

Stop Project Maple is a multi-state coalition of nearly 100 community organizations in opposition to Enbridge's Project Maple methane gas expansion project.



**PROJECT MAPLE** Enbridge intends to expand its “Algonquin” Gas Transmission (AGT) Pipeline system in the Northeast, affecting [New York](#), [Connecticut](#), [Rhode Island](#) and [Massachusetts](#), as “Project Maple”. This will be the third expansion on this gas pipeline in a decade.



**OPEN SEASON:** In fall of 2023, Enbridge sought bids from buyers for increased capacity on its AGT pipeline. If they had a full slate of customers, it could supply an increase of up to 750,000 Dekatherms a day (Dth/d), depending on customer need. » [See “Project Maple” Open Season info](#) for soliciting bids from customers

As of July, 2024, Enbridge has not filed any projects under the title "Project Maple" with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the primary permitting agency for interstate pipeline systems, but they are moving ahead shoring up contracts and **filing other projects which they claim are unrelated to Project Maple**. This tactic of breaking up a larger project into smaller, separate filings is segmentation, which has been ruled “impermissible” in previous court cases.

**“IMPERMISSIBLE SEGMENTS” FILED WITH FERC:** Two stand-alone projects on the AGT were filed in November 2023 and February 2024 with FERC, both of which could serve to increase Algonquin pipeline system capacity - a stated goal of Project Maple. These were not filed under the name “Project Maple”.

- [FERC docket #CP24-21](#), a new regulator facility to be added to an injection site on the E-1 lateral in [Coventry, CT](#)
- [FERC docket #CP24-49](#), replacement of existing 6" pipeline with a 12" pipeline under the [Sakonnet River in RI](#) (part of Narragansett Bay).

Enbridge asked for "blanket authority" under existing permits from 1987. Blanket authority would have received automatic approval if no protests were filed. As opposing organizations, we were able to get protests filed on both dockets in time to trigger review by FERC, though FERC ultimately approved both projects in June 2024.

## OTHER PROJECTS

### MASSACHUSETTS

**Lincoln/Cambridge** The City of Cambridge purchased land in Lincoln to protect the watershed of the Hobbs Brook Reservoir, also known as the Cambridge Reservoir which is a source of Cambridge's drinking water. The property is state protected and considered priority habitat for endangered species. Enbridge decided to build an enlarged, new metering and regulating station (M&R) on that land; when Cambridge and Lincoln balked at construction in the watershed, Enbridge sued them in federal court and won. Enbridge [was permitted](#) to clear cut approximately 50 trees to create parking space for work crews and equipment.

**Dover/Needham** Enbridge is [excavating pipeline under the Charles River](#) in order to look for pipeline "anomalies". If anomalies are found, this project could lead to pipeline replacement similar to the one under the Sakonnet River in Rhode Island in FERC Docket #CP24-49.

### CONNECTICUT

**Brookfield** Enbridge is doing "maintenance" in and around the compressor station in [Brookfield](#) owned by Berkshire Hathaway Energy and TC Energy (BHE/TC) where the AGT and a BHE/TC owned pipeline called the "Iroquois" enter; this compressor is awaiting permits from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to start a new enlargement.

**Cromwell** Enbridge owns a compressor station in Cromwell, previously enlarged under prior expansion projects, that has emitted volatile organic compounds well in excess of allowable limits for many years. They are currently under a [second consent order](#) which forced them to reduce VOC emissions to legal levels.

## EARLY SIGNS OF PROJECT MAPLE

The first mention of "Project Maple" outside of the Open Season proposal is now appearing as an appeal to the municipal gas & electric commissioners in [Middleborough, MA](#) for a contract to purchase gas off the system. [Their presentation](#) outlines a "lift and relay" plan (replacing smaller pipeline with larger new pipeline in the same right of way) on the "G System" lateral and mentions work on the "J System" lateral near Cambridge, MA. At the meeting in

Middleborough, they stated that this work will be all of Project Maple.

The G System pipeline capacity expansion would be a 6 or 7 mile length of 12" pipeline being replaced with a 30" pipeline. They stated that there are no plans for an increase in compression or new facilities on the main line of the system. This statement omits any details for plans on the laterals, where they stated their plans are focusing.

## STOP PROJECT MAPLE OPPOSITION

***So far, opposition has taken the form of:***

- Filing of protests, comments and motions to intervene on the FERC docket of projects that seem related, despite Enbridge's claim that they are not. This slowed but did not stop approval of these proposals.
- Petitions to governors of Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York.
- Sign-on letters from New York elected officials were presented to the Governor's office in Albany on June 17 with media coverage. A sign-on letter from Connecticut and Massachusetts elected officials to the governors opposing the project will be delivered late summer 2024.
- Numerous articles in newspapers and online outlets in all four states as well as OpEds, radio interviews and multiple presentations to the public and elected leaders.
- Stand out protests in [New York](#), [Connecticut](#), [Rhode Island](#) and [Massachusetts](#)

Will there be a larger portion of "Project Maple"?

Will it continue as a series of segmented, small filings?

Does their claim of no additional compression on the mainline also apply to the large system of lateral pipeline systems?

We don't know.

But we're monitoring, taking action where we can and developing new actions as more details become available.

In the meantime, we're conducting research and analysis in the background into impacts of the existing infrastructure and what expansion of capacity would mean to frontline communities on the ground.

Visit [stopprojectmaple.org](https://stopprojectmaple.org), and return often as this project and its opposition unfolds.

