

Climate Change Maryland

Public Meeting Comment Sheet

Discussion on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act Plan

Tuesday, August 4, 2015

Sunderland, MD

Instructions:

Please use this form to provide any comments you have on the state's progress on addressing climate change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act Plan that will be up for renewal in 2016. Once you have completed the sheet, please place in the comment box or mail or email to:

Mr. Brian Hug

Maryland Department of the Environment

1800 Washington Blvd

Baltimore, MD 21230

Email: climate.change@maryland.gov

Please submit comments by Friday, August 28, 2015

Comments Submitted By:

Name: Nancy Ball

Representing: Calvert Citizens for a Healthy Community + myself / family

Address: 8190 Narsey Rd. Lusby, MD 20657

Comments: Having lived in southern Maryland for over 30 years, I have witnessed a lot of changes to our area. We are no longer the rural area we once were. Some of the changes are certainly convenient. But along with the growth that both Calvert + St. Mary's counties have experienced there has been a price. Our air quality has suffered greatly

(Please use an additional sheet or back of this form for comments if additional space is needed)



We now have air quality reports warning us about breathing the air outside certain times of the year. To add to this the construction of the Dominion LNG export facility is now occurring. Once operational the amounts of toxic + hazardous air pollution will increase tremendously. This is not progress. This will not help climate change. If Maryland is to move forward the types of facilities cannot be built. I refuse to believe we as a state have no other options. We are sacrificing communities quality of life for what? Calvert Cliffs has already started making provisions for ~~water~~ water level changes. Our aquifers are stressed. By continuing to allow these corporations ~~to pollute~~ to pollute at these levels, we are ~~not~~ making climate change progress faster. What will we be leaving for future generations?

Eileen Hadley
11380 Cove Lake Rd.
Kusby, Md. 20657

2. Maryland should renew the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA)

- a. GGRA is the legal framework that drives Maryland's carbon cutting efforts. Without action by the General Assembly in 2016 to renew the law, however, that framework will go away and Maryland will lose its legal mandate to continue cutting economy-wide carbon emissions.
- b. Current analyses project that fully implementing the carbon reduction and clean energy policies needed to achieve the GGRA goal would result in estimated economic benefits of \$1.6 billion and support over 37,000 Maryland jobs.

5. Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)

- a. One of the top programs in the GGRA Plan is increasing the amount of clean, renewable electricity—like solar and wind power—that we use to power our homes and communities. We need to reach 25% clean electricity consumption by the year 2020.
- b. Maryland's RPS is underperforming. The GGRA Plan predicted that the RPS is capable of reducing 10.96 million metric tons of CO₂ in 2020—nearly 20% of the state's total reduction goal. However, the program is only on track to reduce 4.1 million metric tons of CO₂, which is less than half of the original target.
- c. Maryland needs to invest in clean renewable energy now to ensure that we can meet both our 2020 goal and longer term goals that scientists say we need to fight climate change.

7. Natural gas

- a. The state should not rely on natural gas to meet its emissions reduction targets. That is because natural gas is 80 to 98 percent methane, which is approximately 86 times as potent a greenhouse gas (GHG) as carbon dioxide over a 20 year timeframe. Current estimates vary about the quantities of methane leaked into the atmosphere during the natural gas lifecycle, but some estimates range from 1.3 percent to over 15 percent of the total produced gas. All lifecycle methane leakages increase the climate change impacts of natural gas, and in fact, lifecycle leakage rates that exceed 2.7 percent result in climate change impacts that are even greater than coal.
- b. Lifecycle methane leaks are unavoidable and often occur outside of Maryland.
→ The climate commission should account for those emissions when estimating the climate change impacts of fuel switching away from coal towards natural gas.

1. as well as inside Md. if the Dominion Cove Point project, which will provide natural gas to Japan and India only, is allowed to move forward.

3. You commissioners must ensure that the General Ass. of 2016 renews - strengthens GGRA and that Dominion's LNG export plant never ~~liquefies a drop of~~ comes natural gas, into operation on the Chesapeake Bay.

2. This proposed plant will emit CO₂, NO₂, ^{methane and} particulate matter to a high degree not seen thus far in the state of Maryland.

Thank you.

Maryland Commission on Climate Change
Public Hearing on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan
August 4th, 2015

Thank you members of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change for this meeting and for the work you are doing in advising the governor and general assembly on climate change and on strengthening the state's Greenhouse Gas reduction plan.

Continue current initiatives and please incorporate these actions into the current focus.

