

FERC Testimony
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Three years ago, my family and I moved to Rehoboth to fulfill a dream, to build the horse farm that my wife and step-daughter could only envision at that point. I work full-time and, for 3 years, spent every day off, working on the property; clearing land, building the barn, constructing a riding ring, etc. So it is near and dear to my heart, as my hands built it, and being an accountant, these things are out of my normal comfort zone. My family was living a dream until Sept. 26.

Spectra came to my town on Sept. 26 2016, and that day changed my life since. Prior to that date, Spectra had laid out a confusing and exceptionally vague plan to put a 10,320 horsepower fracked gas compressor station behind my home and horse farm.

Residents had gathered an impressive list of questions which were presented to Spectra for the meeting on Sept 26. They were logical, for example; are all gas leaks reported to residents, are there toxins released from the compressor, what are those toxins? Approximately 82 questions were presented. Only two questions were answered satisfactorily. Spectra said they would get back to our town. Months went by and we noticed that Spectra had marked the requirement to talk with the town of Rehoboth on FERCs pre-filing application as complete.

The state of Massachusetts has put a 10 year moratorium on fracking, sighting pollution and health risks as the reason for this. However, FERC is able to move forward with the approval process for projects that move fracked gas through our state and release the same toxins through compressor stations that caused MA to put the moratorium in place to begin with. FERC doesn't seem to care about my voice, my family's voices, resident's voices, or the state's voice.

Furthermore, there is the question of *need* for the project. Studies have shown, namely the study communicated by MA Attorney General Maura Healey, that there is evidence that we do not need the gas from this project. In my opinion, it should be an ethical requirement for FERC to put further emphasis on *need* for these projects, as countless residents of our town and surrounding communities are sacrificing their quality of life.

Seemingly, there is a lack of an appropriate fact checking mechanism built into FERCS application process. Companies like Spectra can present skewed data to weasel through the process. While on one hand, hundreds of forms are required, on the other hand FERC tilts the entire process toward the applicant and subsequently allows for a process that can effectively shut out any education or dialog with a town, like what's happened in Rehoboth.

Residents of our town have filed 230+ complaint letters with FERC regarding the underhanded dealings from Spectra. As of 11/30, none of those letters has received a response.

We the people have no voice, no vote, and a difficult road ahead to protect our community, in my case my home, my horses, my dream.