

The real energy issue

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Allie Morris' informative article "Politicians getting gassed up about pipeline" (Monitor, Jan. 18) repeated several assumptions without indicating to readers these assumptions might not be valid.

Gov. Maggie Hassan said New Hampshire must "acknowledge that we need to increase the supply of natural gas." She assumes the only way to fix shortfalls is by increasing supplies. Instead, she could have said: "New Hampshire won't disturb residents with new pipelines, nor increase our use of climate change causing natural gas, until we've reviewed all other options. Are all homes and businesses insulated? Can we install solar panels on more rooftops? Are more buildings heatable via geothermal? We can provide programs to eliminate the need for more natural gas?"

Another assumption: Kinder Morgan assured plenty of time for public input, which assumes time should be spent reviewing pipeline proposals. Rather, time should be spent making the pipeline unnecessary, avoiding development costs and further dependence on natural gas. The Congressional delegation asked FERC for a transparent process. Instead the delegation should make energy decisions transparent. Natural gas is underpriced because producers don't pay fees for their harmful emissions. Consumers would get adequate price information to make optimal choices if natural gas producers paid a carbon emissions fee.

Readers should contact Citizens' Climate Lobby for more information. Our newest chapter starts in New Hampshire in February and we'll urge New Hampshire's Congressional delegation to sponsor a national carbon fee in order to create a level playing field for all energies, thus making every energy decision truly transparent.

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