

10 QUESTIONS THE CITY COUNCIL AND PEOPLE OF NORFOLK NEED  
ANSWERED  
BY VIRGINIA NATURAL GAS ABOUT THE PROPOSED SOUTHSIDE CONNECTOR

VNG's Southside Connector high-pressure pipeline is proposed to run through the middle of the City of Norfolk, including near or adjacent to many high-occupancy structures such as schools, a recreational center and a professional baseball stadium that can seat almost 12,000 people and accommodate even more for other types of events.

Before construction of this pipeline continues, the Norfolk City Council, acting on behalf of the citizens of the city, should make sure that proper considerations have been made to maximize the safety of this pipeline that will place thousands of people in its blast zone every day. The following are 10 questions the Council should demand are answered by VNG before another foot of pipeline is laid.

- 1) What will be the maximum allowable operating pressure for the Southside Connector pipeline?
- 2) What are the maximum allowable operating pressures of pipelines that will be tied to the Connector and how are these pressures controlled to prevent overpressure of the Southside Connector? Will gas flow through the pipeline in both directions?
- 3) How was safety considered in selecting this route for the pipeline? What alternate routes were considered and what factors were considered in making route decisions? Have emergency response plans been coordinated with the city to address this new risk?
- 4) Did VNG calculate blast zone distances and its consequences for schools, churches, neighborhoods, businesses and recreational facilities such as the baseball stadium? If so, please provide those studies and any other studies related to how the threats presented by a high pressure pipeline were evaluated.
- 5) Did VNG determine how many students will be located in those many schools within the blast zone every day?
- 6) Given that this pipeline is routed through a high-occupancy area, what are your plans to mitigate the consequences of pipeline rupture and have you studied the effectiveness of mitigation responses? If so, please provide those studies.
- 7) How will this high pressure pipeline affect new land use development or redevelopment projects such as St. Paul, considering pipeline rupture blast zones and safe set back distances from the high pressure pipeline?
- 8) How much gas can pass through a 24-inch diameter pipeline at 1000 psig each day, and how much of that gas would be consumed daily by customers within Norfolk?
- 9) Our area is particularly susceptible to flooding and hurricane risks. What studies were done to analyze this, including how flooding could affect changes in stress on the pipeline?
- 10) One of the most common causes of pipeline accidents is so-called third-party damage, such as equipment striking the pipeline or activity above it creating stress on the pipe. What is provided to protect the pipeline from damage when streets are dug up for maintenance work and when heavy loads cross over the pipeline?