

Hello, members of the Citizens Advisory Council. My name is Tom Pike. I'm an environmental policy advocate with Protect PT, a non-profit in Southwestern PA that works on clean air and water issues in Westmoreland and Allegheny Counties.

I am calling you from my home in Forest Hills, in a 1940s brick house that I have converted to be completely free of fossil fuels. I live a modern, middle-class suburban lifestyle - I have a 7.1 sound system in my home theater and I'm not off the grid making my own yogurt in a barrel - but I have no electric bill and no gas bill.

My solar panels more than exceed my needs, despite living in the fifth cloudiest metropolitan area in the country. The technology has come astoundingly far in recent years.

The process of removing fossil fuels from the house was not complicated and it was not expensive. I converted my home to be net-zero emissions in less than a year and a half, with a single income in the household of \$52,000.

I provide this as context for when industry asserts that we must live alongside the waste and pollution of the gas industry because, they say, there simply is no other way to keep the lights on. I believe this may have been true 20 years ago. But it is not anymore.

In fact, even before I converted my home, the gas industry was not primarily concerned with keeping my lights on. 76% of the gas extracted from our communities is exported, and much of that gets sold to Europe, for private profit. If we have an energy crisis in 20 years, it will be in part because the industry will have already extracted and sold all of our gas.

Gas industry waste is, as you know, a major issue in Southwestern Pennsylvania communities. So I bring this up to show you that the volume of waste generated by the gas industry is not something we *have* to live with. It is simply something the gas industry, regulators, and our legislators, have decided should be imposed on us for the sake of their convenience. We could cut gas industry waste and profits by 76% without turning off a single light in Pennsylvania.

To that point, Protect PT is requesting that the PA Department of Environmental Protection revise its rules on road spreading of gas industry waste. We have a ban on fracking waste road spreading, and although the DEP does not currently permit spreading conventional waste, this moratorium has been ineffective.

Conventional drillers continued to report spreading their waste after the moratorium was put in place, with some claiming the waste meets the definition of a "co-product" and can be used instead of commercial dust suppressants. None of these self-determinations, when inspected by the DEP, satisfied the requirements of the program. Explicitly banning the practice of gas industry waste road-spreading on the conventional side as well, will provide regulatory certainty and can prevent the ongoing abuse of the co-product program.

If DEP issues an explicit ban on road spreading for conventional gas industry waste, this will help significantly. The loophole is causing toxic chemicals to enter the air and water on which Pennsylvanians rely, and to which we are entitled under Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

We encourage DEP to engage in a rulemaking to completely ban road spreading of gas industry waste.

Thank you for your time.