

# NYPIRG NEWS RELEASE

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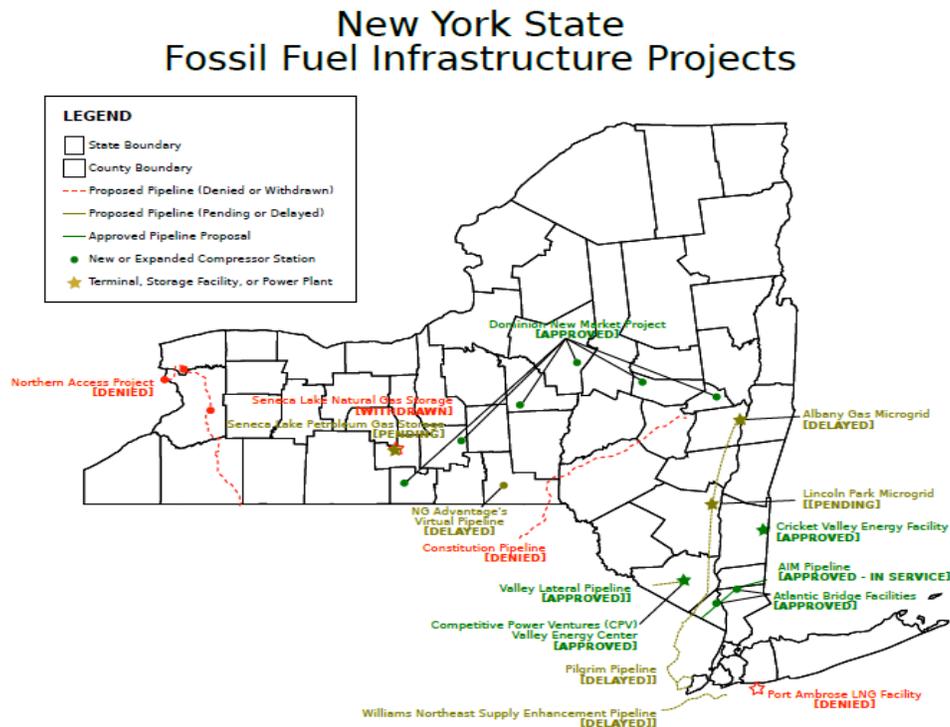
## NYPIRG's Earth Day Countdown of Ten Steps New York Must Take to be a Green Leader

### Step 6: Get New York Off Fossil Fuels and Stop All Fossil Fuel Infrastructure Expansion

(NY) – From now until Earth Day, NYPIRG is counting down ten steps that New York must take to be a national environmental leader. With climate deniers firmly in control of national policies, it will be up to the states to act. In recent years, New York has unveiled ambitious environmental programs and actions. But, announcements must be backed up by achievements.

**Step 6 is for Governor Cuomo to get New York off fossil fuels.** He must use the State's powers to deny permits, Water Quality Certifications, or other regulatory approvals for fossil fuel infrastructure projects including transmission pipelines, power generating plants, microgrids, and compressor stations.

In 2015, New York took an important step toward combatting climate change when it became the first state with any appreciable natural gas reserves to ban fracking. But, New York has not had a coherent strategy when it comes to allowing the development of new fossil fuel infrastructure projects like pipelines and power plants. **Allowing such construction slows down the movement toward a fossil fuel-free future since new pipelines are usually financed in a way that requires decades of use before debts can be paid off.** Here is a map highlighting project proposals:



Frontline groups have been leading the fight to say no to fossil fuel infrastructure. Sane Energy Project, partners in the fight against climate change and for a rapid and just transition to renewable energy, have put together a comprehensive map of existing and proposed fossil fuels infrastructure projects. The "[You Are Here](#)" map, a collaboration with the FracTracker Alliance, also highlights the local groups leading the fight to say no to fossil fuel infrastructure expansion. The below chart includes a *sampling* of fossil fuel infrastructure projects which have been approved, pending, delayed, denied or withdrawn.

