

“We the People” FERC hearing testimony 12-2-16

My name is Catherine Strickler and I live in Harrisonburg, VA.

At my age of 72, time speeds up and life seems incredibly short. This makes actions taken for future generations seem all the more urgent. I don't have much time and we don't have much time. We have already seen extreme weather increase dramatically over the past several decades and the prediction for droughts, heat waves, heavy downpours and hurricanes are that they will continue to increase in frequency and intensity.<sup>1</sup> These events are fueled and exacerbated by too many carbon products being developed and used, and then the waste products dumped into our precious atmosphere. Because of this, people are dying now and millions more will die in the future. I was part of the search team in Biloxi after Katrina that combed the beach at extreme low tide for debris and human bones. This is real.

FERC is making those decisions now: how many people will die. Those decisions are being made very close to here in a beautiful building that I have visited many times. I have protested inside at the commissioners' meeting and many times outside on the sidewalk. My husband was one of ten that fasted 18 days at FERC's front door demanding no new permits for fossil fuel infrastructure. Inside, the process continued, to keep permitting more carbon products to be transported that result in deaths. Outside, the fasters became weaker and weaker, finally walking like the half dead. And still, that last night of the fast, some went to a service at the Washington Cathedral on the eve of the Pope's visit that highlighted the morality of direct action against climate change. Where is the morality inside FERC?

People will die. Carbon products are killing people. These gases are like a bullet in very, very, slow motion. Who is pulling the trigger for that bullet? FERC decides if it will pull the trigger or not. People will get killed due to the premeditated actions of FERC. Premeditated killing is murder. Murder for greed. Where IS the morality inside FERC?

I'm using stark language to portray a stark situation. FERC is isolated from the stark results of their work. FERC must change. Anything other than a complete paradigm shift is a collusion of guaranteed murder for greed of millions in future generations.

We look at history and see the Nazi gas chambers and know that it took the collusion of many people, operating in isolation, to manufacture and use them; people who were in denial of their part of an incredibly sad loss. Is our current situation any different? No, it is not. FERC must stop colluding with the destruction of our precious atmosphere. Human lives are at stake. 498

1. Melillo, Jerry M., Terese(T.C.) Richmond, and Gary W. Yohe, Eds., 2014: Highlights of Climate Change Impacts in the United States: The Third National Climate Assessment. U.S. Global Change Research Program, 148 pp.

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