



ENBRIDGE EXPANSION IN THE NORTHEAST

No Pipeline Expansion (NOPE) Northeast is a multi-state coalition of 100+ community organizations opposed to Enbridge's gas expansion projects in the Northeast.

THE PROPOSAL

Enbridge has proposed expansions of their “Algonquin” Gas Transmission (AGT) pipeline system in the Northeast, which is one of many major interstate pipelines that transport methane gas through our states. These pipelines regularly leak and vent methane into communities along the pipeline, impacting air quality, health, and climate.

Enbridge proposed a major expansion project, named “Project Maple,” in 2023, which was proposed to impact New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. Since then, Enbridge is reported to have renamed the project and changed its size, which purportedly now includes five miles of pipeline segments in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

But during this time Enbridge advanced multiple smaller expansion projects that they claim were unrelated, though increasing deliverability to the areas targeted by Project Maple. We believe these are examples of impermissible pipeline segmentation. Project Maple or its follow-on project will be the third expansion of the AGT pipeline in a decade. The previous two were the AIM and Atlantic Bridge.



Image 1: Map of the AGT pipeline and compressor stations (square boxes) along the route.

SEGMENT EXPANSIONS

Two stand-alone projects along the AGT pipeline, in Coventry, Connecticut and under the Sakonnet River in Rhode Island, were filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 2023 and 2024 under existing permits from 1987. Both projects could increase the pipeline capacity, a stated goal of Project Maple. However, these projects were not filed under the name “Project Maple,” leading to concerns regarding impermissible pipeline segmentation, an illegal process of reducing a project into separate, smaller segments, which show less impact during the National Environmental Protection Act review process. As opposing organizations, we filed protests on both dockets, triggering a review by FERC. FERC approved both projects in June 2024 and they are nearing completion as of May 2025.



CURRENT STATUS

Middleborough (MA) Gas & Electric Department (MGED), a local municipal utility, voted to purchase 1,500 mmbtus, a [unit of energy](#) for “natural” gas, annually from a new Enbridge project, a Project Maple follow up project renamed “Reliable Affordable Resilient Enhancement” (RARE) expansion.

The new project was reported to expand pipeline for approximately three miles in Mendon, Massachusetts and two miles in Rhode Island. The expansion is expected to be completed and in-service in 2029.

The coalition is concerned that this name change may represent an attempt by Enbridge to pursue expansion under old permits. Specific concerns with RARE include:

- The amount of gas that the MGED Commissioners voted to buy from RARE is the same amount they had proposed to buy when the project was named Project Maple. MGED reported that the customers for RARE are “Middleborough and Rhode Island.”
- The two mile expansion in RI is identical to a previous expansion proposed in 2014 as part of the Atlantic Bridge expansion project. This expansion was removed from the Atlantic Bridge project, but if inserted in RARE would connect to the just completed expansion under the Sakonnet River.
- The Cape Cod Pipeline “Replacement” project, brought on by the replacement of the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges, will increase the pipeline system capacity.

OPPOSITION

Formed in November 2023, the No Pipeline Expansion (NOPE) Northeast coalition is fiercely resisting this expansion across our region. This has included:

- Advocates rallied and delivered letters from state and local elected officials to their governor opposing the pipeline expansion.
- Organizations and advocates within the coalition filed protests, comments and motions to intervene on the FERC dockets of related projects, and met with former FERC Commissioner Allison Clements in Boston.
- Coalition members wrote op-eds and letters to the editor opposing the project and calling for action. Check out some of these pieces [here](#).

Visit stopprojectmaple.org for more information:

