



South Shore Audubon Society

Freeport, New York 11520
<http://ssaudubon.org>



Fossil Fuel Infrastructure

The South Shore Audubon Society advocates for the protection of people and wildlife, for clean air and biodiverse ecosystems. We appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments for consideration by the CAC.

The buildout of all and any type of fossil fuel infrastructure is intrinsically inconsistent with the objectives of the CLCPA. To deny this fact is akin to burying one's head in the sand.

We therefore urge an unequivocal, immediate three-year moratorium on permits for new and rebuilt fossil fuel power plants. How many Danskammers and Astoria-like nightmares and lawsuits does NYS want to endure?

Far more than unmitigated hypocrisy, permitting odious fracked gas power plants as we spend hundreds of millions of dollars erecting wind farms off Long Island's south shore, is irrational and counterproductive. Permitting the buildout of fracked gas infrastructure while we construct offshore wind farms is like eating raw spinach with one hand while eating deep fried pork fat with the other.

Instead, we must complement the buildout of offshore wind by deploying proven renewable energy technologies, focusing on heat pumps and solar even as we expand battery storage. Set annual targets for permitting wind, solar, heat pumps and battery storage, and always in a way that respects and protects biodiversity.

All new construction must be all-electric and meet the highest standards for energy efficiency. Plan to retire and replace current fossil fuel plants as more renewable energy enters the grid Provide funding and support for workers and the communities around these plants affected by this transition. Increase rebate incentives that will drive us toward retrofitting our way to an electrified future.

Likewise, the final plan must demand an unambiguous, urgent three-year moratorium on all pipelines and all related fracked gas infrastructure. These pipelines are being forced on taxpayers without so much as a public hearing or any kind of environmental assessment. One egregious example was when National Grid announced the construction of the Southeast Suffolk Pipeline in March of this year after the company already finished building it. It was like having a package of pesticides that we didn't order delivered to our collective doors. What's worse, the company refuses to allow us to return the poison and demands that we pay for it. This very same unrequested delivery is being repeated in various

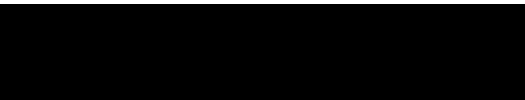
locations throughout our region, ringing the doorbells of scores of ratepayers like emergency vehicle sirens carrying terminally patients on life support.

Finally, steer clear away from “renewable” natural gas, green hydrogen and carbon capture and storage. These are pipedream solutions that seek to preserve pipelines and hypothetical technologies that the fossil fuel industry fantasizes about and advocates for. Tear away these bogus solutions and send them to the garage heap of history where they belong. (1) (2) (3)

Time is of the essence. We must assertively resolve the profound dissonance between the dominance of a fossil gas past and the promise of the CLCPA.

For a Green New York,

Guy Jacob
SSAS Conservation Co-Chair



Resources:

1. <https://earthjustice.org/news/press/2021/hydrogen-report-climate-crisis-focus-on-electrification>
2. <https://www.nyrenews.org/news/2021/2/24/new-report-outlines-failures-of-gas-industry-climate-fixesnbsp>
3. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/12/climate/hydrogen-fuel-natural-gas-pollution.html>