

SEC COMMENTS COLLECTION

SECDocket	2015-06
CommenterName	Daniel Wise
CommenterCity	Concord
DateReceived	02-21-2016

COMMENTERWORDS

Dear Site Evaluation Committee:

We are writing to express our opposition to the Northern Pass project as proposed.

We are residents of Concord. We do not live within sight of the enlarged towers called for, but we live not far from there, and frequently hike on the Concord Conservation Commission trails overlooking them, and use the boat launch in the Turtletown Pond that lies under its proposed path.

More importantly, we are citizens of New Hampshire who treasure its natural environment and frequently hike in the White Mountains and visit the North Country areas that the Northern Pass would be built through. Our unspoiled forests and majestic mountains are our calling card as a state. Why jeopardize our assets for the benefit of two energy companies?

Northern Pass is not an "energy" project -- it is a real estate deal for Eversource and a cheap route to profits for Hydro Quebec. We do not believe that the Northern Pass proponents have succeeded in proving that this project is only possible with the current design of overhead towers strung through our forests, private lands and communities.

Our preference is that Northern Pass be abandoned and that energy companies and the government do more to invest and move forward true renewable energy sources -- community and individual home solar arrays, energy conservation, and carefully sited wind energy projects. An integral part of the Hydro Quebec project is to flood even more acres of Quebec forests, which exacerbates our carbon sequestration problems. More troubling, there is no guarantee that the Northern Pass transmission lines would not ultimately be used to transport electricity from dirty sources such as tar sands, of which Quebec has substantial reserves.

If short-term needs for electricity in southern New England dictate that the project be built, then we advocate complete burial of the line -- along New Hampshire's public rights of way on the highways. This would remove the "real estate deal" aspect of the plan for Eversource which is seeking to capitalize on easements granted for the current modest power poles, not for large scale, industrial-looking transmission lines. Instead the taxpayers of New Hampshire would be the beneficiary of easement fees paid by Hydro Quebec and there would be a minimum of disruptive construction activity and visual blight generated by the project.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Dan Wise Lillian Wise