

## Killingly Energy Center Feeder Pipeline

### *What is the Killingly Energy Center?*

The Killingly energy center is a 650 MW natural gas-fired electric generating facility, planned to be constructed by NTE Energy in Killingly, Connecticut. Requiring an estimated investment of over \$700 million, the energy center is of great importance to NTE Energy, but has seen significant backlash from both the citizens of Killingly as well as Connecticut's state government. Local groups are protesting in an effort to preserve their clean air and water, while Governor Lamont has been heavily critical of the project as it directly conflicts with his policy plan to have Connecticut be carbon neutral by 2040. Private organizations such as the Wyndham Land trust have also taken a hard stance in opposition to the project. However, the plant received its Certificate of Environmental Compatibility in 2019 and received its final permits in the summer of 2020. With construction slated for later in 2021, it is unlikely that the project will be prevented.



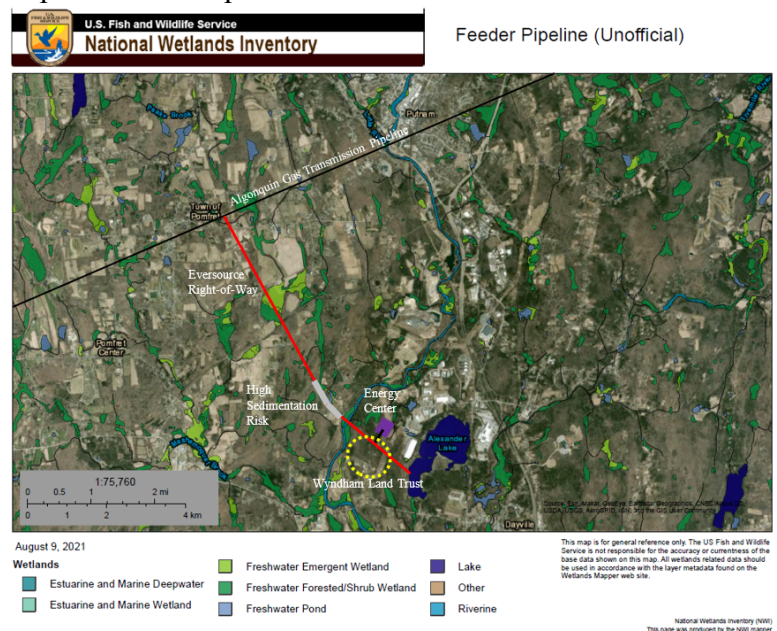
### *Why is a Feeder Pipeline Being Built?*

Feeder pipelines are typically short lines which carry oil or natural gas from storage tanks to transmission pipelines or from those transmission pipes to electrical generation plants. Here, NTE Energy plans

to build a 3-mile pipeline along a right-of-way possessed by the New England energy provider Eversource. This pipeline will connect the Killingly Energy Center with the Algonquin Gas Transmission Pipeline; from which the energy center will receive all of its natural gas.

### *Why is This Pipeline So Harmful?*

The construction and operation of natural gas pipelines come with inherent environmental risks, including habitat degradation, water pollution, increased sedimentation, and altering of species movements. The killingly feeder pipeline sees these risks amplified to an even greater degree, as the current proposed path runs through multiple wetlands and near two private nature preserves.



These are particular fragile lands, meaning that the construction and operation of a pipeline could lead to permanent damage or even destruction of the ecosystem and the reversal of ongoing local environmental restoration efforts.

### *Will High Risk Species be Impacted?*



Two state endangered species will be negatively impacted by the construction of the feeder pipeline, the American Bittern and the Northern Long-Eared Bat. The American Bittern is a stealthy predator which hunts primarily aquatic organisms including insects, small fish, and amphibians. The wetlands which NTE Energy will disrupt while constructing their feeder pipeline are a hot spot for the species which compose the bittern's diet and naturally attract the bird. Northern Long-Eared bats are insectivorous and feed solely on the insects which commonly populate marshes and swamps. In addition, the species relies on these same wetland areas as their primary breeding location. Both of the state-endangered species play a major role in controlling insect populations; a reduction or removal of their populations would likely cause spikes in insect numbers, sending a cascade of effects throughout the food chain.

### *What Risks Await the Ecosystem?*

The largest risks facing the ecosystem as a whole is the increased sedimentation and erosion caused by the pipeline's construction. As the construction is occurring on land which is heavily saturated, amplification of erosions and the risks which come along with it are nearly unavoidable issues for the pipeline. This erosion will not only result in increased

repairs on the pipeline, and therefore more frequent disruptions of the ecosystem, but also will lead to the increased sedimentation issue. When aquatic ecosystems see a major spike in sediment, a wide range of species are put at risk. Leading to clogged fish gills which can result in reduced resistance to disease, lowered growth rates, and affected fish egg and larvae development, large increases in sedimentation can impact species for generations.

### *Why Should I Care?*

Wetlands are a beautiful and unique habitat, providing value to humans and wildlife which no other ecosystem can match. These lands help to mitigate runoff improving overall water quality, provide flood protection, and reduce shoreline erosion. Wetlands provide all of these benefits to humans, while simultaneously being a hotspot for biodiversity, providing a habitat for a multitude of species.



The proposed Killingly Energy Center feeder pipeline would run through many of these wetland areas, potentially creating irreparable damage. Hindering not only the continued restoration of the wetlands in Connecticut but stripping away the benefits provided by them. From an ecocentric perspective, wetlands are already a habitat which has seen massive reductions in area as humans continue to develop. Further degradation and size reductions, greatly limits habitat availability and creates significant ecological strain.