
From: Joanna Sharf <josharf@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 9:03 PM
To: PUC - Executive.Director
Cc: akerrigan@townandcitylaw.com; Iqbal, Al-Azad; Speidel, Alexander; Noonan, Amanda; arielarwen@gmail.com; cgw@rathlaw.com; Kreis, Donald; Patch, Douglas L.; karen.sinville@libertyutilities.com; mab@rathlaw.com; Naylor, Mark; michael.sheehan@libertyutilities.com; Smith, Maureen D.; PUC - OCA Litigation; Chattopadhyay, Pradip K; Knepper, Randy; rhull@prometheusenergy.com; Wyatt, Robert; Geiger, Susan S.; Stephen.Hall@libertyutilities.com; Frink, Steve; tim.corwin@lebcity.com
Subject: Docket DG 15-289.

Dear Ms. Howland,

I am writing this letter in regard to Liberty Utilities' petition for a natural gas depot and pipeline in Lebanon, NH.

I am strongly opposed to this proposed project. I ask that you please consider my points below, and urge you to deny this petition.

It has been brought to my attention that you only consider the economic feasibility of a project, and not, for example, environmental concerns. But there are serious, negative economic impacts of natural gas installations, precisely related to their affect on the environment.

It is frequently argued that natural gas is a good bridge fuel for transitioning away from oil and coal, toward a carbon-free energy infrastructure. But it is now known that methane leaks from the production of natural gas are a far more serious problem than previously assessed. Natural gas is composed mostly of methane, and methane is significantly more potent as a greenhouse gas than CO₂ over the short term. Natural gas leaks occur at every stage of its production, distribution and use – from drilling it, pumping it into vehicles, transporting it through pipelines, or storing it in tanks.

The methane leak at the natural gas storage tank in Aliso Canyon, California, which spewed 96,000 metric tons of methane into the atmosphere over a 3-1/2 month period from last October until it was finally plugged on Feb. 11, is an example in point. And that, except perhaps for its size, is sadly a rare occurrence. Even with the most stringent regulations and precautions, hardly any of which are implemented now or can be hoped to be in the near future, the potency of methane emissions from even limited leaks is enough to cause serious additional global warming effects.

I urge you to consider the economic impact created by environmental damage from natural gas and its inevitable methane leaks.

I believe it is poor financial planning to invest in building a natural gas depot and its associated pipeline(s). We need instead to focus all our efforts toward renewable, sustainable energy sources such as solar, wind and water power. If we get distracted, and invest money and energy in building an infrastructure for a natural gas "bridge" to nowhere, we will find ourselves in a very big irreversible jam in a couple of decades.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Joanna Sharf
Cornish, NH