

From: [Kenneth Hammond](#)
To: [Secretary, BPUBoard \[BPU\]](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Docket No. GO23020099
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 10:27:40 PM

Hello,

I would like to comment regarding the development of natural gas utility plans (Docket No. GO23020099).

As residents of New Jersey, we are all experiencing the effects of the climate crisis, from wildfire smoke to heat waves to severe and deadly storms. The Secretary General of the United Nations has described our situation as a "code red for humanity," and it is incumbent on all of us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible.

This means we need to be retiring all fossil fuel infrastructure -- not building more.

It is time for the BPU to treat climate change like the emergency that it is. BPU must not approve any fossil fuel gas or RNG infrastructure projects other than those needed to ensure the safety of the current gas distribution systems until real plans are being implemented to meet the State's clean energy (100% by 2035) and carbon reduction (50% by 2030) goals for the many reasons and more laid out in [Empower NJ's comments](#) submitted as part of this proceeding.

Thank you,
Ken