

Empower NJ - Coalition Sign On Letter - December 2018

We the undersigned groups are forming a campaign to move New Jersey towards a goal of 100% renewable energy and advocating for a complete moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure including pipelines, power plants, compressor stations, LNG ports, and more.

Climate change is an immediate and real threat to the state. The combination of sea level rise, increased storm events, and other climate impacts put our environment and communities at risk. According to a 2018 report by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we may have as little as 12 years to reach critical levels in stopping greenhouse gas emissions before the Earth reaches a dangerous temperature. A Rutgers study notes that sea level may rise almost 3 feet by 2100. This is a dire situation and New Jersey must immediately begin working to mitigate climate change.

We're forming this coalition to move towards the goals of rapidly reducing our greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector, and substantially achieving 100% clean renewable energy in New Jersey by 2035 or sooner, which would more than satisfy the Governor's 2050 target. Fossil fuel infrastructure is a major impediment to reaching those goals.

- We also want Governor Murphy to impose a moratorium on all new fossil fuel power plants and to ban fracking, water withdrawals for fracking and frack wastewater in the Delaware River Basin and in the state. There are currently five new power plants and seven major pipelines proposed in New Jersey and potentially more to come and the current Delaware River Watershed fracking moratorium is under attack by industry.

New pipeline and compressor projects:

- **PennEast Pipeline:** 110-mile pipeline that will bring natural gas from the Marcellus Region of Pennsylvania through Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey. The pipeline will be cutting through communities, preserved open space, and farmland.
- **Northeast Supply Enhancement:** The project would put 3.5 new miles of pipe in Old Bridge and Sayreville and 22 miles under the Raritan Bay. This would attach to a compressor station in Trap Rock Quarry in Franklin Twp.
- **South Jersey Gas pipeline:** 22 inch gas pipeline through 22 miles of the Pinelands and Southern New Jersey.
- **Southern Reliability Link :** New Jersey Natural Gas's SRL is a partner with PennEast. It is a 28-mile gas pipeline that will destroy environmentally sensitive land in the Pinelands and threaten communities along the route in Burlington, Ocean, and Monmouth Counties.
- **Garden State Expansion project:** Their proposed Garden State Expansion compressor station would connect into a New Jersey Natural Gas Pipeline in Chesterfield.
- **Rivervale South to Market:** The Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco) is seeking authorization for its Rivervale South to Market project. The project is supposed to provide 190,000 dekatherms per day of capacity to northeastern markets. The project will consist of upgrading 10.35 miles of existing Transco pipeline as well as upgrades and modifications to existing pipeline facilities, all in New Jersey. In addition, there is a proposed 0.61 mile loop in wetlands environment of Bergen County.
- **Lambertville East Expansion (Lambertville):** Will connect PennEast to Texas Eastern and the Transco compressor station so they can take PennEast gas through their system

New gas-fired power plant projects:

- Meadowlands Power Plant (North Bergen)- 1200MW
- Phoenix Energy Center (Holland Twp)- 660MW

- BL England (Upper Twp)- 450 MW
 - Keasbey Energy Center (Woodbridge)- 725 MW
 - Sewaren 7 (Woodbridge)- 540MW
- We believe that the NJDEP should immediately move to set standards for greenhouse gasses, CO2 as well as methane, which they've had the authority to do since 2005. This includes regulating the Air Pollution Control Act and Title V permits to stop new plants and reduce existing pollution to protect the health of New Jersey's communities.
 - Governor Murphy must enact the strictest possible interpretation of the "Anti-degradation standard" under the Water Quality Certification Program pursuant to Section 410 of the Federal Clean Water Act by NJDEP for pipelines. NJDEP must also conduct a cost-benefit analysis of moving New Jersey away from the PJM electricity grid, which relies too heavily on dirty fuels.

Please join with us to demand an end to fossil fuels in New Jersey and to move us rapidly towards a 100% renewable future and green economy.

