

Dec. 12, 2012

Dear Regional Planning Commission,

I'm sorry that I could not attend the meeting this evening.

However, I am writing with deep concern about the danger to Addison County public safety that the proposed natural gas pipeline presents.

T30 § 248

PUBLIC SERVICE

Ch. 5

(b) Before the public service board issues a certificate of public good as required under subsection (a) of this section, it shall find that the purchase, investment or construction:

(5) with respect to an in-state facility, will not have an undue adverse effect on esthetics, historic sites, air and water purity, the natural environment, the use of natural resources, and the public health and safety, with due consideration having been given to the criteria specified in 10 V.S.A. §§ 1424a(d) and 6086(a)(1) through (8) and (9)(K) and greenhouse gas impacts;

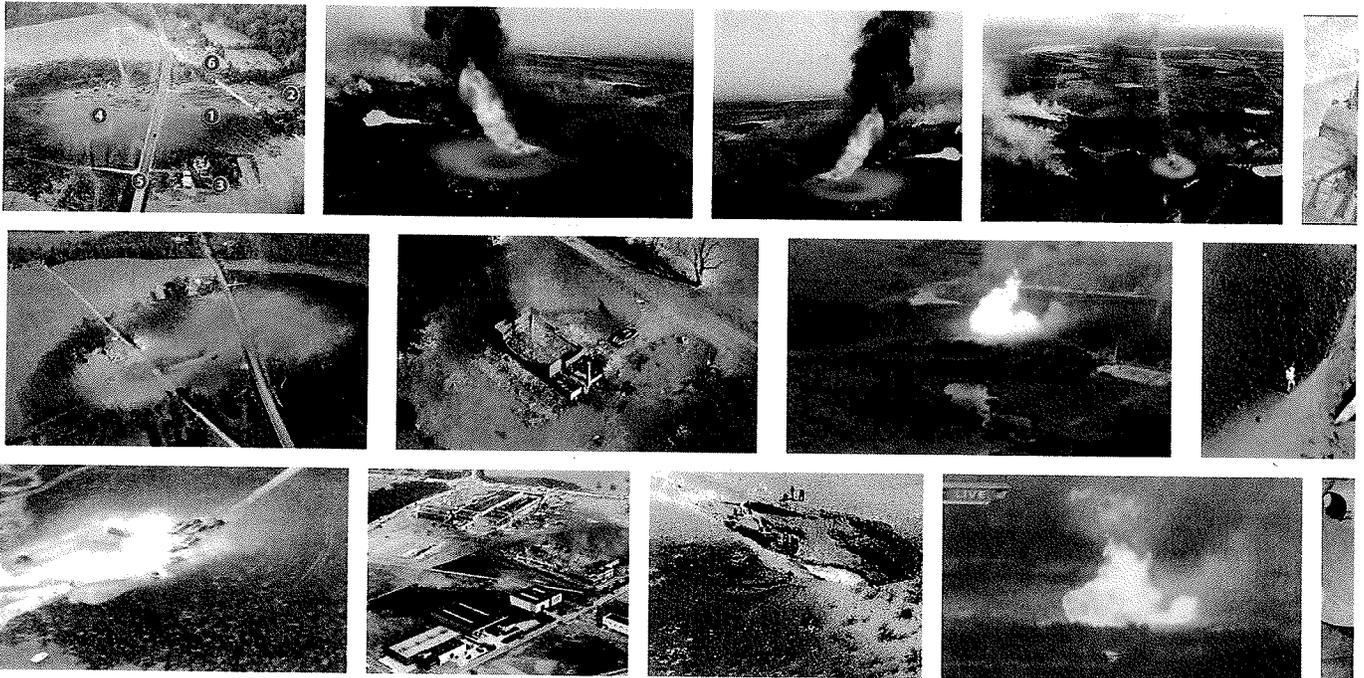
Please notice the attached, and google or yahoo natural gas pipeline explosions, and pictures of natural gas pipeline explosions.

The Regional Planning Commission has party status in the Public Service Board §248 procedure and so could literally save lives by opposing bringing danger to our community.

c.c.
New Haven Selectboard
Planning Commission

att.

Best regards,
John Madden
John Madden
Hunt Road
New Haven, Vermont
05472



re: Proposed gas pipeline

Nov. 20, 2012

Dear Selectboard and Planning Commission,

Please notice that the proposed natural gas pipeline from Canada is an explosive danger to public health and safety.

