



The Cost and Consequence of Fracked Gas Expansion and Transport in Connecticut

Now is the time for Connecticut to correct its course on energy generation.

Expanding pipelines, compressor stations, and more gas infrastructure accelerates climate change and increases energy costs. A safe, reliable Connecticut energy grid cannot rely on methane gas – a rare, dangerous fossil fuel that destroys ecosystems, harms human health, and causes unaffordable price fluctuations. It is time for a change.

Connecticut is covered by 590 miles of transmission pipelines. The state's three massive interstate lines all terminate in other states. Locally, hundreds more miles of pipelines continue to be constructed, connecting consumers to health-harming, explosive fracked gas. Nationally, the United States is fracking more gas and oil and exporting more methane than ever before in our history. Eversource and UI/Avangrid continue to entice customers to convert to methane for residential use, raking in more money by selling methane for home use than by selling to power plants. Despite the glut of methane in our state's pipelines, fossil fuel interests repeatedly spew the lie that inadequate stores of gas cause Connecticut's high electricity prices – the nation's third highest.

Here's Why Connecticut Must Say No To Project Maple + All Gas Expansion

- Energy in Connecticut is the **third most expensive in the United States**. Shut-offs have skyrocketed, resulting in homelessness as nonpayment is a justification for eviction. Over reliance on fossil gas causes spikes in Connecticut electricity prices, and negatively impacts winter reliability. Fracked gas expansion **raises energy prices rather than lowers them**.
- Connecticut ratepayers are on the hook while gas companies profit. Connecticut law allows PURA to make **Connecticut ratepayers pay the bill to construct new interstate pipelines**. Ratepayers are even charged for gas leaked by local distribution pipelines. In the recent Avangrid/CNG case, a CNG abandoned pipeline was never disconnected from the mainline, thus leaking gas for years into the atmosphere which ratepayers were later charged for.
- Fracked gas **worsens local air quality** and increases the risk of contracting **respiratory conditions** like asthma, making our elderly neighbors and children particularly vulnerable. Fenceline communities near gas infrastructure – including a disproportionate amount of Black, brown, and low-income communities – must contend with unhealthy air quality, increased health risks, and the dangers of gas leaks and other safety concerns.
- Gas leaks are also a **major cause of global heating and climate disruption**. Connecticut has paid hundreds of millions to repair the damage from various unprecedented storms over the last several years; these charges ultimately are borne by taxpayers. Levels of methane in the atmosphere are at record highs and action to stop methane expansion has the most immediate chance of mitigating climate disruption.
- Investment is lacking in energy from abundant sunlight and wind, into sustainable geothermal and renewable thermal technologies and into community microgrids. Connecticut must **consider all clean energy alternatives** to gas expansion, including abundant offshore wind and clean, home heating.

Join Sierra Club Connecticut and allies on **Tuesday, September 24 at 1:00 p.m.** at the Connecticut State Capitol in Hartford to tell state leaders that expanding dangerous fossil fuel use at this time is financially reckless, morally bankrupt, unjust to vulnerable communities. Contact **Martha Klein** to get involved: martha.klein@sierraclub.org

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