

Ted Glick testimony at August 8 NJ Energy Master Plan public hearing

My name is Ted Glick, and I'm the president of 350 NJ.

-In October of last year I and a number of others testified in this room about the need for you to support a moratorium on building any new fossil fuel infrastructure in NJ. We said that if you're in a hole the first thing you need to do is stop digging.

-It is disappointing that in the draft EMP you completely and totally ignored this issue. You did so even though Governor Phil Murphy has been referring to you and your drafting process when confronted about the dozen or more new fossil fuel projects being proposed and advanced and how contradictory that is to a renewable energy agenda.

-There are actually many good ideas and approaches in this EMP, all of which I read. If those ideas and approaches are followed through on and implemented, it would be generally a good thing, even though the timetable doesn't meet the urgency, and there are other problems.

-But one huge problem is the way in which it describes natural gas. On page 42 it is described as a "bridge fuel," as if renewable energy was not right now both affordable and technologically a viable alternative to all fossil fuels. Natural gas is not a bridge fuel, it is a gangplank to a very catastrophic future.

-You say on p. 79 that methane is 25 times more powerful as a ghg than co2 over 100 years, but the latest scientific view on methane is that it is 86 times more powerful over a 20 year period, and 20 years is the time period which matters. The climate emergency is getting worse fast, and scientists say we need to accelerate the clean energy transition accordingly. I have been following this issue since 2003, and I am convinced that we are in climate tipping points territory.

-You do not seem to appreciate that methane leaks all throughout the process of producing, distributing, storing and utilizing natural gas. Most recent independent assessments report that natural gas is worse than coal when it comes to ghg's.

-Your draft is like a doctor telling a patient to go on a diet of healthier foods but to just go on eating all of the ice cream you want. It won't work. Doing good things to produce renewable energy, strengthen energy efficiency and promote electric cars and heat pumps, while building out new fossil fuel infrastructure, is simply a dishonest prescription.

-If you are doing this under the direction of the Governor, you need to stand up to him and speak truth to power. If you are doing it because you believe it, you need to really, really, learn the truth about natural gas and support a moratorium now.

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