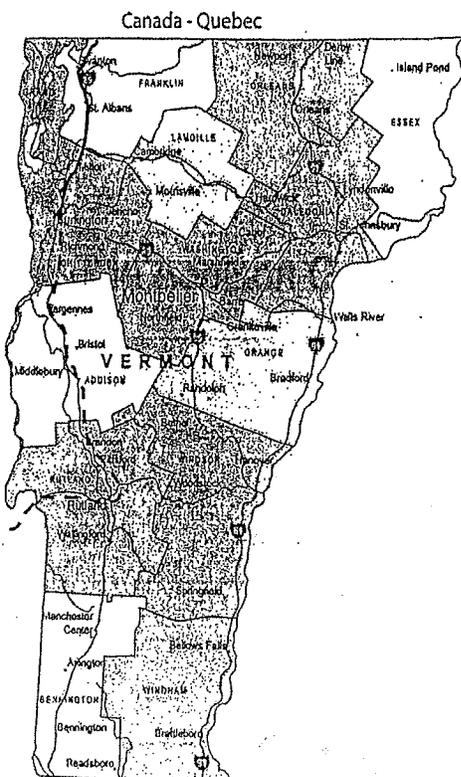
8 killed in San Bruno, Calif., 12 killed in Carlsbad, New Mexico (Newsweek, 9/10/12), 2 killed in Indianapolis, Indiana (Wall Street Journal, 11/12/12). See attached.

It seems clear that approving that danger to public health and safety is not in the public good, in fact 30 V.S.A., §248(b)(5) recognizes concern for public health and safety.

The procedure for reviewing the application for the proposed natural gas pipeline includes the Selectboard and Planning Commission having a determinative through intervention interest and voice in that decision. See attached.

Certainly the Selectboard and Planning Commission have a responsibility to protect the health and safety of Vermont residents (Stakeholders), and so I encourage you to oppose the proposed natural gas pipeline and the danger it represents.

The Vermont Bioenergy Initiative (google Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund) shows that there is a sustainable source of renewable energy that can be produced locally by our agricultural industry. See attached.



Best regards,
John Madden
John Madden
Hunt Road
New Haven, Vermont
05472

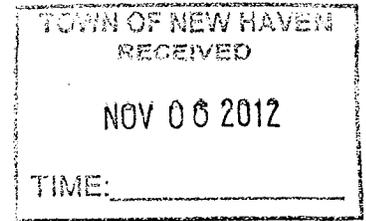
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(Owned by Canada Gaz Metro)

November 5, 2012

To those Planning Commissions and Selectboards named on the attached Appendix A

Re: Vermont Gas Systems, Inc.
Addison Natural Gas Project – Section 248 Permit Process
45-Day Advance Notice of Proposed Project

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

In response to recent requests from community leaders and a number of Addison and Rutland County businesses, and consistent with the State's energy policy, Vermont Gas is planning to expand natural gas service into Addison. The Addison Natural Gas Project will involve the extension of the Company's existing transmission system further south to Middlebury, the construction of three gate stations to step the pressure down, and the construction of distribution feeder mains to Vergennes and Middlebury. The purpose of this letter is to notify you, in accordance with Section 248 of Title 30, Vermont Statutes Annotated ("Section 248"), that Vermont Gas anticipates filing its petition in mid-December of 2012 with the Public Service Board ("PSB"), and is providing the information in this 45-day advance notice package to the municipal and regional planning commissions and municipal legislative bodies in accordance with PSB Rule 5.402. This letter describes the Project, the expected Project filing date with the PSB, and the rights of the local and regional planning commissions to comment on the Project plans and participate in the PSB Section 248 process.

The Project is estimated to serve approximately 3,000 new residential and business customers in Addison County, mainly in Vergennes and Middlebury, serving large employers such as Cabot Cheese, Middlebury College, and Porter Medical Center, while providing additional reliability of service to customers in Chittenden County. The Project will also allow the Company to advance its longer-term goal to extend service to the Rutland area.

In order to meet customer needs, Vermont Gas will be requesting a timeline and schedule that will result in issuance of a final Section 248 order and Certificate of Public Good ("CPG") by September, 2013.

