

June 20, 2019

Dear Governor Lamont:

You blazed the campaign trail with a bold vision to protect our environment and human health, lower our dependence on fossil fuels, and spur Connecticut's green economy. We applaud this vision, which led to some wins this session including offshore wind, holding the line for 2020-2021 energy efficiency funding, support for the CHEAPR program, and suspending a net metering disaster.

However, antithetical to your bold vision, on June 6, 2019, the Connecticut Siting Council approved a proposal for construction of a new gas-fired power plant to be located in Killingly, Connecticut. This new plant will emit more than 2 million tons per year of carbon dioxide (5 percent of Connecticut's total economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions), and there will be significant upstream climate impacts of extracting and transporting the gas to fuel it. We believe the construction of this plant is inconsistent with the climate and clean energy goals established by the Connecticut General Assembly and of your administration.

We write to urge you to take action, and impose a moratorium on new fossil fuel-fired power generation in Connecticut until such time as the state completes its Integrated Resources Plan and formalizes a robust approach to evaluate applications for new energy generation to ensure consistency with state climate goals and policies.

The Connecticut legislature has established mid- and long-term economy-wide GHG reduction targets¹ and the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) has translated these goals into targets for the electric sector. In its final recommendations for Building a Low Carbon Future for Connecticut: Achieving a 45% GHG Reduction by 2030, the GC3 concludes that Connecticut will need to continue to decarbonize the electric grid, achieving at least 66 percent zero-carbon energy generation by 2030 and 84 percent carbon-free electric generation by 2050.²

Unfortunately, because the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has failed to comply with the reporting and planning requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act and based on recent developments, Connecticut is not on track to meet these critical objectives.

Between 2018 and 2019, Connecticut has added nearly 1,500 megawatts of new natural gas generation,³ representing approximately 15 percent of the state's total installed generating

¹ The goals are 45 percent below 2001 levels by 2030, Pub. Act 18-82, available at <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2018/ACT/pa/pdf/2018PA-00082-R00SB-00007-PA.pdf>, and 80 percent below 2001 levels by 2050, Pub. Act 08-98, available at <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00098-R00HB-05600-PA.htm>.

² Building a Low Carbon Future: Achieving a 45% GHG Reduction by 2030: Recommendations from the Governor's Council on Climate Change (Dec. 18, 2018), at vii, 13, available at https://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/climatechange/publications/building_a_low_carbon_future_for_ct_gc3_recommendations.pdf.

³ Towantic Energy Center (805 MW); Wallingford Energy gas turbines (100 MW); Bridgeport Harbor Station Unit 5 (576.3 MW).

capacity.⁴ The climate impacts of this generation are even larger than emissions data show because significant quantities of climate-forcing methane gas is leaked in the extraction and transmission of the gas before it ever reaches Connecticut power plants.

The recent Special Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlights the urgent need for action to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In order to limit warming to 1.5°C and forestall the even more serious adverse consequences associated with 2°C or more of warming, the IPCC Special Report finds that global net anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions must decline by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach net zero around 2050.⁵ The Fourth National Climate Assessment illustrates the significant risks Connecticut faces from climate change. The Northeast has already experienced a greater increase in extreme participation than any other region in the country,⁶ and climate-driven ocean warming, sea level rise, and coastal flooding are anticipated to have an adverse impact on the region and its economy. Connecticut also suffers the highest levels of ground-level ozone (smog) in the Eastern United States, and climate change will exacerbate the conditions conducive to smog formation.⁷

Given the failure of the current process to consider our state commitments for clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction targets, we request that you act now to place a moratorium on all new fossil fuel plants.

Sincerely,

350 CT

Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound

Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

Consumers for Sensible Energy

Eastern CT Green Action

Environment Connecticut

Sierra Club

⁴ U.S. Energy Information Administration, Table 6.2.A. Net Summer Capacity of Utility Scale Units by Technology and by State, December 2018 and 2017 (Megawatts).

⁵ IPCC, Global Warming of 1.5°C: Summary for Policymakers 14 (Oct. 2018), available at https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2018/07/SR15_SPM_version_stand_alone_LR.pdf.

⁶ U.S. Global Change Research Program, Fourth National Climate Assessment: Volume II: Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States 671 (Nov. 2018), available at https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA4_2018_FullReport.pdf.

⁷ U.S. EPA, What Climate Change Means for Connecticut, EPA 430-F-16-009 (Aug. 2016), available at <https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/climate-change-ct.pdf>.