

Appendix C: Energy Transfer Partners' Rover Pipeline Violations & Spills in Michigan, Ohio & West Virginia, February 2017-March 2018¹

February 3, 2017: FERC gives final approval for the Rover Pipeline, must clear trees before March 31st bat roosting. FERC denied ET a blanket certificate for Rover after demolishing a house that was under consideration for a national registry of historic homes, without first telling FERC.²

March 2, 2017: FERC approves the start of pipeline construction.³

April 5, 2017: unauthorized pollution release impacting tributaries of Woodfield Reservoir in Monroe County, OH failure to control stormwater ⁴

April 8, 2017: 1,000 gallons of drilling fluid pollution released into wetland near Indian Fork River, in Tuscarawas County, OH; covered 2500 square foot area of wetland ⁵

April 10, 2017: 600 gallons of drilling fluid pollution released into stream, wetland and pond in Richland Township, Belmont County, OH ⁶

April 10, 2017: unauthorized pollution release impacting tributaries of Woodfield Reservoir in Monroe County, OH failure to control stormwater ⁷

April 11, 2017: unauthorized pollution release from failure to manage stormwater in Bloomdale, Wood County, OH ⁸

April 11, 2017: Clean Air Act violation, open burning of site preparation material near a home in Toronto, Ohio ⁹

April 11, 2017: Stormwater violations in Wood, Richland, and Crawford Counties, OH because of failure to manage vehicle tracking of drilling materials onto public roadways ¹⁰

April 12, 2017: unauthorized pollution release into Bull Creek in Wood County, OH - failure to control stormwater ¹¹

¹ Much of this information was compiled and previously published as Sierra Club. 2017. Energy Transfer's Fracked Gas Pipeline Spills Six Times in Two Weeks, Has Seven Additional Violations. May 8. [\[link\]](#).

² U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). 2017. Order Issuing Certificates. February 2. [\[link\]](#)

³ 2017. FERC Green Lights Rover Pipeline Construction. *Marcellus Drilling News*, March 6. [\[link\]](#)

⁴ Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2017. Director's Final Findings and Orders. July 7. [\[link\]](#)

⁵ Ohio EPA. 2017, p. 3.

⁶ Ohio EPA. 2017, p. 3-4.

⁷ Ohio EPA. 2017, p. 6.

⁸ Ohio EPA. 2017, p. 7.

⁹ Ohio EPA. 2017, p. 12.

¹⁰ Ohio EPA. 2017, p. 7.

¹¹ Ohio EPA. 2017, p. 7.

April 13, 2017: 2 million gallons of drilling fluid pollution accumulating in high quality wetland adjacent to Tuscarawas River in Navarre Township, Stark County; covered 500,000 sq foot area of the category 3 wetland ¹²

April 14, 2017: 50,000 gallons of drilling fluid pollution released into wetland in Mifflin Township, Richland County, OH ¹³

April 17, 2017: 200 gallons of drilling fluid pollution released into a pond in Monroe Township, Harrison County, OH ¹⁴

April 22, 2017: 200 gallons of drilling fluid pollution released into stream in Wooster Township, Wayne County, OH ¹⁵

April 26, 2017: During a West Virginia DEP inspection, 6 violations are found related to Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and stream sediment deposits.¹⁶

May 2, 2017: unauthorized pollution release from failure to manage stormwater in Bloomdale, Wood County, OH ¹⁷

May 3, 2017: unauthorized pollution release into Brushy Fork Creek, Cadiz, Harrison County, OH - failure to control stormwater¹⁸

May 8, 2017: approx. 10,000 gallons of bentonite slurry released during a pipeline installation. The drilling fluids surfaced in a pond and stream in Monroe Township, Harrison County and affected water quality.¹⁹

May 8, 2017: The Ohio EPA fines ETP \$431,000 for “18 incidents involving mud spills from drilling, stormwater pollution and open burning at Rover pipeline construction sites have been reported between late March and Monday.”²⁰

May 10, 2017: FERC bans ETP from starting new horizontal directional drilling under waterways and roads.²¹

¹² Ohio EPA. 2017, p. 4.

¹³ Ohio EPA. 2017, p. 5.

¹⁴ Ohio EPA. 2017, p. 5.

¹⁵ Ohio EPA. 2017, p. 5.

¹⁶ West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). 2017. Order Issued Under the Water Pollution Control Act, West Virginia Code, Chapter 22, Article 11. July 17. [\[link\]](#)

¹⁷ Ohio EPA. 2017, p. 7.

¹⁸ Ohio EPA. 2017, p. 7.

¹⁹ Ohio EPA. 2017 p. 5.

