



# Stop Project Maple

Say no to a major expansion of the pipeline bringing fracked fossil gas into New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts

December 3rd, 2024

# Connecticut is Flooded with Fracked Gas

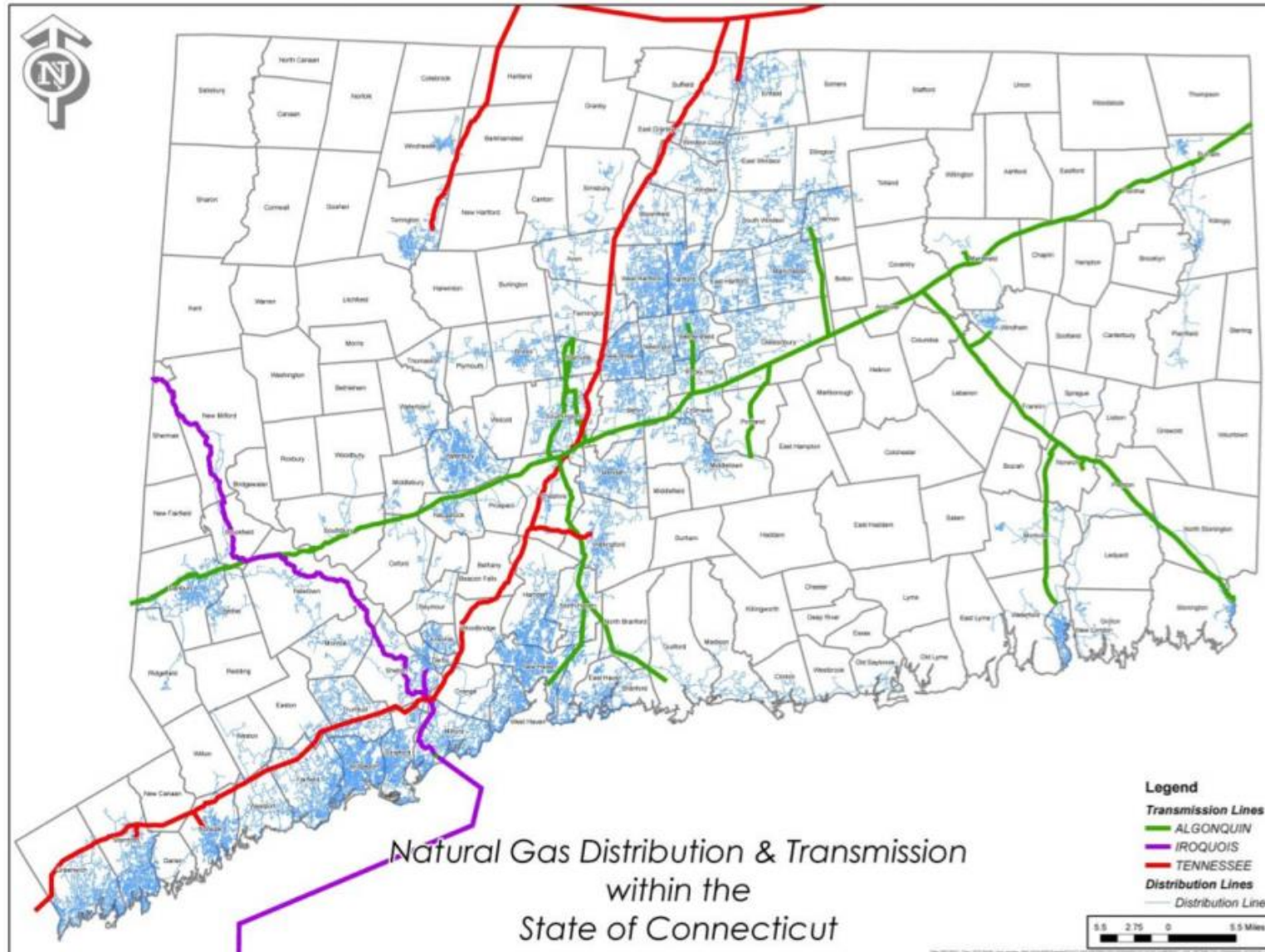
- 5 toxic fracked gas pipeline compressor stations
  - 2 others just over the border.
- 42 fracked gas power plants and generating stations
- The Capitol Area Systems facility in Hartford burns fracked gas to power state buildings.



