

Transcription from Natural Gas
Long-Term Capacity Report Public Meeting
Hicksville Community Center, Hicksville, NY
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Opening Remarks

John Bruckner, President of National Grid New York: All right, we're going to get started. So if everybody can take a seat and there's plenty of seats still in the front and we'll get started. All right, Daniel, we have a couple that want to sit if we can move the bag there please. Thank you.

All right, well thank you all for coming here tonight. And good evening. My name is John Bruckner. I'm the president of National Grid for New York. And just a couple of comments. I want to start at the beginning with respect to our own safety here in this room, but before I do that, I do want to acknowledge the town of Oyster Bay for giving us the opportunity to use this room this evening. You know, big thank you to them for participating in the event in that way. So we certainly appreciate their hospitality. From a safety perspective, just a couple issues I want to cover right up front. There are no planned emergency evacuations here tonight. We don't have any fire drill schedules. So if we do hear it or we're given the alert to leave the building, we do have exits over here to my right. Your left and we also have the way you came in. So if we did have some type of an emergency we all should exit the building to the nearest exit and then we can congregate out there in the parking lot. Number one. The other thing, you'll also notice that in the packets that you received in the back of the room, we provided some information from the CDC with respect to how to prevent and control the spread of the coronavirus. So please take the time through the evening and take it with you to review that material and to aid in that issue, tonight we also provided a number of areas here, number of stations where we have a number of tissue boxes and so forth, and also hand sanitizing gel. Please feel free to practice good hygiene, utilize these different tools.

And again, it goes a long way and all of us preventing the spread of this particular virus. And it's again, good hygiene. So without any further ado, why are we here tonight? Just a few weeks ago, as you know we published our long-term natural gas capacity report and again with a goal of providing research and publish a report that offers potential opportunities and options to address the downstate New York gas capacity constraint and that's the report. But tonight's really about you. Tonight's about you and hearing from you, having you have opportunity to learn about some of the options, ask any questions to the subject matter experts as you work around the room and the different stations. And again, there are subject matter experts there. If you have questions, ask the questions. As you work around the room, they are stationed, all these various options, have stations associated with them.

Option one through option 10. There's no particular order. If you want to spend more time on some of them and less on others, the option is all up to you. So there is no actual staging of which ones you need to go to. Tonight session, you also have the opportunity to provide comment. So at each one of the stations when you're done, you can certainly either provide comment and we have some hand surveys up front here that you can review, fill out, we'll have people help you go through it and submit them. You could also use the iPads up in the front of the room. We also have the opportunity to use your own phones and iPads if you want to submit

comments or questions. And then lastly, you'll see the long-term solutions website. You can certainly always go onto the website and submit any comment or question and have it entered directly into the record.

Lastly about this evening you're given the opportunity, we have a mic set up here for you to have the opportunity to provide any oral comments that you want. That oral comment session will start at around 7:00 PM. So at 7:00 PM, again, if you have comments, you should register in the back. I know when you came into the room you registered. But if you want to provide an oral comment, you also have to register for the oral comments. So we have an order in which people can come up and present their comment. It's important your comment will be recorded and also put into the record and provided directly to the New York state public service commission. So it's another option just again to review. We have the surveys, we have the online option for your iPads and your phones. We have a number of ambassadors working around the room that could certainly help you with any questions you have about how you could submit comment or survey. And then we also have the opportunity for you to present an oral comment as well.

Member of the public: The people have spoken, renewables now..... [chant continues]

John Buckner: I've heard right now, if we're going to continue this, we should give the people here the opportunity. I'm going to show a video. Why don't we run the video, let's run the video.

Video Plays: <https://ngridlongtermsolutions.com/>

John Buckner: Feel free to walk around and at seven o'clock there'll be an oral comment period. If you wanted to participate again, register in the back. And with that please take your time to go around the room and ask any questions that you might have for your SMEs. Thank you.

