

From: [Russell Eidmann-Hicks](#)
To: [comments_EMP](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment about the Energy Master Plan 2019
Date: Monday, July 22, 2019 3:10:39 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a Minister in the United Church of Christ, who has served a church in Holmdel NJ for 27 years, I have a moral objection to this energy master plan. Having sought to serve the people of my faith community and beyond to walk in ways of compassion, integrity and ethical courage - I have a moral obligation to speak out against an energy plan that threatens to undermine the viability of a sustainable and healthy future.

It is immoral to place the wellbeing of future generations in jeopardy for short-term gain. We know definitively, on the basis of scientific consensus and our own experience, that we are in a climate crisis that threatens our dependents with severe and lasting disruption and suffering. This is not pie-in-the-sky, but here now.

Leadership is about protecting the common good - not only for stock portfolios of fossil fuel giants - but especially for our citizens and our children. Yes, we need a thriving economy in our state, but to allow the natural gas fracking industry to establish itself through large pipelines and power plants, enslaves us to this dangerous and outdated technology for decades. We have the opportunity to create enormous numbers of green-energy jobs through the work that needs to be done. Clean technology is available, and needs to be subsidized and implemented to forge a pathway beyond dirty energy. (Fracking releases enormous amounts of methane, emits CO₂ when burned, and pollutes groundwater.)

We have a short window to turn this ship around. We can't be bamboozled by flimsy schemes of 'carbon-sequestration' or to allow massive carbon infrastructure projects to be built.

These are not simply economic decisions, but moral ones.

Sincerely,

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PS - I agree with these concerns in the plan articulated by the Sierra Club:

- The EMP does not look at the sense of urgency on climate change and reducing greenhouse gases in New Jersey
- It makes no mention of a moratorium on fossil-fuel projects and allows for the continuation of proposed natural gas projects.
- The plan redefines Clean Energy as Carbon Neutral, which means carbon will still be released.
 - That includes natural gas, fossil fuel power plants with carbon sequestration, nuclear power plants, incinerators, biomass, carbon credits and offsets.
 - Carbon credits and offsets allow companies to pay to continue releasing greenhouse gases.
 - The typical definition of Clean Energy is wind, solar, energy efficiency, hydro and geothermal
- The EMP still does not regulate CO₂, even though the state has had the authority to do so since

2005.

- There are now 15 proposed projects – 8 pipelines, 6 power plants and 1 LNG port. If all of them are built, greenhouse gases in NJ will increase 32 percent.
- The plan should also include regulations for black carbon – soot – a byproduct of burning fossil fuels and an ongoing threat to respiratory health.
- The EMG does not set a new renewable energy goal beyond the current goal, which is 50% by 2030
 - The plan should be strengthened with goals of 100% renewable energy by 2035 and zero carbon by 2050 economy-wide.
 - There is no reference in the EMP to the nuclear subsidy, which ties us to buying 32% of our energy from nuclear indefinitely. Nuclear plants will now have to stay open beyond the expiration of their licenses. The subsidy can also go to new nuclear plants.
- Environmental Justice language needs to be much stronger in the EMP
 - We need an overarching policy in every part of the plan targeting reductions of pollution and sharing of the benefits that targets Environmental Justice communities already overburdened by pollution
 - Policies must assure EJ communities share in the benefits of reducing pollution, community solar programs, EV charging networks, as well as the economic benefits from more green jobs.

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