Sincerely,

WATERSPIRIT

Coalition to Ban Unsafe Oil Trains

People Over Pipelines

Central Jersey Environmental Defenders

UU Faith Action NJ

NJ Sierra Club

Clean Water Action

Environment NJ

Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Cooper River Indivisible

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Coalition for Peace Action

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Sierra Club, Loantaka Group, NJ Chapter

New Jersey Tenants Organization

Franciscan Response to Fracking

Gloucester County Food and Water Watch

Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Hackensack Riverkeeper

GMO Free NJ

Citizens United for Renewable Energy (CURE)

Don't Gas the Pinelands

Roseland Against Compressor Station (RACS)

Northjersey Pipeline Walkers

Bergen GreenFaith Circle

Sourland Conservancy

Clean Ocean Action

Sustainable South Jersey
New Jersey PACE / Center for Regenerative Community Solutions, a NJ Nonprofit Corporation
Roseland Against Compressor Station (RACS)
Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline NJ
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War
Franklin Woman's Club
Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope
Food & Water Watch
GreenFaith
Women's March on New Jersey
The Climate Mobilization Hoboken Chapter
Central New Jersey Chapter-The Climate Reality Project
Environmental Action Club Morris County Vocational High School
350NJ-Rockland
Northern NJ Chapter, National Organization for Women
ClimateMama
Raritan Headwaters
Ramapough Lenape Nation
Blue Wave NJ
Ridgewood Jolt
Westfield 2020
North Jersey Sierra Club
NJ Citizen Action
Surfrider Foundation: Jersey Shore Chapter
NJ 7 Forward

Background Information

Moratoriums Implemented by New Jersey Governors

- **Governor Byrnes**
 - o Moratorium on all development in the Pinelands until the Pinelands law was passed.
- **Governor Kean**
 - o Moratorium on all new development hooking into sewer plants until the sewer plants were upgraded to protect clean water.
 - o
 - o Moratorium on freshwater wetlands to protect us from flooding until a wetlands protection law was passed.
- **Governor Florio**
 - o Moratorium on all new incinerators and stopped them under construction to protect our air quality from toxic emissions

New Jersey's Authority to Regulate Greenhouse Gases

Since 2005 the DEP has had the power to regulate greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide. The DEP has the authority to regulate greenhouse gases and carbon well and deny air permitting and Title V permits

- The Department determines, based on the evidence outlined herein, that regulating carbon dioxide (CO₂) as an air contaminant is in the best interest of human health, welfare, and the environment. This statement shall fulfill the Department's requirement to advise the public of its determination and justification for this determination, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2C-9.2i.
- The Department's determination is based on compelling scientific evidence of existing and projected adverse impacts due to climate change on the environment, ecosystems, wildlife, human health, and enjoyment of property in the State. **The Department also bases this determination in part on the expected impacts of climate change on the formation of ground-level ozone. Increases in average temperature and related extreme heat events will increase the formation of ground-level ozone** and further undermine the State's attempts to meet national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for NO_x, with attendant increases in adverse human health and environmental impacts, as well as State compliance costs.
 - **DEP should mandate standards for CO₂, require all emissions to be regulated with permit and permit fees, just like we do for NO_x and SO_x. This would require permits for mobile and stationary sources like powerplants, pipelines, mobile sources and fugitive emissions.**

Global Warming Response Act

- Section 4.a-4: the rules and regulations establish a series of enforceable limits that will gradually limit GHG emission levels. The Global Warming Response act calls for a 17% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.
- We also have to meet 2020 goals. The response calls for a 80% reduction in greenhouse gases from baseline year 2006 by 2050.
- Nothing in this act shall impose any limit of existing authority of any department to limit or regulate greenhouse gas emissions.

New Jersey has the authority to do to deny Title V permits for Natural Gas Power Plants

Other ways to reject Power Plant

- BPU has the authority to regulate GHG's and deny projects that increase GHG's
- DEP has the authority to set standards for air deposition, especially from NO_x.
- Under RGGI, NJ is supposed to be reducing CO₂ emissions
 - We want a Cap for 13 tons of CO₂- NJ is currently at 18 and these new natural gas powerplants will put us at 25 tons probably more.