Mike Reuter

I am speaking here as an individual and not as the Mayor of Kalama.

This is how fast the NW can have devastating natural gas caused by consumers and businesses not allocating and prioritizing natural gas capacity. The two articles below show how it took just two years to go from an abundance to a deficit in Boston's natural gas supplies.

In 2012 Nstar reduced their rates by 34%, and just two years later, in 2014, NSTAR raised their rates by 29%.

Abundant Natural Gas Means Low Prices, Increased Trade Potential by I E R A P R I L 1 9, 2 0 1 2

Natural gas production in the United States is hitting unprecedented highs, storage tanks are filling, and prices are falling to levels not seen in a decade. American consumers are benefiting from the glut while gas producers are looking toward oil to keep profits from plunging for their stockholders. This leap in natural gas production is caused by American ingenuity applying hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling technology to natural gas previously locked in shale formations. Hydraulic fracturing uses water, sand and trace amounts of chemicals to break open shale rock and release natural gas and oil deposits that could not be produced economically with conventional drilling methods. Private industry in the U.S. has, literally, drilled our way to lower natural gas prices, and these lower prices have ignited a new flurry of new proposals for the use of abundant, affordable natural gas supplies.

As the price of natural gas has plummeted, consumers have benefited from lower electricity rates and the lower cost of manufacturing, creating thousands of jobs.

In February, Boston-based utility NSTAR announced to its business customers that it will reduce their retail electricity rates this spring by 34 percent, to 5.5 cents a kilowatt-hour down from 8.5 cents. In May, the company expects to announce rate reductions for residential customers.

NStar seeks a 29 percent hike in electric rates.
By Jack Newsham Globe Correspondent, November 7, 2014, 10:49 p.m.

NStar blames the cost of supply, because of an overwhelmed pipeline network, for the price hike. "Because of the current gas pipeline capacity issues, this supply rate is considerably higher than it has been over the past several years," said Mike Durand, a spokesman for NStar.
NStar's parent company, Northeast Utilities, proposed a major pipeline project in September.

If permitted, this natural gas export methanol terminal would supply Asian markets. Washington State customers will be competing with buyers in Europe, Asia, and other markets currently paying far higher prices. Under this perverse outcome, Washingtonian customers would subsidize billions in pipeline construction costs to facilitate exports that would drive domestic prices substantially.

We would have a natural gas addiction � Increasing our pipeline capacity, and consequently increasing our reliance on natural gas, would only further expose us to market volatility.

I know that the Department of Ecology has no say in natural gas security. However, I also know that this refinery needs an expansion of the pipeline to run it 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The expansion is part of the study when it comes to the environmental review process. Is there really 500 Dtpd capacity in the pipeline on an average day. What is an average day, and how many of them are there? What about winter months, what kind of capacity is there?