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This comment is for the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Idaho; Lower Valley Energy Crow Creek Pipeline Project 83 Fed. Reg. 4182 (January 30, 2018). I am a student at Humboldt State University studying Environmental Science and Management with emphasis on Planning and Policy. The project is beneficial to the area as the cost to truck the fuel in by vehicle is much greater and does more harm to the environment than inputting a pipeline. On page 4183 of the Federal Register it states [ldquo]Increased shipping by truck also elevates a public safety issue because the level of truck traffic carrying hazardous chemicals on public highways increases.[rdquo] This not only causes public safety hazards it also has risks of contaminating local waterways and aquatic ecosystems.

Pipelines are inherently safer to transport natural gas due to the small amount of risk factors that can affect them. Transportation by rail or truck often has more risks because of the mobility of the vessel. "It really comes down to moving parts. Pipelines are fixed infrastructure. They are mostly underground. They don't interact with a lot of surface transportation," as stated by Kenneth Green, author of the Fraser Institute report Safety in the Transportation of Oil and Gas: Pipelines or Rail?. Less moving parts in the middle of the transportation process doesn[rsquo]t allow for human error or mechanical failure.

In the past pipelines have been subject to scrutiny and protests though they have been proven to be safer than land based transportation. Many individuals that are against these projects use unusual or rare occurrences in which a pipeline had broken as their reasoning for why it is not the best option. One such occurrence could be that of the Transco Pipeline incident in Appomattox, Virginia. Corrosion had weakened the pipeline causing the rupture and subsequent crater. Though statistics from CONCAWE show very low failure rates for natural gas pipelines. A figure shown within A TOOL TO ESTIMATE THE FAILURE RATES OF CROSS-COUNTRY PIPELINES, a document from IChemE.org shows that the failure rates of pipelines have been gradually decreasing over the last 30 years (statistical data based between years 1975 [ndash] 2005).

Data and professional statements/research have proven natural gas pipelines to be the safest and presumably most efficient manner in which to transport natural gas. Though they can prove to sometimes be risky when they are completely subterranean, they far outweigh the risks of transporting fuel by mobile vessels. Pipelines can be planned for and laid out in a way that if an incident were to occur it can be cleaned up and should have very little impact the local ecosystems.