

Lecture 10, Oct 7, 2022

Case Study: Natural Gas (Continued)

- Environmental risks:
 - Emissions (from compressors)
 - Ecological disturbance
 - Failure to clean up and reclaim sites
 - Energy for construction and maintenance
 - Pipeline and well leaks, blowouts and burn-offs
 - Storage, processing and shipping risks
 - Risks with fracking
- Currently under construction, but not everyone is happy
 - Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs are resisting

Key Questions in Environmental Ethics

- Environment: natural world, as affect by human activity
- What is our ethical responsibility to the environment?
- What is the value and moral standing of the environment and its nonhuman actors?
- Is our responsibility ultimately to humans or to the environment itself?
- What is the value of an environmental actor when we take humans off the table?

More-Than-Human Actors and Their Rights

- If we view ourselves as part of the environment, maybe environmental health means human health
- In traditional Western philosophy we look at the environment as something distinct, separate from us
 - Values are either instrumental or intrinsic
- “Part of the value that we get from the environment is the knowledge of how to take care of it”