Public Statements

Melanie Littlejohn, Director of Community and Customer Management, National Grid: All right, good evening everyone. Now this commences the public comments section. Let me introduce you very quickly to our listening panel. The panel will listen to your public comments. And that's exactly what this part of the evening is structured for listening. We have Cameron McKennitt who represents the report and the compilation of the report, John Bruckner whom you've met and Tom Bennett who represents assets and gas management side of our business. So certainly thank you. Welcome. tonight you have an opportunity to participate in multiple fashions to get your comments as a part of the record. Please, for those of you who are not providing public comments, please make sure that you either go to our iPads. You also have the ability to fill out a paper survey. You can go to our websites where you can fill out the survey as well as well as provide public comments.

And so this is the fourth opportunity to allow you to have your voice be a part of the process and to weigh in and be a part of the discussion. So what I asked that everyone that speaking, and I believe it's almost 20 that are speaking this evening the public comment section will be from seven to 8:00 PM. I asked that when you come up to the microphone, we're going to go in number order. Please wave your numbers just to make sure that you have them all. Please, we'll start with item number one and then we'll go through the full list of 20. You have two minutes in order to make your comments just because we want to ensure that everyone's voice is captured. And so if at the end of the evening we run out of time, please understand you still have the opportunity to weigh in, whether it's behind this microphone or via paper, website, iPad, your voice matters. So with that, let's start with speaker number one and again two minutes and we invite everyone to the open comment section for our listening panel. Thank you.

Dr. Charles Bevington, Member of the Public: Thank you Melanie for this democracy in action. My name is Dr. Charles Bevington. I'm the chair of a Sierra club Long Island group. There are 8,000 paid members and you will be getting a lot more comments. I just want to focus on one particular piece. There's 8,000 paid Sierra club members, in Long Island, several here as well. You were using as your central design a criteria for design day, which for the average temperature over 24 hours in central park is zero degrees. This criterion is used to calculate how you would have to deliver to customers and you had on your film supply demand for heat on a very cold day, to repeat the reference day used for this is by definition the average temperature over 24 hours at central park zero degrees Fahrenheit. This situation has not occurred in 86 years, since 1934 when FDR was president because of the increase in temperature here and throughout the world as a result of climate change caused by burning fossil fuels such as methane natural gas. These conditions are most unlikely to occur in my lifetime or yours or our children's or even our grandchildren's lifetime. So if you're designing a new facility on the South shore, would you use a hundred year old flood data to predict the likelihood of future flooding? I don't think so. Not when you know that using a hundred year flood data which, floods occur a lot more frequently, every five years or whatever. The result of sea level rise is also part of the climate change, about 10 seconds away. So if you would like to use old, obsolete sea level and flood data design new facility, why would you? So I suggest going back to the drawing board, ask for weather experts to consult historical weather records to devise a more appropriate worst-day heating demand. And I appreciate your time.

Melanie Littlejohn: Thank you. Can I ask for speakers two, three, four and five to come up to the microphone. Thank you.

Sarah Gronin, Member of the Public: Hello. I'm Sarah. I'm from 350 Brooklyn. I would like to question the premise of this report and of the plans that you are making. Governor Cuomo and the public service commission asks you to produce this report. However, last spring New York state passed the climate leadership and community protection act by law. Then by 2050, the entire state of New York across all its activities will emit no more than 15% of what it emitted in greenhouse gases in 1990. This translates to a cap of 35 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalence across the whole state. Yet the volume of gas supplied by National Grid to its downstate customers in 2015 yielded 70 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent when burned. Bringing yet more fracked gas into New York will make it impossible to meet our responsibilities for fighting the climate crisis. Governor Cuomo and the PSC should explicitly acknowledge that National Grid must contract its supply and eventually go out of business altogether. Thank you.

Bhavani Jaroff, Member of the Public: Hi, my name is Bhavani Jaroff. I'm here representing NOFA New York, which stands for the Northeast organic farming association as well as slow food North shore, which is our local slow food chapter and IE green, which is my own company and I am passionate about our environment and the climate leadership protection act that has been passed. And as I walked around the room looking at all the different proposals, I do not see anything with wind or solar and that just seems completely irresponsible with the new act that was passed this past spring. And I just do not understand why you do not want to move forward and use renewable energy when you have that option and continue to hold us all hostage and continue to offer only options that are going to continue polluting the planet. Thank you.

