



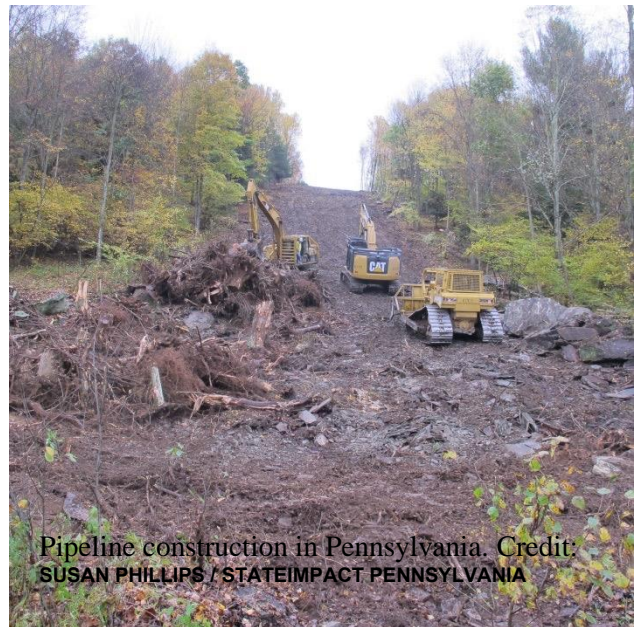
Connecticut Chapter
2074 Park St. Ste.308
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
www.sierraclub.org/connecticut

The Northeast Energy Direct Pipeline

If we hope to maintain a livable planet and protect our environment and communities from catastrophic climate change, we must rapidly limit carbon pollution and transition to clean energy sources. To that end, the Sierra Club advocates for a switch to 100% renewable energy by 2050. That also means avoiding infrastructure projects that would lock us into decades of dependence on fossil fuels. Throughout the country, the fossil fuel industry is rapidly pursuing a massive build-out of pipelines, compressor stations and power plants that would perpetuate consumption of shale gas and oil, and we're standing up to say NO. Our work to stop the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) pipeline is part of our national strategy to hasten a transition to clean energy and keep fossil fuels in the ground.

Background on the NED Pipeline

The Northeast Energy Direct (NED) pipeline project has been proposed by Kinder Morgan Energy's subsidiary, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, to carry gas from the fracking fields of Pennsylvania to an eastern hub in Dracut Massachusetts, where it would connect to the Maritimes & Northeast pipeline in Maine.¹ The current proposal is to build 420 miles of expanded pipeline mostly along an existing corridor, in diameters between 20 to 36 inches. *Nine* new compressor stations would be built, along with five new meter and regulation stations, and 25 meter station upgrades. This high-pressure main line will have several smaller "spur" lines to transfer gas to local distribution companies. This is one of over 20 pipelines projects proposed through the northeastern U.S., many of which are designed to export shale gas to Canada and from there, overseas.² The NED is in reality the second stage of a Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion; the first phase is the Connecticut Expansion project, which passes through Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York. Connecticut Expansion is approaching approval from FERC.



Pipeline construction in Pennsylvania. Credit: SUSAN PHILLIPS / STATEIMPACT PENNSYLVANIA

On November 21, 2015, Kinder Morgan submitted their application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the agency with jurisdiction over interstate gas pipelines. The application was officially accepted on December 7, 2015. We are awaiting release of a draft environmental impact statement which will provide an opportunity for public comment.

An Unnecessary Threat to our Climate and Communities

This project is not needed. In fact, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey released a comprehensive study in November of 2015 showing that New England does NOT need this pipeline to

¹ <http://www.kindermorgan.com/content/docs/NEDprojectmap.pdf>

² Including expansions of existing pipelines. http://www.northeastgas.org/pipeline_expansion.php



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keep the lights on.³ What we need instead is to invest in energy efficiency, conservation, demand-management, and more clean renewable energy like wind and solar, heat pumps and energy storage!

Methane, the main component of shale gas, is 87 more powerful than carbon dioxide at trapping heat over 20 years. This pipeline expansion project, designed primarily for export, will exacerbate climate change, raise the price of gas domestically, and enrich the fracking industry at the expense of our communities, our environment and our climate.

How can you get involved?

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has jurisdiction over interstate gas pipelines and will conduct the review for this project. Although FERC has a very disturbing history of approving nearly every gas project that comes before it,⁴ we need to let them know this is *not* acceptable for our states, and that the public is watching. FERC will hold hearings to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft environmental statement once it is released. Help make your voice heard by getting involved today!

Or, you can **intervene** in the process directly. Anyone, including businesses, organizations, individuals, property owners and concerned citizens can “intervene” to be formally engaged in the FERC review process for this pipeline. The more people who intervene, the better – they’ll know we’re watching! The official FERC docket number for this pipeline is Docket No. CP16-21. Many Sierra Club chapters are resources in the fight against unneeded shale gas infrastructure expansion: see SierraClub.org/Connecticut for information about the fight against the NED and other gas pipeline expansions going through the region. Or get involved in your area with one of the pipeline-fighting organizations such as StopNED.org, MassPlan, Nofrackedgasinmass.org, Nhpipelineawareness.org, or one of the many smaller groups along the pipeline route. The deadline for intervening is January 15, 2016.

Sierra Club National
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 977-5500

Sierra Club Legislative
50 F Street, NW, Eighth Floor
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 547-1141

www.sierraclub.org
facebook.com/SierraClub
twitter.com/sierra_club



³ http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2015/11/ag_healy_grid_reliability_fine.html

⁴ <https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2015/10/20/lawyers-say-ferc-hinders-appeals-on-pipeline-projects/>