

# **Pimmit Hills Citizens Association (PHCA) Board of Directors Resolution Concerning the Proposed Washington Gas (WG) 24” Gas Transmission Pipeline through Pimmit Hills**

May 5, 2019

**WHEREAS**, at an October 3, 2018, Community Open House meeting in the Pimmit Hills neighborhood in Falls Church, Virginia, WG proposed two alternate routes for installation of a 24” gas transmission pipeline for phase 6 of the Tysons Strip1 pipeline replacement project – (1) interiorly through Pimmit Hills, or (2) from Magarity Road to Route 7 (southeast bound);

**WHEREAS**, phase 3 of the Tysons Strip1 pipeline replacement project, presently permitted and underway, already brings the pipeline to Magarity Road (from Anderson Road);

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Pimmit Hills route would include Peabody Drive, to Fisher Drive, to Cherri Drive, to Leonard Drive, to Cherri Drive, to Griffith Road, to Pimmit Drive down to the intersection at Route 7 (hereinafter “the Pimmit Hills route”);

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Pimmit Hills route poses serious danger to residents of Pimmit Hills due to the close proximity of homes to the roadway and planned pipeline location (around 50 feet or less), undoubtedly in the Potential Impact Radius (PIR) or “burn-zone” in the event of an explosion, many of which homes are post-WWII era 884 sq. ft. stick-built homes not built to withstand such an explosion at such close range;

**WHEREAS**, the safety of the residents of Pimmit Hills should not be sacrificed for the profits and convenience of WG;

**WHEREAS**, gas pipeline explosions and deaths are a regular occurrence in America, including but certainly not limited to: Lawrence, MA (Sept. 2018), Beaver, PA (Sept. 2018), Noble County, OH (Jan. 2019), San Francisco, CA (Feb. 2019), Mexico, MO (March 2019), and Durham, NC (April 2019);

**WHEREAS**, location of the pipeline in Pimmit Hills would not be the safest choice given the high number of potential interactions with the pipeline by residents and workers, particularly in light of significant “tear-down” activity by new home builders in Pimmit Hills at this time, as well as the need for sewer and water laterals by all neighborhood residents, many of which sewer lines have recently reached their 60-year expiration;

**WHEREAS**, Pimmit Hills has a very significant minority population (42% as of the 2010 census) and low-income population as compared to neighboring areas, in addition to a significant Arab community – the 2010 census data includes as follows:

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19.9% - Hispanic  
15.2% - Asian alone  
03.3% - Black alone  
00.1% - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone  
00.1% - American Indian or Alaskan Native alone  
00.3% - Some Other Race alone  
03.1% - Two or more races  
42.0% Total Minority Population;

**WHEREAS**, use of the Pimmit Hills route option raises serious Environmental Justice (EJ) concerns, as it would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on a very significant minority population, low-income population, and Arab community in Pimmit Hills, and should therefore be avoided as there is a clear alternative route down Magarity Road to Route 7;

**WHEREAS**, the Pimmit Hills route would bring the pipeline through three Chesapeake Bay Resource Protected Areas (RPAs), including one recorded floodplain, thereby posing a danger to our waters, and the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, which would frustrate the purpose of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (Bay Act) to protect our environment;

**WHEREAS**, the portion of the Pimmit Hills route along Griffith Road and Pimmit Drive (down to Route 7) is the same route as the WMATA 3T bus line and several Lemon Road Elementary school buses, and it would cause very significant bus service disruption – there is no good alternate route;

**WHEREAS**, WG has not answered many of the written questions posed by the PHCA in October 2018 concerning the proposed Pimmit Hills route.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the PHCA Board of Directors *strongly opposes* WG's proposed Pimmit Hills route for phase 6 of the Tysons Strip 24" gas transmission pipeline replacement project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the PHCA Board of Directors strongly urges the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to deny the April 10, 2019, appeal by WG for a permit to install the 24" gas transmission pipeline using the proposed Pimmit Hills route.