NEW YORK STATE FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS				
	Approved	Pending	Delayed	Denied or Withdrawn
<b>NAME</b>	<b>1. Dominion New Market Project</b>	<b>1. Lincoln Park Microgrid Project</b>	<b>1. Pilgrim Pipeline</b>	<b>1. Seneca Lake Natural Gas Storage</b>
<b>WHAT IS IT?</b>	The addition of two new compressor stations along Dominion Energy Transmission's existing pipeline; New compressor stations at Madison County (Town of Georgetown) and Chemung County (Town of Veteran); Adding compression to Brookmans Corners Station at Montgomery County (Town of Minden); Adding or upgrading other metering and regulating (M&R) facilities; Adding gas coolers at Dominion Energy Transmission's existing Borger, Utica and Brookmans Corners stations.	Proposed to be built in the Town of Ulster, the facility will include a system of containerized batteries and a reciprocating engine generator system fueled by natural gas, with the capability to use on-site diesel when the gas supply is disrupted. Fuel combustion will result in primary emissions of carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ), nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> ), and carbon monoxide (CO).	Two separate, parallel, underground pipelines running 178 miles between Albany and the New York Harbor area. The northbound pipeline would carry refined products like gasoline, diesel, kerosene, aviation fuel and home heating from New Jersey refineries and storage facilities to points north. The southbound pipeline would carry crude oil to the south from storage facilities in Albany.	Planned storage of natural gas in abandoned salt caverns near Seneca Lake.
<b>STATUS</b>	June 2014 - Filed FERC Application; April 2016 - Received FERC Certificate; Construction completed, began operation in October 2017.	Initial public comment on Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) ended in March 2018. Full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) expected by Fall 2018.	Filed for their New Jersey permits in early 2016, to take 12-18 months for permit reviews. Permits have not been answered. No new permit applications have been filed.	Withdrawn on May 10, 2017.
<b>NAME</b>	<b>2. Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM, or Algonquin Pipeline Extension (APE))</b>	<b>2. Seneca Lake Petroleum Gas Storage</b>	<b>2. Sheridan Hollow Microgrid</b>	<b>2. Northern Access Project</b>
<b>WHAT IS IT?</b>	Construction of a 37 mile natural gas pipeline and related facilities in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. In NY: replacing ~20 miles of 26-inch-diameter pipeline with 42-inch-diameter pipeline in Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester Counties, New York; Add compression at six compressor stations in New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.	Planned storage of liquefied petroleum gas in abandoned salt caverns near Seneca Lake.	A microgrid proposed by Gov. Cuomo to supply heating and cooling needs and 90% of the power for the 90-acre Rockefeller Empire State Plaza in Albany. Was originally proposed to be two 8-MW gas-fired turbines that will also be able to burn oil.	96.49 miles of pipeline from McKean Co., PA., to Erie Co, NY; Add compression at the existing Porterville Compressor Station; Construct interconnection with Tennessee Gas Pipeline in Erie Co., NY; New compressor station, construction of ~2 miles of pipeline and a natural gas dehydration facility in Niagara Co.
<b>STATUS</b>	The AIM Project went into service in November 2016.	An application to store liquid petroleum gas underground salt caverns is pending before NYS DEC.	Gov. Cuomo announced the plan in May 2017. New York Power Authority will oversee the design and construction process, which was expected to begin in late 2017, but strong community opposition has forced NYPA to open the process to the public, and it is currently back under review by NYPA and DEC.	Project has been denied by NYS DEC.
<b>NAME</b>	<b>3. Enbridge's Atlantic Bridge</b>	<b>3. Williams Northeast Supply Enhancement Pipeline</b>	<b>3. NG Advantage's Virtual Pipeline</b>	<b>3. Constitution Pipeline</b>
<b>WHAT IS IT?</b>	In NY: Construction of ~6 miles of pipeline within Algonquin's existing footprint in New York and Connecticut; Uprate capacity in one compressor unit at an existing compressor station in New York; Modifications to existing meter stations in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine.	A proposed expansion of existing Transco pipeline system, an underwater pipeline that would carry fracked gas for 23 miles along the south coast of Staten Island, past Coney Island, and ending in Rockaway Point.	One compressor and loading station which would tap the Millennium Pipeline in Port Dickinson of Broome County. Gas will be extracted from the pipeline and loaded into equipped trailers and trucked to destinations. Anywhere from 50 to 100 trailers daily will be transported.	A 124-mile pipeline which would carry natural gas from Pennsylvania to Schoharie County, NY.
<b>STATUS</b>	Oct. 2015 - Filed FERC application; Jan. 2017 - Received FERC certificate; Construction completed in late 2017 in NY, but is being delayed from full completion by Massachusetts DEP who is studying air quality review and a decision will be made by January 2019.	March 2017, Williams filed application with FERC. March 2018 FERC released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and are currently accepting public comment on (DEIS) until May 14, 2018. Final EIS to be released in September 2018. FERC will make final decision by December 2018 and Williams plans to begin construction in Summer 2019.	Town of Fenton Planning Board approved project in May 2017. Chenango Valley School District filed suit against Fenton Planning Board to void that proceeding. In February 2018 Fenton Zoning Board of Appeals denied NG's request. Now NG has the option to challenge this ruling in court or appeal for reclassification of the proposed parcel.	Approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in December 2014. DEC rejected water permits in April 2016. A Second Circuit Court decision upheld the DEC's rejection. Constitution may appeal to the US Supreme Court.

