TC Energy's GTN Xpress Fracked Gas Pipeline Expansion Would Result in Unnecessary Climate Changing Pollution

Summary:

- GTN Xpress would result in an additional 3.47 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions every year, for the next 30 years—the equivalent of adding 754,000 cars to the road every year until 2052.

- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) Environmental Impact Statement refuses to consider “upstream,” non-combustion emissions from the project—drastically undercounting the project’s climate impact.

- GTN Xpress is contrary to the Biden Administration’s efforts to combat the climate crisis, including the goal to achieve 100% carbon-free electricity by 2035. GTN Xpress will disproportionately affect overburdened communities—in direct contradiction to efforts to advance environmental justice.

Details:

- GTN Xpress would harm Washington, Oregon, and California’s ability to comply with energy and climate laws that require reducing fossil fuel emissions.

- Fracked gas emissions come in two forms: upstream and downstream. Downstream emissions happen when fuel is combusted—like when you turn on your gas stove. Upstream emissions include everything before that: fracking emissions, transportation, leaks, intentional “blow-downs” (clearing the gas lines for maintenance), and burning fracked gas to power compressor stations. FERC refuses to count the project’s upstream emissions.

-Leaks on the GTN pipeline system have been a significant source of emissions throughout the last decade. Increased gas flows will result in increased gas leaks. Source: Pipeline Safety Trust

- GTN Xpress would expand 3 compressor stations—fracked gas-powered industrial facilities that regulate the pressure and quantity of gas in the pipeline. Compressor stations are huge polluters.
  - GTN’s “Starbuck” compressor station is already one of Washington State’s biggest polluters (table, slide 5/11). GTN Xpress would quadruple this compressor station.
Documents:

- **Washington, Oregon, and California's Motion to Intervene**: see pages 15-19, arguing FERC must consider state climate laws; see Exhibit A, “Summary of State and Local Climate Laws & Renewable Energy Development”
  - Washington AG’s press release

- **Expert analysis of GTN Xpress's upstream emissions**

- Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission: “[T]he Project is in direct conflict with tribes’ and states’ climate goals for reducing fossil fuels.”

- Governor Inslee: “Expanding fracked gas through the GTN pipeline runs contrary to our climate goals, and risks further costly environmental harm to our state.”

- Governor Kotek: **GTN Xpress cannot “comply with Oregon’s clean energy laws and regulations.”**

- Senators Jeff Merkley & Ron Wyden: “Adding new emissions through pipeline expansions like the GTN Xpress is incompatible with President Biden’s [climate] pledge.”

- **Comments from Earthjustice et al on FERC’s “Environmental Justice Roundtable”** (5/15/23)

Articles:

- E&E News: **Legal Battle Over Climate Brews Between FERC, Blue States** (8.22.23)

- Seattle Times: **Washington AG, West Coast States Oppose Major Gas Pipeline Project** (8.23.22)

- DeSmog: **Proposed Pipeline Expansion Could Upend Three States’ Climate Plans** (7.20.23)


Possible Interview Opportunities:

- Audrey Leonard, Staff Attorney of Columbia Riverkeeper, and member of the Stop GTN Xpress Coalition: audrey@columbiariverkeeper.org (541) 399-4775

- Satya Austin-Opper, Campaign Coordinator for 350 Deschutes in Bend, OR: saopper@350deschutes.org (828) 575-8228
- Dan Serres, Advocacy Director for Columbia Riverkeeper: dan@columbiariverkeeper.org (503) 890-2441