²⁰ Renault, M. 2017. Ohio EPA orders Rover pipeline builder to pay \$431,000 for violations. *The Columbus Dispatch*, May 8. [\[link\]](#)

²¹ DiSavino, S. 2017. ETP's \$4 billion Rover line hits another snag, this time in West Virginia. *Reuters*, July 24. [\[link\]](#)

May 19, 2017: ETP acknowledges heavy rain causing pipeline trenches and work spaces to fill with water and spill onto fields of Ohio farmers.²²

May 24, 2017: During a West Virginia DEP inspection, 6 violations are found related to Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), erosion control and stream sediment deposits.²³

May 25, 2017: FERC rejects ETP request to resume drilling in Captina Creek and Middle Island Creek.²⁴

June 2 & 6, 2017: During a West Virginia DEP inspection, 5 violations are found related to silt fences, erosion control and stream sediment deposits.²⁵

July 2, 2017: 5,000 more gallons of drill slurry released into a Stark County area where the company was working on a five-foot borehole that would go under the Tuscarawas River. Work was already underway to deal with a previous spill in that area.²⁶

July 3, 2017: 1,500 to 2,500 gallons of drilling mud took place at a nearby area ten feet from Tuscarawas River.²⁷

July 7, 2017: Rover Pipeline LLC pays \$1.5 million to the Ohio History Connection Foundation in an effort to mitigate harm after demolishing a building they had promised not to.²⁸

July 12, 2017: During a West Virginia DEP inspection, 8 violations are found including sediment laden water depositing in nearby creeks and runs.²⁹

July 13, 2017: FERC also issues a notice of violation claiming that ETP "did not fully and forthrightly disclose all relevant information" before demolishing a historic home.³⁰

July 17, 2017: West Virginia's DEP issues a cease-and-desist order to stop work in the WV segment of the pipeline.³¹

²² Hendrix, S. & M. Renault. 2017. Stormwater overflow from Rover pipeline construction affecting farms. *The Columbus Dispatch*, May 20. [\[link\]](#)

²³ West Virginia DEP. 2017.

²⁴ Henry, M. 2017. Rover Pipeline: Feds reject company's bid to restart drilling. *The Columbus Dispatch*, May 26. [\[link\]](#)

²⁵ West Virginia DEP. 2017.

²⁶ Ohio EPA. 2017, p. 6.

²⁷ Ohio EPA. 2017, p. 6.

²⁸ Gatehouse Ohio Media. 2017. Rover Pipeline settles dispute with state historical foundation for \$1.5 million. *The Columbus Dispatch*, June 16. [\[link\]](#)

²⁹ West Virginia DEP. 2017.

³⁰ U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. 2017. Staff Notice of Alleged Violations, July 13. [\[link\]](#)

³¹ West Virginia DEP. 2017; Ward Jr., K. 2017. DEP orders halt to Rover Pipeline construction. *Charleston Gazette-Mail*, July 25. [\[link\]](#)

Oil and Water: ETP & Sunoco's History of Pipeline Spills

Greenpeace USA and Waterkeeper Alliance

July 18, 2017: ETP pushes stage-1 deadline from July to “late summer.”³²

July 28, 2017: Pipeline drilling causes landslides in Jefferson County, Ohio. According to township trustees, it’s a result of drilling near old underground mines.³³

July 31, 2017: Inspectors find failure to properly control erosion and incorrectly-installed sediment control devices in Hancock County, WV.³⁴

August 3, 2017: Inspectors find failure to properly control erosion and incorrectly-installed sediment control devices in Marshall County, WV.³⁵

August 9, 2017: West Virginia DEP lifts 7/17/17 cease and desist order.³⁶

August 31, 2017: FERC approves ETP request to put Phase 1A of Rover Pipeline into service.³⁷

September 18, 2017: Rover Pipeline, LLC receives permission from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to resume drilling construction.³⁸

September 20, 2017: The Ohio EPA asked the state Attorney General to “hold pipeline officials financially responsible for \$2.3 million in fines related to numerous environmental violations.”³⁹

September 21, 2017: Soap wastewater used in boring operations and soil/sediment discharged into approximately 500 feet of waterway requiring 6,000 gallons of water to be recovered by vacuum truck. OH ⁴⁰

September 26, 2017: Approx 30 gallons of drilling fluids discharged into waters, wetlands in Washington Township, Belmont County, Ohio.⁴¹

³² 2017. Rover Pipeline’s Phase 1 In-Service Date Slips to “Late Summer”. *Marcellus Drilling News*, July 18. [\[link\]](#)

³³ Conn, A. 2017. Pipeline drilling causing landslides in Jefferson County. WTOV9, July 31. [\[link\]](#)

³⁴ West Virginia DEP, Environmental Enforcement. 2017. Notice of Violation. July 31. [\[link\]](#)

³⁵ West Virginia DEP, Environmental Enforcement. 2017. Notice of Violation. August 3. [\[link\]](#)

³⁶ West Virginia DEP. 2017. August 9. [\[link\]](#); Ward Jr., K. 2017. More water violations found on Rover Pipeline construction sites. *Charleston Gazette-Mail*, August 19. [\[link\]](#)

³⁷ Energy Transfer Partners. 2017. Energy Transfer Announces FERC Approval to Put Phase 1A of the Rover Pipeline in Service. August 31. [\[link\]](#)

³⁸ Ohio EPA. 2017b. Rover Pipeline Resumes Construction, Immediately Spills Contaminants in Ohio Stream. September 22. [\[link\]](#)

³⁹ Renault, M. 2017. Ohio agency wants troubled Rover Pipeline to pay \$2.3 million in fines. *The Columbus Dispatch*, September 20. [\[link\]](#)

⁴⁰ Ohio EPA. 2017b.

