

My husband and I are abutters to the Northern Pass project here in Deerfield. I was unable to stay long enough to submit my testimony at the hearing held at the Deerfield Fair Grounds on Wednesday evening.

Initially I hesitated to voice opposition. Though we are abutters to the project and live within two miles from the center of town which will be adversely affected by NPT, we believed that if Eversource would agree to bury the lines we could live harmoniously with the project alongside our property. All of my adult life I have tried never to take a "not in my backyard" approach to issues.

However as this process has proceeded I have become increasingly disturbed by the untruths from Eversource. I just completed a term as a Selectwoman in this town and I assure you that the following statement which I take from the Executive Summary of the Northern Pass Transmission Project could not be further from the truth:

“DNPT performed extensive outreach along the proposed Project route and throughout New Hampshire to ensure that residents received detailed information about the Project and its benefits, and had an opportunity to share their concerns and receive answers to their questions”

At the first presentation, there was no opportunity for questions to be answered in public; only individually at the various "stations" around the room. In my role as a Selectwoman,

I spoke with several NPT officials at that meeting, expressing concern about the format, noting that the lack of a public Q+A was disturbing. I was assured that there would be plenty of opportunity for public input and open discussion. That has not been the case.

At the second meeting, also held at the Deerfield Fair Grounds, the format was much the same as this past Wednesday night. One-way questions with no opportunity for clarification or follow-up. No opportunity for questions to be answered in a way that instills any sense of trust.

I was struck Wednesday evening by the Chairman's admonishment of the crowd, asking the crowd to treat the presenters with respect and yet, the set up of every NPT meeting has been outright insulting to the public. I understand the need for a format that could handle what could be emotional outbursts by landowners legitimately concerned about their home and community. But these meetings have frankly been insulting and useless. By no stretch of the imagination could it be said that NPT has performed "extensive outreach".

I implore the members of the SEC to hold NPT to communication with the public that is actually productive and not insulting and contrived.

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