



TOWN of LANSING

"Home of Industry, Agriculture and Scenic Beauty"

PO Box 186
Lansing, NY 14882

September 22, 2017

Commissioner Gregg C. Sayre and Members
New York State Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

Re: NYSEG - RATE CASE - #17-G-0432
TOWN OF LANSING, NY ENERGY REQUIREMENTS

Dear Commissioner Sayre and PSC Members,

We understand that you will be considering a rate case that only addresses a small portion of the Natural Gas needs of the Town of Lansing. According to the information, I have seen through the newspapers, the PSC had approved the "West Dryden Natural Gas Pipeline replacement project. As I understand it, there is an existing natural gas transmission pipeline and the project would be to increase the size of the existing pipe to a new, safer, pipe that would be able to meet both the current needs of Lansing's existing customers in the winter, but more importantly meet the pent up needs of the existing built projects that have been waiting for natural gas and a very significant amount of Lansing Town Planning Board approved and in-process. NYSEG issued a Natural Gas Moratorium that prevents all additional Natural Gas Hooks ups, even to existing Natural Gas customers. It was stated by NYSEG that the average customer currently spends up to \$2,897 per year and when converted, they would spend \$1,061 per year save up to \$1,836 (savings of 63.4%) per year IF natural gas replaced the much more expensive oil, electric or propane heating. This issue must be resolved immediately.

According to the newspaper article dated August 29, 2014, the approved project would be completed by the end of 2015.... This was to be completed and in the ground nearly 2 years ago. Unfortunately, some individual property owners in the neighboring town of Dryden are refusing to sign the easements NYSEG wanted to replace the existing pipe with a larger one. As I understand it, they have "Fracking gas" concerns; however, this pipeline is for natural gas. NYSEG has the ability to install infrastructure and strongly believe this issue must be addressed immediately.

The Town of Dryden and a member of Tompkins County Legislature of that area then started to organize a campaign to "stop the replacement of the existing pipeline". The Town of Lansing and the Village of Lansing were the only two directly affected by the Natural Gas Hook-up Moratorium. The Mayor of the Village of Lansing and myself as Lansing Town Supervisor were not included in the decision-making committee and were not even

informed of any meetings, to at least contribute factual information that could be used in making an educated decision.

On April 3, 2017, Lansing Town Planner Michael Long and I traveled to meet with Commission Sayer and NYSEG President Mark Lynch along with NYSEG staff and PSC staff present. Below are the major issues the Town of Lansing must address in no particular order of importance:

- In 1998 the Lansing Power Plant was owned by NYSEG and assessed at \$266,667,800, which has been reduced over the years to \$35,000,000 in 2017, only 13.1% of former value. The Assessment will continue to be reduced further to \$20,000,000, which continues to adversely impact the Lansing Schools, Tompkins County, and the Town of Lansing and the Fire District. Over the years, this dramatic reduction due to being sold several times and the Coal Fired Plant being devalued to the previous \$60,000,000 (only about 8.3% of its value when NYSEG owned it). The most immediate \$25 million reduction of assessment tax base for the Cayuga Operating Station Power Plant along with the recent \$10 million-dollar reduction for the Shops at Ithaca Mall have had a very serious impact on the property tax rates of the Lansing School District, Tompkins County, Lansing Fires District and the Town of Lansing. This has created significant lost revenue to all the taxing jurisdictions.
- According to the Tompkins County Assessor, the Lansing Power Plant PILOT agreement payments for 2007-2008 were \$2,856,135 to the School – totaling all entities was \$4,237,474. These amounts have been greatly reduced in 2017-2018 to \$724,028 to the school – totaling all entities was \$1,040,509. Over this 10-year period, the PILOT payments were REDUCED \$2,855,441 per year for the school district or \$3,196,965 per year combined all taxing entities during this time frame. The Lansing Power Plant is the largest single taxpayer in Tompkins County. The existing Coal Fired Plant has been a target by the environmentalist wanting it to be closed. Reducing revenues even more.
- The development projects' list presented on 9/20/2017 has been updated and now includes 28 approved Town Board and Planning Board projects ready to issue building permits with 809 dwelling / commercial units, and an additional 10 projects of 340 dwelling units currently in the development approval process of final approvals. These approved projects include new single-family apartment dwelling units, single-family home lot subdivisions, condominiums, and commercial businesses.
- The complaints that the Town of Lansing has heard since the NYSEG Natural Gas Moratorium has been put into effect are:
 - The Village of Lansing lost a medical facility that would have creating 100 additional jobs. When the facility was not able to get the needed access to NYSEG Natural Gas, they decided to locate those new high-paying jobs in Ohio, thereby causing NYS and the Town to lose 3x multiplier revenue effect to the local economy plus the sales and property tax revenues to the effected local governments.
 - When Natural Gas is not available, Developers will be forced to and will continue to use Liquid Propane (LP) Gas as a solution. Causing delivery trucks to fill up stationary above- or below-ground tanks. This is at a higher fuel cost, will result in higher environmental degradation, and poses significant public health and safety issues.

- Electric Heat Pumps cost an additional \$8,000-\$10,000 to install and the electricity to run them is at a higher cost rate than natural gas. With the power plant not being repowered by natural gas, where is all this extra electricity coming from? In particular, with an increase in the installation of new electric heat pumps which includes a built in air conditioning system it will ultimately increase the electric demand. The Town supports Electric Heat Pumps; however, the Electric Distribution System must be upgraded to support the additional demands.
- Tompkins County is currently at 4.8% Unemployment Rate - one of the lowest counties of Upstate New York. Through connections with Cornell University and new business start-ups at the Cornell University Business Park by the airport the expansions are continuing to assist development in our region and must be allowed to continue growing and expanding.
- The Town of Lansing is one of the highest growth areas in Tompkins County over the last decade.
- Census information notes that the Town of Lansing population growth in the last 5 years alone is a staggering 4.4%, which is projected to continue into the next decade. Lansing is where a majority of the Tompkins County population growth occurred.
- According to the information previously discussed by NYSEG, they are investigating a 3-tiered approach to the Town of Lansing energy needs. The NYSEG initial item – The compressor solution situation will only address cold weather issues of existing service customers and **will not provide any relief to the existing back log of hook-up requests or future growth needs of the Town of Lansing or its residents. This issue must be addressed now.**
- The Town of Lansing Highway Garage is currently a NYSEG Natural Gas customer for its entire facilities, but the Town was not allowed to connect a new emergency generator for Emergency Management planning and FEMA compliance for the DPW and Fire Department. This added a \$2,500 additional cost to the Town of Lansing for LP Gas installations also resulted in higher cost fuels.
- The Town of Lansing welcomes alternate Energy Solutions. We have a high concentration of Solar Panels, even on the Town Highway Barn, and continue to support and market them. The Town was one of the first communities within the Tompkins County, Cornell University area to approve a large-scale municipal solar installation.
- It is difficult if not impossible to force existing natural gas customers to switch to electric heat pumps (15-25 year payback periods) so additional waiting-list projects may get the needed natural gas service. Once additional natural gas sources are identified, the existing waiting customers will have already chosen other energy sources making this option unfeasible.
- The Computing Center, a large IP and networking consultant servicing many local businesses including Cornell University, and employs dozens of people, has received site plan approval to build a new commercial office building in the Town of Lansing. Without natural gas as an option, which is the preferred choice, they will need to use electric heat pumps for heat and air-conditioning and still be forced to use LP gas to power their required server back-up generator required for cooling and electrical backup.
- Village Solars / Village Circle is nearing completion of an additional 432 apartment units. The restaurant that will be within the community building in the complex requires natural gas. They just submitted an application for an additional 70 dwelling units, which will use heat pumps that requires sufficient electricity as well. They are anticipated to begin construction this June.
- The Cornell Business Park, located adjacent of the Tompkins County Airport, has greatly expanded with several new businesses that are start-ups from Cornell University. They too need natural gas, as

