**COMMENTS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ON THE NATIONAL GRID REQUEST
FOR A RATE INCREASE TO COVER NEW INVESTMENTS IN NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE**

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1) The Climate and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) requires that all decisions by the PSC and other state agencies be consistent with the goals of reducing greehouse gas emissions in the electric power sector 70% by 2030, and 100% by 2040, and eliminating net GHG emissions by 2050 in the entire state economy.

2) Approving new infrastructure to expand the use of fossil fuels is inconsistent with that mandate, in this and all other proceedings.

3) National Grid is requesting that the PSC approve $42 million this year for new natural gas delivery infrastructure, and more to follow.

4) Natural gas is some 90% methane, a very powerful greenhouse gas with a climate impact more than 80x that CO2 per molecule over a twenty year time frame, about all the time left to meet the CLCPA mandate.

5) So much methane is released in the natural gas fuel cycle that it is the worst fossil fuel in climate impact in proportion to energy delivered to end users.

6) To meet the CLCPA goals, natural gas use should be phased out as soon as it can be relaced by energy efficiency and new renewable energy supplies, including solar, wind, and geothermal, together with energy storage to balance loads.

7) Wealthy industrialized countries like the US have already used more than our fair share of the cumulative global carbon budget defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2).

8) IPCC says that the entire world needs to reach net zero emissions by 2050 to minimize the risk of pushing the climate system beyond the point at which global climate system is likely to shift from the increasingly destructive extreme weather events we are already seeing to an irreversible global catastrophe (3), which in President Obama’s words would make large areas of the earth “not only inhospitable but uninhabitable.”

9) Political pressure from polluting corporations has already delayed for decades the necessary transition from a fossil based energy system to a sustainable system based on renewable energy supplies, efficiency and storage.

10) Now we are in a GLOBAL EMERGENCY, in a race against time.

1 "350" refers to 350ppm, the maximum safe level of CO2 according to James Hansen of NASA (ret.), long America's leading climate scientist. PAUSE is also working to promote composting of food waste, to minimize emissions of methane.

2 Highlights of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) **Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5ºC** https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/

3 "Hothouse Earth" study **Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene,** from Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences[https://www.pnas.org/content/115/33/8252](https://www.pnas.org/content/115/33/8252%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)