

From: Town Administrator [<mailto:townadmin@townofbristolnh.org>]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 10:13 AM
To: Drew, Tim
Subject: Northern Pass

Good morning Mr. Drew,

How are you today?

Please find attached for your information a copy of a letter from the Bristol Select Board to Mr. Quinlan at Eversource voicing their continued concerns with the proposed Northern Pass Project. The Town of Bristol, along with many of the other communities along the route, have renewed our objection to this project in that, in its current form, the impacts from construction far outweigh the benefits of the project.

Although the application has not yet been received, we would also like to inquire as to the appropriate procedure to file for intervenor status when appropriate.

As always, we thank you for your prompt attention to these matters,

Best Regards,

Michael R. Capone
Bristol Town Administrator



TOWN OF BRISTOL

230 Lake Street, Bristol, NH 03222

September 21, 2015

Mr. William J. Quinlan
President
Eversource New Hampshire Electric Operations
780 N. Commercial Street
Manchester, NH 03101

Dear Mr. Quinlan,

The Bristol Select Board is in receipt of your most recent proposal for the Northern Pass Project, the "Forward NH Plan". While we applaud your efforts to address some of the concerns expressed by the residents of New Hampshire with regard to your original submission, in the estimation of this Board your revised plan remains inadequate in that it does not fully address the needs of all communities along the route.

The visual impacts of the project remain one of our areas of greatest concern. The current transmission line runs through the existing right of way which is cleared to a width of approximately 150 feet. The Northern Pass project will expand the cleared right of way to almost 275 feet in many places and introduce an additional line of even taller poles into the viewshed. There will be an added impact to historic sites in the area of the Pemigewasset River as well. The obvious solution to these challenges is to bury the line along its entire length.

The visual impacts and the associated decline in property values is not the only reason to bury the line. As was noted in the Department of Energy Draft Environmental Study, burying the line would have the additional benefits of creating even more, short and long term employment than building the route overhead.

Another area of concern remains your insistence on touting the tax benefits of the project to the communities along the route while at the same time challenging those tax assessments in court costing communities thousands of dollars in legal fees. In the past three years, the Town of Bristol has spent more than \$36,000 in legal fees to defend our values and despite the most recent BTLA ruling which clearly shows deep flaws in your assessing methods you continue to appeal those rulings. This will cost our Town even more in legal fees.

Your new plan also touts a 200 million dollar "Forward NH Fund" with initiatives to support tourism, economic development and community investment. Our suggestion would be to invest that money into burying the line along its entire route and stop your abatement proceedings. That will better support New Hampshire tourism, economic development and community investment.

"Gateway to Newfound Lake"

Phone: 603-744-3354 ~ Fax: 603-744-2521 ~ www.townofbristolnh.org

While we could go further to support our position, we will end with a comment with regard to the Town of Bristol's preferred alternative for the project. We feel that alternative 4A as presented in the DOE Draft EIS Summary, while "disadvantageous to the applicant" would provide the communities along the route with the greatest advantage in terms of impacts to those communities.

We hope you will continue to listen to the residents of our great State of New Hampshire and take the necessary steps to further mitigate the impacts of this project. We thank you for the opportunity to comment on your revised plan and would be happy to meet with you at any time to further discuss our concerns.

Best Regards,


The Bristol Select Board



Janet Cote, Chair



Shaun Lagoux, Vice Chair



Rick Alpers, Select Board



Paul Manganiello, Select Board



Betsy Schneider, Select Board