well as the proposed Tompkins County Business Park to be located along Warren Road. These projects are not included within our current identified list.

- The Lansing Cayuga Operating Power Plant (Former NYSEG / AES) is currently operating as needed and is powered with coal. It is investigating natural gas conversion and providing electrical power to the NYSEG grid to support the additional electric heat pump demands. Thus, there is more than one reason to bring service into this county and the need is regional. They have also proposed a 14 Megawatt Solar farm to be built on the site, which would help generate additional green power.
- We would also request that NYSEG review the existing electrical distribution system, as electrical demands for the region are also continuing to grow and may likely exceed infrastructure capacity within a matter of years.
- The Town of Lansing recently entered into a three-party agreement with the Village of Cayuga Heights and the Village of Lansing to provide additional access to the Municipal Waste Water Treatment Plant to provide sewer access to several new and developing projects. This will provide the required sewer infrastructure, next we need the NYSEG Natural Gas and Electrical upgrades.

We understand that NYSEG has investigated options related to the replacement of the existing undersized Dryden Road Natural Gas distribution line. As for our current understanding, the natural gas distribution pipe exists and will only be replaced with a larger natural gas pipe infrastructure that is common to all distribution systems. This action is only providing the adequate amount of capacity to meet the current and future energy needs within the Town of Lansing. NYSEG can and should use Eminent Domain as a last resort to properly upgrade the existing system.

Town of Lansing Recommendations:

1. The Town of Lansing strongly supports that NYSEG’s natural gas distribution line along Dryden Road is replaced and appropriately sized as soon as possible. We also wish to point out that this is not a new problem in meeting the energy needs of the Town of Lansing. Records of a looming shortfall go back over several years and the time to act is now. We have been waiting for several years for this issue to be addressed.
2. The Compressor Station improvements will address the “safety, pressure, and reliability issues related to customers in the Lansing area of Tompkins County,” “with the goal of increasing pressure on the system to minimize the chance of pressures falling to unreliable or unsafe levels”. When NYSEG uses words like “unsafe” the question becomes, how has NYSEG been allowed to operate knowing the situation for so many years without the state stepping in? Their application reads that Lansing residents have been put in jeopardy for years. I would think the PSC would agree this is unacceptable. In addition, the compressor station will do nothing to alleviate the pent up demand and the future needs. Lansing has the highest growth in Tompkins County, which is one of the only growing counties of Upstate New York. We are not losing, but rather gaining residents **and must continue to grow to keep up with demands.**
3. NYSEG has failed Lansing for years, not fulfilling its responsibilities and according to their own document, has put Lansing residents in danger. Perhaps the question should be; should NYSEG continue to be given a monopoly on gas distribution in Lansing or should that contract be given to another company such as Mirabito or Corning Natural Gas?

4. Natural Gas is a proven low cost and safer alternative to the current oil, propane and electric systems currently through the town. The PSC must consider Economic savings directly to the customers of \$1,836 per year by upgrading the natural gas this must be implemented. The Compressor Station proposal only addresses a portion of the problem.
5. Natural Gas should be considered a “Transition Fuel” as stated by Governor Cuomo, as it will take an additional 15-20 years for the Alternate Energy Systems to become effective and cost comparative especially in the northeast where solar and wind resources are not as plentiful.

The Public Service Commission is to take an objective look at the various proposals and weigh the economic impacts /benefits of these proposals. The Town of Lansing and the Village of Lansing are being targeted because Tompkins County has an overly ambitious Energy Sustainability Plan that will eliminate nearly all positive development in our area.

We welcome the opportunity to share additional information to the Public Service Commission and NYSEG to assist in making a more informed and educated decision. Lansing has significant pent-up demand for development and housing. The Town of Lansing and New York State are losing economic opportunities that are pushing businesses to move to other growing States due to the current restrictions on Natural Gas system.

Sincerely,

S/S

Edward LaVigne, Town Supervisor

Please see included doc that follow.

Town of Lansing, New York

Development Projects in need of Utilities...

9/20/2017

Natural Gas, Electricity, Sewer, Water, Telephone / internet, etc.

Development Projects	-	# Units	Approved	
Asbury Hill Residential Subdivision		28	Yes	
Whispering Pines - Phase V	Balance	2	Yes	
Pheasant Way - Phase 2		2	Yes	
Pheasant Way - Phase 3		3	In-process	
Cayuga Way Subdivision w/ Lake View		30	Yes	
Aiden's Lane		2	Yes	
Novalane		6	Yes	
Sun Path - Phase 1		4	Yes	
Cayuga Farms		102	Yes	
Village Solars/Village Circle + Restaurant	Balance	423	Yes	PDA
Village Solars/Village Circle - Phase 2		70	Yes	PDA
Lake Forest Circle		17	Preliminary	
Lake Forest Drive		3	Yes	
Lansing Commons - Phase 2		7	Yes	
Woodland Way - Houses	Balance	21	Yes	PDA
Woodland Way - Townhomes	Balance	39	Yes	PDA
Captains Walk - house		1	Yes	
Dollar General - Commercial Store		1	Yes	
Mirabito LP Gas Storage & Dist. - Commercial		1	Yes	
Christian Fellowship Church addition		1	Yes	
Lansing United Methodist Church -expansion		1	Yes	

Powers Subdivision	3	Yes	
Rink / Reach Works Climbing Wall - Commercial	1	Yes	
English Village - Town Homes	59	In-process	
English Village - Homes	58	In-process	
Pinney Duplexes	30	Yes	
Cargill Mine Shaft #4	1	In-process	DEC / IDA
Buck Road - Scott Morgan Duplexes	4	Yes	
Cross Roads Catering	1	No	
The Computing Store - 5,000 SF Commercial	1	Yes	
United Storage - 9,600 SF Commercial	1	Yes	
Cottonwood subdivision	21	Yes	
Farm Pond Circle - Phase 2	14	In-process	
Cherry Road	1	Yes	
Sweazey Road	2	Yes	

