

4-24-15

NH-DES

Timothy W. Drew, Administrator
Public Information and Permitting Unit
Concord, NH

Dear Mr. Drew,

I had the opportunity to attend a Public Information Session sponsored by Eversource in Durham on Wednesday, April 22, 2015. As you may imagine, concern among citizens regarding the possible impacts of the proposed "Seacoast Reliability Project" is substantial.

I wish to share with you my reaction based on the conversations I had with engineers and contractors in attendance on behalf of Eversource and ask that you include my thoughts in the public record for the project.

First, "If you build it, they will come". If the demand for electricity is not expanding as Eversource says, this power-line expansion will almost certainly guarantee that it will. This is a short term investment for long term profits, plain and simple.

The projected "need", as presented by Eversource, is not well substantiated, in my opinion.

The NH Public Utilities Commission and the NH Site Evaluation Committee must demand greater efficiency in electrical production and consumption. Communities would be better served by shifting the burden of inefficiency to those users who are careless and to manufacturers of electrical appliances in order to mitigate/reduce demand.

The existing distribution lines could be paired and upgraded to heavier gauge wires so that more current can travel along existing routes without significant impact relative to existing conditions.

The national grid would be less vulnerable if we used micro-grids that can stand alone while at the same time be interconnected for backup in the event of a local calamity. Reliance on fewer corridors increases vulnerability.

Expansion of solar and wind options would reduce the need for long-distance, high-voltage transmission lines.

The proposed huge increase in pole height is an insult to the aesthetic value of the communities.

The investment by Eversource is totally self-serving in that the money spent will be recovered from rate payers while guaranteeing a return to the company/investors. Again, the argument that the "need" exists is suspect.

The development of additional, less intrusive routes will offer greater security, more options for access to power, and reduce vulnerability to attack or mishap. Alternative routes and options need to be vetted by developers, emergency preparedness professionals and impacted property owners and residents. Eversource fell way, way short of convincing me that the seacoast area will benefit from this proposal.

Thank you for sharing my thoughts with members of the boards, committees and commissions that have parts to play in the evaluation process.

Cordially,

Malcolm Sandberg
Durham NH
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