



CLEAN ENERGY

MIDDLETOWN, NJ

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SUBJECT: NJNaturalGas ratepayers should NOT subsidize new private residential gas network

The citizens' group, Middletown for Clean Energy, has been working with Middletown for almost 3 years to get a commitment of 100% clean energy by 2050 in our town. Our organization's mission is to leave a livable world for our children and grandchildren. We are supporters of Empower NJ.

We have always thought of a fracked gas moratorium as applying to new large construction projects, such as power plants and pipelines. But recently we learned of an insidious effort by NJ Natural Gas to capture new customer demand for fracked gas now, before any new regulations require its reduction. Here in Middletown, there is a 952-home private gated community, Shadow Lake Village, built in the 1960s as all-electric, with no gas hookup. NJNG has recently started to lobby the SLV Board of Trustees to provide gas hookups and allow residents to convert to gas, promising them up to 75% savings, and no charge for gas service lines. This may be pushed through, regardless of the fact that 340 homeowners signed letters opposing gas and demanding clean energy.

A similar situation with 517 Florida homes having no gas, is described at <https://www.swcaonline.com/files/Natural%20Gas%20Presentation-FINAL%20April%202019.pdf>. The cost of the new gas distribution network was \$1,216,338, to be paid by the homes which desired gas hookup. Half the homeowners were required to sign up and agree to pay their share of the total distribution costs before the work would begin. The proposed installation was to be 3 months, starting in late 2019.

It appears the NJNG proposed new distribution network, on private SLV property, is to be completely subsidized by all NJNG customers. The proposed NJNG local distribution map and timeline is on page 2 of this mailing to SLV homeowners: <http://climate.smiller.org/SLV/shadow-lake1.pdf>. The second half of this NJNG mailing is <http://climate.smiller.org/SLV/slv1-2.pdf>. Resident homeowners are being offered the gas hookups at zero cost, as long as they connect a major appliance within 6 months. A NJNG "Town Hall" (for only Shadow Lake residents) was originally scheduled (snowed-out) Dec 2, 2019, and is now rescheduled for January 7, 2020.

According to website <https://natgassaves.com/calculator>, NJNG has pursued at least 14 similar projects in other nearby towns: Eatontown, Freehold Twp, Howell, Manalapan, Marlboro, Tinton Falls, and Wall.

Please take action to block gas installation on private property from being subsidized by all ratepayers!!!

Sincerely, Pat and Steve Miller, co-founders of "Middletown for Clean Energy"

Copy to Governor Phil Murphy

Middletown for Clean Energy

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