



# Presby Environmental, Inc.

*The Next Generation of Wastewater Treatment Technology*

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July 31, 2015

Attorney David Wiesner  
Site Evaluation Commission  
c/o Public Utilities Commission  
21 S. Fruit St, Suite 10  
Concord NH 03301-2429

RE: Bury the Transmission Lines for Northern Pass

Dear Governor Hassan:

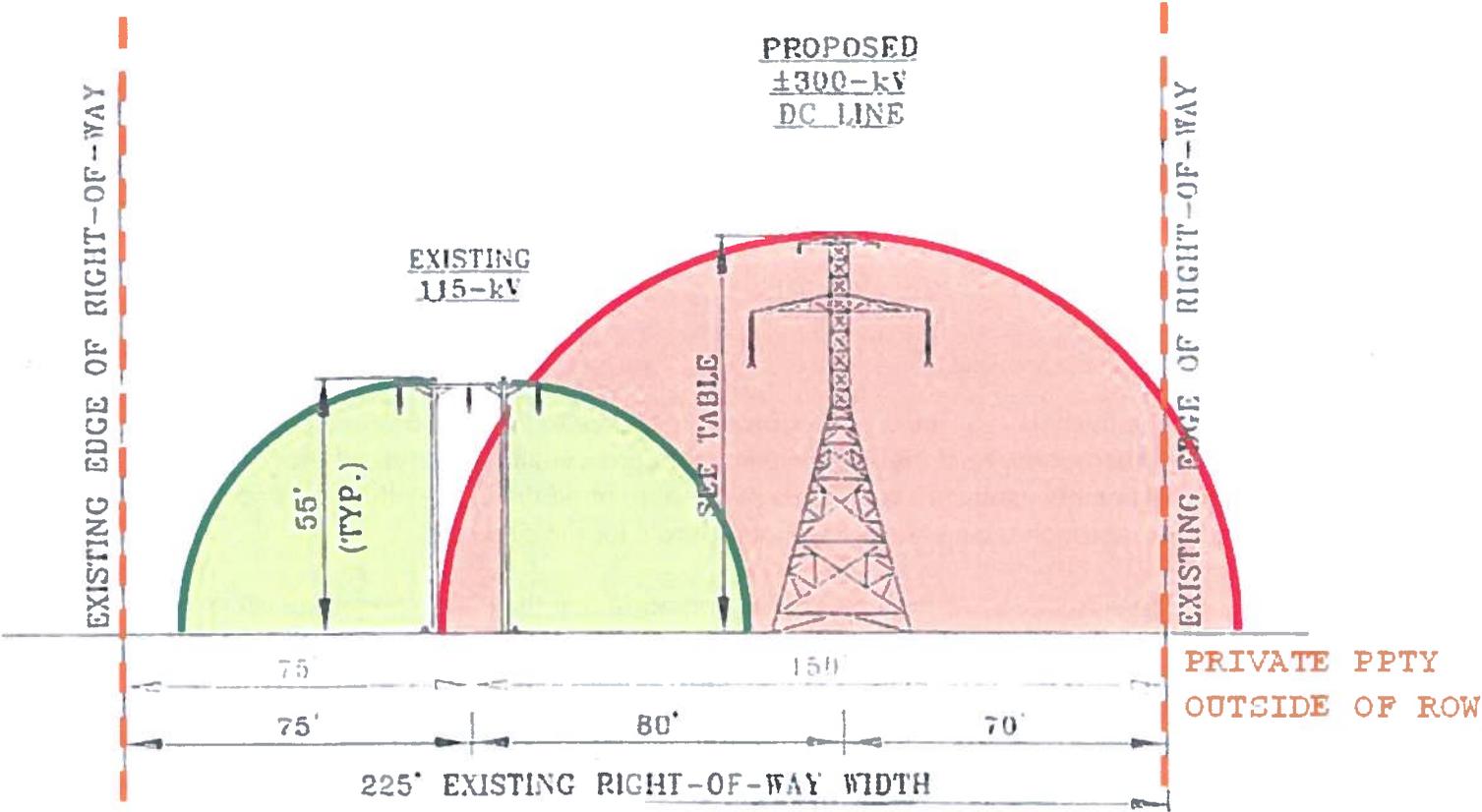
I am writing today in support of the effort to force Eversource to bury the transmission lines proposed for Northern Pass. As a lifelong resident, entrepreneur and employer of the North Country, I am adamantly against Eversource's proposal to build the high-voltage electric transmission lines through the heart of New Hampshire's tourist economy.