Daniel Karpen, Member of the Public: My name is Daniel Karpen, professional engineer. I've been involved in the energy conservation business for 40 years as a professional, as an engineer. John, I'm applying for the jobs and new position of vice president energy conservation at National Grid. So I'll give you a resume following my presentation. You're doing a really bad job on energy conservation. Here's some of the things you can do. Steam pipe insulation. I have never seen a building in your territory that has proper steam pipe insulation. Do you know what the payback period on insulating steam line is, John?

Melanie Littlejohn: No.

Daniel Karpen: You don't know? You should know. Shame on you. That's what Greta says. It's one year. It's better than the stock market for that matter. Pipe insulation for hot water lines. I'm going to give you a professional resume and I'm going to give you information about gray water heat recovery. You've got laundromats generating tremendous amount of hot water. It goes down the drain. This is the literature on the falling film heat exchanger recovers 80% of the heat going down the drain. You'll get that. I picked up this literature at a trade show in Javits center on your energy conservation programs. I've got four sheets, but when I came here, no one gave them out. That shows that you're doing absolutely nothing on energy conservation. I would be the new vice president of energy conservation. I would go on the TV and show people how to insulate their hot water lines so that can reduce the bills. Another thing you can do to reduce your gas usage of the house is to eat raw food. I go through five to 10 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables every day. I try not to cook, but in order to save 25 cents with a natural gas, I've got to eat \$25 worth of blueberries. Thank you.

Melanie Littlejohn: Just a reminder. This is the listening panel, so we're encouraging everyone just to understand that they're in listening mode. Five, six, seven, eight, nine and 10. If you could line up. Thank you.

Ed Power, Member of the Public: Hello, my name is Ed Power from the Rockaways. No offense, but the real answer here is a public owned utility. Right now National Grid is a UK based foreign corporation whose only concern is for its shareholders profits, bringing in more fracked radioactive gas is not the answer. I wish everybody here would read, there was an article called, it was in January rolling stone magazine called America's radioactive secret by Justin Nobel, 20-month investigation into fracked gas, especially the greatest radioactive frack gas field, the Marcellus Shale. As a resident of Rockaway, I'm especially opposed to the NSC pipeline, which would do grave harm to our ocean for the profit again of a European corporation, myself and too many others to count swim for cardiovascular health in the ocean from June through November, dredging up 24 miles of contaminated ocean floor you know, would release carcinogen such as dioxin, PCBs, mercury, and many more. Is National Grid going to pay my hospital bill? How about for the others who get cancer? I doubt it. Any summer day in Rockaway, you could see tens of thousands of people on the beach, many in the water. This is their ocean, our ocean, not National Grid's. The answer is no more new fracked gas infrastructure and renewables now, thank you very much.

Dr. Jerry River, Member of the Public: Good evening. How you doing? My name is Jerry River. Dr. Jerry River, environmental scientists work for the North American climate conservation environment. I also was in Sweden many years ago. I just received a Nobel peace prize in my honor for environmental justice to fight against this ruthless evil infrastructures across North America, which is a very success, all in my name. You need to hear this. It is in its report, National grid claims they're bringing more fracked gas into a downstate region to help reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by preventing customers from using dirtiest fuels, but all of it conservative from the really dirty number six oil in New York City will complete by the end of 2015 and this claim files on assumption that frack gas itself is not an important greenhouse gas. It's not only does gas producing carbon dioxide well burn for heat or electricity, but it's primarily a methane which is a steady six times more powerful greenhouse gas than its carbon dioxide in the first 20 years after its released from methane leaks into the atmosphere considerably from fat gas wells, from processing facilities, from transmission pipelines in stations and from the gas mains under our streets. The people who are from New York have spoken, that NES pipeline has already been roundly rejected in response to tens of thousands of public comments. A huge social movement won the passage of illegal binding climate goals in the climate leadership and community protection that National Grid needs to get the message. It's time to stop fighting methane gas. It's time to find a solution.

