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No need for new Natural Gas plant in Killingly, ISO New England auction proves

Demand for natural gas electricity is declining in New England

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – A proposed 550-megawatt natural gas plant in Killingly, Connecticut, was not selected at the annual ISO New England electricity auction to provide energy for New England. The project developer, NTE Connecticut, LLC, is currently seeking approval from the Connecticut Siting Council for the new plant and argued that being selected at the auction was one of the critical elements to support a need for the new plant.

NTE failed to clear the auction, which sets the electric generation priorities and demand beginning in 2020, because projected demand for natural gas electricity in New England is flat or declining due to increased efficiency and renewable energy. Results of the auction show there is no need for a new natural gas-powered electric generation facility.

"This is further evidence that this project, when considered as a whole, is both unnecessary and unreasonably destructive to the environment," **said Jack Looney, staff attorney at Connecticut Fund for the Environment and its bi-state program Save the Sound.**

The auction resulted in the lowest demand and lowest price since 2013, $5.30 per kilowatt-month, down from $7.03. The auction ended with no major generators planning to retire, no large new generators coming online, and an increase in renewable generation. Due to demand reduction and an increase in renewables, ISO New England was able to reduce its target by 720 megawatts, equal to one new power plant.

"We need to reduce, not increase, our dependency on dirty fossil fuels," **said Leah Schmalz, program director for CFE/Save the Sound.** "Increased efficiency and clean energy not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also feed a robust and resilient power grid and create safe, well-paying, long-term jobs for residents."

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