

# Pipelines

## **Pipelines encourage fracking.**

Current NYC policies seek to convert our buses, boilers and power plants to methane, and to supply all this extra gas via massive and dangerous pipelines. These will carry fracked and radioactive Marcellus shale gas, encouraging further production in gas fields upwind and upstream from the metro area, with ruinous impact on air and water quality in both rural and urban locales.

## **Pipelines are unsafe.**

Pipeline accidents occur, on average, once a week, and kill or injure someone about every third week. The former chairman of the NTSB says, “All of these underground pipelines are potential bombs.”

## **They will encircle New York.**

The Spectra Pipeline is planned to run into the West Village, the Rockaway Lateral is planned to run under Jamaica Bay and South Brooklyn, and the Constitution pipeline will bisect upstate. These are only the first of many proposed pipelines that will surround and crisscross New York State.

## **Regulations are inadequate.**

- Only 7% of pipelines are subject to mandatory inspection. Where mandatory, it is required only once every 7 years.
- PHMSA has only 88 auditors to oversee nearly 2.5 million miles of pipeline.
- When a pipeline corrodes, rather than replacing the damaged section, the pressure is simply lowered, or “de-rated.”
- Inspectors labeled the 2010 San Bruno explosion “a failure of the entire system” of maintenance, inspection and response.

# Boilers

## **Gas is NOT clean.**

New heating oil rules incentivize converting residential boilers to gas, touting it as “clean burning.” Respected studies refute this claim, noting that methane is a greenhouse gas 21 times more powerful than CO<sub>2</sub>, and, when the entire lifecycle of extraction is accounted for, has a GHG footprint equal to or greater than even coal or oil.

## **Gas is NOT cheap.**

The current low price of gas is unlikely to last and fails to reflect the true cost of extraction and transport. Drillers are heavily subsidized by taxpayers and externalize long-term environmental and health costs onto the public.

## **Gas is NOT a good bet.**

Gas currently sells overseas for 8 times the domestic price. Pipeline networks will soon connect with planned export facilities and enable drillers to seek the highest global bidder, creating financial hardship for facilities that have converted to gas.

## **Gas is NOT the solution.**

Better and cheaper alternatives to heavy heating oil exist: Switching to number 2 oil, biodiesel, or bioD blends can cost less than \$10,000; while gas conversions can run into the hundreds of thousands. Simple, job-creating changes such as insulation and retrofits foster efficiency that reduce fuel use and emissions. Solar thermal can heat hot water, taking the burden off boilers—especially during summer months.

# Radon

## **All gas contains Radon.**

Radon is released deep underground at the drill site and travels with the gas to our kitchen stoves and laundry equipment. Like asbestos, even minute quantities of inhaled radon are dangerous; in fact, it is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.

## **Marcellus gas has more radon.**

Shale in the nearby Marcellus is up to 70 times more radioactive than current supplies from faraway Texas and Canada. The radon levels in Marcellus gas are higher to begin with, and there’s less time for radioactive decay in transit.

## **NYC kitchens increase the risk.**

Given the typically small and often poorly ventilated NYC kitchen, higher radon levels could result in additional cancers, by some estimates up to 30,000 more deaths. Few city stoves have hoods that vent to the outside. Additionally, poorer residents may tend to have older appliances, with pilot lights—increasing the cumulative effect. During winter, windows tend to be closed and more cooking gets done, increasing exposure. Restaurant workers may be particularly at risk.

## **The risk is worse for children.**

Radon, which decays into polonium, radioactive lead, and finally, lead, is a heavy gas, meaning it “sinks” to the floor or lowest available level, increasing exposure for children and pets.

## **Radon creates “hot” pipes.**

As radon decays in transit, it “plates out” along the walls of pipelines, creating radioactive pipes and disposal problems.

# Fracking

## **Fracking is a NYC problem, too.**

New York City energy policies have a direct effect on fracking, a devastating method of gas extraction, developed by Halliburton. It involves drilling deep into the earth and using explosives, millions of gallons of water, silica, and toxic chemicals to break apart a hard shale layer, creating fissures that release the gas.

## **Fracking pollutes.**

Fracking has been linked to aquifer contamination, air pollution, earthquakes, and health impacts to humans and animals, as well as risks to our food shed. These toxic air emissions can travel in a radius of up to 200 miles and underground plumes have spread as far as 28 miles.

## **There's no "good" gas anymore.**

In the old days, "conventional" gas was obtained as a by-product of oil extraction or by simple vertical wells. That type of gas is running out, and at this point, nearly all gas is obtained by fracking.

## **Shale gas is a bubble.**

With prices so low, highly leveraged drillers are hard-pressed to make a profit from gas. Instead, they are bundling and reselling leases in the same way the mortgage crisis originated, leading energy experts to label it a "Ponzi Scheme" and "a gold rush."

## **It's not worth it.**

For all the expense, environmental and community degradation involved, the gas supply will be short-lived. Revised estimates lower recoverable reserves by 80%. Some analysts predict the available supply is as little as seven to eleven years worth.

## **"Fossil fuel is so 20th Century."**

"New York can and should lead on renewables. That's real vision. Fracking is a waiting disaster."

NYC Assemblywoman Deborah Glick (above) said it best. We are already *past* peak oil; we are *beyond* coal; the age of gas is *OVER*. It's just plain self-destructive to continue thinking we can get away with any further damage to our climate. We're already past 400ppm, when 350 is where we need to be. We're headed for a train wreck if we don't put the brakes on, *fast*.

## **Wind, Water and Solar, NOW.**

### **Renewable energy is no pipe dream. It can happen by 2030.**

According to the peer-reviewed 2010 Stanford University study, by using technologies already available, the world can run on renewable power by 2030. Let's NOT shackle ourselves to polluting methane. Let's choose sustainable energy and conservation, instead of dangerous pipelines and an industrialized upstate.

### **How you can help? Get involved: SaneEnergyProject.org**

Sign up for our action alerts and newsletter.  
Email us at: [contact@saneenergyproject.org](mailto:contact@saneenergyproject.org)

# Connect the Dots:



- **Fracking**
- **Pipelines**
- **Boilers**
- **Radon**

## **What's New York's energy future?**