

ROGUE CLIMATE

MAY 17, 2018 10:00-11:00

MS. ALLIE ROSENBLUTH: Hi, everyone, my name is Allie Rosenbluth. I'm a community organizer at Rogue Climate.

Rogue Climate is a nonprofit public interest group that works to empower southern Oregon communities most impacted by climate change, including low income rural, youth and communities of color to win climate justice by organizing for clean energy, sustainable jobs and a healthy environment.

We focus on a couple major campaigns. One which I'm going to talk to you all about today, is the campaign to stop the proposed Jordon Cove LNG export terminal and the Pacific Connector fracked gas pipeline, which is proposed in southern Oregon which is where I'm based right now. I'm talking from Medford, Oregon today.

We also move forward on clean energy projects and energy efficiency programs because we understand that we have to be moving forward solutions as we're stopping projects that move us backwards for climate.

So I'm going to start my PointPower now and I'm just going to talk to you all about the campaign to TREMAINE & CLEMENS, INC. EUGENE, OREGON (541)343-8833

1 stop the Jordan Cove and the Pacific Connector Pipeline
2 and some of the human rights and environmental issues
3 that we have seen through our research and the impacts
4 on our communities.

5 Great. So hopefully everyone can see that. So
6 that is my name and my contact info if you need to know
7 more.

8 So the Jordan Cove proposal is proposed by
9 Pembina Pipeline Corporation, which is a Canadian fossil
10 fuel corporation. They are proposing a 229 mile long
11 fracked gas pipeline called the Pacific Connector
12 Pipeline to transport fracked gas from mostly Canada but
13 also probably from Colorado, Wyoming and Utah from
14 Malin, Oregon which is in Klamath County to Coos Bay,
15 Oregon where it would be liquified at a LNG terminal,
16 LNG stands for liquefied natural gas, shipped overseas
17 to be used primarily in Asia.

18 If built this would be the first LNG export
19 terminal on the West Coast and the third in the country.
20 Right now Cove Point and Sabine Pass are currently
21 functioning LNG export terminals.

22 So this proposal was originally proposed in
23 2005 as an import facility. In 2009 the company
24 actually withdraw the application and resubmitted for an
25 export terminal because of the fracking that was
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1 happening in North America.

2 In 2016 the Federal Energy Regulatory
3 Commission actually denied the project twice as a result
4 of massive opposition from legal residents, the impacts
5 to land owners in local communities and a lack of
6 contracts from companies willing to buy the gas.

7 So this project was one -- was really an
8 unprecedented denial from the Federal Energy Regulatory
9 Commission. I think it's the second that has ever
10 happened out of the hundreds of pipeline applications
11 that they have had to go through. So that was a pretty
12 incredible win for our community, especially for people
13 who are directly on the pipeline route who have been
14 dealing with this issue for over 13 years now.

15 So when Trump was elected in 2017 the company
16 decided that it would be a particularly good time to
17 reapply. So it was only months after FERC denied this
18 project that the company resubmitted their application
19 for the project and our communities are having to start
20 this whole battle all over again.

21 At the moment about -- from the last data
22 we've seen from FERC only 30% of land owners have signed
23 easements with the company allowing them to use their
24 property. So if this project was to go through we would
25 see a huge amount of eminent domain being used to build
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1 the pipeline.

2 So the project consists of four parts. So the
3 first there is the fracking to extract the gas. And
4 that would not be happening in Oregon. That would be in
5 Canada and in Colorado.

6 Then there's the Pacific Connector Pipeline,
7 which is the 229 mile long pipeline that would terminate
8 in Coos Bay at the proposed Jordan Cove LNG export
9 terminal where the gas would be super-cooled into LNG.
10 And then the gas would be shipped overseas in fracked
11 gas tankers.

12 So first, as you probably have heard in this
13 Tribunal this week, fracking is a process to extract gas
14 where folks are drilling deep holes and shooting
15 chemicals in water into the earth to fracture it and
16 then capturing the gas that escapes.

17 Building the first LNG export terminal on the
18 West Coast would increase the demand for fracking across
19 the continent and result in an estimated 1,000 new
20 fracking wells over the next 20 years.

21 Physicians For Social Responsibility released
22 a great piece on the impacts, health impacts that
23 communities who are fracking communities have seen. And
24 some of these include the contamination of underground
25 aquifers and surface waters. Air emissions that include
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1 volatile organic compounds which are extremely unhealthy
2 for human health and especially for workers who are
3 close to the vicinity.

