

Jeff Benham

Our family has lived directly below the Williams Northwest Pipeline Compressor Station on our farm at Benham Road since 1916. We maintain a working farm, a licensed wedding venue and bed & breakfast, and multiple homes on our family property. We take great pride in our role as caretakers of this picturesque and irreplaceable little Valley, investing significant time and resources to preserve its beauty, rural character, and ecological value.

Williams has generally been a good neighbor for many years. However, more recent changes—particularly the addition of the tall radio/communications tower—have noticeably harmed the visual beauty of the surrounding rural landscape. The tower is a prominent eyesore visible across the area and stands as one of the largest in the county. Additionally, periodic blow-offs and operational activities have caused our home to shake and startled both people and livestock.

We are concerned that continued expansions are gradually transforming this rural farmland area into a more industrial zone. In an era of advanced, low-impact alternatives like Starlink and other modern communications technologies, the large radio tower seems unnecessary and disproportionately intrusive. If this level of visual and operational impact accompanies incremental upgrades, we worry about the cumulative effects of the current proposed expansions (and any future ones) on our property.

We support the need for reliable pipeline infrastructure and respect our neighbors' property rights. We simply ask for the same consideration for our family's long-established farm, homes, wedding venue, and bed & breakfast. This project directly affects our quality of life, financial viability of the Wedding Venue/Bed and Breakfast, property values, and ability to maintain the rural character that defines this Nookachamps valley.

We request that the SEPA review fully evaluate and mitigate potential impacts including:

- Visual/aesthetic impacts from any new equipment, structures, or modifications
- Noise and vibration effects on nearby residences and agricultural operations
- Cumulative effects on the surrounding rural and ecologically sensitive area
- Consideration of less obtrusive alternatives for communications and operations

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for considering the perspective of long-time residents and stewards of this land.