Matthew Michener rehoboth reporter article

In response to Mr. Cavanagh’s letter in the Reporter May 10th, you stated “Natural gas emits less than half the amount of GHG than coal”. While it is true, natural gas does produce lower C02 emissions when it is burned, when it is vented directly into the air as a gas vapor it is actually 20 times more potent as a GHG than other fossil fuels. This latter category of emissions would encompass the type of gas that our compressor station would be venting and that our old pipelines will be leaking -which already accounts for an estimated 45% of our state’s greenhouse gas emissions.

While natural gas is almost completely methane (which is called “dry gas”) the gas from the Marcellus shale (where this gas will be coming from) is called “wet gas”. Wet gas -the gas that will be vented from the proposed Rehoboth Compressor station, contains less than 85% methane and has a higher percentage of liquid natural gases (LNG’s) such as ethane and butane. And while our compressor station may not be “Chernobyl”, this gas is loaded with many contaminants including those toxic chemicals that are used in the fracturing process to extract the gas from shale. This gas – which contains a minimum of 10 known carcinogens including radon- is cleaned (or scrubbed), but this is done at compressor stations along its way to its final destination (Canada). **Compressor stations linked to leaking pipelines that will be forcing higher volumes of gas under high pressure means there will be exponentially higher risks of accidents.** The Markey report (2001-2011) sited 769“significant incidents” in the US including hundreds of explosions killing 116 people, injuring 465 and causing $800 million in property damage.

Is this what people moved to Rehoboth for? To worry about potentially devastating pipeline accidents? What could possibly be worth the smell and noise emitted from a compressor station 24/7? And by the way, 55 decibels is Spectra’s stated *average* for noise levels which fluctuate between 35- 100 decibels on a daily basis (noise levels 165 decibels is so loud it causes permanent hearing damage). So far I have found no evidence of people living near compressor stations that think it added anything but harm to their lives, air and property values.

Please, I appeal to every property owner in Rehoboth. Get involved! This issue affects all of us and if we do nothing this pipeline expansion will happen and we will have ourselves to blame.

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