

## **Oil supply vulnerable**

The Herald article on gas price spikes due to Hurricane Harvey noted that refineries and pipelines that shut down during Harvey are slowly restarting (“Harvey topping off gas prices,” Sept. 5). The Financial Times has reported that Harvey demonstrated to us that the shale oil revolution (also known as fracking) plus our reduced need for imports hasn’t strengthened our energy system.

Rather our energy system has become less resilient because it’s more concentrated in one high-risk area: the Gulf Coast. Harvey showed how increased concentration of oil production in a storm-prone, flood-prone region leads nationally to energy disruptions and unpredictable price fluctuations.

In addition, The Wall Street Journal reported that Harvey made landfall near a large Texas wind farm that successfully survived the hurricane’s winds. A delay in restarting was largely due to damaged electrical power lines.

Electricity utilities have already learned that distributed power generation from diverse sources provides more stability to our electrical grid. Harvey suggests that we ought to transition off oil, not just for environmental reasons, but also for stability of energy costs. It’s time we plan to decrease the use of fossil fuels and increase the use of such things as electrical vehicles and geothermal heat pumps.

— Judy Weiss, Brookline

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