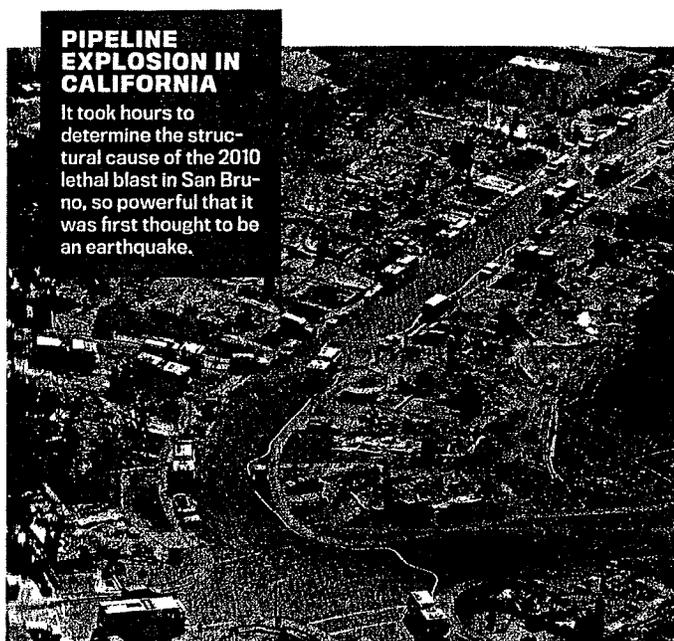
High among the risks are pipelines laid as long ago as Harry Truman's presidency. Many of these high-pressure pipelines are 30 inches or more in diameter. A number have been granted safety-inspection waivers by the Department of Transportation, which lets some pipelines operate even when almost 70 percent of the pipe wall has corroded. The National Academy of Engineering warned about these dangers in a 2004 report.

Two years ago a natural-gas pipeline exploded, killing eight people and destroying 38 homes in the San Francisco suburb of San Bruno, Calif. Flames shot 200 feet into the evening sky while Pacific Gas & Electric workers crawled through rush-hour traffic for more than an hour before reaching shut-off valves (PG&E says it is making "fundamental changes" to improve pipeline safety). Among the dead: Jacqueline Greig, a California public-utilities-commission employee who was investigating the risks of pipeline explosions, unaware that for more than a half century a giant pipe with a faulty weld ran through what had been an open field before her home was built.

A decade earlier an explosion in the New Mexico desert awakened people 20 miles away. Firefighters from Carlsbad encountered a gigantic blowtorch fed by the main natural-gas pipeline serving Southern California. When El Paso Natural Gas shut off the flow of gas 55 minutes later, the fire's deafening roar was replaced by wailing. Rushing down to the Pecos River, firefighters found six survivors, horribly burned members of an extended family of 12. One begged to be shot. All soon died.

"The overarching problem with the current pipeline-safety regulatory system is the undue influence that the pipeline industry has on every aspect of how those regulations are designed and enforced," Weimer said. "The industry deluges rule-making processes with their public relations people and lawyers, and most regulators have either come from the industry they now regulate or plan to go to work for that industry once they leave government service."

As far back as 1978, the investigating arm of Congress, now called the Government Accountability Office, issued scathing reports about incompetence, weak rules, and ineffective enforcement by the Transportation Department's Office of Pipeline Safety. Even the American Petroleum Institute, which represents big oil companies, has criticized the pipeline-safety office over the poor quality of its accident records.



That law requires that residents be told if they live near a big pipeline—but the notices are just inserts in utility bills, which most people toss unread. One colorful six-page pamphlet sent to school principals states on its fifth page that "you are receiving this information because pipeline infrastructure is located near schools or facilities in your district." There is no information about where pipelines are located, what precautions are appropriate, or anything else that might help save lives. This utterly useless document comes from the Pipeline Association for Public Awareness, an industry group, with official approval from the federal Office of Pipeline Safety. This and similar pamphlets blandly warn about a "high consequence area." Words like "death," "blast," and "burn" do not appear.

The federal government has done no studies to see if these pamphlets are effective. But consider this: Mayor Jim Ruane of San Bruno, Calif., told me that until the 2010 explosion in his town, local fire and police officials did not even know the pipeline existed. Later, the mayor said, a second big pipeline came to the city's attention only because the city told Pacific Gas & Electric about plans to erect a building at a lot.

Pamphlets are only one of the ways the industry, with federal government help, understates risks.

A natural-gas industry study, adopted by the federal Department of Transportation,

estimated that an explosion of a 30-inch pipe, operating at 1,500 pounds of pressure per square inch of the pipeline wall, would be fatal up to 660 feet away. The El Paso Natural Gas pipeline in New Mexico operated at less than half that pressure, and the 12 people killed were 675 feet from the rupture.

There's also this irony: utility prices are set by the government, which lets the companies include in their rates the cost of insurance to pay damages from, say, a pipeline explosion.

