

August 8, 2019 Hearing by the Board of Public Utilities on the NJ Draft
Energy Master Plan

My name is Jane Califf, one of the founders of Roseland Against the Compressor Station. In 2013, a few environmentally concerned citizens learned that the Williams/Transco gas company was planning to build a compressor station in Roseland. When we found out what this type of facility is, we informed the community and held public meetings on its danger to the land, water, air, people's health and public property.

We were too late to stop it because with scant public notice, this irresponsible company with a poor safety record got approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington D.C., an agency that is in the pocket of the fossil fuel industry. Then the NJ DEP gave this company the necessary permits to begin construction.

It is unbelievable that the DEP would approve this facility given where it was going to be located: on a wetland, in a flood zone, by the Passaic River, near huge high tension wires, near residential homes and businesses and right next to the Essex County Environmental Center with its outdoor butterfly garden and programs for children. In addition, it would push more gas through a then 55 year old pipeline which passes under 16 northern NJ towns and Montclair State University. Pipelines this old have a history of leaking, catching on fire and exploding

While building this facility, Williams/Transco released fracked gas that got sucked into the nearby elementary school causing a panicked evacuation from the toxic fumes.

Soon, Williams/Transco expanded the horsepower, telling the local government that this was the only expansion it would make. It lied because this year it got approval from the DEP for the Gateway Expansion Project which will more than double the size of this compressor station.

Another outrageous development is that the DEP received an appeal by a coalition of environmental organizations and the Roseland government to stop the expansion which the DEP said it would consider, but despite this, it has allowed construction to proceed.

It is shocking that the Draft Energy Master Plan makes no mention of the 14 fossil fuel pipelines, power plants and compressor stations that are at various stages of consideration, approval or construction. Like the Roseland compressor station, these projects, if built, will undercut any effort by NJ to reach 100% clean renewable energy by 2050.

This Master Plan needs to call for a moratorium on all fossil fuel infrastructure and focus on developing clean energy projects such as solar and wind. Climate scientists say we only have 10 years to prevent climate catastrophe.

The people who write up the final Energy Master Plan need to search their consciences and ask themselves, “Am I on the side of the profit-hungry fossil fuel corporations that have no concern for the communities they destroy or on the side of the public which deserves a stable climate and a safe environment?”