This is your choice, your decision. Either you stop funding fossil fuels and get rid of this dirty infrastructure, or you can have a healthy planet to clean oceans and clean air and clean water for our children and grandchildren so that they can-- for this healthy planet for years head. This is your decision now. We need to hear from you.

Annie Garneva, Member of the Public: Hello. My name is Annie Garneva. I'm a member of the stop the women's pipeline coalition in energy project in DSA. According to a recent report by the energy futures group report, the federal energy information administration predicts a significantly slower rate of growth in natural gas consumption nationwide than what you National Grid estimate for the Metro region. 1.6% over the next 10 years as opposed to the 11% growth over the decade that you have used to project all of the various data that we've looked around today. An adjustment based on EIS data would reduce National Grid's projection of future energy needs by nearly 85%. This means that all your metrics claiming the need for an increase of 400 dekatherms a day are faulty, bringing the actual gap between current supply and future demand to only 60 dekatherms per day, per your own analysis on display today, any one of the no infrastructure options would garner this outcome via gas demand decreases, for electrification you say, we'll get 52 to 86 dekatherms demand response would yield 81 to 108 dekatherms and energy efficiency 111 to 216 dekatherms.

If you add all that, it actually eventually leads to a great gas decrease beyond just the gap that you project. So that's wonderful. As a rate payer and person who likes to breathe and live on this planet, my recommendation is that A, you use better data systems that actually reflect the current climate crisis and climate science to make your projections B, implement all non-infrastructure options and none of the actual, the large infrastructure options and C, prepare for the day that this is very quickly coming when none of your jobs exist. Your talking points are recognized for the lies that they are. Some of you will be in prison and energy development, transmission, and distribution will be recognized for what they are, a public need that we publicly owned. Thank you.

Jossi Fritz-Mauer, Member of the Public: Hi there. My name is Jossi Fritz-Mauer. I'm a home owner a few miles away from here. Our central AC system is about 14 years old. So my wife told me I had to fix that before the summer or she would divorce me. So looking into our options, obviously we're going to do a whole house, air source, heat pump and then we're going to offset the resulting usage that that's going to increase with solar. And this makes total sense to me. And the reason we're doing this besides of course, so I don't have to get divorced from my wife and have AC in the summer, is because these solutions exist today and there is a meaningful pathway for the electric grid to move to 100% carbon free within the lifetime of that system and 70% renewables by 2030 thanks to the CLC EPA, I don't believe that a meaningful pathway exists when it comes to natural gas infrastructure.

The other thing I want to say is if I understand this summary report it sounds like this report is asking for feedback from customers to help guide future decision making. And one of the things it says is one of the options is to fully rely on a portfolio of incremental no infrastructure solutions like EEDR and then heat pumps geothermal or otherwise. And then looking at the cost for these, it looks like the cost is not meaningfully different to do those solutions as it is from any of the other pipeline solutions that are offered here. So to the extent that I can take this at face value, if you're asking for input from Long Island customers, it sounds as though there's not a meaningful cost difference to invest in the suite of no infrastructure projects. And so I would advise you to move forward on that basis because we should be electrifying everything because there's a meaningful pathway to make the electrical grid 100% green within our lifetimes. Thank you.

Melanie Littlejohn: Can I ask for speakers? 10 11, 12, 13, 14 15.

Fred Harrison, Member of the Public: My name is Fred Harrison. I'm a resident of Long Island. I want to make a few comments. First, I want to thank the people from National Grid for coming here because I've got a lot of good information and I found that people who work for the company very solicitous in answering questions. So I appreciate their efforts of being here. Now to the report itself. I'm a retired teacher of economics and politics, so I have a little bit of a comment that I would like to make not in terms of my field, but in terms of report and some corrections that I think should be considered and some admissions that I think should be considered. So I want to begin, first of all, page 17 assessing costs because the last speaker talked about the fact that he felt that there was really no difference between the cost of the various scenarios, the various options that were put out there in terms of the number 10 and other infrastructure costs. And of course there are, because one of the things that the report fails, and I'm surprised at this, but the report fails to consider the external costs of greenhouse gases on all of us and on the economy. So when you assessed costs, assess the full costs because the costs of renewables don't have the externalities which are highly, very studied. This is not something that's vague stuff that results in damage to the environment, to agriculture.