As legal monopolies, they get to add the higher insurance costs to the rates they charge. That means we are forced to pay more even as we are put in greater danger. **NW**

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NEWSWEEK

SEPTEMBER 10, 2012

Deadly Mystery Blast Shakes Neighborhood



SHATTERED: Two people were killed and about three dozen homes were destroyed or damaged from a massive explosion and fire in Indianapolis. The cause, including a possible gas leak, was under investigation Sunday. **A9**

◆ INDIANA

Blast Kills Two, Starts Fire, Damaging Dozens of Homes

A massive explosion sparked a huge fire and killed two people in an Indianapolis neighborhood where about three dozen homes were damaged or destroyed, authorities said Sunday. The powerful nighttime blast shattered windows, crumpled walls and could be felt at least three miles away.

Aerial photographs of the once-tidy neighborhood of one- and two-story homes showed at least two had been reduced to blackened pits of debris. Other homes had sections gutted by fire or holes in their roofs or exterior walls.

It wasn't clear what caused the blast that occurred late Saturday night. The fire centered on four homes, two that were leveled and two others that only had the frames standing by the time the flames were extinguished, said Kenny Bacon, deputy fire chief.

The damage extended two blocks in every direction, Mr. Bacon said, and fire officials didn't initially realize the extent of it in the darkness. City and fire officials said Sunday afternoon that about two dozen homes were uninhabitable and would have to be torn down. Several more had severe damage but could be fixed.

Along with the two people killed, seven people were taken to a hospital with injuries, Mr. Bacon said. Everyone else was accounted for, he said.

Dan Considine, a spokesman for Citizens Energy, said people usually smell natural gas when there is a leak, but the utility didn't receive any calls from people smelling gas in that area.

Associated Press

Questions re. proposed gas pipeline.

1. Are there detrimental environmental impacts of obtaining and burning natural gas ?

Ans. Yes, natural gas is a fossil fuel with "greenhouse gas" emissions.

2. Does a gas pipeline bring an increase in residential and commercial / industrial development ?

Ans. Yes, and an increase in individual property taxes to pay for increase in municipal services (for example Chittenden County).

3. Can Gaz Metro guarantee an ongoing supply and competitive cost of natural gas ?

Ans. Gaz Metro is a monopoly supplier with a captive market, and an out of State (Canadian) source of natural gas.

4. Can Gaz Metro guarantee that there will never be property damage or personal injury or fatality as the result of a pipeline leak of natural gas ?

Ans. No, natural gas can be explosive.

5. Is there a fuel that is renewable and can be produced in Vermont ?

Ans. Yes, canola plant oil is a fuel for diesel or heating use, and the production of it will be a contribution to sustaining Vermont agricultural and tourist industries (for example, along Rte 7 / Ethan Allen Hwy. and Rte 17 in New Haven), and creating sustainable jobs in Vermont.



A Townshend home was demolished by an explosion early Wednesday morning. CHIEF PHIL

TOWNSHEND — Vermont fire officials are trying to determine what caused an explosion that heavily damaged a Townshend home, with parts of the house found more than 200 feet away.

No one was home during the blast, reported at about 3 a.m. Wednesday. Fire officials arrived to find the house off its foundation.

Officials suspect a problem with a gas line. They do not consider the explosion suspicious.

Firefighters said the home is considered a total loss. A neighboring building, West Village Family Dental, was also damaged in the explosion. A structural analysis will be done before the office is reopened.



Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

Accelerating the Development of Vermont's Green Economy

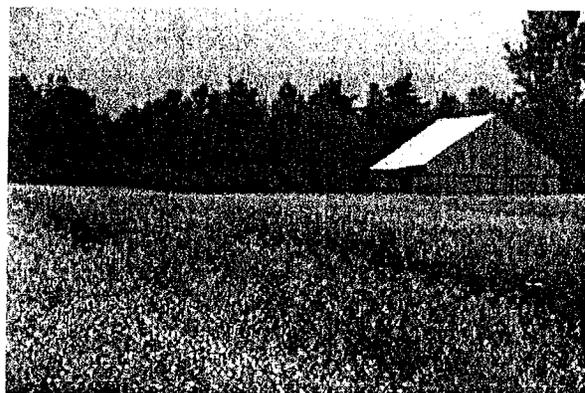
Vermont Bioenergy Initiative



Bioenergy Initiative Overview & History

The VSJF has applied its market development model to build a lasting and sustainable bioenergy sector in Vermont. The Vermont Bioenergy Initiative (VBI) is a strategic approach to value-added agriculture; supplying farm energy inputs from local resources, since 2003.

[view project](#)



Oilseeds & Biodiesel

The Vermont Bioenergy Initiative is helping farms and communities transition away from fossil fuels, become more self sufficient, and save money by growing and processing their own oil-rich seeds and beans to be used for fuel, livestock feed, and specialty oils.

[view project](#)

Vermont Strong