⁴¹ Ohio EPA. 2017c. Subject: Violations from Inadvertent Returns by Rover Pipeline LLC Since September 8, 2017. November 22. [\[link\]](#)

October 11, 2017: Approx. 1200 gallons of drilling fluids discharged to waters, wetlands in Washington Township, Belmont County, Ohio.⁴²

October 14, 2017: Rover Pipeline Spills Water Allegedly Containing Gasoline Into Michigan Wetlands⁴³

November 3, 2017: Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine files a lawsuit against Rover Pipeline LLC seeking “a court order requiring Rover to apply for state permits, to comply with environmental plans approved and ordered by the Ohio EPA, and to pay civil penalties of \$10,000 per day per violation.”⁴⁴

November 9, 2017: Approx. 60 gallons of drilling fluids discharged to waters, wetlands in Ashland Township, Ashland County.⁴⁵

November 14, 2017: Approx. 30 gallons of drilling fluids discharged to waters, wetlands in Milton Township, Ashland County, Ohio.⁴⁶

November 16, 2017: Approx. 200 gallons of drilling fluids discharged into Black Fork Mohican River in Milton Township, Ashland County.⁴⁷

December 14, 2017: FERC Gives Rover clearance to restart all outstanding underground horizontal directional drilling (HDD) projects, including the location at Tuscarawas River.⁴⁸

January 17, 2018: Rover Pipeline Spills Another 150,000 Gallons of Drilling Fluid Into Ohio Wetlands **at same 4/14/2017 site.**⁴⁹

January 24, 2018: FERC again orders ETP to halt horizontal directional drilling under the Tuscarawas River in Ohio.⁵⁰

⁴² Ohio EPA. 2017c.

⁴³ Chow, L. 2017. Rover Pipeline Spills Water Containing Gasoline Into Michigan Wetlands. *EcoWatch*, October 14. [\[link\]](#)

⁴⁴ Ohio Attorney General. 2017. Ohio Files Lawsuit Against Rover Pipeline for Environmental Violations. November 3. [\[link\]](#)

⁴⁵ Ohio EPA. 2017c.

⁴⁶ Ohio EPA. 2017c.

⁴⁷ Ohio EPA. 2017c.

⁴⁸ 2017. FERC Gives Rover OK to Resume All HDD Work, Incl. Tuscarawas River. *Marcellus Drilling News*, December 15. [\[link\]](#)

⁴⁹ Chow, L. 2018. Rover Pipeline Spills Another 150,000 Gallons of Drilling Fluid Into Ohio Wetlands. *EcoWatch*, January 17. [\[link\]](#)

⁵⁰ Chow, L. 2018. FERC Again Orders Drilling Halt on Rover Pipeline Site After Another Spill. *EcoWatch*, January 25. [\[link\]](#); Kooistra, R. & J. Hites. 2018. FERC Staff Directs Rover Pipeline to Cease HDD Activity at the Tuscarawas River Site. *Washington Energy Report*, January 29. [\[link\]](#)

January 29, 2018: “Rover is frustrated by the inaccurate central premise underlying the letter received from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) ... directing operations to cease at the Tuscarawas River.”⁵¹

February 6, 2018: FERC Gives Rover Pipeline permission to Restart Drilling Under Tuscarawas River⁵²

February 14, 2018: Sen. Maria E. Cantwell (D-Wash.) and Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ) ask FERC for a briefing on the Rover Pipeline project **no later than 2/28/18**.⁵³

February 21, 2018: Ohio EPA files a letter with FERC claiming the presence of toxic chemical tetrachloroethene at Rover’s underground drilling site at the Tuscarawas River in southern Stark County.⁵⁴

March 5, 2018: West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection orders a halt to construction after finding multiple water pollution violations.⁵⁵

⁵¹ Reuters staff. 2018. ETP says frustrated by order to stop Rover pipeline drilling in Ohio. *Reuters*, January 29. [\[link\]](#)

⁵² 2018. FERC Gives Rover Pipe OK to Restart Drilling Under Tuscarawas River. *Marcellus Drilling News*, February 7. [\[link\]](#)

⁵³ Snow, N. 2018. US Congressional committees request FERC for Rover gas line briefing. *Oil & Gas Journal*, February 16. [\[link\]](#); Pallone, F. & M. Cantwell. 2018. Letter to Kevin J. McIntyre. February 14. [\[link\]](#)

⁵⁴ 2018. Ohio EPA Continues to Target Rover Pipe in New FERC Letter. *Marcellus Drilling News*, February 21. [\[link\]](#)

⁵⁵ Mishkin, K. 2018. WV DEP orders Rover Pipeline to stop construction, citing multiple violations. *Charleston Gazette-Mail*, March 13. [\[link\]](#); West Virginia DEP. 2018. Order Issued Under the Water Pollution Control Act, West Virginia Code, Chapter 22, Article 11. March 5. [\[link\]](#)