

756 Brookline Road
Mason, NH 03048
September 7, 2016

Debra Howland, Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429

RE: DG16-770
Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty
Utilities and Concord Steam Corporation
Joint Petition for Approval of an Asset Purchase Agreement

Dear Ms. Howland:

In coming up with a solution to the Concord Steam quandary, I have heard a number of environmentally friendly suggestions rejected because of their cost and the short time left to find an answer. It sounds to me as if we're saying we cannot afford to maintain a habitable planet. May I point out that there are number of "externalities" which do not show up on your balance sheet.

Fracked gas is an environmental disaster from start to finish. While it consists mostly of methane, fracked gas as delivered contains numerous toxic chemical residues as a result of the fracking process.

When the Northeast Energy Direct project would have placed a compressor station in New Ipswich, NH, Dr. Curtis Nordgaard, a Boston-area physician, used Kinder Morgan's own emission figures to calculate the exposure rates of area residents. He stated that we could anticipate a \$2 million per year increase in healthcare costs – for treatment of the resultant asthma, pulmonary diseases, and cancer. From just that one compressor station. Some of those treated would respond well and go home; some would die.

We know that methane is a potent greenhouse gas. There is serious evidence that we will blow right past the two degrees Centigrade temperature increase suggested as the maximum safe limit by the Paris accord. China is still building coal-fired power plants. The U.S. refuses to ban fracking, continues to build fracked gas-pipelines, ask for 20-year contracts for gas purchases, and build gas-fired powered powerplants that have a 30-40 year payback period.

Before we pass the two-degree limit, the United States and the rest of the world will be seeing some serious consequences. Indeed, some are already evident. Increased drought, wildfires, flooding, crop failure, civil unrest, and climate refugees (even from within the U.S. itself) will threaten our national security.

How much will it cost to rebuild Louisiana multiple times? The city of Boston is considering constructing canals to give rising sea water someplace to go. What is clean air and water (our life support system) worth?

If we don't start planning to mitigate the consequences of climate change now, then when? Shouldn't we be doing everything we can to decrease our dependency on natural gas - even if it takes a little more time to arrange a better solution? Climate change must be part of the conversation.

Whether you are looking at the environmental or financial arguments, or at the New Hampshire 10-Year Energy Strategy, signed into law just two years ago, we need to find better ways to meet our energy needs. There are temporary ways to resolve the Concord Steam problem that will allow better long-term solutions to be applied – such as portable, sealed, high-efficiency temporary propane boilers which could operate with a temporary on-site tank, avoiding the long-term commitment of distribution lines. One solution may not be applicable to every building.

Please consider the long-term consequences of choosing what appears to be a quick fix. Please do not approve the Liberty plan to replace Concord Steam by increasing our dependency on fracked gas.

Thank you for your consideration,
Douglas Whitbeck