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**Comment on Docket #3880**

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From Beryl Simon <berylsimon41@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/12/2026 8:24 AM

To ZBA <ZBA@town.arlington.ma.us>

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**To the Zoning Board,**

I want to echo the concerns stated by Mothers Out Front Arlington, and would like to see answers to the questions they pose.

We are a town that loves our planet and wants our children to have a safe and healthy future. Arlington is committed to the achievable and necessary goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. There is therefore no justification for unnecessarily expanding gas infrastructure against our will in our community.

Boston Gas should fix the 180 gas leaks currently poisoning our air, and abandon this plan to install a methane-leaking new compressor on an Arlington green space.

Sincerely,  
Beryl Simon  
41 Lancaster Rd

Upon review of the *Statement of Support*, Mothers Out Front Arlington takes issue with two points made in said document. In response to the requirement that the requested use is essential or desirable to the public convenience or welfare, Boston Gas states that the project is necessary “to improve capacity and reliability of gas distribution in the Town.” However, the Town is actively working to reduce reliance on natural gas and transition to a clean energy-powered electric grid, necessary to reach the Town’s goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Therefore, increasing capacity of the gas distribution in the Town is neither essential nor desirable.

In response to the requirements that the requested use not be detrimental to the health and welfare of the inhabitants of the Town, Boston Gas states that the project will not be detrimental to the health and welfare of the neighborhood because the project “will not result in any emission of odorous gasses or noise, and any emissions from the Take Station will be effectively confined to the premises.” Given the fact that methane is routinely emitted from natural gas compressor stations - <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10616731/> - and methane released into the atmosphere is not and cannot be confined to the premises in question, this statement is false. In addition, we would argue that the proposed clearing of the wooded area frequently utilized by Town residents would be detrimental to the welfare of the neighborhood.

Moreover, Arlington has a long established and unresolved gas leak problem, with over 185 active leaks documented in 2025. In spite of continued advocacy on the part of the town (e.g., Gas Leaks Task Force) and by community-based organizations such as Mothers Out Front and HEET, as well as millions of dollars spent on pipeline replacement, the number of gas leaks in Arlington have not decreased significantly in the past 10 years. Given the Town and State’s Net Zero plans, which require the rapid, equitable transition from gas to renewable energy sources, Mothers Out Front advocates for a tactical repair of major gas leaks and the accelerated electrification of heating and cooling infrastructure. The same principles should be applied here: repair for safe gas delivery while investing in electrification infrastructure - not the expansion of gas infrastructure that will be costly to ratepayers and become stranded assets very soon.

In addition to the points above, MOF Arlington also submits the following questions for the Zoning Board of Appeals consideration, as these points were not addressed or explained in the materials published with the hearing notice.

Given the existence of the current take station, has the feasibility of either renovating the existing facility or rebuilding portions of the proposed facility on the site/lot of the existing facility been explored?

What will be done with the facility located at 305 Washington Street? What will be done with the lot? What would the detrimental effects on health and welfare of the neighborhood be?

No specific issues were cited with the current facility, other than that it has been in use since the 1950s. As a significant amount of the building inventory in Arlington is older than that, can Boston Gas provide more justification that would support the need for the abandonment of the current facility and full rebuild, including the cost to ratepayers for both options?

Can the Zoning Board clarify how and when a decision will be made on this special permit request?

Sent from my iPhone