Development Projects	-	# Units	Approved
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Milton Meadows Apts - Phase 1	72	In-process	
Milton Meadows Apt - Phase 2	56	In-process	
Tiny Timbers - Phase 1	10	In-process	
Tiny Timbers - Phase 2	50	In-process	

Current Projects Demand:	1149	dwelling units
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SEE MORE BELOW

☆ [NYSEG Proposes Delivery Pipeline From Dryden to Lansing](#)

News | Friday, August 29, 2014 | By Dan Veaner



Lansing and Dryden residents came to the Freeville Fire Station Tuesday to learn about a proposed gas pipeline that would bring natural gas to customers from Freeville, along West Dryden and Farrell Roads to the Warren Road area of Lansing. The pipe would span seven miles, mostly in Dryden, to enhance the gas delivery system that is near capacity for the Ithaca area. New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) Public Affairs Manager Clayton Ellis says that the pipe will connect specific customers and enhance an existing system.

"It's to serve customers along the route where the new pipeline will be," he says. "It's to serve some of the proposed development, and some of the development is already happening in Lansing. It will also help reinforce our entire Ithaca area gas system."

NYSEG is proposing about seven miles of a mid-pressure distribution pipeline, planned mainly for the south side of West Dryden Road, on the street side of the ditch. Ellis says that the project could be completed quickly before the end of 2015. NYSEG's schedule calls for the company to obtain easements from property owners starting in September and finishing next April. That would be followed by procuring materials and finalizing engineering plans by May with construction taking place from May through October. The pipeline would be commissioned by November.



The Dominion Transmission, Inc. (DTI) interstate pipeline covers 7,800 miles of natural gas transmission pipes in six states. The proposed project would hook up to the pipeline in Freeville, north for a short distance along NYS Route 38 along West Dryden and Farrell Roads to the Warren Road area of Lansing, totaling about seven miles of 10" steel pipe.

The four hour meeting was more of an open house, where people could visit various 'stations' around the room to learn about the different aspects of the project. Ellis says that NYSEFG doesn't routinely hold such meetings for routine gas distribution project like this one. But he said high interest by area developers and concerned property owners led the company to schedule it. Reportedly Lucente Holdings and Village Solars LLC are two of the projects that would benefit from the gas line.

Tensions sparked as protesters refused to move a press conference away from the entrance to the building, after earlier surrounding the project manager to ask questions about the project. But in general the exchange was respectful.

Ellis says the pipe will be beneficial to homeowners along the route because it will enable them to hook up, which is free for homes that are within 100 feet of the pipe. A NYSEG handout shows that at current prices annual estimated residential energy costs are \$1,061 for natural gas users compared to between \$2,725 and \$2,897 for fuel oil, electricity and propane users.



West Dryden Residents Against The Pipeline rallied outside the fire station, then came in to ask questions

Not all property owners agree. About 20 people from a group calling itself 'West Dryden Residents Against The Pipeline' came to demand answers to their questions, and to protest the need for natural gas in the area. Joanne Cipolla-Dennis, a key organizer, says that she has been attempting to get answers to about 35 questions she sent NYSEG in mid-December. But even after talking to the project manager at Tuesday's

meeting many remained unanswered.

"One of those questions was, this is a ten inch steel mid-pressure line at 124psi," she says. "Given that, what is the blast zone? He said that he didn't know the answer to that question. So how are people supposed to understand that an explosion is safe for them and their homes?"

Ellis says that explosions are not typical. He says when gas lines are breached the problem is containing escaping gas quickly.

"Most often you end up with blowing gas," he says. "We have to be called in to shut the gas off safely. We make repairs and then re-energize the system. Sometimes the blowing gas catches fire and we have to address that part of the problem. But typically there wouldn't be an explosion."

He adds that under normal operating conditions NYSEG's natural gas system is very safe. He says most gas line breaches come from people digging into the pipes because they haven't checked beforehand to confirm they are not digging where underground facilities are located.

"Apart from promoting '811' which is a phone call people can make to have underground facilities marked to insure that they don't dig into them, we have an extensive safety program," Ellis says. "We do leak surveys. Keep in mind we have meter readers out in the field all the time and they certainly know what natural gas smells like. We do a lot of things to insure that our system operates safely. And it does operate safely. It's a very safe system."



Left to right: Dryden Town Supervisor Mary Ann Sumner, Lansing Town Supervisor Kathy Miller, Tompkins County Area Development Vice President & Director of Economic Development Services Heather Filiberto, Tompkins County Legislator Mike Sigler looking at a section of ten inch steel pipe that will make up the delivery pipeline

Town and County officials also attended the meeting. Lansing Town Supervisor Kathy Miller and Dryden Town Supervisor Mary Ann Sumner came to learn specifics of the project,

and Tompkins County Area Development (TCAD) Vice President & Director of Economic Development Services Heather Filiberto and Lansing's representative to the Tompkins County Legislature Mike Sigler were also on hand. Sigler says he wishes the pipe were planned for his own neighborhood because he would love to switch to natural gas.

"I'm thinking about installing solar panels," he says. "It would cost \$3,700 for an array to serve my electric needs. But that won't serve my heating needs. For that I need to deal with oil. That's how it's going to be for the next 20 or 30 years, so if we don't switch to natural gas I don't know what the answer will be. I would like to see more natural gas come to the area."

Cipolla-Dennis hopes to stop the project by convincing her neighbors not to sign easements. She brought a handout of her own to advise home owners of how to protect their rights and properties, and included questions they should ask before agreeing to sign an easement. She says she will not sign an easement and worries that NYSEG will resort to eminent domain to take her property from her.

"We believe that we could use eminent domain on this project, but that would be an absolute last resort just like it is on all of our gas and electric projects," Ellis says. "We want to work with the property owners and get the easements we need to build the project."

Cipolla-Dennis adds that her insurance agent has told her that insurance companies are considering canceling homeowner's insurance for property owners who sign easements. She says NYSEG is not responsible for costs associated with explosions, so home owners would be held responsible for problems, and complains the company has continued to deflect crucial questions, even at Tuesday's meeting.

"We have asked questions that are critical," she says. "We need to make informed choices and we can't make those choices without critical questions being answered."

But local demand for natural gas service, especially in the area of Warren Road that has seen a minor renaissance in development since the Warren Road Sewer came on line, may push the project through. Ellis says that natural gas, used primarily for heating, is clean, economical, and much less expensive right now than propane or other heating sources. He says a lot of people want it.

"That area needs natural gas," Sigler adds. "We have businesses coming in there. That's one of the areas we've determined we want to see development in. We're at capacity, so to get any more kind of development out there, that's where it needs to go. If we are serious about creating jobs, and frankly if we're serious about things like global warming, natural gas right now is the way to go."

