

## **Fw: Submission to YUB for March 31 hearing**

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**Sent:** March 28, 2014 9:18 AM

**To:** Yukon Utilities Board

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** Spence Hill

**To:** [yub@yukonutilities.yk.ca](mailto:yub@yukonutilities.yk.ca)

**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2014 1:07 AM

**Subject:** Submission to YUB for March 31 hearing

**Our arguments to the Yukon Utilities Board** echo the concerns raised by others concerned about the stewardship of our land and resources. We contend that:

**LNG is not a climate change solution:** Liquefied Natural Gas is mostly methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Methane is leaking all along the supply chain. Methane emissions resulting from gas combustion are also high.

Most scientists agree we must change our energy consumption practices and that most of the known reserves of oil and gas must stay in the ground to avoid triggering catastrophic greenhouse gas levels.

We think that instead of committing the Yukon to the consumption of LNG, the YEC must burn less diesel more cleanly and efficiently than it currently does.

**LNG undermines renewables:** By investing so much money in LNG and the infrastructure needed to support it, YEC will NOT be investing in renewable energy such as wind and solar which are viable alternatives. Choosing LNG is an option without vision or leadership.

**LNG requires fracking:** It doesn't matter where the fracking happens - in Alberta, BC or here in the Yukon, it is wrong anywhere and everywhere. We are all one ecosystem. The impact of fracking on water is huge both in terms of consumption and pollution. The damage to the environment is irreparable and the health impacts are incalculable.

It would be premature to say "yes" to LNG before the Yukon government's select committee exploring the risks and benefits of hydraulic fracturing submits its report.

**LNG economics are bad:** It is short term thinking to consider LNG economic. We must think of long term sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels.

**What's the alternative?** Continuing to burn diesel is not a good solution, but it is what we have now and could facilitate a transition to a green energy economy. The fact that burning any fossil fuel is expensive and harmful should provide the motivation to ensure we do everything we can to make sure the diesels only run as they are intended: for backup and emergencies while the rest of the time our electricity needs are met by renewables including new initiatives in solar and wind, not just large-scale hydro projects.

We think the LNG proposal is wrong-headed because it will expand and entrench the Yukon's dependence on fossil fuels. LNG worsens climate change, undermines renewable energy, requires

fracking, and will expose ratepayers to rising costs of finite resources. Efficiency, conservation and the development of renewable energy sources are better alternatives to YEC's LNG proposal.

We beg you to show vision and leadership and condemn this proposal to the dustbin of outdated alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Parlee & Spence Hill

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