

Eversource made the claim in the first paragraph of their application that this project is clean renewable energy. That is not true. Conservation New Hampshire, Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Greenpeace, Environment Connecticut, Environment Council of Rhode Island, Clean Water Action, New England Clean Energy Council, Vermont Natural Resources Council, Pew Environmental Group, International Rivers Network, Natural Resources Defense Council, Nature Quebec, Manitoba Wildlands, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Rivers Foundation, Union of Concerned Scientists, National Institute for Research, Friends of the Earth, The Energy Justice Network, The Indigenous Environmental Network, Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources, and Alliance Romaine. These are all environmental organizations that have all come out in opposition to industrial hydroelectricity. I can't read them all but according to the Hydropower Reform Coalition, a consortium of 150 conservation, recreation and faith organizations oppose industrial hydro power due to its effect on the ecosystem. It is not clean energy and does nothing to combat global climate change. In fact it contributes to it.

International Rivers Organization: "Dams ravage floodplains which are among the richest and most productive ecosystems on Earth. Freshwater systems such as rivers, wetlands and lakes are already more seriously affected by species extinction than any other major ecosystem, and dams are one of the main reasons for this." The Canadian boreal forest is being destroyed even faster than the Amazon Rain forest.

Patrick McCully, Executive Director of the International Rivers Network: "Canada should not destroy its rivers for electricity or for dollars from exporting electricity to the US. Both countries have massive potential for reducing electricity use through improving efficiency and for replacing dirty coal plants with clean renewables such as wind and sustainable biomass."

Joel Heath, University of British Columbia: "None of these dams [built for U.S. export markets] have any water management policies whatsoever." Dr. Heath said he wishes his American neighbors understood what was taking place to the north before rushing headlong into buying power many would view as clean or renewable. "A lot of these projects are being greenwashed as renewable energy, but they're not really. They're destroying river systems."

Union of Concerned Scientists website: Global warming emissions are produced during the installation, operation and dismantling of hydroelectric power plants.

Éric Duchemin, a consultant for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: "The green image of hydro power as a benign alternative to fossil fuels is false. Everyone thinks hydro is very clean, but this is not the case."

John Bennett of Sierra Club Canada opposes the Northern Pass project. Bennett said building out this transmission corridor only "undermines" the world's energy future and "hooks people to the past. Power should be generated close to where it's being used."

Manitoba Wildlands Director, Gaile Whelan Enns: "It is now well recognized that building dams, with power lines – and reservoirs, destroys boreal, taiga and tundra ecosystems; affects fish populations and wildlife habitat; causes mercury contamination in fish, in humans, and in wildlife that eat fish."

I heard a rumor that the SEC doesn't take the Canadian environment into consideration, but we're talking about the planet here. If the Northern Pass is stamped with a seal of approval by the State of NH, you really should know what you're approving. We would, in essence, be condoning an environmental and social disaster. Eversource claims this is clean renewable energy. They're wrong on both counts.

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