☆ Does Lansing Have a Voice in the Natural Gas Crisis?

News | Friday, February 10, 2017 | By Dan Veaner



Members of the Tompkins County Energy and Economic Development Task Force announced Monday a possible alternative to the proposed West Dryden Road natural gas pipeline, that was planned to supply natural gas primarily to areas of Lansing. The alternative would provide more reliable natural gas delivery to existing customers by installing a compressor station to insure a steady flow of natural gas, but would extend the existing moratorium on new Lansing natural gas customers to force new customers to find alternative energy solutions.

Task Force Chair Martha Robertson said that leaders in Tompkins County have a responsibility to address the issue of reducing fossil fuel use, while supporting job growth and economic development. But Lansing representatives were very unhappy about the solution, complaining that it may solve the problem two, four or more years in the future, and while there is ample natural gas in the rest of the County, that 'rest of the County' was keeping natural gas out of Lansing and stunting development.

"We have a developer that wants to put \$26 million into our town," says Lansing Town Supervisor Ed LaVigne. "He's been delayed for three years because they're going back and forth with this natural gas situation. The reality is that we need to put money into our town now, because we don't know where the power plant is going to go. That is a critical, critical concern that I have right now."

Village of Lansing Mayor Donald Hartill was equally unhappy. He complained that the payback time for alternatives such as heat pumps is ten or more years, saying that the moratorium on natural gas is causing problems for development in the Village.

"The new lab up by the Airport is running on propane because we don't have natural gas," he says. "Natural gas is the energy source of preference, but there are no new hookups, period. It has limited any construction that really needs natural gas. In the case of the lab they were able to put in those great big propane tanks. They have their own features and hazards. Any other new facility is going to face the same problem."

The only Lansing representation on the task force is County Legislator Glenn Morey, whose district includes Voting District 8 in Lansing, the northeast-most tip of the Town. LaVigne says to his knowledge there was no contact between Morey and the town government about the alternative solution. Robertson said that when the task force was formed in 2015 they tried to come up with a broad group that represented different issues, yet was small enough that they could get the work done.

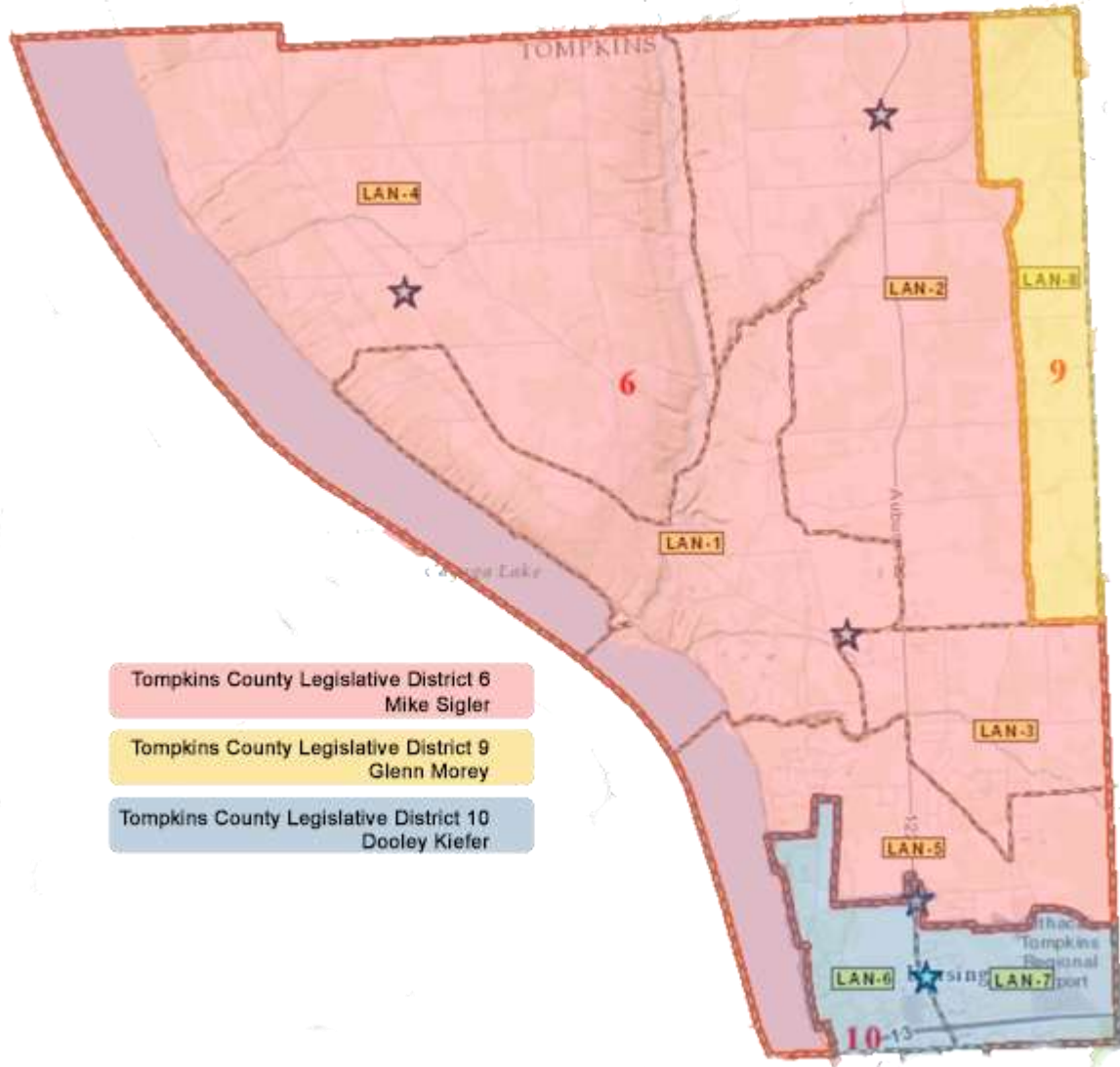
"We really did try to create a balance," she said. "The Town of Dryden complained they weren't represented either, although Mike lane and I represent them, but we're not on the Town Board. We did the best we could to have a diverse

group. Jerry Goodenough was an active member in the group. It included Graham Gillespie, an architect; it included Herman Sieverding, who is active in economic development and business technology. So we tried to have a balanced and wide ranging group."

According to Legislator Dooley Keifer, whose district includes the Village of Lansing, she and Legislator Mike Sigler, who represents most of the Town of Lansing outside the Village, were asked to invite two representatives from Lansing to a presentation on January 18th. LaVigne attended, and Hartill, out of town, attended by phone. Both say they weren't aware that an alternative to the pipeline was under discussion until this meeting.

"My impression was that the conclusion had already been made," LaVigne says. There really wasn't any input."