I don't even want to go into that. There were costs that you haven't accounted for in the report. I'm very surprised at that because you're not comparing things fairly here. You're not comparing what you say. This chart's designed to provide an apples to apples, not apples to apples, not apples to apples. That's wrong. Second thing the report says on the very first page, collaborating for a safe and reliable energy future. Well, I get that. And number one to 10 were really good. I liked those options. They were very informative. I didn't know some of those options. Honestly, I'm not being rhetorical, but you miss some options. Why did it stop at 10? I don't understand that. I don't understand why there's not an option of fully embracing the recent New York state legislation that was passed. I don't understand that, that wasn't an option, that National Grid would enthusiastically dedicate itself to achieving the legislatively mandated goals on greenhouse gases.

Then the other option is I don't quite get this claim that there's an imbalance between supply and demand. And I asked you the question about this, in your territory, I just looked this up. There were 26 power generating stations in the territory service by National Grid, all gas turban. That gas usage will decline as the New York state energy plan is implemented. So to say there's a gas shortage into the future, when we know there's going to be a decline in usage in an electrical generation of 26 plants, needs explanation. Why isn't it an option there?

Melanie Littlejohn: Thank you, Mr. Harrison. Sorry, I'm trying to be. Thank you. Thank you.

Ryan Madden, Member of the Public: Hello, my name is Ryan Madden. I'm the sustainability organizer for the Long Island Progressive coalition. We spent the last four years with a coalition of 200 organizations passing the climate leadership and community protection act. And we did not pass it so that we could continue to rely on fossil fuels. And this plan spits in the face of a grassroots coalition that has forced the hand of government to do what we need to do. Especially from a company that was recently fined \$36 million for misleading the public and elected officials about long-term gas supplies. So I find the findings here, questionable to say the least. Ignorance of the law and reckless and their perpetuation of an economy based on fossil fuels is both physically dangerous and morally reprehensible. In that too, just want to note, because what we often hear is that we don't have the solutions now. What about the economy?

We have an entire coalition across New York State and many people in this room who have just transitioned programs for workers in the existing industry for communities who host fossil fuel infrastructure and funding streams to get there. Whether it's incorporating the costs of greenhouse gas emissions into your business model, which you have recklessly not gotten away with for decades. And or taxing the rich, which there's plenty to do here in New York state. And so the idea that we can't do this now is a matter of choice. That is both before all of us. And we don't have time. We literally cannot keep doing what we're doing. So my comments are not here for you. You all have the incentive structures that you're accountable to. This is for the other folks in this room. This is the community of people that has solutions and we're not going away until this business model is obsolete. Thanks.

Melanie Littlejohn: Okay. I think we're up to 14, 15. Can I have 16, 17, 18 and 19 come up? And again, if you run out of your two minutes, I encourage you, please, your voice still matters. There are so many opportunities for you to continue to weigh in and to provide your voice as a part of the record. So we're just trying to keep close to that two minutes to allow everyone to speak. Thank you.

Laura Shindell, Member of the Public: Thanks. My name is Laura Shindell. I'm an organizer with food and water action and food and water watch. We're a member of the stop the Williams pipeline coalition. We have over 80,000 members in New York state. I just want to remind everybody in the room why it is that we're even in this room today is because National Grid was penalized by New York State for enacting a moratorium that the state found to be based on inaccuracies, lies, and the poor stewardship of their company. And it boiled over so much that Governor Cuomo threatened to revoke your license to operate. And so as a deal, we got this long-term energy report, you got fined a whole bunch, and we get these meetings. So the whole reason we're here today is based on the fact that National Grid has not been honest with its customers or the state.

