



100% Renewable Energy
No Fracked Gas Infrastructure
Green Mass Transit for All
Green Jobs for Fossil Fuel Workers
End Environmental Racism

Polluters love to tell stories. They tell us the stories of the people they help, the jobs they create and the projects they support to help the environment. The problem is when we look into these stories we find that they are lies. When Exxon told the story that climate science was unsettled they were contradicting their own researchers. When Volkswagen told the story of how “clean diesel” will lower auto emissions, we found that they were cheating when tested. And most recently Eversource told us a story about how we NEED more fracked gas pipelines and we NEED to raise energy prices because New England doesn't have the capacity to meet our demands. And once again these claims turn out to be untrue and most likely push forward for the benefit of a corporation which fights relentlessly against the transition to a cheaper source of energy that they can't control: renewable power from the sun, wind & water.

Researchers from Vanderbilt University have found that Eversource, the ONLY company providing gas and electricity in many towns in Connecticut, along with Avangrid have been manipulating the amount of gas allowed in the pipelines they operate for the last 4 years. This practice, called down-scheduling, has resulted in electric & gas prices hikes ranging from 38% to 13% from year to year. Reducing the amount of gas that is allowed to flow through their pipelines could have cost ratepayers (the residents of New England) \$3.6 billion collectively. Eversource's constant claims of acting in the interests of its customers and providing service to people have once again been shown to be hollow and self-serving marketing spin.

The scientists, lawyers and researchers who brought these unfair, unhelpful and manipulative practices to light hesitate to ascribe motive or reasoning to Eversource's actions but most people who pay attention to their lobbying and marketing efforts can come to some conclusions. At the same time there were limiting the capacity of current pipelines they were showing up at DEEP & PURA hearings citing lack of gas flow as a reason to build more polluting infrastructure and charge the general public a pipeline tax to pay for it. Similarly they used the artificial scarcity of methane gas as justification for raising the rates in their electricity provider subsidiary and a massive increase to the customer service charge on our electric bills. Similar to many corporations, one of their main goals is growth and to achieve that growth they must increase the

infrastructure New England compensates them to maintain or increase the revenue they generate from rate payers, both of which can be achieved by making the amount of fuel appear restricted.

Finally, it appears from their actions that Eversource knows that fossil fuel businesses are running on borrowed time. These market tricks are a desperate attempt to stave off the oncoming renewable energy revolution which will make their business obsolete and consolidate their control of New England's energy grid while they are still relevant. Why would our state compensate them for pipelines and power plants when we can generate electricity from the solar panels on our home and buildings, wind turbines on our coasts and heat from the ground. The sun and wind come to us everyday at no cost so the people can control the energy instead of large corporations and utilities like Eversource.

Now that the dark truth behind their story has come to light we need the CT government to act. The Dept of Energy & Environmental Protection and Public Utility Regulatory Authority should start an immediate investigation into these practices. Eversource should be forced to return any financial benefit gained from the actions, through regulatory fines or legal action from the CT Attorney General, and those funds should be used to build community controlled, municipal renewable energy projects. Eversource should be investigated for anti-trust, collusion and monopolistic practices and possibly forced to relinquish control of businesses that allowed this self dealing to occur.

We cannot allow Eversource to deny us our rights to free information, fairly priced energy and the right to a clean and healthy climate.

350 CT
organizers@350CT.org
@350CT

Sources :

http://www.utilitydive.com/news/eversource-avangrid-artificially-constrained-gas-pipeline-capacity-for-yea/507018/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=welcome_utility_1

<https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/vertical-market-power.pdf>

http://www.bostonherald.com/business/business_markets/2017/10/maura_healey_reviewing_study_claiming_utilities_linked_to_36b?amp