



CITY OF SOMERSWORTH

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1 Government Way – Somersworth, NH 03878

603-692-9516

September 8th, 2015

Timothy W. Drew, Administrator
NH Site Evaluation Committee
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
Public Information and Permitting Unit
P.O. Box 95
Concord NH 03302

RE: Seacoast Reliability Project

Dear Mr. Drew:

I am writing today in support of the Seacoast Reliability Project that will bring needed electric reliability, stability and economic development possibilities to the greater seacoast region.

The seacoast region's electric demand is growing at a much faster rate than the rest of the State. In fact, it is expected that our demand will represent approximately 25% of New Hampshire's electric demand by 2020. We have experienced significant growth in advanced manufacturing, one of the largest utility consumers, and want to be able to meet those needs. Our largest employer, Contitech-Thermopol, has grown from a couple hundred employees to over 800 in less than five years. A few miles from our rapidly growing employer is Albany/Safran, a highly publicized and celebrated expansion that promises hundreds of new well-paying jobs.

We feel confident that our business and industry sector will continue to grow. Even with the numerous energy efficiency measures that have been implemented we are not confident that the current electrical transmission system will be able to meet their needs.

The seacoast communities have many assets to promote the region as a desirable place to locate a business. It is fairly easy to boast about our schools, outdoor activities and cultural opportunities. Our challenges often center on infrastructure costs and availability. We ask that you allow the proposed upgrades enabling our communities to better serve the needs of our citizens and employers.

Best Regards,

Christine J. Soutter
Economic Development Manager
City of Somersworth