4 They also note that methane leakage is a big
5 accelerator of climate change and that methane is 86
6 times more potent at capturing heat in the atmosphere
7 than CO2 is in its first 20 years of its life cycle.

8 So then we get to the pipeline. So as I said
9 earlier the gas will be transported via this 229 mile
10 long pipeline. The pipeline would be a 36-inch diameter
11 and highly pressurized.

12 This pipeline would start in Malin, Oregon
13 where it connects to the existing Ruby pipeline or GTN
14 pipeline. The Ruby pipeline comes from the Colorado
15 area from the US and then GTN is where the gas would
16 come down from British Columbia.

17 The pipeline impacts traditional tribal
18 territories, cultural resources and burial grounds. The
19 Karuk, Yurok and Klamath tribes have also come out in
20 strong opposition to the project. Three other tribes
21 have filed as interveners with FERC and have filed their
22 concerns with the agency about the project.

23 The pipeline also threatens about 400 rivers
24 and streams in Oregon including the Klamath, Rogue,
25 Umpqua, Coquille and Coos rivers. This also includes 12
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1 public drinking water sources, including Medford which
2 is the community that I'm in right now. And six miles
3 of wetlands.

4 As we know construction has major impacts on
5 water quality, fish habitat, cultural resources and
6 river dependent industries like outdoor rec and fishing.

7 Under the major rivers Pembina is proposing to
8 use a drilling technique called horizontal directional
9 drilling. One major risk of each HDD is a frack-out and
10 this is where the drilling fluids that they use to push
11 the pipeline underneath the river actually come up from
12 the river bed and poison the water downstream.

13 And we have seen this in Ohio where a similar
14 fracked gas pipeline is under construction. About
15 two-million gallons of drilling fluids have been spilled
16 into wetlands because of the use of horizontal
17 directional drilling that went wrong.

18 Also in Pennsylvania another frack-out has
19 contaminated drinking water forcing nearby residents to
20 use bottled water for both drinking and bathing.

21 The pipeline would also include a 95-foot
22 clear cut along the pipeline route. This would be one
23 of the largest clear cuts in Oregon's history. This can
24 lead to land slides and sedimentation of waterways.

25 Pipeline testing would also require 90-
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1 million gallons of freshwater from drought stricken
2 southern Oregon. After the water is pumped through the
3 pipeline and full of the construction contaminants the
4 company still has no proposed plan on what to do with
5 that contaminated water.

6 Fracked gas pipelines are highly explosive.
7 There will be above ground portions of the pipeline
8 located in wildfire prone areas of southern Oregon.

9 Pipelines actually have lower safety
10 regulations in rural communities and many land owners
11 will be responsible for monitoring the pipeline on their
12 property.

13 Hundreds, like I said earlier, hundreds of
14 private land owners would be impacted by the pipeline
15 route and many will be threatened with eminent domain if
16 they do not settle for a small payment for permanent use
17 of their land.

18 So here is a map of the existing pipeline
19 infrastructure in Oregon. The dotted line is the
20 proposed Pacific Connector Pipeline and that orange dot
21 is the proposed export facility in Coos Bay.

22 The GTN pipeline they don't show the full
23 extension here but this is the one that goes up to
24 British Columbia and then the Ruby pipeline which passes
25 over California and goes into Malin, Oregon is the one
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1 that would be coming from Colorado.

2 And then these are the companies to the left
3 that are proposing this that we see infiltrating our
4 communities.

5 So in order to connect the existing fracked
6 gas pipelines to the new proposed Pacific Connector
7 Pipeline Pembina would expand their compressor stations
8 to pressurize the gas. The compressor stations are
9 known to be extremely loud and polluting facilities
10 disrupting health and quality of life for nearby
11 communities. They pollute carcinogenic air toxins like
12 toluene, carbon monoxide and formaldehyde.

13 Earthworks has done a really great job in
14 doing research on this and I think that they talked
15 earlier in the Tribunal so I would recommend hopefully
16 you all get to hear from them about the impacts of
17 compressor stations.

18 One major concern of ours of this compressor
19 station is that it is a clear example of environmental
20 racism. Pembina is proposing to expand this compressor
21 station in Malin, Oregon. Malin is over 70% Latina
22 while the rest of Klamath County is only about 13. So
23 corporations like Pembina often subject communities of
24 color to these hazardous projects resulting in permanent
25 health impacts for short-term corporate gain.
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1 So this is a clear example of the worst
2 impacts of the extractive industry burdening communities
3 of color.

4 And then there's the export facility. And
5 Jody McCaffree, who will be on shortly who lives in Coos
6 Bay, will be going more deeply into this but I will talk
7 a little bit about it here.

