

**TITLE:** Fracked Gas: A Major Threat to Health and Safety

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**PRESENTER(S):** Regna Merritt and Patricia Bellamy

**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** No

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Policy makers and all other public health professionals

**ABSTRACT:** Fracked gas, also known as “natural gas”, is primarily composed of methane, the most potent greenhouse gas. The proposed Jordan Cove project would transport fracked gas in a 229 mile pipeline cutting through 485 waterways and public, private and tribal lands en route to Coos Bay, Oregon. There it will be converted to liquid gas and exported to Asia.

There are many health, safety, environmental and equity concerns with the Jordan Cove project. This presentation will focus on the many hazards associated with fracked gas as described in the Compendium of Scientific, Medical and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking published by PSR.

The fracking process uses fluids that contain known human carcinogens, neurotoxins and endocrine-disrupting chemicals which contaminate water and soil. The fracking process also pollutes air with fugitive methane emissions and VOCs. Pipelines and related infrastructure expose communities to toxins that contaminate air, water and soil. Methane (86 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>) is emitted during accidental and planned releases throughout transport, processing and storage. This contributes to climate change and increases threats to health, safety and equity.

Roles for public health professionals to prevent and reduce risks associated with dangerous fracked gas will be discussed.

**OBJECTIVES:** Describe how methane gas contributes to global warming.

Describe how the largest proposed gas pipeline and related facilities pose a threat to communities.

Explain why proposed fracked gas export in Oregon is a health equity and environmental justice issue.

Discuss the role of public health professionals in protecting public health and safety as it relates to fracked gas.

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