Public Comment

Algonquin Pipeline Relocation-25012-Bourne

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via online form

Comment

Please accept my comments as a physician concerned about the health and well being of my fellow residents on Cape Cod.

Basic physics shows that flow through a pipe is proportional to diameter squared. The proposed new pipeline is 18 in and 18^2 = 324; the current pipelines are each 10 in diameter. 2 x 10^2 = 200. So basic calculations show that the new pipeline will have at least 1.6 x the flow of the current pipeline. Any statement that the replacement pipeline does not increase capacity is simply dishonest.

Future demand for fracked natural gas will decrease. Homeowners are now choosing heat pumps over natural gas and will continue to do so as Cape Cod generates more inexpensive renewable electric power thanks to the growing contribution of solar, wind and battery storage. Heat pump installation now exceeds gas boiler installation, whether for new construction or replacement of aging oil and gas furnaces.

Harmful toxic impacts of gas stoves are becoming clearer. Gas stoves release of carbon monoxide, methane, carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, benzene, and fine particulates. Like combustion of any other fossil fuels, the products of combustion are dangerous and unhealthy. This is why no other open source of fossil fuel combustion is allowed in a home or other building. We would never spend taxpayer funds to increase supply of another substance with such a dangerous hazard profile.

Gas stoves increase rates of childhood asthma by 30-40%. They aggravate asthma, COPD and cardiovascular diseases in our senior citizens. Carcinogens including benzene and formaldehyde are released, even when stoves are not on. There is no justification to use taxpayer funds to increase dependence on this dangerous material.

Fossil fuels are explosive. Home explosions from fracked fossil gas occur thousands of times each year in our country, and there have been tragic examples in Massachusetts. How can it make sense to use taxpayer funds to increase supply of this kind of hazard on Cape Cod?

The greenhouse gas impact of methane, the primary component of fracked natural gas, is 80X greater than that of CO2. Increasing the supply of this toxic gas on Cape Cod only increases local and global risks of coastal flooding, wildfires, storm hazards and other consequences of climate change and global warming.

Taxpayer funds should not be used to increase the capacity to deliver fossil gas to Cape Cod, period.

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