

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 2015

The Honorable Norman C. Bay
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Natural Gas Pipeline Btu Specifications

Dear Chairman Bay:

We have been contacted by a number of manufacturing companies with facilities across the country. These facilities all receive pipeline supplied natural gas that has increasingly had a very high Btu content. They refer to this natural gas as “hot gas.”

A great deal of the natural gas used by the industrial sector is for use in their boilers. High Btu content natural gas is not a problem for this application. For other applications, however, it creates a variety of problems. For example, there are literally hundreds of producers of various types of glass products. Concerns have been raised by some of these companies that high Btu content natural gas requires them to blend it with air that results in higher criteria pollutant emissions and is consistently threatening compliance with their air permits. Given the evermore stringency of air permits, this raises additional concerns as high Btu content in natural gas results in higher GHG emissions than they would have otherwise. This also causes an undesirable outcome.

We would appreciate the Commission’s assistance in addressing these challenges, specifically surrounding the following:

1. Please provide a list of the natural gas pipelines and their current gas specification for Btu content.
2. Have pipeline companies made requests to the Commission asking to approve higher content Btu natural gas specifications?
3. How often can natural gas specifications be changed? What is the process that the Commission uses to evaluate whether or not to approve a request for an increase in the Btu content?
4. Over the last decade, has the Btu content specification of natural gas generally increased? If so, why?
5. Has the Commission ever rejected a natural gas pipeline’s request to increase the Btu content? If not, why?
6. Going forward, how can we be informed of potential higher Btu gas specifications being approved by the Commission?

Page 2

The Honorable Norman C. Bay

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress