

THE PROBLEM

Governor Lamont and his administration know that we must take climate change seriously, and are making significant investments in clean energy. Meanwhile, the proposed gas plant in Killingly continues to move forward in direct contrast to the administration's written priorities.

Since 2016, Eversource has been working with NTE Energy and Yankee Gas & Electric to file permit applications with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for pipeline construction, air quality, wastewater discharge, and an Environmental Justice plan.

If built, this fracked gas plant would impede our greenhouse gas reduction targets and will accelerate the impacts of climate change. Killingly would contribute to the degradation of our air and water quality, which disproportionately affects low income and communities of color.

In a 2020 report by the Acadia Center, research showed that a "No New Gas" scenario resulted in cost savings over a ten-year period when compared to a Business-as-usual approach. Additionally, the report shows that investment in clean energy would bring a net gain in jobs to the region.

Killingly is not the only example of gas expansion in the state. Right now there are also ratepayer funded subsidies aiming to add 900 miles of new gas pipelines and infrastructure, connecting 300,000 future customers to fracked gas precisely when the state should be planning to transition customers away from fossil fuels. DEEP also recently issued a permit for a 375 megawatt gas plant in Middletown.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

Our administration needs to reject the Killingly gas plant and suspend any future proposals for new gas expansion. Additionally, lawmakers need to pass a moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure and stop investing in energy sources that are going to be obsolete in the coming years.

Modernizing our electric grid to require more renewable energy and expanding investment in more clean energy sources will help our state, and cost less in the long run.

MORE INFORMATION

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WHY ANOTHER GAS PLANT?

Connecticut is part of the regional ISO-New England electric grid that supplies energy to all six New England states. The objectives of ISO-NE are to provide "reliable" and "affordable" energy to the region, not necessarily "clean" energy. Since fossil fuels are currently the least expensive energy sources, there is no incentive for ISO-NE to procure renewables. The ISO-NE does not take into account New England states' clean energy goals embodied in Connecticut's Global Warming Solutions Act and Governor Lamont's Executive Order #3 to mandate a 100% zero-carbon electric grid by 2040. Therefore, as long as ISO-NE has its current structure, they will continue to prioritize fossil fuels over clean energy.

Investing in gas infrastructure when we already have renewable energy options will hurt our environment and our residents, and will hold Connecticut back from real solutions to climate change and resiliency.

FAST FACTS

- ◆ The Global Warming Solutions Act sets goals of reducing emission by **45% below 2001 emission levels by 2030 and 80% below 2001 emission levels by 2050.**
- ◆ Governor Lamont's Executive Order #3 seeks to achieve a **100% zero-carbon** electric grid by 2040.
- ◆ Gas plants contribute to respiratory illnesses like asthma, which are **higher in Connecticut than the national average**, especially in low income and communities of color.