Elected



Representatives in Lansing: The Town of Lansing is represented by three representatives on the Tompkins County Legislature. Mike Sigler represents most of the Town, excluding the Village. Dooley Kiefer represents the Village of Lansing along with Village of Cayuga Heights and part of the Town of Ithaca. Glenn Morey represents Lansing's north-east most district plus Groton and a portion of Dryden. LaVigne is the Town Supervisor, which encompasses the red and yellow areas for all services, and blue for some. Donald Hartill is the Mayor of the Village of Lansing, the blue area.

"The Town and Village should have been included in all discussions as those two entities are in charge of all planning,

not the County," said Sigler.

After Monday's announcement Sigler sent a letter asking four questions. He asked whether NYSEG has considered extending the Lansing moratorium on new natural gas customers to the whole county. He also asked how best to revise building codes, challenging the economy of heat pumps and asking for a re-visit the issue of retrofitting the Cayuga Power Plant, and about IDA requirements for using alternative energy on projects that receive consideration from the County on tax abatements or PILOT agreements.

LaVigne also advocates extending the moratorium county-wide, arguing that if all municipalities in the County have 'skin in the game' rather than just Lansing, they may not be so quick to impose new rules that hold up development until cost-effective alternatives are available.

"My opinion is that a lot of politicians are out of touch with people that are in the real world," he says. "Municipalities are a whole different world. They don't suffer the consequences. That's why I am in favor of a county-wide ban on new customers. No expansion whatsoever. Let's go back to the table and see if this is really feasible. When the bigger players get upset I daresay that the bear will be poked and they may not like the results."

Caroline Councilwoman Irene Weiser defended the makeup of the task force,

"We recognize that certainly there were concerns from Lansing, but these concerns were county-wide," she explained. "We felt that having TCAD (Tompkins County Area Development) and the Chamber (of Commerce) really addressed business issues county-wide. Also, Martha's position as chair of the Planning and Economic Development committee meant that there was representation for the County in regards to economic development concerns."

Sigler and Kiefer said there should be more Lansing representation as this issue moves forward.

"I think the entire Village Board and Town Board should be involved," Kiefer says.

LaVigne and Lansing Planning Consultant Michael Long say that the issue of bringing natural gas to new customers is not theoretical. 904 housing units that are part of nearly 35 projects are currently either approved or in the process of being approved in Lansing. Most have been approved already, and LaVigne says many of them want natural gas service.

"Nearly 900 houses, apartment units, and commercial businesses projects certainly shows are great needs," Long says.

LaVigne stresses that development is crucial to Lansing, especially in the face of the possible loss of more tax income from the Cayuga Power Plant, which has already lost \$100 million in assessed value. He says that he does not oppose alternative energy sources, but it is unfair for Tompkins County people outside of Lansing's borders to impose alternative sources before both the science and economy of them match the price and desirability of natural gas.

"It seems that on the backs of Lansing we may lose a power plant, or its value may be decreased," he says. "How does that affect everyone else? That affects Lansing the most. We will be hurt the most."

NYSEG's proposal is being investigated. Robertson said that if the NYS PSC (Public Service Commission) does not accept it the West Dryden Road pipeline is still being considered. That gives Lansing leaders time to make their case.

"It's at least a matter of financing as something technically feasible," she explained. "The pipeline was part of NYSEG's rate case to the PSC, so that is, right now, the approved approach. If the PSC agrees that the compressor station appears to be feasible, NYSEG will revise its application and put this in as part of the rate case."

[Lansing Reps Say Extend Natural Gas Moratorium County-Wide](#)

News | Friday, February 17, 2017 | By Dan Veaner



Responding to an announcement by the Tompkins County Energy and Economic Development Task Force (EEDTF) last week that NYSEG has requested a solution to the natural gas shortage in Lansing that will make a moratorium on new customers permanent, Lansing representatives said Wednesday the moratorium should be spread county-wide before any further decisions are made. With close to 900 new building projects currently approved or undergoing the approval process in the Town, Lansing officials said that it's not fair that communities that have access to natural gas have come up with a plan that will deny it to Lansing.

"It's definitely not putting us on the right playing field," said Tompkins County Legislator Mike Sigler (Lansing). "The gas moratorium is obviously something that's going to have an enormous impact on our town."

In a call to NYSEG spokesman Bob Pass Wednesday, Lansing Town Supervisor Ed LaVigne was blunt in his criticism of the EEDTF's collaboration with NYSEG that will solve the problem of unreliable natural gas delivery in Lansing with a new compressor station that would stabilize the flow of natural gas, but not add new capacity within the Town. He noted that while the only Lansing representative on the EEDTF, Tompkins County Legislator Glenn Morey, does represent a small portion of Lansing, Morey himself is a Groton resident and the sliver of Lansing he represents is just a small part of the district he represents.

"I was not polite with Mr. Pass today," LaVigne told the Town Board at a meeting Wednesday. "Lansing is the one that's going to take it on the chin. In my opinion we have not been represented. We're the ones that are going to have to pay. They say that someone from Lansing was on the committee, but he only represents District 8. With all due respect, he (Morey) doesn't pay taxes in Lansing. I am not going to get into a debate about natural gas or heat pumps or any of this stuff. What I did mention to Mr. Pass is that later is now. If you're not going to go in this one direction, then where do we get reliable power so that people that want to invest in our town will invest?"

Sigler stressed that he thinks surrounding communities that are not threatened by the moratorium are pulling the natural gas rug out from under Lansing.

"You're looking at Towns like Dryden who are saying you guys should not have natural gas in Lansing, yet they're putting in 34 units that use natural gas. It doesn't seem like any of the other towns are... sure there are a couple of projects that

are using heat pumps and things like that, but overall most of the stuff you have being built in Ithaca is natural gas."

Lansing Planning Consultant Michael Long said that he had attended the EEDTF meeting, and said that Lansing officials opposed the plan the committee announced. He said demand for natural gas in Lansing is high.

"We put together a list of 890 projects that have been approved, or in the process of being approved -- we have a significant amount of interest and demand," he reported. "A lot of them are subdivisions for residential building plots, duplexes, and also some commercial projects. We don't have any power available to us. The rest of the County does. County Legislator Sigler was also there. He mentioned that if there is going to be a moratorium or a ban it should concern much more than just Lansing."

That sentiment was mirrored by LaVigne, who cited the example of developer Robert Weinstein's Cayuga Farms project that has been trying to get services lined up for a 102 unit townhouse project on Triphammer Road south of Asbury Road for years.

"Mr Weinstein has waited three years," LaVigne said. "Three years he's been calm. He's willing to put in 102 units at a quarter of a million dollars each. That's 25 1/2 million dollars he's willing to put into this town. That would take tremendous angst about what happens to our power plant away from us."

