection. A recent 8-year study revealed that the millions of pipelines in the United States have resulted in more than 5,500 total incidents, 125 fatalities, 800 fires, and \$4 billion in damages, as well as approximately 600 injuries, 300 explosions, and 30,000 individuals' evacuations.⁵ To further illustrate these dangers, we highlight a few pipelines in the South that have presented safety, health, and environmental hazards:

- Since becoming operational in 2024, the Mountain Valley Pipeline, which runs from West Virginia to Virginia, has received multiple notices of violations, as well as fines, related to water quality, sediment, and erosion control, highlighting standing concerns about the risks of leaks and explosions from the long-opposed pipeline.⁶

² So. Environ. Law Ctr., *Pipelines pose a threat to Southern communities*, June 7, 2024 www.selc.org/news/pipelines-pose-a-threat-to-southern-communities/.

³ Crownhart, Casey, *Methane Leaks in the US are worse than we thought*, MIT Tech. Rev., Mar. 13, 2024 <https://www.technologyreview.com/2024/03/13/1089725/methane-leaks-oil-gas/>.

⁴ Mall, Amy, NRDC, *Gas Pipelines: Harming Clean Water, People, and the Planet*, May 24, 2021 <https://www.nrdc.org/bio/amy-mall/gas-pipelines-harming-clean-water-people-and-planet>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Tate, Curtis, W. Va. Public Broadcasting, *Mountain Valley Pipeline Receives More Violations in W. Va.*, Oct. 22, 2025, [/wvpublic.org/story/energy-environment/mountain-valley-pipeline-receives-more-violations-in-w-va/](https://wvpublic.org/story/energy-environment/mountain-valley-pipeline-receives-more-violations-in-w-va/); Crownhart, *Methane Leaks in the US are worse than we thought*, *supra* n.3

- A joint venture of Duke Energy, NextEra Energy, and Enbridge Inc., Sabal Trail—a 515-mile pipeline that transports fracked gas from Alabama, through Georgia, to Florida and the vast majority (84%) of which runs within a mile of low-income or communities of color—has destroyed farmland and contaminated water. A Georgia farmer reported that pipeline construction ruined more than 40 acres of topsoil on his farm and reduced his crop yield to less than half, and that pipeline owners ignored restoration commitments.⁷
- Though just 55-miles long, Transco to Charleston, South Carolina, crosses 73 water bodies in a region of steep slopes and soils prone to erosion. The Woodruff Roebuck Water District, which provides drinking water to 10,000 customers, was assured by Dominion Energy that their water source would not be harmed. Despite assurances, the community’s water treatment plant recorded dramatic increases in turbidity and sediment that required additional chemical treatment of their water and at one point forced the plant to shut down and buy water from another utility. State regulators ultimately fined Dominion Energy for the illegal discharge of sediment that contaminated this drinking water source.⁸

And as to the companies at issue, as recently as November 2024, Texas Gas was cited by the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (“PHMSA”) for failing to take prompt remedial action to repair an emergency valve.⁹ And in June 2025, Boardwalk was required to enter into a Consent Agreement with the PHMSA due to conditions existing on Boardwalk’s ethylene pipeline system in Louisiana and Texas—a leak in the pipeline near the Sabine River in Cameron Parish, Louisiana—that posed an integrity risk to public safety, property, and the environment.¹⁰

Here, the proposed pipeline constructed by Boardwalk and its subsidiaries will run through Washington, Sunflower, Humphreys, Holmes, Attala, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, and Clarke Counties—counties with, or within 1 mile of, residents who are more likely to be people of color and experience high rates of poverty and health conditions.¹¹ For example, the new compressor stations, which will generate air pollution, will be in Attala and Holmes Counties, whose

⁷ Mall, NRDC, *Gas Pipelines: Harming Clean Water, People, and the Planet*, *supra* n.4.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Cf. PHMSA, Withdrawal of Notice Letter to Boardwalk, Mar. 3, 2025, [https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/enforcement-documents/32024062NOPV/32024062NOPV_Region%20Withdrawal%20of%20Notice%20Letter_03032025_\(23-266139\).pdf](https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/enforcement-documents/32024062NOPV/32024062NOPV_Region%20Withdrawal%20of%20Notice%20Letter_03032025_(23-266139).pdf) (withdrawing notice of violation based on additional data provided by Boardwalk).