And so we're already picking apart everything that's in the report and already finding different alternative facts, we'll say. One of which the National Grid's projection for your gas is not consistent with national data provided by the energy information administration. The demand forecasts that are presented in a report that was published today, show that an adjustment based on real data would reduce National Grid's projection of future energy needs by 85%. So the whole claim that, well these are our options because we've got this supply demand gap is a farce and they're doing that because they've got a profit incentive to do so. Not to mention in the report it says, we've taken the environmental impacts into account with each of these options, but the report does not, and it says in there, the report does not consider how these various proposals would meet an emission reduction standards mandated by the climate leadership and Communities protection act. So if you have a utility that's not concerned with producing solutions that are consistent with New York state law, that just proves that we need public power in order to be consistent with that law, because we can't rely on the corporate utility to do so. As evidenced through the report you just put out. Thank you.

Charles Nieves, Member of the Public: My name is Charles Nieves. I'm a volunteer with Long Island progressive coalition, but today I speak as just a concerned citizen, as others have already noted the recently packed climate leadership and community protection act. I would like to mention humans are not the only species in the crosshairs. Marine mammals and turtles are also vulnerable and William's plan to protect them is frankly inadequate. Animals at risk include Harbor seals, humpback whales and five species of endangered sea turtles. Harbor seals migrate into and out of the area throughout any proposed construction period. Until fairly recently, humpback whales were rare in the lower Harbor and Raritan Bay. They are now regularly cited in these waters during the prime construction period for the NESE as whales and seals are both very cautious creatures. Construction noise spread over 13,000 acres of surface area in addition to this impact of sea bed acreage would seriously disrupt these mammals.

Moreover, a recent study of whale deaths found at half could be attributed to vessel strikes. As such, the concentration of vessels required by a project that this grow notably raises the risk for these creatures, while Williams has proposed to post people who will visually scan surrounding waters for Marine mammals and turtles. These species are often under the surface of the water for long periods of time and Marine vessels are far from agile. So unless your plan is to deploy submarines, spotters are unlikely to prevent collisions. In sum, tearing up the Harbor floor to excavate a trench for a 23 and a half mile long frack gas pipeline that will disrupt the lives of not only turtle, seals, and whales, but also shellfish, shorebirds, and fish will be a step in a wrong direction, especially in light of the extinction crisis. Thank you.

Patrick Houston, Member of the Public: Good evening everyone. My name is Patrick Houston. I'm with New York communities for change. We organize all across New York City and Long Island and I'm here today representing the many communities that we serve. There is a reality that is not being faced by National Grid, there are two realities that are not being faced by National Grid and one is the reality of the climate crisis that we are facing and what that means for National Grid's business model. The other reality is what the perpetuation of fracked gas means for New York. At New York communities for change, we have many members, Rachel over there, Ms. Fips, Yvonne William who had been directly impacted by the climate crisis, displaced from their homes after hurricane Sandy, home pre foreclosed on because you could not afford both the mortgage and the payments for the damage that was done to her home. By the end of this century, the Rockaways is projected to be underwater.

Unlike Wall Street, that community is not getting a \$10 billion wall to protect the massive Rockaways. So there's a reality that's not being faced and this perpetuation of frack gas is only going to continue to hurt new Yorkers. I'm happy to be here today after a while with fighting back against National Grid's proposals to be able to see all of you and talk to all of you in person. I'm not here to yell and holler at you. I'm here to see all you and talking to all you in person. We are all in the same predicament. The climate crisis requires that we make sacrifices and adjustments in our lives. And so if history shows us anything National Grid, like many corporations, it's going to continue to push to make its profit. But as somebody mentioned before, you are only going to be running into more and more pressure facing higher and higher fines and putting forth more and more desperate proposals that are misaligned with climate law, with climate science, and what is safe for New Yorkers. So please deeply reconsider what National Grid is putting forth as a whole. But I'm also here to ask you as individuals to look at the seriousness of the climate crisis and what that means for humans and for our children and our families.

Ryan Welsch, Member of the Public: My name is Ryan Welsch. I'm a citizen here on Long Island. I live in Port Jefferson and I have been very much into being efficient for decades now. And I have made my home energy efficient. It is totally possible. I get all my energy from the sun. I don't need gas. I don't want gas. No one should want gas. And not only is it dangerous, but it's bad for our environment. It's causing climate change as we've already discussed. It's very possible to make your home totally energy renewable, I'm an example. Why spend money into an infrastructure that is doomed, put money into technology that's here, spend money on making our homes more efficient. Why waste money? It's like throwing money out the window to put money into a gas infrastructure that we know was doomed. Please consider these and use your noggin and choose the right plan for our society for our future forever. Thank you.

