

## Comments on GC3 Meeting, 9/8/16

Dear Members of the Governor's Council on Climate Change:

I am a member of the Eastern Connecticut Green Action group and have been following the issue of natural gas expansion, a proposal that I find short-sighted and potentially dangerous.

At the meeting, a plan to increase natural gas capacity was discussed. I believe it should not be implemented. There are several proposals now pending to significantly expand the carrying capacity of our current network of natural gas pipelines. I don't believe any of them are necessary to ensure production of electrical energy. Rather, I urge continued efforts that promote conservation of energy for residential and business users and a program to publicize the benefits of heat pumps and geothermal sources for both heating and air conditioning. The current technology for ductless heat pumps is more than satisfactory; the price for installing HVAC units is no more expensive and switching from an oil furnace to natural gas.

The added benefits of limiting natural gas expansion are important – the current system already leaks 5 to 10 per cent of its capacity, continually emitting methane into the atmosphere, especially near pumping and metering stations. Methane is more dangerous than carbon dioxide in the short run in building up greenhouse gases. Secondly, the addition of methane to the air in residential areas, where metering stations are located, increases the incidence of respiratory illnesses. Finally, although there are regulations on the books to monitor and limit the leakage of natural gas in our pipeline system, the record shows how limited and ineffective such regulation is. Expansion of the pipeline system is not likely to improve the level of vigilance and protection of public health.

Natural gas has been publicized as a “bridge” source for energy as we make the transition to renewables for our electrical needs. I would urge more vigorous implementation of plans to accelerate the use of solar in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,  
Lois Happe  
Storrs, CT