

## Jortner, Wayne

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**From:** Katharine Hikel <hikelbreck@gmavt.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 04, 2015 9:41 AM  
**To:** Jortner, Wayne  
**Subject:** Input on Ratepayer Services

Hi, Mr. Jortner –

I'm responding to Mike Yantachka's note about your Department in the Hinesburg Front Porch Forum.

I'm just writing with a note of encouragement that the PSB should keep putting the interests of citizens above those of revenue-seeking corporations. One example is the wildly inaccurate financial estimates given on a chronic basis by VT Gas resulting in huge charges that are inevitably added to customers' bills. The input is wildly imbalanced: VT Gas and other corporate pros paid huge money to carry on their exhaustive, sophisticated rate-raising PR game; and the working class showing up for evening meetings on work days. Just bear in mind that the input is skewed in favor of corporate greed.

One thing I would like to see: VT Gas should be made to carry liability insurance on residences and businesses for increased risk wherever they put a pipeline. That would stop the fantasy of 'lower costs' of the shale-gas industry (which has been calling for consumer price increases for years).

It should also be clear to the PSB that the 'low cost energy' advertising about its product is a well-known industry strategy to get the infrastructure, regulations, etc. in place – THEN jack up the costs. I hope PSB will do their homework on the real economics of the shale-gas industry. There is no free lunch.

The most reasonable application for shale gas would be to have movable turbines placed at the extraction sites, and pump the electricity into the grid from there. That way the risk is where it should be.

You'd think that installing small grid-tied wind turbines and solar collectors along all the power grid routes and the interstate would be a plan.

Anyway – thank you for keeping the Public Service aspect of things alive and well! Please!

Help us, brother!

My best,  
Katharine Hikel, MD

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