Capital Area System, Hartford, CT.  
Credit: Sierra Club CT.

**FIGURE 3: Connecticut's Natural Gas Infrastructure**

*Connecticut natural gas infrastructure is concentrated in areas with high population density, such as the central part of the state and along the coast.*



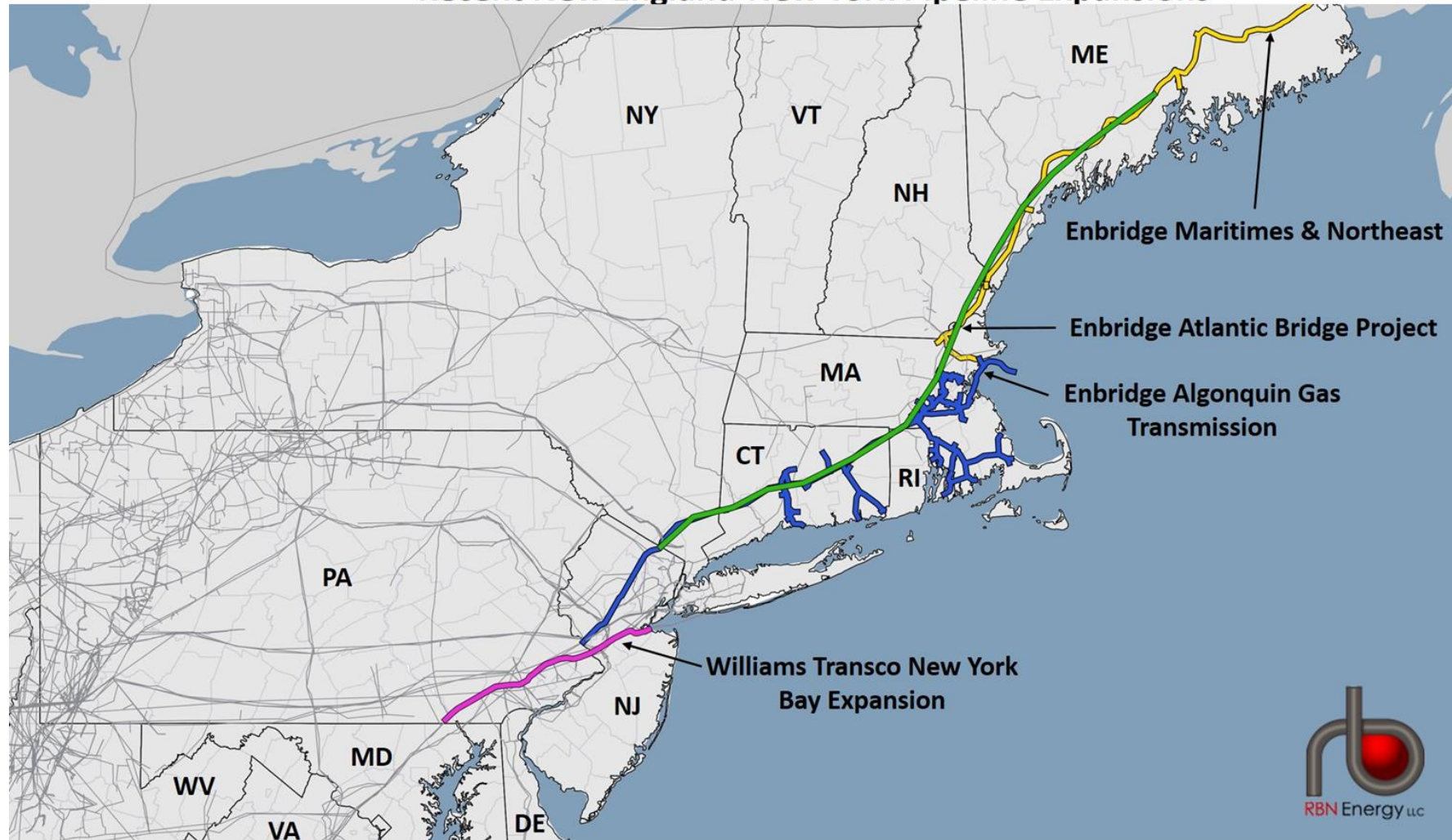
Source: Connecticut Natural Gas, Southern Connecticut Gas, and Yankee Gas

