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What's scarier than ghosts, monsters, and haunted houses this Halloween? Health Experts and Advocates Sound the Alarm on the Dangers of Gas Power Plants

Tempe, AZ –What's scarier than ghosts, monsters and haunted houses? Too many gas plants and the climate crisis! Today, local resident Ana Gorla, retired nurse Sandy Whitley, and health and climate advocates, including Sierra Club, Moms Clean Air Force, Poder Latinx, and Arizona Interfaith Power and Light gathered outside Salt River Project's Kyrene gas plant to highlight why the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must set the strongest possible carbon pollution standards for new and existing power plants, while focusing attention on the significant dangers and public health threats posed by gas-fired power plants. The current draft carbon rules [would not apply to any of Arizona's gas plant](#), including the largest gas plant in the country, the Gila River Project located in Gila Bend, which emits 646,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year.

"I am a mother, grandmother and recently a great grandmother who has witnessed first-hand the impacts of air quality issues and climate change on my health and the health of the children in our state," said **Hazel Chandler, Field Organizer for Moms Clean Air Force**. "For over 50 years I have advocated for the environment, clean air, and action to prevent climate warming. Today I am petrified at what I see and hear regarding the world that my children and grandchildren are living in. I was excited about the proposed EPA standards on greenhouse gas emission until I discovered that these rules exempted 95 percent of **fossil gas plants and all of Arizona plants. This is really Scary.**"

While the fossil fuel industry wants people to think gas power plants are a clean alternative for generating electricity, the reality is they produce some of the most potent and dangerous climate pollution as well as soot, mercury, and other toxic pollutants.

"When my husband and I decided to take up biking for our health, we had no idea that while we thought we were becoming healthier, we had been inhaling air pollution from these SRP gas plants," said **Ana Gorla, who lives near the Kyrene Gas Plant and is Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter's Energy and Public Lands Coordinator**. "We, along with many other runners, golfers, cyclists and families that are out here on the weekends getting 'fresh air' have been breathing in pollutants like particulates, NOx, and toxic air pollutants that are linked to serious health conditions like cancer and lung diseases."

According to the Center for American Progress, pollution from [proposed natural gas plants](#) would **cause up to \$74 billion in health impacts** over their 20-year lifetime. That doesn't even include the harms from extraction of gas used to power electric generation in those plants. A

[2017 Harvard/RMI study](#) found that gas power plants actually caused more premature deaths than coal plants in 19 states.

“As a nurse I came to realize that the patients I was caring for in the hospital were likely sicker because of the pollutants in the air they were breathing. I learned all our body systems are affected by pollution – our heart, lungs, kidneys, reproductive organs,” **reports retired nurse Sandy Whitley**. “The good news is that once the source of that pollution is removed, symptoms diminish, and our body systems can recover. That is why we need to support alternatives to fossil fuel energy sources like wind and solar – to protect our health.”

Advocates said that Arizona simply cannot afford to continue to invest in these costly, dirty, and dangerous gas plants, and that EPA needs to finalize, by the spring of 2024, the strongest possible limits on climate pollution that include Arizona’s gas plants. Our climate can’t wait.

Today’s news conference can be viewed on YouTube [here](#).

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