

Toxic Pipe Excavation Press Conference – Thursday June 16 at 2 p.m.

Statement – Grant Antoline

Today the work being done to protect Champaign-Urbana residents from exposure to toxic chemicals is a great first step, but in order to fully address the contamination from this toxic pipe more work is needed.

When the pipe was first installed, it was done so by loosely seating sections of clay pipe end to end from its start to where it discharged into Boneyard Creek. Because of this design the pipe is likely to have leaked somewhat continuously throughout its length. In addition, the pipe has been in place for over a century where time is likely to have caused more cracks, breaks and imperfections in the pipes integrity. Both of these circumstances are likely to have contributed to the further leaching of chemicals into the soil surrounding the pipe.

Also, it is easy to see that there are homes, churches and businesses very close to where the pipe is believed to be.

Any leaking of chemicals from the pipe into the soil could endanger the health and diminish property values of the residents who live nearby.

This is why the 5<sup>th</sup> & Hill Neighborhood Rights Campaign is calling upon the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to do their job and fully investigate the extent of toxic contamination in and around this pipe.

After their original investigation of contamination both on and off the Ameren site, the Illinois EPA concluded that all of

the contamination associated with the site had been identified. Today we know that claim to be false. The pipe is proof there is more contamination that Ameren is responsible for. Ameren is almost done cleaning up the toxic contamination that has been found on their property and when they do finish they must turn their attention to the off-site properties where their contamination has also been found, including this pipe and the surrounding area.

Thank You

Now, you all can hear from a resident of the 5<sup>th</sup> & Hill Neighborhood Mr. Ebbie Cook.