



## **WISCONSINITES ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) TO RECONSIDER CONTROVERSIAL GAS PROJECT**

*Growing concern over the environmental, health, and economic impacts of gas infrastructure*

**MILWAUKEE** — The following statements were issued to the PSC regarding the [Paris RICE](#) “Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engine” gas project. These comments encourage agencies to consider the negative environmental, social, and health impacts of the project.

### **Molly Collins, Advocacy Director, American Lung Association in Wisconsin**

“No community should continue to bear the burden of air pollution levels that harm public health. Wisconsin can provide reliable power to residents without jeopardizing their health. We urge the PSC to strengthen the environmental impact statement to more fully explore alternative investment strategies that better align with our shared clean air and sustainability goals. This includes exploration of non-combustion renewable power, like wind and solar, to secure a healthier and more resilient future for Wisconsin.”

- For an interview with Molly Collins, contact: [Molly.Collins@lung.org](mailto:Molly.Collins@lung.org)

### **Cassie Steiner-Bouxa, Senior Campaign Coordinator, Sierra Club - Wisconsin Chapter**

“The Paris RICE project has significant impacts that are not well reflected in the draft environmental documents. The impacts that this gas facility would have on air quality, public health, and climate change must be fully considered by the Public Service Commission when they make their decision. For too long, the PSC has served utility interests before those of the public. It is time for the PSC to embrace its full mission of regulating on behalf of the people of Wisconsin.”

- For an interview with Cassie Steiner-Bouxa, contact: [cassie.steiner@sierraclub.org](mailto:cassie.steiner@sierraclub.org)

### **Joel Charles, MD, MPH, Family Physician and Hospitalist**

“As a family doctor who takes care of patients across the lifespan, I ask that the Public Service Commission deny the permit for 7 RICE units to the Town of Paris in Kenosha. These plants are unnecessary and bad for human health. Methane gas use has been shown to increase health harms such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, as well as cancer, kidney, and neurodevelopmental disorders such as Alzheimer's. In addition, methane gas has also been directly linked to higher rates of asthma, negative outcomes for fetus and infant health, and higher rates of premature death.”

- For an interview with Joel Charles, MD, MPH, contact: [Abby@healthyclimatewi.org](mailto:Abby@healthyclimatewi.org)

### **Nestor Machare Delgado, MD, MSCR, Pulmonologist and Intensive Care Specialist**

“While meeting rising energy demands is crucial, “natural gas” is not the only solution. WEPCO currently generates over a third of its power from natural gas and only about 6% from renewables. A true commitment to resource diversification must prioritize renewable energy and energy efficiency, which can meet our needs while creating sustainable jobs and reducing utility costs.”

### **Hannah Fox, Public Health Professional**

“As a concerned planetary inhabitant and public health professional, I urge the PSC to strengthen its environmental impact statement on the Paris project. If now is not the time to stop promoting fossil fuels, then when? We've known for decades what the implications of continued use of fossil fuels and overconsumption mean for the future of our species and the planet, yet we continue to ignore reason and choose profit over people. It's time to green the grid, now.”

### **Healthy Climate Wisconsin**

“HCW formally requests that PSC staff expand the DEIS for the Paris Generation Project to include: a comprehensive overview of the health impacts of the methane gas needed to power this plant (from extraction to combustion), the social and health-related financial costs associated with this project, and the acknowledgment that Kenosha County is a nonattainment area for ozone. HCW also asks that the DEIS reflect on the plant's predicted impact on a nonattainment area, the updated NAAQS for PM2.5, and considerations of the cumulative impacts of all gas infrastructure in the area. Finally, we ask that the DEIS fully analyze the plant's climate change and energy burden impacts, and include modeling of energy generation alternatives with a full analysis of better, cheaper, and safer alternatives.”

- For an interview with Healthy Climate Wisconsin, contact: [Abby@healthyclimatewi.org](mailto:Abby@healthyclimatewi.org)

### **Alex Beld, Communications Manager, RENEW Wisconsin**

“Investments in fossil fuel infrastructure with an expected life that spans multiple decades come with significant risks. Some of which directly impact the environment and human health by exposing people to harmful emissions and increasing greenhouse gas emissions that exacerbate the impacts of climate change. This project also comes with a financial risk of creating redundant fossil-fuel based infrastructure that may not be used for the entirety of its expected lifespan.”

- For an interview with Alex Beld, contact: [abeld@renewwisconsin.org](mailto:abeld@renewwisconsin.org)

### **Miriam Hasan, Public Health Professional**

"I'm concerned that the health impacts of increasing air pollution related to fuel combustion will unfairly burden the community of the Town of Paris in Kenosha. Air pollution-related diseases take years off of our lives, and reduce the quality of what is left. This is not worth any short-term cost savings. The suffering caused by air pollution from fossil fuel combustion is well-documented--see NIH research about the significantly higher rates of asthma hospitalization, respiratory infection, and COPD experienced by people living in zip codes with fuel-fired power plants as compared with demographically similar zip codes that don't have a power plant."

**Judith Stadler, Retired Health Professional**

"Methane gas is a potent greenhouse gas and is not a climate solution. This plant is an example of building new fossil fuel infrastructure that will lock us into decades of dangerous emissions, just like those from coal. Clean energy can meet that need without harming the health of my grandchildren and all the other children in our state."

**Georgia Rockwell, Health Administrator**

"While meeting energy needs is important, using fossil fuels is not the only way to do that. Renewable energy production is inexpensive, efficient, and reliable. WEPCO currently only produces 6% of its energy from renewable resources, which is unacceptable. WEPCO is prioritizing profits over our children's ability to exist. On top of that, methane gas is 81.2 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas."

**Anne Steinberg, Milwaukee Resident**

"The urgency of the climate crisis requires us all to act do as much as possible to quickly transition to clean and renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. "Natural" gas is not a clean alternative to coal and we shouldn` t be building more gas-powered plants. Wisconsinites are experiencing the climate crisis with increased droughts and storms, heat waves, smoke filled air from forest fires, and insurance companies beginning to refuse to insure homes they find are susceptible to floods and tornados."

**Teresa Thomas-Boyd, Milwaukee Pastor**

"I am a concerned pastor, community organizer and leader in Milwaukee, WI. I ask that PSC deny this proposal to add 7 RICE units to the Town of Paris in Kenosha," said Milwaukee Pastor Teresa Thomas-Boyd. "My key reasons are: 1. Natural gas use has negative effects on community health. The health harms include respiratory, especially asthma, cancer, and kidney disorders. In addition, the thought of what happens to fetus, infant and children in air pollution is very disturbing to me. 2. It has negative effects on the climate. 3. There are lots of alternative options that are more positive to use than gas. Overall, I like to see and experience win-win outcomes. Do things in the interest of the people and not just the profit of the company."

###