
From: Max Entropy <maxent@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2017 8:51 PM
To: PUC - Executive.Director
Subject: Gas Pipeline: docket number DG 16-852

To Whom It May Concern:

The issue of the 11-mile gas pipeline running from Rt. 12-A in West Lebanon through downtown Lebanon and on to Hanover has generated heated debate. While we generally favor renewable energy sources over non-renewable sources such as gas, oil, or coal, some the rhetoric we have seen and heard recently paints the issue as black-and-white, and in many instances has gone beyond misleading to demonstrably false. For example, a poster recently displayed at the Norwich Farmer's Market stated that burning gas to generate electricity is "dirtier" than burning coal. Coal burned in the Ohio and Tennessee River valleys is the source of the mercury pollution in our lakes and the northern Atlantic, as well as the sulfur and nitrogen oxides that contribute to acid rain. Burning gas does not produce these compounds. In addition, the poster implied that the environmental cost in the neighborhood of gas wells is greater than that of coal mining. Nothing could be further from the truth. We know first hand of the impact of coal mining in southern Ohio and West Virginia, where hilltops have been removed and valleys polluted with tailings as a result of coal mining. In contrast, the impact of gas wells tapping the Marcellus Shale is comparatively benign. Waste fracking fluids and seismic activity due to fracking are concerns, however some states (notably New York) are holding the industry accountable for developing non-toxic fracking fluids and methods for mitigating seismic activity. And the economic impact of fracking, as seen for example in Woodsfield, Ohio, is nothing short of remarkable. In addition to the construction and hauling jobs, the impact of the revenue from mineral rights has been astounding. There are new schools and fire stations, and many people have been lifted out of crushing poverty there in the foothills of the Appalachians.

The issue of fracked gas is not quite as black-and-white as some opponents of the proposed pipeline would argue. We urge you to consider the pipeline on the basis of facts and any merits for the local community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hoch and Elly Nedivi
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