

Timothy Walsh

Comments re: TransAlta proposal

Converting two coal-fired power plants at the TransAlta facility to natural gas is foolish. First, let's be clear: Natural gas is a euphemism that's meant to pretty-up what's going on.

The gas in question in this instance is 70% - 90% methane. It is fed by pipelines all over the country. Gas pipelines always leak at a rate of 2.3% or higher. Pipelines can emit 4 times more methane per hour than the EPA formulas predict.

Methane is a greenhouse gas that is over 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide at trapping heat over a 20-year period. It is a major contributor to the climate change crisis.

In addition, methane leaks can create smog, which triggers asthma and other breathing issues.

Further, concentrated leaks near infrastructure can carry risks of sudden fires or explosions.

Alternatives to coal and methane for electricity production are already at hand: wind, solar, hydro, battery, and soon, wave energy.

Thank you,

Timothy Walsh