

SEC COMMENTS COLLECTION

SECDocket	2015-04 Eversource Seacoast
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To the Site Evaluation Public Committee of New Hampshire:

I am writing this letter as a high school senior who has lived within the town of Durham for the entirety of my childhood. This letter is regarding the plan, by Eversource, to install power lines through the Oyster River district and across the Great Bay into Newington. Although I am concerned with the environmental impact of digging a trench through the Great Bay, the aesthetic mutilation of sections of our town, and for the rights of landowners directly impacted by the installation, I was for a time conflicted based upon the basis of beneficial tax revenue and New England's reliance on fossil fuels.

Expert estimates on the reliability of fossil fuels range from as soon as 8 years from now to more optimistic estimates of 2042. Either way, as a society we need to prepare for a drastic shift in energy consumption habits. The Seacoast Reliability Project, as intrusive, ugly, and possibly catastrophic to the Great Bay estuary, is nonetheless an opportunity to wean the New England region off fossil fuels. A region that at the moment relies on fossil fuels for about 50% of our energy needs.

I see the energy crisis that our civilization will face within my lifetime as having three different stages of an eventual solution. We are currently experiencing the first stage of that process being fossil fuel reliance, continual demand for subterranean oils, and CO2 emissions growing. The second stage is what I would refer to as alternative energy. These are things such as hydroelectric, and nuclear that are far more sustainable than oil. And lastly, which I hope will be our final and long term solution to this problem, is solar and wind energy. Rather than having centralized power production plants as we have now, we should eventually manage our power at a very local level via wind and solar.

To connect back to the Seacoast Reliability Project, the second stage as I discuss above is what this project gives us the opportunity to begin. We as a society have the choice to willingly stop our use of fossil fuels or be stunned and nationwide power outages when we run out of these resources within the next few decades.

For the folks in Durham who are worried about the damage to the Great Bay watershed, the ugliness of 100 foot towers soaring above the trees of Durham point road, and the displacement/devaluing of private property along its path, I hear your opinions loud and clear. But what everyone on both sides should do is step back and think of this project as a piece of the greater energy puzzle that my generation will be forced to solve. This, I believe, will result in most people embracing the use of hydroelectric energy, despite the impacts of its transportation through our beloved district.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Isaak
ORHS Class of 2017

References

Carter, Michael. "Seacoast Project Part of Bigger Energy Puzzle." Fosters.com. N.p., 22 Apr. 2015. Web. 21 Dec. 2016.

"When Will Fossil Fuel Reserves Be Diminished?" When Will Fossil Fuel Reserves Be Diminished? N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Dec. 2016.