



Connecticut Chapter
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January 8, 2021

Lidia Howard
Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
Via email: Lidia.Howard@ct.gov

Dear Ms. Howard,

On behalf of Sierra Club's more than 40,000 members and supporters in Connecticut, thank you for the opportunity to provide comment in opposition to UCONN's New Source Review Permit Application Nos. 202003838, 202003843 and 202003845.

Connecticut's Global Warming Solutions Act calls for a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emission below 2001 levels by 2030 and an 80% reduction by 2050. To meet these targets will require a transition from fossil fuels to clean and renewable energy.

UCONN has also made its own commitment to protect the climate through carbon neutrality by 2050. Unfortunately, Connecticut and UCONN's commitments to address the climate crisis are not being followed up with actions to replace fossil fuels with clean alternatives. Both continue to move forward with fossil fuel projects.

UCONN's proposal to replace gas boilers with new gas boilers, locking the campus into fossil fuels, is in contradiction to its commitments, and should be rejected. It is imperative that the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) evaluate this and other fossil fuel infrastructure permits for consistency with attainment of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions set forth in the Global Warming Solutions Act and the goal of 100% zero-carbon electricity set in Governor Lamont's Executive Order 3. We ask DEEP to evaluate the life cycle emissions of fossil gas in its permitting for its compatibility with our state's climate goals. A strong body of research in recent years has uncovered the destructive nature of methane used in gas infrastructure starting from the fracking process and including leaks in pipelines, meters, and equipment. The human health impact of this leaking methane and the pollutants created during combustion is also well documented.

DEEP holds a responsibility to create opportunities and pathways to renewable alternatives. Sierra Club urges DEEP to reject these applications and to work with UCONN to develop a pathway that meets the climate commitments of Connecticut and UCONN.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Samantha Dynowski, State Director, Sierra Club Connecticut