

From: Susan Richman <susan7richman@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2019 4:13 PM

To: PUC: <PUC@puc.nh.gov>

Subject: DG 17-198 health and safety at risk

Dear Commissioners,

We must not build new fossil-fuel infrastructures. The October 2018 United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (UN IPCC) and the US government's Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4) UN IPCC report, based on the latest scientific data and modeling, revised earlier climate predictions. Unless greenhouse gasses are reduced 50% by 2030, and 95% by 2040, our planet faces catastrophe. New Hampshire is already feeling the effects of storm surges and coastal flooding, as predicted in the 2016 report from NH state legislature's Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission. Now is the window of opportunity -- we must begin the switch to **clean** energy!

I urge you to do all in your power to stop the building of a "Granite Bridge Pipeline" for the future of New Hampshire and of our planet. The proposed 27-mile pipeline of highly pressurized fracked methane gas would lay along the pounding traffic of Route 101 from Manchester to Stratham. In Epping, this gas would be converted into Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for storage. It would be placed across the street from a daycare center, in direct proximity to homes, commuter ways and local businesses, twice crossing the Lamprey River. The 170 ft high, 200 ft wide Epping tank would be bigger than the "Rainbow Tank" in Boston, sized to store 2 billion cubic feet, or half the LNG storage for the entire state of New Jersey.

Although I live in Durham, I will be affected by these plans.

I breathe Granite State air. Studies show a connection between methane gas and asthma attacks, other respiratory and heart problems. Fracked natural gas contains hundreds of chemicals, including many known toxins and many others the industry refuses to disclose. Pipelines leak about 2.2%, and routine maintenance includes intentional off-gassing, releasing methane directly into the air.

I want a healthy planet for my children and grandchildren. We need to stop emitting climate-changing greenhouse gases. Supporters of the Granite Bridge point out that using methane would reduce carbon dioxide in our air— but ***methane contributes to the greenhouse gas effect (climate change), at more than 30 times the rate of carbon dioxide.*** Building this pipeline will mean more coastal flooding, record temperatures, unprecedented storms that hurt NH communities. We need to stop climate change while we still can, to leave a healthy planet for our children and grandchildren.

New Hampshire communities are not the only ones who will suffer. The pipeline will be carrying so-called "natural gas," which is methane gas sourced out-of-state, from fracking fields like those of the Appalachian basin. Extracting that fracked gas exposed other communities to pressure injection of dangerous chemicals into the earth, contaminating water tables and making nearby water undrinkable. This is not "clean" gas.

I do not wish for explosions in my Granite State community. We are familiar with the catastrophic fires and explosions of September 13, 2018, causing death, injury, evacuations and property damage in three Northern Massachusetts towns. Similar catastrophic gas explosions happened in 2018 near Madison, Wisconsin, in Benton County, Washington, in Midland County, Texas, and in British Columbia, Canada—

and already on January 21, 2019, in Noble County, Ohio. The proposed Granite Bridge project is 500 times larger than anything Liberty Utilities currently manages. The company has been fined over \$54,000 for past violations of health and safety regulations.

I want to grow the NH economy. Our regional grid operator, ISO-New England, determined that solar and wind power are cheaper and cleaner than gas; they make our grid more resilient even in the coldest winters. The Carsey Institute found that investment in efficiency and renewables earned \$2 on every dollar spent, as opposed to only \$1.30 earnings per dollar invested in natural gas expansion. Further, the Carsey study concluded that our energy use in the last decade fell by 9.6%, despite a growth in GDP of 9.7%. Why commit to the Granite Bridge pipeline and another 40 years of fossil fuel dependence? We are spending \$6.1 billion a year purchasing energy and fossil fuels from out of state -- put our political will, our ingenuity, and dollars into supporting renewable technologies and jobs that stay in our Granite State.

So why is this pipeline project so secret? Unlike the well-publicized Northern Pass, the Route 101 right-of-way for Granite Bridge is all state land – no towns or community members need to know or approve. Liberty Utilities has redacted much of its submissions to the PUC, keeping information from the public. Liberty Utilities is spending massive dollar amounts on lawyers and lobbyists to push this pipeline into our communities. Let's keep our dollars and our jobs in NH with clean, local, renewable energy. I want a wise and beautiful future for my state. The latest science findings add urgency to this switch. Do NOT commit us to any new, unnecessary, dirty, dangerous fossil fuel infrastructure!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Sincerely,

Susan Richman
Durham, NH 03824