

To the SEC,

the suggestions, by Mr. Hawk, regarding transmission line setbacks, were never incorporated into the Rules.

“Questions? Comments? Mr. Hawk.”

MR. HAWK: “I think this suggests to me that there's a dual setback thinking we have to talk about, too, as we just did with wind farms. That there's the physical failure of the towers, you know, maybe there's a break in the cable and it goes off-site or something like that. So, there's a physical aspect. And, then, there's the EMF issue that I agree is still very much out there, in terms of whether it's real or not. **But I think we ought to be protecting the public**, if that proves in ten or twenty years to be the case. So, I would look at two different standards here, physical damage and EMF concerns.” (my emphasis)

<http://www.nhsec.nh.gov/projects/2014-04/documents/150415minutes.pdf>

Mr. Hawk's statement was supported by the SB-99 Health & Safety report which references criteria from several states and the FERC and HUD standards which Mr. Wiesner noted earlier in the discussion

FERC setbacks are simple: the distance from a transmission structure to the edge of the ROW must be equal to the potential height of mature trees outside the ROW. In this area, that means 100'.

<https://www.nh.gov/oep/energy/programs/documents/sb99-setbacks-transmission-ferc.pdf>

Mr. Burack's statement;

“it may be that we're best just to leave this language as it is, and give the applicant an opportunity to bring their assessment in. And, if there are others who wish to challenge that or wish to bring in data suggesting some different -- some different analysis, certainly parties could do that as well”

avoids making rules in favor of regulation by litigation.
The SEC should set sensible setback standards rather than assume that most “parties” have the means to buy a \$50,000-\$500,000 plate at the SEC table.

National Grid doesn't want setbacks incorporated in the rules, though FERC setbacks are there to protect lines (and service) from storm damage.

Eversource has three transmission projects before the SEC, Seacoast, Merrimack Valley (with National Grid) and Northern Pass. Northern Pass could not be built above ground on existing ROWs if it had to provide for a fall zone. Eversource is represented by Mr. Getz. Five members of the present SEC served with Mr. Getz when he was a member of the SEC. It would be a shame if the SEC acted to further the interests of a corporation represented by a former member, rather than in the interests of the many electric consumers in NH, and those near transmission ROWs.

Kris Pastoriza, Easton, NH

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