

For Immediate Release: February 22, 2021

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Car Caravan and Virtual Rally to Demand that Governor Lamont Stop The Proposed Power Plant in Killingly

On Saturday, February 27, 2021 at noon, car caravans from across the state will converge on the Hartford Capitol and DEEP headquarters, while a simultaneous online rally will be held, to call attention to Governor Lamont's inaction on the unneeded NTE fracked gas power plant that is approaching completion of the DEEP permitting process.

Last month, U.S. Climate Envoy John Kerry warned that “[i]f we build out a huge infrastructure for gas now...we’re gonna be stuck with stranded assets in 10 or 20 or 30 years....Gas is primarily methane and we have a huge methane problem....” Despite Kerry’s warning, DEEP is on track to grant final approval to a Florida company, NTE, to build a 650-megawatt fracked gas power plant in Killingly that would emit more than two million tons of carbon dioxide annually. Governor Lamont is on record opposing the plant but also says his hands are tied since ISO-New England, which oversees the region’s energy grid, is calling the shots. ISO-NE says it recommends the plant be built in Connecticut but confirms that state officials always have the final say.

This would be the second gas power plant in Killingly, which has a poverty rate 20 percent above the state average – an example of environmental injustice that violates the state’s own laws. Emissions from this plant would not only hurt the climate, it would exacerbate poor air quality in Windham County, which already has the highest asthma rate in the state.

Killingly resident Earl McWilliams noted, “Killingly already has a plant which is located a mile away from the plant site NTE is proposing. Neither Lake Road Generating Company nor the NTE plant will send any of the electricity produced to Connecticut. We are being asked to become Connecticut’s tail pipe just when the Governor is calling on the state to ‘go green’ in less than twenty years. Towns in Northeastern Connecticut already have the highest asthma rates in the state, thanks in part to Lake Road Generating Company. The particulate matter 2.5 and nitrogen oxides produced by the new plant will sicken and kill more of us in the coming years if this plant is built.”

The power plant is not needed because Connecticut has been an exporter of energy for over a decade, according the U.S. EIA. (1) Analysis by Synapse Energy Economics shows that a significant surplus of electric capacity exists, and is projected to exist, in New England. (2) And DEEP’s Draft Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) says that “Connecticut now hosts a disproportionate share of the region’s fossil-fueled generation.” (3) Connecticut can’t reach its climate goals and uphold environmental justice by continuing to build dirty, climate-destroying fossil fuel infrastructure in overburdened communities.

State Representative Geraldo Reyes, representing District 75 and co-chair of the CT Legislative Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, stated his opposition to the plan: "In lieu of the proposed gas power plant in Killingly, I oppose the plan to be put into action. Talks of installing a water certification pipeline will negatively affect wetlands and habitats of endangered species. This project will not contribute to the State's goal of green and clean energy and reducing carbon emissions. This would be Killingly's second gas powered plant which will continue the practice of poor air, land and water damage in distressed areas. The Environmental Justice Law doesn't only apply to large municipalities. It is important to stress that we recognize the overall damage we continue to put on this State and future harm that time will expose long after we're gone!"

State Senator Mae Flexer represents Killingly and the 29th district, and has expressed concern about the siting of another fracked gas power plant in her district: "It clearly does not fall in line with our targets for Connecticut for moving towards green energy and clean energy. It's the absolute opposite of that," Flexer said. "If we say Connecticut is committed to green energy, why is the power plant moving forward? It makes absolutely no sense."

A coalition of environmental, civil rights, immigrant rights, faith, and local groups are joining the caravan and virtual rally to make the following demands of Governor Lamont and DEEP Commissioner Dykes: Action Not Words! Stop the Killingly fracked gas power plant; No more new fossil fuel plants; End environmental racism; and Stop fracked gas pipeline expansion.

Endorsed By

No More Dirty Power In Killingly, 350 Connecticut, Connecticut Climate Crisis Coalition (C3M), Unidad Latina en Accion, Sunrise CT, Hampton Green Energy Committee, Pomfret Green Team, Quiet Corner Shouts, Eastern Connecticut Green Action, XR Willimantic, Promoting Enduring Peace, Greater New Haven Peace Council, New Haven Climate Movement, Sunrise New Haven, CT Peace and Solidarity Coalition, Green Sanctuary and Environmental Justice Task Force of the Unitarian Society of New Haven, and the Collaborative Center For Justice.

Link to online rally: <http://bit.ly/Killinglycaravan>

1 <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=CT>

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https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/CSC/1_Dockets-medialibrary/Docket_470B/Prefiled_exhibits/grouped/DO470B20190411NAPPSTestimonyFaganGlickpdf.pdf

3 <https://tinyurl.com/glarsjr4>

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