Melanie Littlejohn: I believe we have just a few more speakers. Can I have speaker 20, 21, and then I had three that were on a wait list. And so why don't we say that Ryan, Noelle and Kelly and that will be the remaining list. 20, 21 then Ryan. Noelle. Kelly.

Eric Alexander, Member of the Public: Eric Alexander, Vision Long Island. First say happy, I'm happy the moratorium's over. I'm happy there are public hearings seeking to rationally plan, long-term energy use. We did not have that before. Almost a year ago we surveyed our downtown projects seeking to end the moratorium. Affordable housing projects were stuck downtown small retail and service businesses were stuck downtown office space was stuck, providing jobs downtown mixed use development. Hundreds of projects were stuck in a moratorium. Some had delays that were incredibly harmful to their local business. So we're past that, good. Clarity, look around the board, look around the room. No one we've spoken to wants to see LNG terminals or barges. No one wants to see compressed natural gas and trucks driving around Long Island. No one wants to see increased use to home heating oil other than maybe John Catsimatidis who was like trying to get people to go back to eating oil or giant propane tanks in the middle of Elmont redevelopment or other places that were alternatives.

In recent decades, natural gas conversions, whether we like natural gas or not, are responsible for 20% reduction in greenhouse gases, but we still want to go forwards, not backwards. We're sad. We found out that through the moratorium that renewables absent massive subsidy, which we need, we're not completely ready to fill the gaps that natural gas provides. Electric heat pumps are more costly, the consumer, we want them, but still 10% to install, 30 to 4% cost of the electric. I got to talk to the guy in a red shirt who may have the answers, so I'm going to talk to him before the nights over. But bio gas isn't ready. Geothermal is too expensive, great for million dollar homes on the East end, but not working here. It's not working in our downtowns. In the end we're listening, to that end unless there's new information. Our organization stands with 400 of our downtown small businesses, civics chambers, local municipal officials and others that sent letters in support of the NFC pipeline. It's the option that's there. We'd like to see other options. But County executive, Steve Balone and Laura Curran in New York state assembly senators and assembly person supported the pipeline as well. Having said that, I have five seconds, okay, so the climate bill that passed needs to be funded. We need a massive stimulus to bring renewable energy dollars to our small businesses in our downtowns. Let's hope all this energy that's in this room can go to Albany and Washington and bring those dollars back to our communities. Thank you.

Ken Schles, Member of the Public: Hi. My name is Ken Schles. I'm friends with food and water action and other groups like 350 Brooklyn. I wasn't planning to speak, but I'm going to speak. In the short time I've had to review the report proposals the reports and these proposals here, all I can say is that it all reads like a fossil fuel company's frightful wet dream. Most options offered involve building out fossil fuel. The one geothermal option is not offered as a solution but as a pilot project kicking down the solution for renewables three more years down the road. This public show is just that: a disingenuous public show. It takes in no account of New York state law speaking nothing to the New York climate leadership and community protection act or the necessity of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 7.6% per year as demanded in the UN 2019 emissions gap report. This is the minimum that has to happen to prevent the planet from warming more than 1.5 degrees centigrade, to speak to these solutions as to play a dangerous game of falling some shining object. Since the bulk of these solutions is in violation of targets mandated by state law. This meeting itself is a disingenuous act. The premise of the increased demands in the report is unsubstantiated and unvetted. The show is a sham, it will only lead us to environmental destruction.

Eric Weltman, Member of the Public: My name is Eric Weltman and I'm an organizer with food and water action. I'm also here tonight representing my 12 year old son, Zachary Bennett Weltman who is terrified of climate change, as are all his peers inappropriately so. My 12-year-old son is fearful that you are destroying the planet and his future and you are. We're here tonight to send a message to Governor Cuomo. There's a thread that runs through all of these proposals here tonight. They're dangerous, they're costly and they're unnecessary. New York and the nation must move off fossil fuels. I want to specifically address two points. One is the impacts of fracking on regions like Pennsylvania and Ohio where you get your fracked gas. I visited homes, I've talked with families, I've met with kids who can't drink their water.

