

From: [Jennifer Nielsen](#)
To: [Secretary, BPUBoard \[BPU\]](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Docket No. GO23020099
Date: Saturday, September 2, 2023 6:53:53 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on the matter of the implementation of Executive Order 317 requiring the development of natural gas utility plans.

In brief, my position is that the Board of Public Utilities must not approve any fossil fuel gas or the misnamed "Renewable" "Natural" Gas (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 goals for clean energy (100% by 2035) and carbon reduction (50% by 2030). These are ambitious and urgent goals and simply cannot be met by authorizing further exploitation and burning of fossil gas or RNG.

I am personally still traumatized by my experience in Hurricane Sandy. We are the 7th most wealthy state in America with a per capita GDP of over \$70,000 and median household income over \$85,000. We also have some of the lowest poverty rates in the country at about 10%. We can afford to invest in a safe and healthy future by aggressively moving away from dirty energy and towards the rich sources of renewables we enjoy. I do applaud the Murphy Administration for its ambitious investments in off-shore wind and support for community solar. We need to do more. Moreover the economics of energy have already tipped in favor of renewables and against fossils.

I want my children to live long lives sustainably on this earth. Please consider that as you develop plans for the future of gas in New Jersey, which must be as short as possible.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Nielsen, PhD
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