

The Addison Natural Gas Project: **What You Need to Know**

Vermont Gas Systems (VGS) is proposing the largest fossil fuel infrastructure upgrade in Vermont in almost 50 years.

VGS's project will impact our environment, safety, and economy.

Environment

This expansion is at odds with Vermont's stated goal of using 90% renewables by 2050.

VGS has acknowledged that some of the gas it sells in Vermont comes from hydraulic fracturing. Vermont has banned hydraulic fracturing due to its destructive environmental impact. The ANGP proposes a sharp increase in the use of fracked gas as a major energy source in the state.

VGS claims of reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions do not factor in leakage rates in the extraction, transmission and distribution of natural gas. The GHG effect of methane is 21 times that of CO₂ and current leakage rates make natural gas a worse choice than either coal or oil. It is not "cleaner."

VGS claims the ANGP will reduce Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions by 300,000 tons over 20 years, which averages to 15,000 tons/yr.

In 2008, Vermont's total GHG emissions were 8.37 million metric tons.

Therefore, The ANGP would only reduce Vermont's GHG emissions by .16% and at a cost of \$222 per ton (2.75 times the current rate of \$80/ton). This is far offset by the amount of leakage in the extraction of the gas.

Safety

VGS claims it is safe to site pipelines within 25 feet of a residence or well. Yet the Potential Impact Radius, the area within which everything would be destroyed in case of an accident, of a pipeline the size and pressure they are proposing is over 300 feet, according to the calculation formula in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Is it fair to require Vermonters to permanently reside within a "Potential Impact Radius"?

Process

VGS has applied to the Public Service Board (PSB) for a "Certificate of Public Good" in order to construct their project. "Public Good" is an ill-defined, unquantifiable concept, yet there are significant financial consequences for landowners in the path of the project, who will be compelled by eminent domain to give up property rights.

These same landowners have no voice in the PSB Section 248 process unless they spend many thousands of dollars on attorneys to protect their property rights against a multi-billion dollar corporation. VGS is also objecting to participation by any group who may present an opposing point of view.

Economics

The ratepayers of Chittenden and Franklin Counties are paying for \$66.6 million of the ANGP construction costs.

Which will extend service to 3000 households, or only 21% of Addison County, for an average cost of \$22,000/household.

\$66.6 million divided by the 14,159 households in Addison Co. is \$4703/home, enough to air-seal and weatherize an average home.

In Vermont, the average household burns 850 gallons of heating oil (or the BTU equivalent) per year. Weatherizing homes can cut that by 20–30%, saving a homeowner \$1000/yr.

The same expenditure would save 21% of Addison Co. households \$1500/yr. (\$4.5 million) or 100% of the households \$1000/yr. (\$14.2 million and 3.5 million fewer gals. used)

Projected savings by VGS for natural gas users are based on the assumption that natural gas prices will remain at historic lows indefinitely.

The ANGP is estimated to create only 20 new jobs per year. Weatherizing homes in Vermont would create 800 new jobs.

GHG emission reductions for weatherization would be 30 times the emission reductions for the ANGP at a cost of \$6.76 per ton.

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“We cannot act quickly enough to move our nation and our planet off fossil fuels, reduce carbon emissions, and promote safe, renewable sources of energy to fuel our economic growth.”

—Governor Peter Shumlin, 2/14/13,
commenting on the introduction of the
Climate Protection Act in the US Senate

Shouldn't we better define the “Public Good” before we confiscate Vermont citizens' property to hand over to a multi-national corporation?

SOURCES

Environment

Vermont 2011 Comprehensive Energy Plan

http://publicservice.vermont.gov/publications/energy_plan/2011_plan

Vermont Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Update 1990-2008

http://www.anr.state.vt.us/anr/climatechange/Pubs/Vermont%20GHG%20Emissions%20Inventory%20Update%201990-2008%20FINAL_09272010.pdf

Prefiled Testimony of Eileen Simollardes

<http://addisonnaturalgas.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/VGS-ANGP-Simollardes-PFT-12-20-12.pdf>

Climate Impacts of Shale Gas Development

<http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/howarth/Marcellus.html>

Hydrocarbon Emissions Characterization in the Colorado Front Range

http://blogs.edf.org/energyexchange/files/2012/02/Petron_Colorado_Front_Range_2011.pdf

Methane leaks erode green credentials of natural gas

<http://www.nature.com/news/methane-leaks-erode-green-credentials-of-natural-gas-1.12123>

Safety

<http://addisonnaturalgas.com/frequently-asked-questions/#safety>

CFR Title 49 Vol. 3 Sec. 192.903

Economics

Supplemental testimony of John Heintz

http://addisonnaturalgas.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Exhibit-Petitioner-Supp_JH-11-2-28-13.pdf

Petition Exhibit TSL-9 of Jeffrey Lyons

<http://addisonnaturalgas.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Exhibit-Petitioner-TSL-9.pdf>

Thermal Efficiency Task Force (TETF) Report to the Legislature 1/15/13

http://publicservice.vermont.gov/sites/psd/files/Topics/Energy_Efficiency/TETF/TETF%20Report%20to%20the%20Legislature_FINAL_1_15_13_2.pdf

The Weatherization Assistance Program Briefing Book

<http://www.waptac.org/WAP-Basics/Briefing-Book.aspx>

Prefiled Testimony of Jeffrey B. Carr

http://addisonnaturalgas.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/vgs_angp_carr_pft_12-20-12.pdf