**NYPIRG RELEASE, PAGE 3**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>4. Competitive Power Ventures (CPV) Valley Energy Center (VEC)</b>			<b>4. Port Ambrose LNG Facility</b>
<b>WHAT IS IT?</b>	Natural gas combined-cycle electric power generator located in the Town of Wawayanda, NY; Includes two 275 ft smoke stacks, a compressor station, electrical interconnects, a near million gallon diesel tank, a 15,000 gallon ammonia tank, a GIS building, and a 7 mile lateral pipeline that will connect to the Millennium Pipeline in Minisink.			A liquefied natural gas terminal off the coast of Long Beach, Long Island
<b>STATUS</b>	The plant is currently operating on diesel combustion; it will begin natural gas combustion upon completion of Valley Lateral Pipeline.			Governor Cuomo issued a veto of the project in November 2015
<b>NAME</b>	<b>5. Cricket Valley Energy Facility</b>			
<b>WHAT IS IT?</b>	A ~1,100 megawatt (MW), natural gas-fired power plant proposed for a site off Route 22 in Dover, New York.			
<b>STATUS</b>	April 2016 - New York State Public Service Commission granted Cricket Valley Energy Center, LLC a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need; Construction began in March 2017 and is still currently under construction.			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>6. Valley Lateral Pipeline Project</b>			
<b>WHAT IS IT?</b>	Approximately 7.8 miles of new pipeline extending from a Millennium's existing pipeline in Minisink north to the CPV Valley Energy Center in Wawayanda, New York; One delivery meter station and associated piping at the CPV Valley Energy Center; One launcher facility; One receiver facility at the CPV Valley Energy Center.			
<b>STATUS</b>	Nov. 2015 - FERC Certificate Application; Aug. 2016 - Requested FERC Decision Date; Construction began in October 2017 and halted by DEC but overruled by FERC, construction continues.			

Climate change is the most urgent issue of our time. The **last four years have been the hottest in recorded history**, and a warming planet has dire consequences. Climate change causes extreme weather —bringing more intense and frequent heat waves, severe droughts, heavier rainfall, dangerous flooding, and outbreaks of deadly disease.

The oil and gas industry has known that burning fossil fuels is a leading contributor to climate change for decades. Yet, instead of alerting the world to these dangers and curbing fossil fuel extraction, they used hot-wired lobbyists and campaign contributions to bamboozle the public and undermine action.

**New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman** has been [leading an investigation](#) into whether the oil industry misled investors, regulators and the public about climate change and thwarted efforts that would curb emissions of greenhouse gases. Oil and Gas corporations must tell the public and their shareholders the truth about their role in accelerating the pace of climate change.

Earlier this year, during the annual celebration of the benefits of open government called Sunshine Week no less, a former top aide to Governor Cuomo was convicted in federal court of three felonies. Joseph Percoco was found guilty for soliciting bribes and gratuities in connection with a “low-show” job given to his wife by CPV. The plant was seeking various approvals from the Cuomo Administration.

If a corrupt official was at the center of controversial decisions by the state, should those decisions be reviewed? In the **CPV case**, prosecutors argued that Mr. Percoco received bribes to help in the construction of the CPV natural-gas power plant. That plant, whose construction is nearly complete, has been controversial and opposed by many local residents, environmental groups and public officials.

The CPV deal was underpinned by corruption, as evidenced by the Percoco conviction. Therefore, the state must immediately stop CPV’s diesel combustion operations, halt all construction, and review the regulatory decisions which were made in an open manner.

New York cannot break its addiction to fossil fuels and move to a renewable future by permitting new infrastructure that will lock us into decades of fossil fuel use and leave our land and water vulnerable to spills and accidents.