I've met with families who are terrified that their kids are being poisoned by the fracking process that produces your fuel. For the sake of the people of Pennsylvania, we must stop this pipeline and we must stop all this fracked gas nonsense. Am I right? I finally want to note the potential for good green jobs. The potential is enormous, energy efficiency, renewables, installing solar panels and wind turbines. We need pipelines, but we need water pipelines, not gas pipelines. So let's send a message to Governor Cuomo. We need to move all fossil fuels. All fossil fuels! All fossil fuels! All fossil fuels!

Melanie Littlejohn: Thank you. We appreciate your voice.

Kelly Andreuzzi, Member of the Public: Hi, I'm Kelly Andreuzzi. I'm 18 years old. I'm studying environmental science at Adelphi University and I'm vice president of the environmental action coalition at Adelphi University as well. I think it's quite fitting that I'm one of the last people to speak here today. I am 18 years old. I have a life ahead of me and so does many other young people today. We are going to carry the burden of climate change. We know what our emissions do. We know that fracking and natural gas isn't a sustainable solution for us and we are going to bear the weight of what is going on today. Please hear everyone else's pleas. We've had so many intelligent people out here today who have brought you the facts. You know the facts. Bring us what we want. We want renewable sources. We want sustainable energy. Thank you.

Melanie Littlejohn: We have our last speaker of the evening.

Speaker [unidentified], Member of the Public: Hi. I'd like to start with a quick quote. By Hannah Arendt, "evil comes from a failure to think. It defies thought for as soon as thought tries to engage itself with evil and examine the premises and principles from which it originates. It is frustrated because it finds nothing there, that is the banality of evil." That is what I think of all of you and your suits and representing a corporation that, you know, cracks the surface of the earth to privatize a shared natural resource. I know you're not impressing anyone with these presentations, these corporate presentations and I'm not sure if anyone else, has mentioned it, but in the past year you waged a transnational campaign of economic warfare against this region with your moratorium and your denial of hookups. You cost this Island tens of thousands if not millions of dollars. So I'm just here to call you a capitalist pig to your dumb faces. You make me sick. All of you probably have jobs via nepotism. You are the problem in this country. You are white supremacy in front of me, that's about it.

Audience Member: Don't bring up race.

Speaker [unidentified], Member of the Public: Don't tell me what to do. All right, I am talking and I'm calling you a bunch of capitalist pigs upholding the white supremacist patriarchy and someone had to do it. So thank you everyone. You make me sick.

Melanie Littlejohn: All right this space is about respect because this is what democracy in action looks like. So we just asked for our very last speaker before we close the night. This is the last speaker for this evening and I invite you to the microphone. Thank you.

Guy Jacob, Member of the Public: Thank you for the opportunity. My name is Guy Jacob conservation chair, Nassau, hiking and outdoor club. I have very little to add to what has already been said. I just want to ask whether or not National Grid has considered modifying its business model.

I took so much interest in your descriptions of geothermal possibilities and air source pumps, geothermal systems, you have model programs you're planning. If you modified your business model to become distributors of these renewable opportunities, would it present an opportunity for profit? Because if you don't change your business model, time is going to catch up with you. We have a New York state law in place and we have a public that's demanding renewable options. One way or the other, fossil fuels have their days numbered. Why not consider changing your business model that could provide perhaps the profit that you're looking for and also the economic benefits to the public as well. If you could distribute these geothermal and air source heat pumps and other opportunities as well, just to consider it because that's the one thing that hasn't been discussed tonight. National Grid changing its business model, and I leave you with that thought. Thank you for the opportunity.

Melanie Littlejohn: As we close out the public comment section tonight. Again, I want to remind you that if you didn't have an opportunity to come up to the microphone, please avail yourself to other ways in which to weigh in and be a part of the discussion. You can go to our website, you can go to the iPads, we have paper copies for you to complete as well. If there are questions, please we invite you to be a part of the process and weigh in. And so with that, I will turn to John Bruckner just to say, good evening.