At Northern Plains, we are everyday Montanans who love where we live. We stand up, shoulder-to-shoulder, to protect this place we all call home. We want to ensure that the city of Laurel and the Yellowstone Valley continue to be places that people are proud to call home. Places where folks can raise a family, build a thriving local business, and enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings of the Yellowstone and Clarks Fork rivers.

NorthWestern Energy is attempting to build a 175 megawatt methane gas plant 300 feet from the Yellowstone River. We’re deeply concerned about NorthWestern’s scheme that yields big profits for executives, while overcharging customers and polluting our communities. This expensive and unnecessary plant will have potential health impacts, high noise levels, constant bright lights, be harmful to private property, and more.

Methane

**Bad for our health**
**Bad for our communities**

Methane is the main component of natural gas. Methane is especially dangerous to our health and the health of our communities because its polluting effects are more immediate than carbon dioxide.

According to health experts, air pollution from methane can lead to cancer, heart attacks, respiratory diseases like asthma, greater numbers of emergency room visits and hospital admissions, premature deaths, and more.

Stop the Laurel methane plant

We’re working to build a clean, affordable, and just energy future for all Montanans. A future that doesn’t put corporate profits above the health, prosperity, and beauty of our communities. We want to ensure that Montanans have a say in the energy decisions that impact their lives, pocket books, and communities. That’s why together, as neighbors, we’re working to stop NorthWestern Energy’s attempts to build a methane plant in our community.

We need your help!
What does a methane plant mean for our community?

- **Significant noise and view disruption**
  According to NorthWestern Energy’s application to build the methane plant, the noise resulting from the plant would be the equivalent of having 54 train locomotive engines running 24 hours a day. Additionally, the plant will have eighteen, 72 ft smokestacks impeding the beautiful views along the Yellowstone.

- **Increased air pollution**
  Air quality will increase in sulfur dioxide levels and other toxins when the methane plant goes into operation. Yellowstone County has alarming rates of asthma and emphysema, and this plant will only increase those health impacts.

- **False promises of economic development**
  In their applications to build the Laurel Methane Plant, NorthWestern Energy indicates the plant will only provide eight full time jobs once operational. The application also states that Caterpillar will be operating the plant, calling into question whether these eight jobs will be occupied by people local to Laurel. Is the possibility of these eight jobs worth the aforementioned impacts?

Take action now!

NorthWestern Energy is recklessly pushing forward with construction of this expensive methane plant, the cost of which will be passed on to customers through our energy bills, while jeopardizing the health and future of our community. We deserve an affordable, reliable, and sustainable source of power that protects the people and places we love. The time to act is now!

To begin construction, Northwestern Energy needs a zoning change from agricultural use to heavy industrial use for part of the proposed site for the methane plant. The City of Laurel must exert their right to determine the zoning change and must deny NorthWestern Energy the zoning change.

**Contact Laurel City Council members today at (406) 628-7431 and tell them to:**

- **Stand up** for the community of Laurel.
- **Take charge** of the zoning decision.
- **Deny** NorthWestern Energy the zoning change. Laurel deserves better than a methane plant.