¹⁰ Ltr. & Consent Order from PHMSA to Tx. Gas & Gulf South (Dec. 6, 2024), [https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/enforcement-documents/32024066NOPV/32024066NOPV_Consent%20Agreement%20and%20Order_12062024_\(23-282184\)_text.pdf](https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/enforcement-documents/32024066NOPV/32024066NOPV_Consent%20Agreement%20and%20Order_12062024_(23-282184)_text.pdf).

¹¹ See FERC, KJPP Draft Environ. Impact Stmt. (Apr. 2026), ES-6 https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20260401-3005 (select “DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT”); Robert Wood Johnson Foundation & Univ. of Wisc. Population Health Inst, *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps: Building a Culture of Health, County by County: Mississippi* at 10 (2019), https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/sites/default/files/media/document/state/downloads/CHR2019_MS.pdf; U.S. Comm’n on Civil Rights, *Racial and Ethnic Tensions in American Communities: Poverty, Inequality, and Discrimination, Vol. VII, The Miss. Delta Report*, <https://www.usccr.gov/files/pubs/msdelta/ch1.htm>.

populations are majority Black and vulnerable to environmental and climate threats, with elevated rates of chronic illnesses such as kidney and heart disease.¹²

Accordingly, air and water pollution from KJPP pipeline construction and operation risk making Mississippians even sicker, and leaks and explosions threaten their lives and communities' cultural preservation. Indeed, as even FERC's own draft Environmental Impact Statement indicates, the project would result in adverse environmental impacts, including those that are significant and long-term. Indeed, FERC itself even recommends that construction of the KJPP not begin until cultural resources investigations under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act are completed.¹³ Even with implementation of FERC staff's own proposed modifications and remediation plans, there is no guarantee that the pipeline project's harmful effects will not occur. Texas Gas and Gulf South can in no way control all of the many variables at play with this pipeline construction and operation.

Due to the significant, foreseeable harm that this project poses to some of the most vulnerable communities that sit along the pipeline, numerous Mississippi, regional, and national coalitions and environmental groups have voiced their strong opposition to the KJPP, with many more expected to do so.¹⁴ This opposition follows years of communities in the South pushing back against pipeline plans, such as the KJPP, based on their known risks of environmental harm.¹⁵

Mississippi is not a sacrifice zone for corporate pipeline profit on the backs of Black and other vulnerable Mississippians. These communities should not be forced by the government to bear the lion's share of risk for the profit of private corporations when there are cleaner and safer energy sources available. We therefore urge FERC to deny approval of this project, ensuring this is not another instance of industry interests prevailing over community interests, health, and wellbeing.

Sincerely,

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Center for Constitutional Rights

¹² FERC, KJPP Draft Environ. Impact Stmt., *supra* n.11 at 2-4 (*see* Table 2.1.2-1); *see id.* at 4-68 to 4-71; *see also* U. Mass Boston, *Healthy Aging Data Report: Highlights from Mississippi* (2023), 10, 14-15, https://healthyagingdatareports.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/MSHighlights_03062023.pdf.

¹³ FERC, KJPP Draft Environ. Impact Stmt., *supra* n.11, at ES-6.

¹⁴ *See* So. Alliance for Clean Energy, *Analysis Disputes Alleged Need for Methane Gas Pipeline Projects in Southeast*, Apr. 22, 2026, <https://cleanenergy.org/news/analysis-disputes-alleged-need-for-methane-gas-pipeline-projects-in-southeast/> (noting opposition to KJPP by collective of organizations, including Blackbelt Women Rising, Southern Environmental Law Center, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and Georgia Interfaith Power and Light).

¹⁵ DeWitt, Michael, *Natural gas pipeline project opponents: Citizens have rights and a voice*, Bluffton Today, Mar. 23, 2026, www.blufftontoday.com/story/news/environment/2026/03/23/environmental-groups-heres-how-you-can-speak-out-on-natural-gas-pipeline/89212123007/; Magtoto, Jillian, *Georgia pipeline plans spark water quality concerns*, Savannah Morning News, Mar. 23, 2026, www.savannahnow.com/story/news/environment/2026/03/23/georgia-pipeline-plan-raises-river-concerns/89250991007/; So. Environ. Law Ctr., *Pipelines pose a threat to Southern communities*, *supra* n.2.