

28 Hydraulion Avenue
Bristol, RI 02809
July 28, 2010

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Mr. Elia Germani, Chairman
Ms. Mary E. Bray
Mr. Paul Roberti

RI Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, RI 02888

Honorable Members of the Commission:

Please do not allow the alleged environmental benefits, which are being used to sell wind turbines in Rhode Island, to influence your decisions in the Deepwater issue.

The allegations should be dismissed and ignored, because:

85% or more of the electricity generated in RI is fueled by natural gas, which President Obama recently proclaimed to be an "Energy of the future". Rhode Island already exceeds future environmental goals by a very wide margin. Please see enclosures.

The allegations not only try to take credit for what has already been accomplished by others; they also rob the citizens of Rhode Island of the opportunity to attract business to our state by advertising that RI energy is already green, and at a reasonable price.

2 enclosures

Sincerely,



Nicholas Ratti, Jr.

The Providence Journal

Founded in 1829

Howard G. Sutton
PUBLISHER

Robert B. Whitcomb
VICE PRESIDENT AND
EDITORIAL PAGES EDITOR

Thomas E. Heslin
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
AND EXECUTIVE EDITOR

PUBLISHERS OF
The Providence Journal

Ellon Brown
PUBLISHER 1942-1954

A. Watkins
PUBLISHER 1954-1979

William Metcalf
PUBLISHER 1979-1987

William Hamblett
PUBLISHER 1987-1999

RI HAS ALREADY
DONE THIS!

EDITORIALS

Far better than coal and oil

New ways of extracting natural gas from huge shale formations in the U.S. and Canada have shaken up the global energy picture.

The U.S. has plenty of natural gas, by far the cleanest fuel among the fossil-fuel trio of gas, coal and oil. This may mean that natural gas can ultimately utterly displace coal and oil in electricity generation. Gas-fired generators release about half as much carbon dioxide as coal-fired ones and almost no such pollutants as nitrous oxide, sulfuric acid, mercury and arsenic. There is even talk of developing it as the major transportation fuel, with similar positive ramifications for air quality. That is mostly a matter of building a supply infrastructure.

The geopolitical implications of this for the U.S. are considerable. After all, we may be freed from the need to buy energy from our enemies.

Shale is as ubiquitous as coal in much of the world. Where there's coal, there's often shale, so if new technologies such as "fracking" — fracturing shale to release gas — and horizontal drilling can be applied widely in such countries

as Poland and Ukraine, as here, there is no telling what markets for energy may look like in a few years. It may be that the days of Russia's menacing Europe by shutting down the pipelines that keep Berlin and Paris warm in the winter are numbered. And China, which relies on burning very toxic soft coal, could have a partial solution to its energy woes as well.

There is an environmental price for natural gas; of course. Fracking involves damaging some countryside and can cause water pollution. But overall there is much, much less damage than is involved in coal-mining and oil drilling.

And drilling rigs are unsightly. New York has prohibited drilling in the vast shale formation under much of the western part of that state and there are major controversies in Pennsylvania about fracking.

Still, a natural-gas energy economy promises to have a huge and, for the U.S. perspective at least, positive effect on the global geopolitical climate. And it would certainly do much less damage to the atmosphere and the land than does burning oil and coal.

PROVIDENCE
JOURNAL

Electricity generating plants in Rhode Island

Plant name	Fuel	Owner	Capacity (megawatts)
Rhode Island State Energy Johnston	Gas	FPL Energy Operating Services, Inc.	515
Manchester Street Providence	Gas/Petroleum	Dominion Resources, Inc.	421
Tiverton Power Tiverton	Gas/Other	Calpine Corp.	239
Ocean State Power Burrillville	Gas	TransCanada Power Marketing	438
Pawtucket Power Associates Pawtucket	Gas/Petroleum	Sempra Energy Trading Corp.	64
Ridgewood Rhode Island Generation Johnston	Landfill gas	Ridgewood Rhode Island Generation, LLC.	15
Rhode Island Hospital Providence	Gas	Rhode Island Hospital	10
Block Island New Shoreham	Petroleum	Block Island Power Co.	7
Central Power Cranston	Petroleum	State of Rhode Island	5

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Energy, ISO New England

RI IS ALREADY
85% "GREEN"
WITHOUT WINDMILLS

OIL ≈ 15%
COAL 0
GAS (CLEAN) 85%