

Box 486  
Mansfield, CT 06250  
April 27, 2015

To: Mansfield Town Council

Last Thursday, Governor Malloy and other New England governors had an energy summit in Hartford. As part of this, the Connecticut Consumer Counsel warned of blackouts if natural gas capacity was not increased. Malloy talked about needing more natural gas transmission capacity to run New England power plants. The Malloy administration is pushing the expansion of natural gas use through Connecticut and in Connecticut. Eversource says that more natural gas is needed to keep energy prices down.

There are several things that contradict these statements. First there is a bill pending, SB 1078 that would pass the cost of Eversource obtaining more natural gas capacity to every electric ratepayer in Connecticut. The concern for energy prices for consumers is not apparent there.

Last Wednesday, the Malloy administration recommitted to an energy goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions to 80 % of 2001 levels by 2050. Malloy is creating a Governor's Council on Climate Change to meet this challenge. An independent report says this will be difficult to accomplish.

It is going to be difficult because natural gas is not clean energy. Unlike coal and oil, natural gas is a greenhouse gas. The gas companies are not concerned about gas leakage and freely vent natural gas into the air at their compressor stations and metering and regulation stations. When natural gas is burned, it produces carbon dioxide that is also a greenhouse gas. Several scientific reports show that the planned gas expansion across the country will increase global warming by 2050.

The Malloy administration is planning to add 300,000 new natural gas customers in Connecticut. This plan shows that the natural gas expansion is not about keeping power plants running. The planned expansion of natural gas transmission includes increasing the capacity to carry gas to ports on the east coast and Canada where companies are already applying for licenses to export this gas overseas.

Stopping this expansion will not be easy, but it is worth the attempt. Perhaps we should not care that most of this gas that will be transported across Connecticut comes from hydraulic fracking in other parts of this country which contaminates the air and water in those locales. That will not happen here. We should care that this expansion will increase global warming that affects everyone on the planet.

The Algonquin Pipeline expansion is to be done in at least three projects called AIM, Atlantic Bridge, and Access North. We may not be able to stop the first project that has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). However, the other two have not been approved, and we can have an impact on whether they ever proceed. I ask the Mansfield Town Council to pass the resolution in the petition to begin the movement to stop the expansion. Nobody thought the people of New York could stop hydraulic fracking from occurring, but they did.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Bent

To: Mansfield Town Council  
From: Marjorie Mollar  
April 27, 2015

I have been a resident of Mansfield for the past ten years and a resident of this planet for seventy four years. In the time I have lived here in Connecticut, I have learned that ten years barely gets you in the door. But seventy four years on the planet may carry more weight.

I am not a scientist. I rely on those with more credentials, whom I trust, to help me understand what is happening to the essence of the life of all living things on this earth. I have learned enough to hold within me deep concerns for the not so distant future as it will affect mine and your children and grandchildren.

To the best of my understanding, unless we make significant changes now, within twenty five years or less, we will be dealing with extremes in the climate that will pose a threat to all forms life as we know it.

I know that I, by myself, cannot do everything. But I want to be able to look at my grandchildren and say, "This is what I tried to do." I think you would like to be able to do the same.

I recently learned of some of the problems associated with a local project, the proposed expansion of the natural gas pipelines that go through our town. I'm here tonight to ask you to do what you can to stop this project.

The problems with the Algonquin pipeline are numerous:

- \* An increase in methane emissions and other gases represent a threat to the health of people in the area.

- \*Our electric rates will be increased when the ratepayers will be required to pay the costs of this expansion

- \*The increased reliance on natural gas decreases our efforts to develop renewable sources of energy.

For these reasons I ask you to please pass a resolution asking our state representatives to oppose the expansion of the pipelines.