

October 23, 2021

Kristin Edmark, Concerned citizen
7611 NE 296th Way
Battle Ground, WA 98604

Executive Director and Secretary Amanda Maxwell

RE: Docket, UG-210729 Continuation to use the Perpetual Net Presentation Value Methodology to calculate natural gas extension allowances

Dear Executive Director and Secretary Amanda Maxwell
Chair Danner, Commissioner Rehndahl and Commissioner Balasbas,

Please order public/investor-owned utilities in Washington to end all gas extension allowances. Thank you for reviewing this policy which is no longer consistent with state policy and legislation, current research, or the will of citizens.

The increasing number of climate related federal and state bills being considered demonstrates that **citizens want climate legislation**. According to GovTrack there are 257 federal bills dealing with climate on the federal level presently. ([Climate change and greenhouse gases Bills - GovTrack.us.](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/keywords/climate-change-and-greenhouse-gases)) This year Washington passed the Climate Commitment Act. 2/3 of Washingtonians support the 2021 Clean Fuel Standard. According to a 2020 opinion survey by Political Science Research Group at Stanford University, citizens want to address climate. 84% of Washington citizens favored government limiting greenhouse gas emissions. 85% said global warming a serious problem for the world. 80% said we should build more energy efficient buildings. (<https://climatepublicopinionstanford.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Washington.pdf>) It is not right to force citizens, who overwhelmingly want clean energy, to pay for increased fracked methane infrastructure.

In this decade, we need to transition to electricity. Heating units are **long-term and expensive to replace**. The population of Washington state is growing and, with growth, the need for many new homes and businesses. We should expect continued growth as other parts of the country become too arid or flood/storm prone. It is important to remove the incentives promoting methane as soon as possible. Later conversion can be prohibitively expensive and difficult to enforce. It makes sense to remove methane incentives.

Gas extension allowances are **inconsistent with current Washington State policy** and regulations, federal goals or internationally recognized goals. Local jurisdictions and utilities are creating climate action plans. This is a time of working to meet state goals, reduce fossil fuel infrastructure and reduce climate destroying emissions.

Incentivizing methane is **most harmful to those who are least fortunate**. Science is clear regarding the increased health risk with methane-based heating and cooking. Renters often have little control over energy source. Children at school and people at work cannot control energy source. Pipelines leak; the present distribution system is aging; methane is a potent green-house gas. It is our responsibility to provide the safest environments possible for those with the least control.

I am hoping in the future that you will incentivize electricity in homes and businesses.

I am frightened by the pace of global warming, the extinctions, the fierce storms and heat waves, the crop losses and droughts. My daughter-in-law's family lost a beloved home in the 2020 Oregon fires. A change to end gas extension allowances could make a huge difference in the ability of developers to provide safe, clean-energy homes and buildings.

Sincerely, Kristin Edmark, MPH, RD, Concerned citizen