

From: Susan Richman <susan7richman@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 10, 2017 8:24 PM
To: Monroe, Pamela
Subject: Comment on Eversource reliability project for Little Bay

Dear Pamela Monroe,

I am writing about an issue that might seem local, but that has ramifications for the greater environmental and commercial health of New Hampshire. I also fear this “David and Goliath” scenario--a face-off between large, deep-pocketed commercial interests and the local citizens who will feel the impact—is occurring in many localities around our country. And therefore I hope you can use your influence to protect the future of the Seacoast’s Great Bay.

Eversource has proposed a “reliability” project for jet-plowing Little Bay, a procedure never done before in a tidal shallow estuary. However, the discrepancies between the assertions made by Eversource and the findings of independent scientists are so significant, that it should put the brakes on this project until we can be certain of its safety!

For example, Eversource asserts that water quality tests and standards are being met, even as independent scientists show evidence that Eversource is in violation of NH Surface Water Quality standards. Although Eversource claims that no damaging sediments will be dispersed, they did not test finer sediments--which are carriers of toxic chemicals. Eversource has sought to minimize the amounts of nitrogen expected to be released by the jet plowing, but independent scientists find nitrogen release will actually be 300 times that released in a day by the Durham Wastewater facility. This excess nitrogen can be expected to create “dead zones” in the water. And furthermore, what will be the effect on the riparian zone, when 300 feet of shoreline are dug up, to be covered over with 300 feet of concrete “mattress”?

Not so long ago, a group of brave citizens saved the bay from an oil refinery. Once again, a commercial interest is willing to put a vibrant, fragile, beloved ecosystem in peril. Eversource has the money and lawyers to put up a good fight. Please heed the concerns of independent scientists, and protect the vitality of this invaluable resource.

Thank you,

Susan and David Richman

16 Cowell Drive (inland address)

Durham, NH 03824

603-868-2758