

From: [Dionne Polk](#)
To: [Secretary, BPUBoard \[BPU\]](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Docket No. GO23020099
Date: Monday, September 4, 2023 5:04:18 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

A note from the little guy who has up-close and personal experience with pipelines. I was an intervener in the PennEast project and thus got to know what the effect it would have on the communities it passed through. Driving right through preserved land, protected waters and towns, it would destroy the environmental protections we in NJ have fought so hard for. The possible disasters that could be caused by a leak in the system are legion; poisoning wells and surface water, degrading the habitats that many species depend on, and creating 24/7 noise, as well as constant bright lights and flares. You really do NOT want to live nearby. Please put yourself in a resident's place.

Thus, I am writing to urge the BPU not to approve any infrastructure supportive of fossil fuels. We'd be going in the wrong direction and directly contravening State policies meant to move us to a future without reliance on fossil fuels as quickly as possible. Specifically, State's clean energy (100% by 2035) and carbon reduction (50% by 2030) goals. Those policies include the mandate to reduce GHGs by 50% from 2006 levels by 2030 (the 50x30 Goal).

There are many alternatives replacing fossil fuel being implemented right now. Long Island, NY is not allowing any further gas connections for new houses. Heat pumps installations are quickly rising. We have alternatives to fossil fuel for stoves. We have E-V's becoming more and more prevalent. Get behind that, please!

Gas pipelines will be more and more unnecessary as the fuel is replaced. So what to do with these "stranded assets?" Are you assuming that the fossil fuel companies will just come in, remove their infrastructure, clean everything up? That has not been my personal experience, or that of other people I know. I used to live near an abandoned gas station, which left unattended, produced a "flume" that poisoned the well we relied on. Fortunately I and my neighbors were able to connect to city water – at the cost of \$2,500 each!

If you want to read about a real disaster caused by fossil fuel companies who just picked up and left, read about the hell that Venezuela has become.

OK, that's abandonment writ very, VERY large and is a product of global influence, not applicable here. But I know what happens when just one asset is left to rot.

Thank you kindly for taking the time to read this.

Dionne Polk
27 Lawrence Drive
Lawrence Township NJ 08648
dionne27law@comcast.net