

PRESS RELEASE

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Protest at ISO-New England

Demonstrators call on power grid operator to stop subsidizing fossil fuels.

Holyoke, MA (December 26, 2019) - As awareness of the climate crisis continues to grow, the campaign to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy is turning its attention to the role of ISO-New England, the power grid operator for our region. Protestors representing multiple environmental justice organizations in Massachusetts stood peacefully at the gates of ISO-NE with signs and banners as staff arrived for work this morning. The protestors are challenging ISO for continuing to support the burning of fossil fuels with millions of dollars of subsidies, and demanded that ISO commit to a specific shut-down date for the largest coal burning plant in New England (in Bow, New Hampshire).

Earlier this month, Massachusetts [Attorney General Maura Healey launched an effort](#) to educate Massachusetts families and businesses about the substantial public health and economic costs of fossil fuel usage and encourage them to call on ISO-New England to set market rules that support cleaner energy resources ([see the video and the petition to ISO](#)). In November, seven United States [Senators from New England sent a letter to ISO-NE](#) President and CEO Gordan van Welie. In the letter they state “ISO-NE is not considering the region’s environmental and climate goals...[and] appears to be pursuing a patchwork of market reforms aimed at preserving the status quo of a fossil fuel-centered resource mix ...which will force consumers to pay millions of dollars to existing, polluting power plants with on-site fuel supplies, such as oil, coal, or liquefied natural gas.”

Today’s demonstration is part of the [#NoCoalNoGas](#) campaign that has organized [protests at the coal-fired Merrimack Generating Station at Bow, NH and blockades](#) to stop the coal trains that supply this plant. “We stand with those who are blockading the coal trains. We join the Attorney General and U.S. Senators in calling on ISO to adopt energy market rules that promote affordable clean energy, healthy communities, and climate protection. And we demand that ISO New England commit to a specific shut down date for the Merrimack Station coal plant in Bow New Hampshire,” said Steven Botkin, one of the protest organizers.

If you would like more information contact

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