

Dr. Regis C. Miller

BRIEF

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There is no question that this Project will unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region. I have been attending Technical Sessions and Hearings since mid-July and I have learned much. The Seacoast Reliability Project will result in severe environmental impacts to include the destructive and disrespectful jet plowing across Little Bay, the harmful installation of thousands and thousands of pounds of unsightly concrete slabs into the Bay and along the shore lines, the devastating mowing down of precious marshlands and woodlands, the destruction of cherished farm lands/soil, and the audacious installation of grotesque high voltage transmission towers across properties, historic farmlands and the shorelines of Little Bay. Esthetics, land use, tourism, and real estate property values will also be seriously impacted.

Most concerning, is the degradation of Little Bay. Great Bay/Little Bay is considered an estuary of national significance and it is already in danger. Multiple reports note that there are a variety of indicators that the Bay is declining. For example, Eel grass, the linchpin of the health of the estuary, is weak and vulnerable. It is inconceivable that the proposed Project can have anything but a seriously detrimental effect on the Bay, a most fragile natural resource.

An important consideration is: What Eversource thinks they can achieve, will they be able to achieve? There continues to be way too many unanswered questions surrounding this Project. For example, still Eversource cannot predict or even estimate the exact number of concrete slabs to be installed along our shorelines and into the Bay. Low tides/mud flats can extend up to one-half mile across the Bay! Moreover, Eversource has no idea of the effect of jet plowing on the Bay and they preposterously propose a “trial run” when no one can forecast or envision the long term detrimental effects of this “experiment”. It may pass the smell test on the trial run initially, but who can foresee the impact of the trial run and subsequently the Project, in the months and years to come? The lack of empirical data is staggering.

Finally, and perhaps most egregious, is that Eversource is failing to mitigate the devastation this Project will create by their refusal to bury the cables along the easement down to the Bay, their rejection to implement horizontal drilling to lessen

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the negative impact to the Bay, and, most importantly, their opposition to proceed with a different route entirely where the trauma and shock resulting from this Project will be significantly abated.

If this project is approved as presented, I will question for the rest of my life how and why that decision was made when there exists so many feasible and viable alternatives. The negative impact of this Project as presented is monumental on so many fronts.