LaVigne said the main concern is to build up the tax base in Lansing, especially within the school district because of the travails of the district's biggest taxpayer, the Cayuga Power Plant. Over the last half dozen or so years the plant has lost about \$100 million in assessed value, and local officials are predicting it will lose still more value in the current round of PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) negotiations. Currently taxes from the plant add about \$1.3 million to the School District's annual budget. The biggest impact has been on school taxes, because it has fallen mainly to homeowners to make up the loss of tax revenue from the plant.

Sigler said he met with a plant official this week, and was cautiously optimistic about the plant's prospects for remaining open in some form.

"I do not know what they're going to do, but I do get a sense from them that they are committed to this community," Sigler said. "Take that for what it's worth. they bought the plant for a reason. They do seem just as committed as that plant has been to us for all these many years. I get the sense from them that they understand that and are committed to our community."

But LaVigne has been negotiating with various entities to provide infrastructure for new development, especially in the southern portion of Lansing, including sewer and power options.

"The good news is (Weinstein) still wants to invest in this town," LaVigne said. "The good news is that it's within the school district. In talking to the representatives from the schools, they are very sensitive as to where this development goes. Anywhere in Lansing is fine with me, but it's reassuring if they want to be within our school district, because, lets be honest, that's the real 5,000 pound gorilla in the room."

LaVigne noted that the Lansing schools are excellent and one of the main reasons people decide to settle in Lansing.

"It would be tragic (to lose developers because of the absence of available natural gas)," he said. "Whether this was done intentionally or not is irrelevant to me. What I care about is that Lansing residents have a strong tax base so they can stay in this town when they retire."

☆ More Lansing Pushback on Gas Moratorium

News | Friday, March 10, 2017 | By Dan Veaner



Village of Lansing Mayor Donald Hartill says he will volunteer to

join the Tompkins County Energy and Economic Development Task Force (EEDTF) to 'try to bring some sense' to its plan that would extend Lansing's moratorium on natural gas indefinitely in order to force developers to use sustainable energy solutions. Hartill said that a proposed plant that would have brought 100 good jobs to the Village is now being located in Massachusetts because natural gas is not available for new projects in the Cornell Business and Technology Park.

"[Macom](#) was planning on building another building in the Cornell Business and Technology Park to add a second line," Hartill told the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees Monday. "When they came up against the natural gas moratorium they decided to build that second line in Massachusetts instead. It's entirely because of the natural gas moratorium. They will keep the current production line here in Ithaca but the second line would have added 100 jobs here. That means 100 good paying jobs that we could have had are not going to be here. That has motivated me to volunteer myself to get involved with this crazy county energy committee, to try to bring some sense into that."

The task force announced last month that it had consulted with NYSEG to help convince the company to forgo a proposed natural gas delivery pipeline that would have brought stability to current Lansing customers' service and added capacity for new developments. The plan involves installing a compressor to insure a steady flow of gas delivery to existing customers. But it would make the current moratorium on new natural gas customers permanent, forcing new projects to find creative solutions that would reduce natural gas use. NYSEG submitted the plan to the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) in a letter dated January 23.

Elected Lansing officials including Hartill and Lansing Town Supervisor Ed LaVigne and Tompkins County Legislator Mike Sigler were quick to criticize the plan. LaVigne argued that if Lansing, the Town that is currently the fastest growing community with nearly 900 residential units and 30 projects currently under construction or in the planning phase, was not able to get natural gas it would hold up development. He cited the Cayuga Farms project, that has been trying to get services lined up for a \$25.5 million, 102 unit townhouse project on Triphammer Road south of Asbury Road for three years years.

LaVigne says these projects could go a long way toward mitigating lax revenue losses from the Ithaca Mall and the Cayuga Power Plant. He suggested the moratorium be extended county-wide so the people imposing this plan on Lansing would be facing the same stakes in their own communities. Hartill added his voice to that idea.

"The other thing is that it's only the Town of Lansing, including the Village, that's under this natural gas moratorium," he said. "My pitch is going to be that it should be all of us that is under the moratorium, not just a particular area. I'm probably not going to be very popular, but it's motivated me to try to do something. That's one of the reasons that I'm willing to spend time on this energy committee. They probably won't accept me, but I'll volunteer."

Hartill noted that electricity is currently the only economically feasible alternative to natural gas, but he complained that the infrastructure is in poor shape. He cited a recent incident that plunged Cornell University and parts of the Town and City of Ithaca into darkness for three hours when a rotted cross bar on a utility pole failed, dropping the wires and shorting out the circuit. Hartill said a circuit breaker didn't trip fast enough to trigger a backup power cogeneration plant, and one of the many consequences was that a Cornell lab he is associated with lost between \$15,000 and \$20,000 of liquid helium when its refrigeration units shut down.

"What that says is that we have maintenance issues in our electrical infrastructure. This isn't the first time that's happened. About nine months ago the same thing happened, but the generator didn't shut down so it was a much easier transition. That's going to continue to happen because the power companies are focused on the bottom line and not so much on the liability. One of the emphases of this committee is to move much more quickly, effectively into just electric power. That puts you at risk."

Hartill added that alternative energy sources that the task force is recommending are not economically feasible. He said that on investigating the cost of heat pumps for his own house, he found it would cost around \$50,000 to install an adequate system. He noted that in mild weather they are effective, but on cold days such as we had over the weekend they are only about as effective as resistive heat. He also said that while they are effective for air conditioning, that isn't a major issue in our climate.

"I was very surprised -- you could go to a Web site and look at the estimates from these three providers," he said. "My read of it was something like \$10,000 per ton to install the system, including the wells. So it's \$50,000 for my house, for example. That is not very attractive, and that's why this whole gas business is coupled into that. This has been a push to force people in that direction by not providing gas. It's a crazy thing."

The West Dryden Road natural gas delivery pipeline is still the solution the PSC is officially considering. If the PSC does not accept the compressor solution the pipeline will continue to be the solution that could then bring more natural gas capacity to the Lansings. Some Lansing officials have vowed to fight the proposal, saying they will lobby the PSC to reject it. All have said they support moving from fossil fuels to sustainable energy sources, but say it must be a much more gradual transition that is technologically feasible and affordable.

"It's clear that one has to go in that direction," Hartill said. "But you can't do it instantaneously. You have to figure out a path that is affordable, that people will buy in to."



[☆ Lansing Officials Go To Albany To Encourage Gas Delivery](#)

News | Friday, April 07, 2017 | By Dan Veaner



Town of Lansing Officials were in Albany Monday to talk to PSC (New York State Public Service Commission) and NYSEG officials about power needs in Lansing. Town Supervisor Ed LaVigne says the trip was motivated by the Energy and Economic Development Task Force (EEDTF)'s activity in working with NYSEG to extend the moratorium on new natural gas customers indefinitely with, LaVigne says, no input from Lansing representatives. Lansing Planning Consultant Michael Long accompanied LaVigne to a meeting that included four NYSEG representatives including President Mark Lynch, plus three PSC officials including PSC Interim Chair Greg Sayre.

