

- 1.) Senate Bill 32 states in part that the Legislative Assembly "*finds and declares that having access to natural gas is in the public interest and that the extension of natural gas pipelines and other infrastructure necessary for providing natural gas to areas that do not have access to natural gas is necessary for the communities of this state to preserve local economies, enlarge tax bases and generate additional economic opportunities.*" That statement would appear to direct OPUC to determine and delineate pathways for natural gas service expansion both under existing statutory authority and under OPUC recommended amendments to existing law. The draft report appears to do neither.
- 2.) To my knowledge, Avista has not abandoned their efforts to extend natural gas service to Lakeview. They appear to remain actively engaged in that effort.
- 3.) What other history of natural gas expansion to underserved or unserved areas has occurred in Oregon. For instance, how and when did 21 of 43 small towns located within 15 miles of a natural gas pipeline acquire natural gas service? How and when did 15 of 32 small towns located within approximately 10 miles of a natural gas pipeline acquire natural gas service?
- 4.) Why has OPUC not addressed questions regarding the existing expansion of natural gas service to Shady Cove? Under what authority and economic reasoning was that expansion authorized by the Commission? Will Commission staff provide an Appendix E type table for the Avista Shady Cove expansion project?
- 5.) Regarding alternative funding sources, why would only "new" revenue from the investor owned natural gas utilities public purpose charge be considered? Does OPUC have statutory prohibitions or Commission

objection by rule that would prevent existing public purpose charge moneys collected from investor owned natural gas utility customers to be expended toward expansion of natural gas services to unserved or underserved areas?

6.) The text of the draft report suggests that investor owned natural gas utilities are authorized to file for a change in tariff pretty much at will. However, it is my understanding that OPUC must approve such an application. What history can OPUC describe of utilities applying for such tariff changes? What has been the Commission's history of approval or denial of such tariff change requests?