Please change the current SEC rules under consideration so that they fairly honor the values and property of the citizens of New Hampshire. Large companies like Eversource already have seemingly limitless financial, political and legal advantages – level the playing field so that citizens and their property have an equal voice in the consideration of any large energy projects in New Hampshire.

If Eversource is allowed to put in high tension power lines, it will destroy the properties of thousands of residents and businesses that call the North Country their home because of the quality of life and priceless views available to those who choose to live, work and play in the beautiful, rural areas of our state. The harm to these properties will unfairly shift the burden on the taxpayers by devaluing some and causing other property owners to pay more to balance the coffers. Finally, not only will it hurt property values and the towns' tax base, but it will also remove the ability of the land to provide a livelihood through timber taxes and logging revenue.

It is also worthwhile to note that it has always been my belief, based upon personal experience, that a tower in a right of way (ROW) should be designed in such a way so that if it ever falls, it will only fall within the right of way so that it will not land on, or damage, any property that it does not have rights to. The current plan for the transmission lines does not guard against such an event. As you can see in the diagram below, even when the towers are in the lower end of their proposed range of heights (80 to 138 ft), the area on either side of the tower is not large enough to prevent the towers and lines from falling either in the woods on property outside of the ROW that they do not have rights to (causing unsafe situations on property that Eversource does not own) or on the existing power lines (causing extensive outages and costly repairs). Simply put,

Eversource cannot guarantee that overhead lines will not collapse during inclement weather or that their towers will not harm other property or existing lines.



I witnessed firsthand what happens to these large transmission lines when they fall, and the damage and havoc that ensues. I drove trucks through Quebec in the aftermath of the infamous ice storm of 1998, when the ice caused downed transmission lines and extensive power outages. Burying the transmission lines will ensure that such an event will not occur in New Hampshire, and prevent unnecessary harm to people and property.



It is hard to believe that when landowners originally signed the electricity conveyance easements over 60 years ago, that they ever envisioned or would have agreed to a project like Northern Pass. Certainly Eversource's predecessors never foresaw this project or they would have bought bigger ROWs at the time in order to support the bigger, taller structures required for Northern Pass. **When the original ROWs were bought by the power company, they intended to eventually erect identical power lines like the one that already exists in the ROW; thus, at the time they bought the exact width needed for an identical line to ensure the safe operation of the power lines within the existing ROW. Had they intended to install bigger high voltage lines, they would have, and should have, bought a wider ROW.**

The Northern Pass project is extending, without permission, the original agreement between landowners and the electricity utilities by installing "large industrial-appearing lattice structures" that would obscure the scenic view by towering over the natural treeline (in some cases, more than doubling the height of existing poles), widening the original rights of way, and causing disruption to our way of living. Please do not let the economic interests of a large conglomerate get in the way of doing what's right for New Hampshire and its citizens.

Not only will Northern Pass harm me personally, passing right through the land on which I built my home, but it will also impact several other parcels of land that I own, as well as those of my neighbors. Please don't let Eversource destroy the value of my home, my neighbors' homes, and the businesses I have worked hard to grow and keep in the North Country.

The only way that Eversource should be able to upgrade its transmission lines is through committing to bury all new lines associated with the project. Eversource certainly has the money and resources to do so, and the recent Economic Impact Statement has shown that burial of the lines will not only preserve the recreation and tourism industries that make New Hampshire the wonderful state that it is, but will also bring far more short-term and permanent jobs to a state that truly needs them. The contractors of New Hampshire are not qualified to install high tension power lines, but can very easily be employed to bury underground transmission lines, thus ensuring the available jobs go to in-state workers.

Sincerely,



David W. Presby  
President, Presby Environmental, Inc.  
Resident of Sugar Hill, Grafton County, NH  
Employer of North Country Residents