

## The Fossil Fuel Industry Is Lying about Natural Gas

*Methane gas, commonly referred to as “natural gas,” is the fossil fuel with the most positive image. It is marketed as not just cleaner, but “clean.” You’ll often see renewables paired with “natural gas” in plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at state and federal levels. But science strongly suggests natural gas is actually a climate disaster.*

Across the US—in Washington state, in Wyoming, in Florida—“natural gas” is marketed as a clean alternative to other fossil fuels. But when the full life cycle of methane, the primary component of “natural gas,” is taken into account, natural gas can produce the same amount or more greenhouse gas emissions than other fossil fuels. Further tarnishing its green image, the vast majority of “natural gas” produced in the US today comes from fracking.

This week, Sightline’s researcher Tarika Powell published a three-part, [in-depth series](#) on the science, statistics, and misconceptions behind fracked gas. Powell has extensive background in environmental law and fossil fuel infrastructure.

*“Methane leakage is an oft-ignored pathway to global warming and the nexus of debate over the true climate impacts of gas,” Tarika Powell said. “Understanding and engaging in this debate is vital before we expand natural gas infrastructure.”*

Reprints of the entire, or parts of, the research series may be requested through the communications associate. Any use of statements within the research must be properly attributed and, if online, hyperlinked. Use of Sightline-produced graphics is permitted, with proper attribution and without alteration.

Notes for writers on fracked gas:

- The Pacific Northwest faces a slew of proposals from the fracked gas industry, including massive Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export terminals.
- Today, two-thirds (67 percent) of the natural gas produced in the US comes from a harmful and toxic process known as fracking. By 2010, natural gas producers were fracking more than 90 percent of the natural gas wells in the US.
- Pembina has a large LNG export facility proposed in Coos Bay, Oregon, and the Trump administration has thrown its weight behind the proposal.
- Puget Sound Energy has a controversial LNG proposal undergoing supplemental environmental review by the Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) due to flaws in the initial review of the facility’s air pollution. PSCAA’s recent draft supplemental review also proved problematic, with the Washington State Attorney General’s Office labeling part of the state agency’s evaluation “fictional.”
- The Puyallup Tribe and other Indigenous groups have been adamantly opposed to these facilities and their pipelines. Individual landowners in Oregon have also expressed strong opposition.
- The US fracking industry, from which the majority of “natural gas” derives, has been routinely [spending more than it gains](#) in profits.

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