8 So Pembina wants to build an export facility
9 to liquefy the fracked gas. They'll cool it to negative
10 260 degrees Fahrenheit to turn that into LNG and then
11 ship it to markets overseas.

12 The export facility is proposed on the
13 traditional territory of the Confederated Tribes of the
14 Coos, Siuslaw and Lower Umpqua. And the tribes have
15 known cultural resources at this location and are
16 monitoring and working their best to protect those.

17 The terminal poses serious safety risks to
18 communities in Coos County. Once LNG is exposed to air
19 it evaporates extremely rapidly producing an explosive
20 gas vapor cloud which can cause massive explosions if
21 ignited.

22 The terminal would be located in a tsunami
23 zone and in an earthquake prone region. I'm sure you've
24 all heard about the Cascadia subduction zone. 16,000

25 Coos Bay residents would be in a hazardous blast zone
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1 because of this terminal if it was built. And we've
2 seen, in other places, really dangerous events
3 happening.

4 In 2014 the Plymouth LNG facility in
5 Washington exploded injuring workers and forcing
6 hundreds of residents to evacuate their homes.

7 The terminal alone would become the largest
8 source of climate pollution in the state of Oregon by
9 2020 when our last remaining coal plant is shutdown for
10 pollution concerns.

11 And then tankers. So at the export facility
12 tankers would be loaded with LNG for shipping. These
13 are the largest vessels in the world. They're about
14 950 feet long which is three football fields and 150
15 feet wide. The largest -- this would constitute the
16 largest dredging project in Oregon's recent history if
17 these tankers were in the bay.

18 The impacts of dredging would be on coastal
19 resources, shellfish and water quality in the bay which
20 would really impact the communities who rely on the bay
21 for many, many, things.

22 Parts of the channel would also be closed
23 during LNG shipments impacting local shellfish industry
24 and outdoor recreation industry.

25 Spills from LNG tankers are considered to be
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1 more dangerous than oil tankers. The US Department of
2 Energy commissioned a report that found that if a tanker
3 ran aground and suffered a leak LNG could pour into the
4 water, freeze and, again, creating a large vapor cloud
5 of gas which could ignite if diluted with oxygen.

6 So recently Oil Change International released
7 a greenhouse gases estimate of the Jordan Cove LNG
8 export terminal and Pacific Connector Pipeline. This is
9 using -- you can see here the reference cases using a
10 low percentage of methane range leakage. So it could be
11 anywhere from 36.8 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent
12 to 52 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent per year as
13 resulting from this project.

14 The emissions from this project would
15 completely undermined Oregon's actions to address
16 climate change. This project, if built, the pollution
17 would account for 20% of Oregon's allotment in state
18 pollution if we follow Governor Brown's commitment that
19 she recently made to the Paris Climate Accord earlier
20 this year.

21 And considering the entire life cycle
22 emissions Jordan Cove would account for over 300% of
23 that allowed pollution under that same commitment while
24 supplying no energy to the state of Oregon.

25 And you can see in this chart right here from
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1 that same report the percentage of the emissions
2 allotted for both the Paris Agreement which is the MOU2
3 and then also under Oregon's goals for climate change
4 which were adopted in 2007. So we see we could not
5 reach either of those and supply our own energy if this
6 project was created.

7 We know that climate change disproportionately
8 impacts communities of color, indigenous communities and
9 low income communities in Oregon and around the world.

10 Additionally the continued dependence on
11 fossil fuel means a hotter and drier and more fire prone
12 Oregon and more frequent severe storms like Hurricane
13 Maria the devastating impacts of which Puerto Rico is
14 still suffering from.

15 So the fracked gas industry likes to say that
16 we need to rely on fracked gas as a bridge fuel from
17 coal and oil to renewables but we know that this is not
18 true.

19 Another report from Oil Change International
20 called burning the bridge fuel mix is really great in
21 explaining how to reach the goals that we need to for a
22 safe and liveable climate. We need to transition
23 immediately to renewable energy and we can do that if we
24 have the political will.

25 So these are four of the reasons for, and four
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1 of the points, that they put out for why fracked gas is
2 not a bridge fuel.

3 So climate goals require that the power sector
4 needs to be decarbonized by mid-century so this means
5 gas use must be phased out, not increased.

6 New gas is actually holding back renewable
7 energy. Wind and solar are now cheaper than coal and
8 gas in many regions so this means that new gas capacity
9 is displacing new wind and solar rather than old coal
10 projects.

11 New gas locks in emissions. For 40 plus years
12 companies building multi-billion dollars gas
13 infrastructure today expect to operate their assets for
14 around 40 years.

