

To: Board of Public Utilities
Attn: Energy Master Plan

There are two main points that I would like to make in this comment.

The first is that the EMP must include a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects until greenhouse gases are effectively regulated. We cannot afford any new fossil fuel infrastructure; our carbon budget is essentially overdrawn, and we will have to spend significant efforts decarbonizing even in a best-case scenario. At this point, whatever short-term benefits may come from new fossil fuel projects will be far outweighed by the long-term price: famine, fire, flood. Releasing further carbon into the atmosphere is the opposite of what we want to do.

The second thing that I would like to bring to your attention is that moving forward, working with our three Native tribes, the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape, the Powhatan Renape, and the Ramapough Lenape, will be crucial to mitigating, and hopefully even reversing, global heating. The 2018 IPCC report highlights the importance of Indigenous expertise in dealing with this crisis (<https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/chapter-4/>). Treating NJ's Native people as full and equal partners in this task is our best way forward: climate change is the result of colonialism, and we can't solve the first until we've tackled the second.

Thank you for reading.

Respectfully,
L. Sancic
Wharton, NJ