

Please say no to YEC proposal to switch from diesel to LNG

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To: Yukon Utilities Board

Dear Yukon Utilities Board members

I am writing to request that you turn down YEC's proposal to switch from diesel back-up to Liquefied Natural Gas LNG backup, for several reasons.

1. I understand that the promised supplier of un-fracked LNG, the Shell Jumping Pound facility, for YEC's LNG project has been cancelled.

<http://hhpinsight.com/lng/2014/03/shell-throttles-back-on-lng-plans/>

Therefore, all of YEC's economics for this project are in question and the one scrap of social license (that the LNG would be from un-fracked sources) are now null and void.

2. It is a myth that LNG is "cleaner". LNG is apparently dirtier than coal, from its source to the burning stage. Nb Robert Kennedy Jr. "President of Water Keepers" states very clearly in this video why LNG is dirtier than coal, from its source to the burning stage ~ and shows the holes in what Premier Christie Clarke is stating by comparison:

<http://globalnews.ca/video/1233605/robert-f-kennedy-jr-debates-clean-energy>

3. If you want to invest responsibly so as to protect our living planet for our children, please watch the extended 24 minute interview which presents a very strong view why we should be looking at alternatives and not fossil fuels.

<http://globalnews.ca/video/1233523/extended-robert-f-kennedy-jr>

As well, if you want to invest responsibly, please take seriously JP Pinard's observations proposal (which I assume you have received already, but I would like to go on record as endorsing his views):

Yukon Energy Corporation (YEC) will be in front of the Yukon Utilities Board (YUB) next week defending its proposal to switch from diesel to liquefied natural gas (LNG). YEC wants to invest \$38 million in another fossil fuel when we need to reduce our fossil fuel dependency to avoid climate instability 20 years down the road.

The Yukon depends on fossil fuels for 80% of our energy needs including the transportation and space heating sectors. Wind and hydro only provide for 16%. We need to reduce our fossil fuel addiction by investing that \$38 million in a smarter renewable energy grid. Investments in efficiency and conservation will ensure that we don't have to turn on upgraded diesel generators unless it truly is an emergency backup situation.

... [I] want YEC, our crown utility, to invest in more renewable energy, not more fossil fuels.

YEC claims this is an urgent project, but this is a false and manufactured urgency. Our winter diesel peaking needs have dropped in the last 3 years and diesel makes up less than 1% of the grid electricity generation.

YEC claims that the price of LNG will continue to stay much lower than diesel for the next 40 years. This is an impossible claim because world prices are 4 to 5 times higher than domestic prices. Several proposed LNG export plants in BC and the questionable economics of shale gas reserves in Canada will cause LNG prices to go up according to several experts.

YEC claims that LNG is cleaner than diesel but this is simply false. A growing body of research says modern methane extraction is exacerbating climate instability, polluting water, creating economic problems for other industries and ruining public infrastructures.

YEC claims there is no alternative to the LNG project, but it has not explored the advantages of building a smarter grid, deploying demand-side storage and integrating more wind and hydro power in the Yukon.

On May 13th and 14th, YEC is partnering with others to hold a workshop titled "Electric Thermal Storage: Space Heating with Renewable Energy". This workshop will bring in experts from across North America to discuss a smart grid solution for the Yukon. These leaders will show us how we can build a renewable energy future in the Yukon and drastically reduce our dependency on fossil fuel for electricity, heating our homes and even powering our cars.

I urge you to make the right decision and turn down the proposal to switch from diesel to LNG. Please use this large amount of the public's money to invest in renewables and allow the more small scale decentralized projects to be built

Thank you
Yours sincerely
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