

**From:** John Petrofsky [<mailto:jpetrofsky@googlemail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 21, 2016 2:15 PM  
**To:** Pelletier, Rene  
**Subject:** Re: Northern Pass Wetlands Impacts

Hi Rene,

I hope you're doing well. I wanted to check that you had received my prior email, and see if you had any thoughts on it. Please let me know if you have any questions, or if I can help in any way.

Thank you.

John Petrofsky

On Tue, Jun 14, 2016 at 11:48 AM, John Petrofsky <[jpetrofsky@googlemail.com](mailto:jpetrofsky@googlemail.com)> wrote:  
Hi Rene,

I recently read the NHDES Progress Report that you sent to Pamela Monroe. This report raised many salient points, and there are additional areas of concern that I wish to bring to your attention. Mainly, in the application I have seen no assessment of the impact on wetlands in Stewartstown. This should not be overlooked.

First, the applicant is proposing to build a buried portion of the line through several wetlands including but not limited to Bear Rock Bog and the West Branch of the Mohawk River. Bear Rock Bog is fed by calcareous seeps, which are very common in the immediate area, as you have referenced. Bear Rock Road travels alongside the Bog, and then crosses the West Branch immediately before the river (stream at this point) enters the Bog. I believe that the West Branch from this point to where it joins the East Branch is a catch and release body of water, designated as such by the state, because it contains a native brook trout population. To my knowledge, impacts on these bodies of water and the brook trout fishery have not even been considered, let alone adequately addressed. Concerns that come to my mind include sedimentation during initial construction, as well as ambient heat radiating from the buried lines into the stream and permanently raising the water temperature. Also, would there be additional erosion, particularly during the winter, from having a high voltage line buried under a dirt road that passes next to a bog and over a stream? etc.

Secondly, as you referenced, this immediate area has somewhat unique geology for the state. I have grave concerns regarding the destruction of Bear Rock (a rock outcrop and cliff complex), and the namesake for everything else nearby named Bear Rock (the Bear Rock Bog, the Bear Rock Road, the Bear Caves, and the Bear Rock One Room School House). I believe these concerns may be better addressed with the State Historic Preservation Office, but because Bear Rock is a natural feature, I am bringing it to your attention as well.

More importantly, this past January I was informed by an older town resident about the so-called Bear Caves that are apparently a few hundred yards away from Bear Rock. On the advice of people at fish and game I didn't go looking for the caves this winter, but plan on doing so this

summer. If there are in fact caves in the immediate vicinity of Bear Rock, it would be important to assess the impact on these as well.

I appreciate the work you have put into the progress report so far, and would love to know your thoughts on the resources that I have mentioned. If nothing else, they should be included in any impact assessment going forward.

Best Regards,

John Petrofsky