# Dangers of Fracked Gas

- Over a 20 year period, methane is 80 times as bad as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere
- Dangerous and toxic along the whole cycle: from extraction, transport, distribution, and home use
- Leaking occurs at every point of the methane life cycle, accelerating climate change
- Massive harms to public health
- Risk of explosions
- Fracking destroys communities, almost all gas in the U.S. comes from fracking

# Enbridge's Northeast Pipeline System

Recent New England-New York Pipeline Expansions



# Recent expansion, and Resistance

- In 2014 Spectra Energy proposed three major expansions to the “Algonquin” pipeline system
- The first expansion was fiercely resisted across the region
- The second expansion was dramatically reduced in scope - although a new compressor station was built in Weymouth, MA
- The third, and largest expansion called “Access Northeast” was cancelled
- Enbridge purchase Spectra Energy in 2017 and is now trying to bring Access Northeast back

# What is Project Maple?

A proposed 23% capacity expansion of the existing “Algonquin” pipeline to carry fracked gas into southern New England



# Project Maple Proposal

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Enbridge (large Canadian company) announced “open season” in late 2023, seeking customers for new capacity (results are not public)

- No “new” pipeline
- Replace existing smaller diameter pipe with larger diameter pipe
- Extend pipeline loops in parallel to existing pipeline
- Add compression at existing compressor stations





# Who is Enbridge?

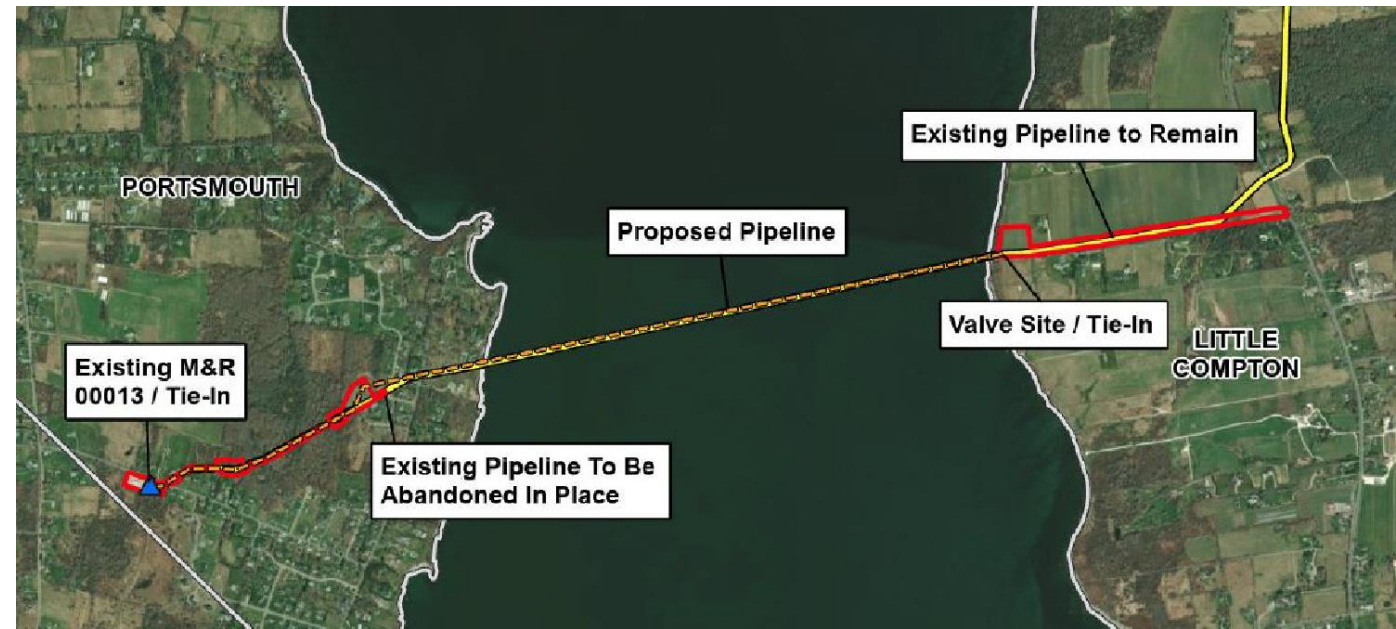
- One of the largest fossil fuel corporations in the world, based in Canada
- Extract and transport oil and gas
- Constructing pipelines in Canada, Wisconsin and Michigan
  - Line 3 & 5
- Violating Indigenous sovereignty and use violence and surveillance against tribal members and nations



