

Burns, Susan (PUC)

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This comment is in regard to Centerpoint Energy's plans to conform to Natural Gas Innovation Act. I am a resident of Minneapolis and a customer of Centerpoint Energy.

As we confront an ever-worsening climate crisis, the PUC should only approve pilots that move us towards rapid reductions in the use of climate polluting fuels. Given the recent adoption of a clean electricity standard in Minnesota, electrification clearly fits that bill, as does the widespread deployment of energy efficiency improvements and adoption of technologies such as heat pumps and thermal energy networks. However, pilots that involve new uses of climate polluting fuels, such as gas-powered heat pumps should not be approved.

There is a place for renewable natural gas, but this should be restricted to uses where there is no feasible approach for

the use of clean electricity instead. Hydrogen fuels may also have a place, but again we should be cautious about its deployment. To my understanding, it is highly energy intensive to produce, so its role should also be restricted to cases where less intensive alternatives are not available. This may include industrial uses, but should not include commercial or residential heating and cooling.
