

Geoffrey,

Thank you for including Vermonters in this very powerful letter: personal, universal, articulate, to the point, and clear.

Lorry

On Thu, Aug 25, 2016 at 12:05 PM, Geoffrey Gardner <geoffrey323@myfairpoint.net> wrote:
To Members of the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

Like many hundreds of others, I am deeply troubled by the efforts of Liberty Utilities and Valley Green Natural Gas to gain, whether separately or together, the franchise to distribute gas in Lebanon and Hanover, NH. I urge the Public Utilities Commission to take a broad and careful look at all the implications of granting the petitioners such a franchise.

Business is business and the law is the law to be sure. But ethics and the consequences of granting anyone the ability to distribute the products of fracking anywhere must be taken into stern and serious consideration by every public body, including yours. Over the past several years and increasingly over the past several months, study after study has shown that fracked gas is some 86 times more potent as a greenhouse and climate disrupting gas than is CO₂. Further, an increasing number of studies also show that fracked gas leaks at every stage of its production from wellhead to transport to storage to use by its consumers. And the process of fracking itself is destructive of land, air and water quality. It has also disrupted lives on a grand scale.

It is simply false that fracked gas, regarded from any standpoint, is in any sense a cleaner or in the long range a cheaper alternative to other fossil fuels. Basic environmental and human ethics demand that we begin to consider seriously and act seriously with regard to the real and quite immediate dangers to public health, safety and our climate posed by continued extraction—and especially extreme extraction-- of all fossil fuels. We must begin at once to move toward leaving most of the remaining fossil fuel in the ground. Your commission certainly has the power to begin by denying anyone the franchise to distribute gas in Lebanon and Hanover.

It is the prime responsibility of government at every level to protect the health and safety of people, future generations as well as people alive today. We are far too accustomed to the demoralizing spectacle of government at every level bending the law to accommodate the needs and wishes of business without regard for the basic interests, well being and needs of people. The laws under which the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission operates provide many handles for slowing the wheels of the fossil fuel industry and opening space for truly renewable and truly clean sources of energy to thrive and replace the products of extreme energy extraction that threaten the lives and well being of people at large. It is imperative that members of the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission take the initiative to act in accord with basic ethics by exercising the authority they each have to bring efforts to distribute gas to Lebanon and Hanover to a permanent stop.

For the Public Utilities Commission to do otherwise will affect me and my immediate neighbors as citizens and residents of Vermont no less than it will affect the citizens of New Hampshire. Acknowledging this fact is just one part of what I mean when I say your commission must take a broad and careful look at all the implications involved in your decisions.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Gardner
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