15 And then there is too much gas already. The
16 coal, oil and gas that the world is currently producing
17 and in under construction projects if extracted and
18 burned would likely take the world far beyond safe
19 climate limits.

20 And we know that we can create more jobs by
21 investing in renewable energy than we can by fracked gas
22 projects like this. There's actually three times more
23 jobs created in renewable energy per dollar invested
24 than in coal, oil and gas.

25 Exporting LNG also would raise domestic gas
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1 prices. Even a Vista senior vice-president Jason Faxon,
2 said in 2014 that exporting LNG puts pressure on prices
3 that wouldn't be good for consumers in the United
4 States. Utility price increases disproportionately
5 impact low income ratepayers and can put more pressure
6 on people who are already housing insecure.

7 The company is promising benefits to our
8 communities but history of projects like this have shown
9 that these promises are rarely kept and do not outweigh
10 the impacts on our communities.

11 The company is promising 30 million dollars in
12 tax revenues spread out between the four counties
13 impacted by the project with pipeline communities
14 getting around 5 million dollars a year. But currently
15 in Coos County Jordan Cove is currently seeking a 15
16 year tax abatement in attempts to pay far less than they
17 would normally have to pay in property taxes.

18 The company also says that they will create
19 around 200 permanent jobs and somewhere between 1,000
20 and 3,000 temporary construction jobs. Many of these
21 workers will come from outside our communities creating
22 temporary work camps that have been associated with
23 increased violence on women, particularly indigenous
24 women, crimes and drug usage and higher rents and costs
25 of living.

1 Many communities in southern Oregon are
2 already facing housing crisis. In Coos County and
3 Jackson County we are seeing that especially and we are
4 very concerned about what an influx of temporary workers
5 will do to housing-insecure folks in our communities.

6 Another thing that is particularly concerning,
7 the company is paying for an entire LNG division in the
8 Coos County sheriff's department and will hire nine new
9 sheriffs this summer, years before construction is
10 supposed to start, to protect the facility and their
11 property.

12 In Cove Point, Maryland, Dominion Energy had
13 similar contracts with the police and this essentially
14 criminalized local opposition to the LNG export facility
15 there.

16 So this is a time line that Jordan Cove
17 proposed. It has already been pushed back and delayed.
18 So what has happened so far they have submitted their
19 state and federal permits but no comment periods have
20 opened for that and no permits have been approved at the
21 moment.

22 They are expecting FERC to approve their
23 proposal in the late summer of 2018. We're still
24 waiting for the draft Environmental Impact Statement
25 from FERC but that should be coming out this summer and
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1 then we'll hear their decision from them shortly after
2 that.

3 Construction, they're hoping that construction
4 will begin in 2019 but all the agencies who we have
5 talked to have also said that this is extremely unlikely
6 to start work that soon. And then they are expecting to
7 have the pipeline and terminal in service by 2024.

8 So there are some state permits that can
9 actually stop this project and that even if the Federal
10 Energy Regulatory Commission approves this project under
11 the Trump Administration the state of Oregon has a few
12 permits that, if this project does not comply with,
13 could stop the project for good.

14 So Jordan Cove has recently sent in their
15 application for the Clean Water Act to the Oregon
16 Department of Environmental Quality. That is still
17 incomplete at the moment. That is one of the permits
18 that if denied could stop this project for good.

19 There's actually an example of that happening
20 in Oregon. The Bradwood LNG export terminal, which was
21 proposed on the Columbia River was stopped, in part, due
22 to Oregon denying this permit. So it will be extremely
23 important for our communities to be engaged in the
24 public comment process for the DEQ Clean Water Act
25 permitting process, which is likely to open up in the
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1 next two weeks.

2 Jordan Cove also has to get a removal and fill
3 permit from the Oregon Department of State Lands and
4 that application is still considered incomplete and DSL
5 just gave the company another extension to complete
6 their application I think last month.

7 There are some other ways that Oregon has the
8 authority to stop the project but I'm not going to go
9 into them right now.

10 We're seeing that we really need our elected
11 officials to stand up for communities that are impacted
12 by this project. So right now what we are really asking
13 our communities to do is to call Governor Brown and ask
14 her to stand up against the project by directing state
15 agencies to deny permits that protect Oregon's water
16 quality and coastal zones.

17 We have also have climate pledges and things
18 like that. So people are really excited, again, to stop
19 this project for good.

20 So that is my presentation and, hopefully,
21 that was useful and exciting for you all today and I'm
22 happy to take questions. I know that we're running
23 behind schedule so let me know.

