

Date: March 18, 2026
From: Belle Pond Farm HOA Board of Directors
To: Belle Pond Farm Homeowners
Subject: February 15, 2026, Quail Pond Court Home Explosion/Fire and Gas Leak

In the wake of the explosion, fire, and gas leak crisis that rocked our community in the last half of February, the Belle Pond Farm HOA leadership wants to express its deep concern for everyone affected by these events. An incident like this affects lives on so many levels. We are grateful for the spirit of friendship that has brought our community together despite the trials this challenge has brought about.

Our leadership has been in dialogue with Belle Pond Farm residents directly affected by the February 15 incident to identify ways homeowners can work together to improve neighborhood safety and prevent similar incidents in the future. We have also had some discussions with staff of our county, state, and federal elected representatives.

Based on those conversations, we encourage all Belle Pond Farm homeowners to consider providing comments and/or testimony in the Washington Gas rate increase case before the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC).

(The SCC is the main regulator for utility companies in Virginia)

On June 9, 2026, the SCC will hold a hearing to consider Washington Gas' application to increase rates. We do not oppose the idea of a reasonable rate increase, but we strongly believe that this case presents our community with a very important and timely opportunity to share our experiences with the SCC and ask it to ensure that Washington Gas can only raise rates IF the following two conditions are met:

- Washington Gas commits to a clear plan with a specific timeframe for replacing ALL service lines and other critical neighborhood gas infrastructure in Belle Pond Farm.
- Washington Gas develops and publicly shares the procedures its crews are expected to follow in handling service calls throughout Virginia to address possible gas leaks: including the specific circumstances (*such as gas readings of a certain level or other signs of potential danger*) that will trigger the requirement for its crews to call emergency authorities and provide warnings to residents in the affected area.

If 20, 40, or 80 residents of our community make our voices heard, it will be a very significant message to the SCC that we are paying attention to their efforts in holding Washington Gas accountable to all of us!

Belle Pond Farm Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 617, Centreville, VA 20122-0617
Tel.: (571) 358-9090

Accordingly, we encourage you to take the following steps:

(A) PUBLIC COMMENT

As soon as possible, and before the June 2, 2026, deadline, take a few minutes to submit a public comment on the case, at the following link (*also including a QR code to the public comment site*): <https://www.scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments/cases/pur-2025-00091.html>.



Your comment can be as short or as long as you like. Here is some sample language you can adapt as you see fit.

Sample language for public comment:

“I am a resident of the Belle Pond Farm community in Centreville, Virginia. I had the following personal experience in connection with the February 15 explosion/fire/gas leak in our community...”

“These experiences, and the experiences of my neighbors, lead me to have the following concerns about Washington Gas’ practices and infrastructure in our community...”

“These concerns are heightened by the inconvenient reality that the full factual record of the February 15 incident is unlikely to be released publicly for at least 1-2 years because it is the subject of a National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation. In the time between now and the release of the final NTSB report, our community needs the SCC to attach the following two conditions to any potential Washington Gas rate increase to ensure the recovery and continued safety of the residents and homes of Belle Pond Farm: (1) Require Washington Gas to commit to a clear plan with a specific timeframe for replacing ALL service lines and other critical neighborhood gas infrastructure in Belle Pond Farm; and (2) Require Washington Gas to develop and publicly share the procedures its crews are expected to follow in handling service calls throughout Virginia to address possible gas leaks: including the specific circumstances (such as gas readings of a certain level or other signs of potential danger) that will trigger the requirement for its crews to call emergency authorities and provide warnings to residents in the affected area.”

When you send your public comment, we also encourage you to send a copy of your SCC public comment submission to the following public offices:

Filing Consumer Complaint with SCC

<https://www.scc.virginia.gov/consumers/file-complaint-consumers/>

SCC Officials

william.chambliss@scc.virginia.gov

anna.dimitri@scc.virginia.gov

simeon.brown@scc.virginia.gov

mary.mclaurin@scc.virginia.gov

scott.marshall@scc.virginia.gov

Virginia Attorney General's Office / Division of Consumer Counsel

jfarmer@oag.state.va.us

cbartley@oag.state.va.us

cvaughan@oag.state.va.us

U.S. Representative James Walkinshaw

Maddy White (*District Director*)

maddy.white@mail.house.gov

Lauren Rhodeside (*Legislative Director*)

lauren.rhodeside@mail.house.gov

Virginia Senator Stella Pekarsky

Alex Kellum (*Chief of Staff*)

senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov

Virginia Delegate Karrie Delaney

Jacki Garry (*Chief of Staff*)

delkdelaney@house.virginia.gov

Fairfax County Supervisor Kathy Smith

Supervisor Smith

sully@fairfaxcounty.gov

Dan Dolan (Senior Legislative Aide)

daniel.dolan@fairfaxcounty.gov

(B) PUBLIC WITNESS TESTIMONY

We similarly encourage you to sign up before June 2 to be a public witness at the June 9 hearing. The SCC will take your testimony (*limited to only five minutes per person*) by telephone, so you can do it from the comfort of your home or workplace (*and DO NOT have to commute or travel*).



Residents can sign up at the following website (*also including a QR code to the registration site*): <https://www.scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting/public-witness/#d.en.25685>. The case number is PUR-2025-00091.

For your public witness testimony, we recommend you consider sharing some of the same points listed as sample language for a public comment.

(C) SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE OF THE FEBRUARY 15 INCIDENT

If you are willing to do so, please share with the Homeowner Association Board your experiences during the explosion/fire/gas leak emergency that began on February 15. Please highlight the following: how the incident has affected your home, your family, and the community; what you have done in response to these experiences; and your input and feedback for what steps we can take as a community to become stronger and work with companies and public officials to ensure greater safety and well-being for the future.

We can draw upon this information to better understand the needs and views of the Belle Pond Farm community, and to be your advocate. Please email your input to quailpondincident@bellepondfarm.org.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...

NTSB Investigation

- To share what you saw, heard, or smelled in connection with the February 15 crisis that could be helpful/important to investigators, email witness@ntsb.gov.
- To request “resources and information” or to share concerns and recommendations, email assistance@ntsb.gov.
- The NTSB has assigned the February 15 case a number (PLD26FR005), and you can sign up for updates at this link: <https://www.nts.gov/investigations/Pages/PLD26FR005.aspx>.

Emergency Resources

Finally, Courtney Arroyo of the Fairfax County Department of Emergency Management Services has kindly offered to be a resource for Belle Pond Farm homeowners on emergency planning and preparedness in the event of future contingencies like the February 15 incident. Courtney is willing to offer the following:

- A presentation to talk about emergency preparedness, which would include making a family plan (*where to evacuate locally and out of the area*), as well as putting together an emergency kit to grab and go for your family.
- A five-step neighborhood guide that may be of interest. It walks through how to make a neighborhood plan, how to check to see if everyone is okay and if someone needs help, etc., who has special skills, and who can do what during different types of events.

If you are interested in these resources, please contact Courtney directly at courtney.arroyo@fairfaxcounty.gov.