

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Secretary of the Commission Kimberly D. Bose
888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426

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SECRETARY OF THE
COMMISSION

JUN 26 PM 12:21

Re: Docket No. PL19-4-000

6/13/2019

Edda Spielmann
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Santa Monica, CA, 90405-2970

Dear Secretary,

? ?It's time to stop giving handouts to polluters. The current guaranteed return on investment is driving polluting corporations to double down on fossil fuel development. They should be transitioning to renewable energy sources, like solar or wind. These are available and affordable now -- even with the playing field tipped in fossil fuels? favor. ?

FERC must stop its business as usual approach to allowing self-dealing by fracked gas companies and their affiliates as a means of measuring public need. This self-dealing consists of a company effectively contracting to buy the gas from itself and claiming the contract as proof of public need. By accepting such "affiliate agreements", FERC is spurring the gross overbuilding of gas pipelines, driving up the rate of fracking and exacerbating the threat to public health and safety along the entire supply chain: from the wells that poison our air and drinking water to our rivers, streams, and shorelines eroding from runoff and accelerating climate change-induced sea level rise.

Meanwhile, customers are paying higher utility bills while utilities and other corporate polluters reap profits from guaranteed rates of return for pipelines that aren't even needed. FERC should determine need based on independent, regionally-focused assessments to avoid undue pipeline redundancy and the resulting greenhouse gas pollution that in some instances directly contravenes regional environmental goals. . FERC should also give due consideration to cleaner, safer, and more affordable alternatives to fracked gas pipelines and power plants, such as renewables and demand-side energy efficiency.

Sincerely,

Edda Spielmann

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