

Docket #3880 – 307 Washington Street

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

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Greetings:

I wanted to voice my concerns regarding Boston Gas's proposal to build a new, larger take station at 307 Washington Street:

- 1) the project would expand gas infrastructure at a time when Arlington is working hard to reduce reliance on natural gas and transition to clean, electric heating in order to meet our Net Zero goals by 2050. Increasing gas capacity is not aligned with the Town's climate commitments.
- 2) Boston Gas claims the project will not harm neighborhood health or welfare, but methane leaks are common at gas facilities, and methane cannot be "confined to the premises." The project would also require clearing a wooded area that Arlington residents regularly use and value.
- 3) Arlington already has more than 185 active gas leaks, a number that has not improved over the past decade despite strong advocacy and millions of ratepayer dollars spent on pipeline replacements.

Rather than investing in a facility that will hopefully quickly become obsolete, it seems the priority should rather be on repairing major leaks, refurbishing the current take station, and investing in electrification so our net zero goals might be realized.

I urge the Board to carefully review the impacts of and alternatives to this project.

With thanks,

Peter & Deb Bermudes

19 Belknap Street