24 MR. GILL BOEHRINGER: Gill Boehringer. I
25 have a couple of questions and comments.
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1 Just a small point. You said that the company
2 was paying for more police.

3 MS. ALLIE ROSENBLUTH: Yeah.

4 MR. GILL BOEHRINGER: Nine was the figure
5 I think. What percentage of the police force would that
6 be? Do you have any idea?

7 MS. ALLIE ROSENBLUTH: I don't have an
8 idea on that number but that would that's a great
9 question. It would be an entire division that would be
10 paid for by the company to protect the export facility.

11 MR. GILL BOEHRINGER: Protected from what
12 and whom?

13 MS. ALLIE ROSENBLUTH: Yeah, so that's a
14 great question.

15 MR. GILL BOEHRINGER: I think we know.

16 MS. ALLIE ROSENBLUTH: Yeah. That's a
17 great question and I wish I had more answers to that.
18 Hopefully we'll be getting more information soon.

19 MR. GILL BOEHRINGER: It's dressed up as
20 protection of the facilities, security, et cetera, the
21 same, you know, to combat terrorism and so on.

22 MS. ALLIE ROSENBLUTH: Yeah, exactly.

23 MR. GILL BOEHRINGER: Really I just
24 wanted to comment and say your presentation was very
25 useful and it reinforces something that one of the
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1 presenters said yesterday and that is that we're talking
2 about fracking but we're talking more than just the
3 fracturing of the rocks, the wells that are going in.

4 And dredging, for example, is a good example
5 of the need for us to look at the whole landscape, if
6 you will, plus the air, to notice that there is just so
7 many costs upstream and downstream, pardon the pun.

8 MS. ALLIE ROSENBLUTH: Yeah.

9 MR. GILL BOEHRINGER: Okay. Thanks.

10 MS. ALLIE ROSENBLUTH: Thank you.

11 MR. GILL BOEHRINGER: Oh yeah, two other
12 points or questions.

13 You said that the land owners are responsible
14 for monitoring and in the rural areas the safety
15 standards are lower.

16 On the first point, the monitoring. Is that
17 in some kind of -- is that in the contract that they
18 have to sign and what are they required to do?

19 MS. ALLIE ROSENBLUTH: Yeah, so it's not --
20 I'm not sure if it's directly in their contract but
21 because of such a long length of pipeline the company
22 like won't be able to be monitor the pipeline in the 229
23 miles of really, really rugged landscape.

24 So if there is a leak the land owners are
25 responsible for reporting that to the company. This gas
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1 is not scented so it would be really hard to know if
2 there was a leak. And that's one of the big concerns
3 that we have, especially like in our very fire prone
4 southern Oregon region that land owners would not
5 actually know.

6 MR. GILL BOEHRINGER: As a lawyer when
7 people say responsible for then I ask does that mean
8 there is a legal duty or are you saying that the company
9 can't do it so if you want to protect your property you
10 have to do it yourself.

11 MS. ALLIE ROSENBLUTH: Yeah, that's a
12 great question and I haven't seen a contract in a while
13 but I would, if you want me to get back to you on that,
14 I could definitely do that.

15 MR. GILL BOEHRINGER: And the safety
16 standards I think a presenter yesterday said that they
17 used different kind of pipes, thinner perhaps.

18 MS. ALLIE ROSENBLUTH: Yeah.

19 MR. GILL BOEHRINGER: That's an example.
20 Any other examples?

21 MS. ALLIE ROSENBLUTH: Yeah. Not that I
22 can think of off the top of my head that is the biggest
23 one of concern. And I think also the length of the stop
24 valves are farther apart too in rural communities than
25 they are in urban communities, but I don't have all that
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1 at my hands right now.

2 MR. GILL BOEHRINGER: Sorry, the length
3 of --

4 MS. ALLIE ROSENBLUTH: Yeah, so I think
5 the stop valves, so these are the like the valves that
6 they turn to like stop the gas, are at a further length
7 apart in rural communities than they are like in more
8 populated areas.

9 MR. GILL BOEHRINGER: So that makes the
10 line more dangerous.

11 MS. ALLIE ROSENBLUTH: Yeah. Yeah. So,
12 for instance, if there was a fire or something I think
13 it would be like 18 miles apart or something like that
14 that you have to get to be able to stop the pipeline,
15 stop the gas.

16 MR. GILL BOEHRINGER: Okay. Thanks very
17 much.

18 DR. THOMAS KERNS: Thank you, Allie.

19

20 [youtube.com/watch?v=A6rIqTGjfgQ]

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