

Comments by Robert Monk, Philadelphia

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Don't take us backward. Data centers have special characteristics that warrant special treatment — including requirements that they use only clean renewable energy sources to cause increased grid stability and lower costs for all other users. These are giant plants that can arbitrage energy in micro-second intervals, and as such can easily meet a requirement that they indubitably improve the stability of the grid in normal conditions, resiliency in crisis, and lower costs for other users under all conditions. Don't cause another Enron fiasco by doing this industry any favors. It is they that must do us the favors for the privilege of doing business in our low cost energy environment.

Natural gas is not a bridge fuel, and may be worse than coal for air pollution, due to high leak rates detected since 2017 by new aerial and satellite surveys. Don't believe their hype.

In 2021, natural gas accounted for 2% of electricity production in Pennsylvania. By 2026, it was responsible for producing approximately 60% of PA's electricity. The surge represents the transition from coal to natural gas. Methane emissions from natural gas production are 86% more powerful than CO₂ at warming the atmosphere, so the trade off was never a solution, but whatever benefits it provided would be erased with the return to coal production. Even worse, natural gas production continues to increase to serve data centers, further exacerbating fossil fuel's climate impacts.

No fossils. Period.