"We shared information about our need for power for our units," LaVigne said. "I thought it was very candid and very informative on all sides. Hopefully positive results would come of it."

LaVigne would not divulge details of the meeting, but he said it was productive and he felt his and Long's comments were well received. Long said that NYSEG officials acknowledged that Cornell University and the NuCor Steel Plant in Auburn are among the energy provider's largest customers.

"They also said they are looking at three distinct projects," Long said. "One is to provide natural gas to the existing customers that have a (pressure) problem because of cold weather. So the compressor station is to solve that situation; the second piece is to address the built up demand that we already have. The third piece is looking at what the future needs of the region are. Tompkins is one of the highest growth areas in upstate New York. It has the lowest unemployment rate in upstate New York. So development is primarily happening here."

LaVigne and Village of Lansing Mayor Donald Hartill have been vocal about Lansing being left out of EEDTF's deliberations. With the EEDTF's collaboration NYSEG requested the the PSC review a plan that provides an alternate approach to providing energy to the Lansing/Freeville Reinforcement Gas Pipeline Project. With strong opposition in Dryden to to the 'West Dryden Road natural gas pipeline', the new plan would locate a compressor in the Town of Lansing to insure a steady flow of gas delivery to existing customers, creative solutions would be proposed to reduce natural gas use, and the existing moratorium on new natural gas customers in Lansing would be extended indefinitely.

In March Hartill said he would try to join the task force to 'try to bring some sense' to the task force. But in an email exchange with Hartill Chairwoman Martha Robertson told him, ""This was well-publicized, so much so that by the deadline there were 37 very qualified applicants. 17 of them had to be turned down, in a very tough decision-making process. Mike Sigler clearly knew about this (being on the County PDEQ Committee that approved the concept back in December) and could have suggested it to you and/or Ed LaVigne. He did recommend someone else - Curt Gooch - who was chosen for the Task Force."

But LaVigne says the result was Lansing was not represented.

"We felt that Lansing's voice wasn't heard," he said Wednesday. "The fact that neither our county legislator (Mike Sigler) nor our town supervisor nor any representative from Lansing besides (County Legislator) Glenn Morey, who

represents (Lansing) district eight, but lives in Groton. No disrespect to Mr. Morey, but all sides weren't heard. So we took it upon ourselves to reach out to NYSEG and the PSC asking them for an opportunity to express more information about the situation."

Both Hartill and LaVigne have called for extending the moratorium to the whole county so all Tompkins county communities will have the same stake in finding reasonable energy solutions.

"We're not saying we're pro-this, anti-this," LaVigne says. "We see this as a transition. That's the word that people should think of with natural gas. It is the transitional fuel. The transition, in my opinion, will get there. But it's going to take a while to do that. That's why I think you should consider the bridge fuel, natural gas. It's a lot cleaner than propane. The sad reality is I don't think a lot of the businesses will switch to electric. I think they will switch to propane, as (Cayuga Farms Developer Robert Weinstein) has already expressed. He's not going to go to electric."

LaVigne also cited Macom's decision to build its plant expansion in Massachusetts rather than the Cornell Business and Technology Park and the resulting loss of 100 new good-paying jobs as a result of natural gas not being available in the Village of Lansing location. he and Long cite statistics that show that each new job radiates four other local jobs with more positive income on the economy with trailing spouses and families that settle here.

Robertson told Hartill that the Macom decision was one of the reasons the task force was formed, writing, "Macom's move was one of the events that led to the formation of the Energy and Economic Development Task Force two years ago. We continue to be concerned about the availability of energy (not necessarily gas) for economic development, and are pushing the PSC to move as quickly as possible on the RFP that NYSEG proposed, for 'non-pipeline alternatives'."

LaVigne says he fears preventing new natural gas customers could be disastrous for Lansing, especially in the face of the threat that the power plant may not stay open. He says bringing new business to the Town is crucial in increasing or stabilizing the tax base, especially when trying to bring school taxes under control.

"You go from residential to renters," he says. "Now you go towards services and jobs. That was the next step in our growth of a solid community financial base. That step just got interrupted big-time. I will do whatever is necessary to improve the chances of our town surviving. I was here when Smith Corona left Groton. That was a devastating situation when Smith Corona left. It was a game changer. How this will effect us if, for instance, the power plant closes. If you have no other area for a soft landing you're going to have a mass migration out of here. If that happens what's going to happen to the dynamics of our town?"

LaVigne insists he is not against the use of renewable fuels, but he wants an orderly transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. He says it will take time for the science to become widely feasible and affordable.

"I am open minded about science, but I don't want a long trail of carnage along the way," he says. "Our biggest concern is to have reliable, dependable power. All these other things are noble causes, but are they reliable and dependable, especially on the coldest, darkest days of winter? There are people in Lansing that would suffer terribly. I'm not going to be that person that is the cause of it. I will do everything I can, move mountains if I have to, to protect my town."

Hartill says he will also go to Albany to lobby for extending natural gas to the Lansings, and says he will speak out at task force meetings as a member of the public.

While in Albany LaVigne and Long also visited State Senator Pam Helming's office where they brought their concerns to Helming's staffers.

☆ "Pissed Off Supervisor" Accuses County of Interference

News | Friday, April 21, 2017 | By Dan Veaner



Lansing Town Supervisor Ed LaVigne gave an impassioned speech Wednesday on the power plant tax impact and his view on the County interfering in Lansing's welfare. "You've got one pissed off supervisor on your hands now", he said.

Read County Legislator Martha Robertson (who chairs the EEDTF) response by [clicking here](#). "Tompkins County is committed to all our residents and all our towns, villages, and school districts," she says.

LaVigne says Lansing is going it alone in the wake of power plant devaluation

Lansing Town Supervisor Ed LaVigne gave an impassioned speech Wednesday on the impact of a new reduction of assessed value in the new Cayuga Power Plant PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) agreement, recently negotiated between plant officials and the Tompkins County IDA (Industrial Development Agency). LaVigne told the Town Board that the negotiated plant value, most recently at \$60 million has been reduced to \$35 million. LaVigne said it will decrease to \$25 million next year, then to \$20 million in the third year, and added that there is no certainty that it will maintain its \$20 million value beyond that time. LaVigne said that the reality of the plant closing will impact Lansing property taxpayers.

"All those people who wanted to have a dead power plant, you've got it," he said. "If that's the case, good luck with your taxes, because you know what? Five years ago that power plant was \$150 million dollars. What other community can keep the level of our schools and our town and take a whack like that? So Michael (Lansing Planning Consultant Michael Long) and I went to the PSC, and you've got one pissed off supervisor on your hands now."

LaVigne went on to excoriate Tompkins County and municipalities within the County for what amounts to sabotaging Lansing's development and future. He referenced the Tompkins County Energy and Economic Development Task Force (EEDTF) and its announcement last February that it had collaborated with NYSEG to come up with a plan the power company submitted to the PSC that would encourage renewable energy alternatives, in part by extending the current moratorium on new natural gas customers in Lansing indefinitely. He also criticized strong neighboring communities'

opposition to repowering the coal-fueled Cayuga Power Plant, Lansing's largest property tax payer, with natural gas, with the result that it now appears the plant in on a path to closing.

