

4/24/2015

From: Nancy Bulkley [<mailto:nmbulkley@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2015 10:36 AM
To: Burack, Thomas
Subject: Seacoast Reliability Project

Hello Thomas,

I am a resident of Durham NH and am contacting you as a representative to the NH SEC. As you know, this project will have important and detrimental effects on Durham wetlands and potentially, the Great Bay estuary. This is the link to the proposal on file with our town http://www.ci.durham.nh.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/administration/psnh_seacoast_reliability_project.pdf. Having recently completed the construction of a new home on Great Bay we are fully aware of the importance of compliance with DES Shoreland and Wetlands protection laws. This includes a solar array that produces excess supply seasonally, that is pumped back to the grid. Durham is very progressive in its policies that promote energy conservation, energy efficiency, and are overall conscientious environmental stewards. Many of us are concerned about the large scale cutting required to install the new utility poles through Durham Point and Adams Point. Although the plan allows for underground wires under Little Bay, the clearing required to get the lines to the shoreline will definitely present environmental concerns for its close proximity to the water. One of the specific parts of the selection process that concerns me is the criteria that Durham was chosen for "minimizing permitting complexity". How can that be? Isn't DES permitting consistent among the towns? The other area that is of great concern is the lack of any supporting documentation regarding environmental testing, NH Natural Heritage Bureau search results for protected species. We have many bird, water species in this area critical to the preservation of our ecosystem. Metal poles extending far higher than existing wood poles, 20 ft clearing on either side of the poles for miles, construction debris and traffic in sensitive areas will wreak havoc on this area.

At our public meeting, PSNH reps did not answer questions as they said they were collecting questions and needed to reply in writing. One would hope that representatives for such a large scale project with considerable detrimental environmental impact would be knowledgeable and forthcoming with information regarding NH DES Shoreland and Wetlands protection.

As you know, the Great Bay Estuary is an amazing and complex system. And one that needs to be protected for the health and stability of the region. Has PSNH/Eversource really presented a clear argument for the necessity of such a project that requires substantial cutting of existing lands so close to protected waters? Is the plan really what is needed to manage Seacoast electrical demand given future needs? Have they explored alternative approaches to cutting demand through conservation approaches? IS there better technologies or processes that can service the demand in a more environmentally friendly way? Perhaps running underground lines, although more costly to the company, would be a better solution for delivering the power given the environmentally sensitive area along the project route?

Homeowners, and other businesses must comply with a simple and valuable “least impact” rule for projects that potentially disrupt our environment. Why should utilities not abide by this important safeguard?

Thank you for your time,
Respectfully,
Nancy Menelly Bulkley
Durham NH