# Status

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- No action on Project Maple since Open Season call
- Enbridge is advancing connected projects
  - Regulator station in Coventry, CT
  - Replacement pipeline under Sakonnet River, Narragansett Bay, RI
  - New regulator station in Lincoln Woods, MA
- All projects approved under “blanket authority” from 1987 permits
  - Avoided public scrutiny and full environmental studies



Source: [Sakonnet River Replacement presentation](#) from No Fracked Gas in Mass & Pipeline Awareness Network for the Northeast.

# Coventry, CT Project

- Enbridge is building a new metering and regulator (M&R) station in Coventry, CT
- Being built under a 1987 permit for “routine maintenance,” without new permitting or an environmental impact statement
- M&R stations leak significant methane emissions
- The work zone is located in the most diverse part of town, adjacent to a low-income neighborhood
- Enbridge has not informed the local community about the potential impacts of construction

# Project Maple is Not Needed

- The Global Warming Solutions Act requires urgent action—**transporting and combusting more fossil fuels is not a solution!**
- **Massive intra and interstate expansions have already been completed**
- **Gas consumption in CT is declining**
- Electricity demand in New England is flat
- Over dependence on methane for electricity makes the grid less reliable
- Most of the state is in nonattainment for ozone pollution, and has the most polluted air in New England



# Project Maple & Economics

- Electricity in CT is the most expensive in the continental US (only AK & HI have higher rates)
- Ratepayer costs have skyrocketed in CT over the last decade, most of this has been due to methane expansion
- All pipeline infrastructure costs are subsidized by ratepayers
- Residents will have to pay for this expansion both on our energy bills and because of added air pollution



Not only  
that!

Project Maple would not come online until 2029 at the earliest. Too late to have any effect on gas demand that is expected to start decreasing in the mid 2020s if not sooner.

*Access Northeast, the 3rd proposed expansion that Project Maple is replacing, had an explicit goal of overseas export.*

*Export of domestically fracked fuels raises costs for US consumers.*

# What has the opposition done so far?

- Multiple sign on letter from 100+ environmental and community organizations delivered to governors in NY, CT, RI & MA
- Multiple motions to protest & intervene pipeline segments to FERC
- Week of Action protests November, 2023 across the region
- Rally & legislator sign on letter delivery at state capitals in September 2024, with responses from governors



Photo Credit: CTLCV

# Take Action Now

- Send a letter to Gov. Lamont and Commissioner Dykes telling them to stop the expansion of methane infrastructure
- Join the Stop Project Maple Coalition!
- Join the upcoming webinar *Methane Pipelines, Climate Change, and What Comes Next* with special guest Bill McKibben



The graphic features a dark purple background with orange and red accents. In the top left is a circular logo with a yellow maple leaf and a red slash, with the text 'STOP PROJECT MAPLE' around it. A large red speech bubble at the top right contains the title 'METHANE PIPELINES, CLIMATE CHANGE, & WHAT COMES NEXT' in white. Below this, a circular photo of Bill McKibben is shown. To the left of the photo is a red circle with the text 'Jan 28th @ 7pm'. To the right is another red circle with 'Register now!'. Below the photo, the text 'Webinar with Bill McKibben' is written. At the bottom left, it says 'More Information: sena.wazer@sierraclub.org'. At the bottom right, it says 'Learn about Project Maple and hear from Dr. Sandra Steingraber, biologist and author.'

**METHANE PIPELINES,  
CLIMATE CHANGE, &  
WHAT COMES NEXT**

Jan 28th  
@ 7pm

Register  
now!

Webinar with  
Bill McKibben

Learn about  
Project Maple  
and hear from  
Dr. Sandra  
Steingraber,  
biologist and  
author.

More Information:  
[sena.wazer@sierraclub.org](mailto:sena.wazer@sierraclub.org)





# Stop Project Maple

Let's really help the maples by stopping Project Maple