

I'm writing to you about New Hampshire's Energy Strategy. I've looked through the draft report and will try to keep this short and right to the point.

What concerns me the most is that this report lacks concrete goals with respect to cutting CO2 emissions. It lists cheaper fuel costs and expanded stable grid energy, with both industrial and commercial access to LNG as drivers for a 'strategy'.

For example, the graph on page 12 which shows expected CO2 emissions through the year 2032 is relatively flat. One of the key assumptions in the electric sector is there will be transmission expansion lines.

We must be extremely cautious about new (gas) expansion lines, as these typically come with long term contracts for the distribution company. This of course helps us out in the short term (with upcoming plant closings), but what about a long term goal of using clean renewable energy? New gas pipelines are counter-productive and will make us more dependent on fossil fuels.

Take for example, the Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act (2008), which "requires reductions from all sectors of the economy to reach a target of a 25% reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050.". That's a solid goal.

New England is the global-leader of clean energy technologies. If we follow down the path of more reliance on fossil fuels, we won't be able to hold this position.

Something has gone terribly wrong in the past few years as we've entered another oil and gas boom. Everyone wants to switch to natural gas because it's inexpensive and "clean". I'm afraid some of our leaders have become less focused on renewables because of this. Natural gas might "burn cleaner", but it is far from clean energy, especially when you take into account the process of extracting it (fracking).

Maybe NH can follow in the direction of Minnesota's footsteps and start ramping down on their carbon emissions this year? If you have a few extra minutes, I highly recommend taking a look at http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/18/us/politics/without-much-straining-minnesota-reins-in-its-utilities-carbon-emissions.html?smid=fb-share&_r=1

Thank you very much for your time,

EJ Marmonti
Hollis, NH