

Norio, Ann-Marie

From: Norio, Ann-Marie
Sent: Friday, July 07, 2023 10:08 AM
To: Norio, Ann-Marie
Subject: FW: Proposed Thorold Gas Plant Expansion

Hello,

I am writing to you regarding the proposed Thorold Gas Plant Expansion project currently being discussed.

I attended Northland Power's 'public community meeting' held on Thursday, July 6th. While informative, the session did little to help me understand why this project would be a good idea. It is my understanding that this expansion project will result in:

- A potential doubling of climate pollution / GHG emissions from the existing Thorold plant, unnecessarily contributing to climate change
- The purchase of an American made gas turbine and ongoing purchases of American sourced natural gas, sending Canadian tax-payers money south of the border and increasing our dependency on foreign fossil fuels
- Ongoing encouragement of destructive hydraulic fracking of shale gas, contaminating local water supplies, polluting the atmosphere, and potentially triggering earthquakes

I understand that Northland Power are planning to present their project proposal to the Niagara Region Planning & Economic Development Committee on July 12. I expect them to explain that the main benefit of the project to the region is jobs. From my understanding, the plant's existing jobs (and property taxes) are safe until at least 2030 and potentially up until 2040, regardless if this new project is approved or not. They will claim that 200 additional jobs will be created if the project is approved, however as we all know, there are already plenty of construction opportunities available in Ontario. If the region has labourers with the appropriate skills, they would very likely already be employed.

Meanwhile... I'm sure you've all seen the news over the past couple of months – Highlights of directional changes in the jetstream, warmer than usual ocean temperatures, heat waves, heavy rainfall & flooding, wildfires and even snow in Western/Northern Canada, followed by more wildfires across Eastern Canada that generated air quality warnings across most of Eastern Canada and the USA. Similar extreme weather events including heatwaves, destructive storms, and flooding are also being reported in the USA, Asia, Russia and the UK, along with the hottest global temperature ever recorded.

Of course, not every extreme weather event can be immediately connected to climate change, however the smartest people on Earth have concluded that the frequency and severity of these events is unequivocally a result of climate change and directly linked to greenhouse gases produced from the extraction, processing, transportation and burning of fossil fuels, including natural gas. 99% of thousands of qualified atmospheric scientists and climatologists, based on 10s of thousands of peer reviewed articles, support these claims! Reference the following links (4 samples out of hundreds available):

<https://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/...>

<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/climate-qa/isnt-there-lot-disagreement-among-climate-scientists-about-global-warming>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/oct/19/case-closed-999-of-scientists-agree-climate-emergency-caused-by-humans>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/06/environment-and-climate-change-canada-presents-the-2023-summer-weather-outlook.html>

Earth's average global temperatures have already increased by over 1 degree from pre-industrial levels and our current trajectory of continuing the expansion of fossil fuels including natural gas, would take us an additional 2-3 degrees higher by the end of the century. With every fraction of a degree increase, the frequency and severity of extreme weather events will increase, and it is not hard to imagine that at some point in the near future there will be so much property loss and crop damage from climate change that people will struggle to find enough affordable food to survive as society and the global economy as we know it, collapses.

As for the proposed Thorold Gas Plant Expansion project... unfortunately, it is part of the Ontario Government's current plan to burn fossil fuels to meet future electricity needs of the province. As per the Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign and Environmental Defense, this ill-conceived plan will increase the province's greenhouse gas pollution by over 400% by 2030 and over 700% by 2040 (relative to 2017 levels). Clearly this plan will take us in the opposite direction of our Federal Government's plan which, in conjunction with close to 200 countries around the world, intends to reduce greenhouse gases by 40% to 50% before 2030 and be net-zero by 2050 (relative to 2005 levels). Clearly, we cannot proceed with this, or any proposed Gas Plant Expansion project.

It is great to hear that St. Catharines' and Niagara Falls' City Councils, along with 32 other Ontario municipalities, have already endorsed a gas power phase-out. Oddly, Halton, Brampton and Toronto, who as part of the forementioned group have already stated their intentions to not increase gas power, were targeted by the Ontario Government for gas plant expansions. The Ontario Clean Air Alliance is working with these municipalities to be removed from the Ontario Government's plans. Reference:

<https://www.cleanairalliance.org/ontario-municipalities-that-have-endorsed-gas-power-phase-out/>

I am sure that I am not alone in the Niagara Region in understanding that we have little to gain from this proposed Gas Plant Expansion project in Thorold, and potentially everything to lose in the not-to-distant future. We want to live in a region that is supporting the country's emission reduction objectives by mitigating Climate Change, not be part of a plan to make the problem worse.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Mark Freeman

██████████, Thorold