

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today in opposition to Ordinance #230891. Spire proposes to build a renewable natural gas (RNG) facility at the KC Wastewater Treatment plant at the expense of the ratepayers to the tune of \$100 million. This is a terrible and costly idea.

First of all, the term renewable is simply greenwashing by the gas industry to delay essential electrification of all systems through clean energy sources like wind or solar. Natural gas utilities don't like the move to all-electric one bit. The more all-electric buildings there are, the fewer natural gas ratepayers there are. An all-electric future inevitably involves the increased obsolescence of natural gas utilities.

Additionally, since monopoly natural gas utilities don't make money on the sale of gas, they charge a rate for gas that is meant to cover their costs, the costs of new investments in natural gas infrastructure, and a healthy fixed rate of return on those investments. In other words, they make profits by building stuff. Naturally, they want to build more stuff like an RNG facility.

Finally, RNG is not as low-carbon as the industry claims and its local air and water impacts are concentrated in vulnerable communities. When burned, RNG releases nitrous oxide, a pollutant that creates smog and lowers air quality. These toxins can cause respiratory illnesses, like asthma. Even if it were low-carbon and equitable, there simply isn't enough of it to substitute for more than a small fraction of natural gas. And even if it were low-carbon, equitable, and abundant, it still wouldn't be an excuse to expand natural gas infrastructure or slow electrification.

To summarize, the city should not be backing expensive, false climate change solutions like RNG but instead should be investing in more clean all-electric energy sources like wind and solar. Over the centuries, humanity has given up many things once thought essential to our lives like the horse and buggy or steam trains when better things came along. It's time to give up gas and electrify everything with increasingly less expensive wind and solar. Please do not approve the costly Ordinance #230891.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Mary Kay McGinty  
6th District Resident  
5801 Kenwood Ave  
KCMO 64110