

TC Energy's GTN Xpress Would Pump More Methane Gas Through an Aging System at a Time When Demand in the Region is Declining

Summary:

- In order to approve GTN Xpress, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission must determine that the project is “necessary,” to avoid saddling ratepayers with extra costs. GTN Xpress is not “necessary” because demand for gas in the region is declining.
- Washington, Oregon, and California’s energy and climate laws *require* reductions in fracked gas use in the coming years.
- Because demand for gas in the region is declining, GTN Xpress will result in stranded assets, subsidized by ratepayers.
- Without evidence of demand for the gas GTN Xpress would add to the system, it is increasingly likely that utilities contracted for the gas intend to sell the additional gas for profit—a practice that benefits shareholders, while placing all of the risk on ratepayers.

Documents:

- [Washington, Oregon, and California’s Motion to Intervene](#)
 - Expert Report: A Critical Review of Need, Cost, and Impacts, prepared by Energy Futures Group, Page 69
 - Expert report on subsidization, Page 14
- [Comment by Washington, Oregon, and California responding to GTN’s response to FERC’s April 18, 2023 data request](#), explaining that GTN does not provide evidence of necessity (5/5/23)
- [Joint comments from Columbia Riverkeeper & Rogue Climate detailing evidence that GTN Xpress is unnecessary](#) (6/7/2023)
 - See Exhibit A for an expert report explaining competing interests of GTN Xpress’s gas buyers
 - See Exhibit C for the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Staff comments rebuking Cascade Natural Gas’s reliance on GTN Xpress
- [Columbia Riverkeeper comments on FERC’s draft environmental impact statement](#), see pages 6-12 regarding project need
- [Rogue Climate’s comments on FERC’s draft environmental impact statement](#), see pages 9-10 discussing Intermountain gas’s practice of selling capacity for profit

Articles:

- DeSmog: [Proposed Pipeline Expansion Could Upend Three States' Climate Plans](#) (7.20.23)
- [Alison Gocke, Pipelines & Politics, Harvard Environmental Law Review, 2023](#): Explaining the history of FERC's authority under the Natural Gas Act, compared with its current practice. "[O]ver the last two decades, the agency has approved 423 out of the 425 pipeline applications that have come before it."

Possible Interview Opportunities:

- Audrey Leonard, Staff Attorney of Columbia Riverkeeper, and member of the Stop GTN Xpress Coalition: audrey@columbiariverkeeper.org (541) 399-4775
- Dan Serres, Advocacy Director for Columbia Riverkeeper: dan@columbiariverkeeper.org (503) 890-2441