
What Does
Natural Gas
Have In
Common
SAMPLE
With
Dead
Trees?

What's the connection between "natural gas" and dead trees?

For starters, "natural gas" leaks are killing them. Residents in some cities report gas odors and damaged trees in the same locations, with damages costing the communities hundreds of thousands of dollars.[1] At the same time, gas utilities warn consumers that dead grass or vegetation in otherwise green areas may be an indicator of a gas pipeline leak.[2]

- **Natural gas is killing trees across the Northeast and the gas company is ignoring the warnings.** Gas utilities are trained to use visual vegetation damage as a keen indicator of gas leaks,[3] but only repair the most hazardous leaks immediately. Other leaks are either scheduled for repair at a later date, or allowed to leak indefinitely until the damage reaches dangerous levels.[4]

- **Natural gas is leaking from an aging infrastructure of underground pipelines, causing dead and dying trees.** Approximately one-quarter of the nation's pipelines are more than 50 years old[5] with as many as 180,000 non-reportable main and service leaks in the gas distribution pipeline per year.[6]

- **The reason natural gas is killing trees is methane – the primary component of natural gas.** Gas is 95% methane, which contaminates the soil, causing bacteria to multiply and interrupting the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide between the soil and air – eventually killing the roots and the trees.[7]

- **A recent study shows that methane has 72 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide** over 20 years.[8] Global warming may lead to increased incidents of allergies, asthma and airborne diseases; extreme weather such as hurricanes and heat waves; and damage to fragile ecosystems.[9]

To learn more about the damaging effects of our dependence on "natural gas," visit **www. AmericanEnergyCoalition.com.** Because you deserve to know the facts about natural gas.

[1,4] *Boston Globe*, June 27, 2010; [2]SEMCOenergygas.com; StCroixGas.com; utilitypipelineltd.com; [3]Aegis Insurance, Western Regional Gas Conference 2007; [5]Department of Energy; [6]Corrosion Cost Technologies; [7] *Associated Press*, March 26, 2007; [8]United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007; [9]Environmental Defense Fund.

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