

November 2, 2015

NH Site Evaluation Committee
Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Comments in Support of The Northern Pass Project

Dear Site Evaluation Committee:

I am submitting this testimony as a former Northwood selectman; a 28 year resident of Northwood; and as a former Business Manager to the late Democratic Governor Hugh Gallen at the Governor's Council on Energy more than 35 years ago. Ironically in June 1981 following talks between Gov. Gallen and the director general of Quebec's Ministry of Energy Resources, Dennis L'Homme, an agreement was signed in New Castle to bring hydroelectric power from Canada into New England within four years (by 1985).

The agreement called for New Hampshire to build a high-voltage power line from a dam on the Connecticut River at Monroe, west of Littleton, to the Quebec border at Pittsburg by 1985. Initial reaction in New Hampshire was favorable. Michael Love, Chairman of the state-PUC said the lines in New Hampshire would try to follow existing rights of way wherever possible. Michael Cornelius, state energy director said preliminary talks with North Country officials showed a positive response. Paul Bofinger, the former long-time visionary head of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests said his organization was not necessarily against the plan, but that it would require an environmental impact statement.

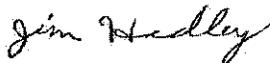
The line would be among the largest in the country at that time with a planned capacity of 2,000 megawatts, one-tenth of New England's power capability. "This agreement is a major achievement for New Hampshire in our pursuit of hydro power from Quebec", Gov. Gallen said. He said that it would assure residents a source of inexpensive power while helping Hydro Quebec, the provincial utility, sell off its excess electricity. Unfortunately Gov. Gallen lost his re-election bid for a third term in November 1982 and our state's energy policy has been labelled as dysfunctional ever since.

I am requesting that the Site Evaluation Committee support this project for the following reasons:

1. This is a public energy policy opportunity to bring in low-cost hydro power at no cost to NH residents. We missed out 35 years ago (as described above). Let's not make this same mistake.
2. Within this past week, Governor Maggie Hassan signed the Under 2 MOU where signatories agree to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions 80-90 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.
3. Within this past week, Gov. Hassan also highlighted her support (along with U.S. Sen. Shaheen) for the Clean Power Plan, administered by the EPA which establishes the first-ever national standards to limit carbon pollution from power plants.
4. A simple cost-benefit analysis shows how quickly the benefits outweigh the costs of this project.

If you have any questions, please contact me at jhadley@metrocast.net.

Sincerely,



Jim Hadley, MPA, MBA, MS in Community Economic Development
Attachment

The New York Times



This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers, please click here or use the "Reprints" tool that appears next to any article. Visit www.nytreprints.com for samples and additional information. Order a reprint of this article now. »

June 14, 1981

NEW HAMPSHIRE AND QUEBEC SIGN PACT MAJOR POWER SUPPLY LINE

AP

CONCORD, N.H., June 13— Hydroelectric power from Canada could begin flowing into New England within four years under an agreement that has been reached between New Hampshire and Quebec.

The agreement, which was signed this week, calls for New Hampshire to build a high-voltage power line from a dam on the Connecticut River at Monroe, west of Littleton, to the Quebec border at Pittsburg by 1985. The Canadian portion of the power line should be in place in the mid-1980's, officials said in a statement.

Initial reaction in New Hampshire was favorable, in contrast to opposition to a similar \$300 million plan for a corridor on the Vermont side of the river, which became an issue in that state's gubernatorial campaign.

The line would be among the largest in the country, with a planned capacity of 2,000 megawatts, one-tenth of New England's power capability. Signing of Accord

The agreement was signed by Mr. Gallen and Dennis L'Homme, director general of Quebec's Ministry of Energy Resources, after a day of talks in New Castle.

"This agreement is a major achievement for New Hampshire in our pursuit of hydro power from Quebec," Mr. Gallen said. He said that it would assure state residents a source of inexpensive power while helping Hydro Quebec, the provincial utility, sell off its excess electricity.

Michael Love, chairman of the state Public Utilities Commission, said that the New Hampshire route would be a 200-foot swath with 84-foot towers, running 71 miles. He said that the lines in New Hampshire "would try to follow existing rights of way wherever possible."

He said that the power from Canada would not be enough to make the Seabrook nuclear power plant unnecessary. "We will still need Seabrook to solve the major energy problems," he said of the twin reactors, which are scheduled to be completed in 1984 and 1986.

Michael Cornelius, New Hampshire's director of energy, said that most of the landowners affected by the agreement were paper companies rather than individual owners.

He said that even if Vermont had approved a power line there, New Hampshire would have gone ahead with its own plans, which called for completion in almost half the time.

"We're interested in having the line in place at the earliest possible date," he said. Methods of Financing Project

Mr. Cornelius said that the cost of a New Hampshire line could be borne in several ways: by members of the New England Power Pool, an association of New England utilities, if it was made part of the agreement; by New Hampshire utilities, if only the state was involved, or by New Hampshire Energy Authority bonds, if such an agency was established.

Mr. Love said that the proposal sought to quicken completion of a New Englandwide interconnection with Canada by 1988. Before then, the line would carry Quebec surplus power.

Talks between Quebec and the state began when Mr. Gallen and state energy officials traveled to the province and Newfoundland in April. Paul Ambrosino, special assistant to the New Hampshire Governor's Council on Energy, said, "Quebec was sensitive to the public opposition in Vermont."

Vermont has a stiff review process for construction of power lines. David Merrill, an executive vice president of Public Service Company of New Hampshire, said that Quebec officials were impressed that New Hampshire's review process was simpler and faster than Vermont's.

"New Hampshire officials expressed the opinion the line could be built entirely in New Hampshire without any problem," he said.

[Copyright 2015 The New York Times Company](#) | [Home](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Search](#) | [Corrections](#) | [XML](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Back to Top](#)