Referencing an earlier Board discussion on shared services, LaVigne said Lansing is going it alone.

"Right now The County is on the sh** list as far as I'm concerned," he said. "They've done nothing for us. They want us to join their parks program? No thank you! We'll show you how it's done right."

"People want to come to Lansing regardless of all the 'help' that Tompkins County gives," LaVigne continued. "As far as I'm concerned we don't really need your 'help' any more. Why don't you stay in your own towns and take care of your own people and quit trying to do it with me?"



[Letters - Natural Gas Line, Please](#)

Opinions | Friday, May 26, 2017 | By Mike Sigler



At a recent meeting, a person opposed to new natural gas line construction asked me how I'd feel if a gas line was run outside my home. I answered that it would be like Christmas morning. It would cut my substantial heating bill by two-thirds and it would give me the savings to replace my 30-year-old oil boiler with a high efficiency boiler.

I admit I was being a bit snarky, but I think we share a similar goal: we both want to transition to a better energy future as soon as possible.

This will be a complicated transition and won't happen as fast as any of us would like. To move from our current centralized energy generating system, to one that is more dependent on distributed generation and variable renewable sources like the sun and the wind will require an intricate and complex web of finance, public policy, engineering and politics, not to mention conflicting state and federal regulatory policies and a rapidly changing technology.

We can and will get to that shared vision of a better energy future by being reasonable about the time it will take and how we balance environmental and economic goals.

I support heat-pumps and solar panels. Heat-pumps work like your refrigerator in reverse. I investigated putting a ground source system in my home. A local installer quoted \$80,000. An air-source system, drawing heat from the air, would be less, \$30,000, but the solar array to run it would be an additional \$30,000. The costs are simply too great, but I'll continue to shop around for a solution or a better price.

I see natural gas as a bridge or transition fuel. I won't be able to use heat-pumps so my options now are oil or propane because natural gas in Lansing is under a moratorium. My situation is not everyone's. Some will be able to justify heat pump systems, but should we relegate folks who can't, to dirtier forms of energy in the quest for perfection. It's been argued that if more of the new construction choses heat-pumps over natural gas, more gas will be available to business

and industry. That only makes sense if there is widespread conversion of existing systems.

Using electricity for heat is only carbon neutral if that electricity is produced with green technology which has a carbon cost rarely figured into the equation. Right now, natural gas is the cleanest form of energy that's widely available. It's managed to cut the United States carbon footprint by three percent last year. Germany saw its carbon footprint go up that year. Cornell saw a massive cut in its carbon footprint when it shifted from coal to natural gas. The nation is converting to gas. Now the question becomes, will our county continue to be an economic engine in Upstate New York, escaping the declining standard of living in some of the surrounding area, or will it decide that only renewable energy is acceptable, even if it means a larger carbon footprint for the next 30 years as the shift is made?


The shale boom has caused a lot of intense emotions in the county and in our country. Regardless of your view, it's happened, and continues to expand in the nation. As the drilling continues, the EPA and DEC continue to show some of the problems like methane leaks and concerns about contaminating aquifers diminish; the EPA has found that groundwater contamination is non-existent if done correctly. The benefits include lower prices for everyone, a U.S. foreign policy where Russia and OPEC don't dictate energy prices, and fewer carbon emissions. This doesn't mean we should drill everywhere in the nation. There are areas like the Fingerlakes where a ground spill could be devastating. Constant vigilance is required.

While I have solar panels on my own house, thousands of other homeowners have not made that choice or cannot afford them. Many more will find using heat-pumps out of their financial reach as well and industry needs denser fuels like natural gas to produce the energy they need for manufacturing. So where does that leave us? It leaves us importing our electricity from dirtier sources or at the very least from sources out of state, with people turning to propane or continuing to rely on oil or wood to heat their homes instead of turning to cleaner natural gas. I don't want to sacrifice a lower carbon footprint today for what might happen in 20 years. Cornell shifted to natural gas and has saved thousands of tons of CO2 from entering the atmosphere. That doesn't stop the University from continuing its quest for alternatives. I don't believe we as a county will either and for right now, our residents need the lower prices, the jobs created, and the larger tax base that natural gas provides.

Mike Sigler
County Legislator, Lansing, NY



[☆Legislature Supports Lansing Compressor Project](#)

News | Friday, September 22, 2017 | By - 



The Tompkins County legislature unanimously voted to support a New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) petition to the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) requesting permission to construct a pressure-boosting compressor station project to address safety, pressure, and reliability issues for current natural gas customers in the Lansing area.

"It's not a matter of should we do it or should we not do it. NYSEG has put our town in a dangerous situation -- that is according to them," Legislator (Lansing) Mike Sigler said at a Wednesday evening town Board meeting. "That's in their paperwork. The compressor would increase the pressure to the existing system, so when it gets below 20 degrees the problem is everybody's using gas and the pressure falls dangerously low. They are trying to solve that problem, frankly a problem that should have been solved before it became an issue."

If approved, NYSEG would install four skid-mounted pressure booster compressors around Lansing's gas distribution infrastructure. Currently gas pressure in the town becomes critically low during peak use times in the winter. The compressors would boost the pressure to current supply lines to insure uninterrupted service to existing customers in Lansing.

Legislator Martha Robertson (Dryden) said the proposed initiative now being considered the PSC arose from discussions with the utility stemming from work of the County's Energy and Economic Development Task Force. Robertson advanced the member-filed resolution.

"With quick approval, people could have this in place by December 2018," Robertson said. "Our voice in support of this filing and this petition will certainly be helpful in persuading them to move ahead." The member-filed approach was necessary due to a lack of time to get the matter through the Legislature's committee process and still meet the PSC's September 25th comment deadline.

Sigler told the Lansing Town Board he supports the compressor plan, but he disagrees with a plan to continue a moratorium on new natural gas customers in Lansing.

"This does not mitigate the fact that I think Lansing needs more natural gas," he said. "This does not lift the moratorium. This does not bring natural gas up by the airport for development. It doesn't do anything for the moratorium."

Sigler shared a letter he sent to New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) Secretary Kathleen Burgess supporting the compressor, but arguing that the natural gas moratorium on Lansing should be lifted. He urged people to send comments to the PSC (case # 17-G-0432 secretary@dps.ny.gov).

"Lansing will continue to be at an economic disadvantage with the surrounding towns and City of Ithaca who have an ample supply of natural gas to attract businesses," he wrote on his Facebook page. "Read the proposal below and comment. I'm supporting the compressors, but will be pushing for a new pipeline to lift the moratorium too. Please join me by commenting to the Public Service Commission."