- 1) **Publicize the negative health impacts of air pollution. Publicize Explosion Risks** for LNG facilities & infrastructure and help the people of Lusby get a Quantitative Risk Assessment, appropriate safety study & evacuation plan for DCP LNG Terminal. Talk to cancer survivors to learn of the continuing impact of air pollution on people who are in cancer treatment for many years. Talk to teachers about the learning challenges asthma presents to the children who suffer with it, and to the entire classroom and school. There are many lost days, there are many disruptions in the school day for health care needs. Who supervises kids who can't go outside?
- 2) **Work to lower the state's emission standards from LNG and coal burning facilities.** From reading I've done, I've come to understand that technology is currently available to lower the emissions as is done in several other states and most European countries. Please work to write legislation that will lower the standards. **NONE of the new plants in the permitting process and/or construction process in Maryland should be permitted to operate with the current lenient standards.** Technology is available to put fewer pollutants in the air, but the owners won't spend the Money until the state passes legislation to **MANDATE LESS POLLUTION from ALL POWER PLANTS.**
- 3) **Work to reverse the law that exempts power generating facilities from reporting their emissions data.** We, the people have a right to know what is in the air we breathe, and what is falling into our soil and into our water.
- 4) **Work to have all permits for any LNG facilities denied.** Any more fossil fuel facilities are a backward step. Work to require that all permits for the request of such facilities include data of lifecycle GHG emissions and Include pollution from the 10,000 diesel truck trips necessary to frack a well one time, as well as from compressor stations, fracking and pipelines all the way to the original source of the underground fuel. **LNG is DIRTY, not CLEAN ENERGY.** Promote those facts. work to make necessary legislative changes in how the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Maryland Public Service Commission operate.
- 5) **Publicize the damages from fracking. Help make the relationship between fracking and LNG understood.** LNG is only one product /end result of the fracking process. The other end products include millions of gallons of chemically polluted water, with no proper storage available. Another result of fracking is contamination of both public and private water supplies. Another result is earthquakes and the damage and devastation they cause. Another result is air pollution, noise pollution, and damages from explosions at pipelines and compressor stations.

Good evening.

My name is Ken Phelps and I serve as the rector of this establishment... All Saints Parish in Sunderland, MD

I also serve as co-chair of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network

The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Maryland...and most recently, our parish, has a long history of engagement around issues pertaining to the environment, and most especially where it concerns what is now euphemistically referred to as Climate change...

A decade ago... **our 75th General Convention...** affirmed that Global Warming threatens the future of God's good creation, and.... the effects of Global Warming disproportionately hurt the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable in the United States and around the world;

and called upon The Episcopal Church at every level to support efforts that seek to reduce Global Warming, including national and international legislation that increase the supply of clean energy and reduce consumption of fossil fuels...

On February 24th of this year, our own Bishop and 231 other religious leaders declared in a written statement to the General Assembly: "Like all people everywhere, we live from and rely on the health and wellbeing of God's creation – air, water and land, wildlife and domestic animals, local ecosystems, biomes, and the great interconnected ecosystem that the whole Earth shares. Heat-trapping pollution like carbon dioxide and methane, released into the air by humans at unprecedented levels over the last hundred and fifty years, has damaged and endangered the stability of our climate, made our oceans more acidic, and is threatening global health and security. Climate change will harm our neighbors in Maryland. **We believe that caring for God's creation is the great moral challenge of our time, and that the survival and flourishing of all people depends on our ability to move from temporary and destructive energy sources to renewable energy sources.**"

I down with all of that... and for a more personal reason....

I want my one year old grandson...my first grand child....

To know a world with a diverse ecosystem, and with fresh air, and green grass....

For the past six years the Green house gas Reduction Act has been crucial for reducing our state's carbon emissions, An important part of the GGRA plan is our clean energy law, the Renewable Portfolio Standard. In order to have meaningful greenhouse gas reductions in Maryland, the GGRA and the RPS must be renewed and strengthened, respectively.

And, I would add... with more ambitious goals in mind.

Janet Ashby, Port Republic, MD.

I lived in Southeast Asia and worked internationally for 20 years. When back in the USA, I was shocked at the apathy and ignorance here about climate change. Many countries, poor as well as rich, are making bigger efforts and sacrifices, though we generate more greenhouse gases per person and have more resources to address the problem.

I do what I can, such as installing a geothermal heat pump when no incentives were available and paying more for wind-generated electricity, but we need government leadership, including Maryland's pioneering GGRA efforts. I want Maryland to reap the benefits, including economic, of being an early adopter by renewing, strengthening, and broadening the GGRA in 2016.

I'm particularly concerned that methane get more attention. If natural gas and its infrastructure is substituted for coal, or if Maryland does not monitor and strongly enforce measures against methane leaks such as at Dominion's LNG export facility and the related compressor stations and pipelines, we'll be going backwards. Also, though not the direct topic of this hearing, toxic emissions at Cove Point and elsewhere must be monitored, with action taken when dangerous levels are reached. It is unacceptable for businesses to externalize their pollution, expecting the surrounding community to bear the costs.

I'm a member of the League of Women Voters. While not speaking on behalf of the League, I want to share that the national League has declared climate change the greatest environmental challenge of our generation. Maryland and local branches actively work on this mandate.

Personally, I believe climate change is our generation's most important challenge, bar none. I support sacrificing and mobilizing to address it as ardently as our forebearers did World War II.

Thank you.

Janet Ashby
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Independent monitoring

