

Chairman, Public Utilities Commission
Martin Honigberg, Chairman
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301



September 21, 2016

Dear Martin Honigberg,

We are concerned citizens from six communities in northern New Hampshire requesting your assistance to protect what makes our region unique, scenic and picturesque. Hydro-Quebec and Eversource are attempting to build the Northern Pass high voltage above ground powerline project through our area despite significant opposition. Herein we present a factual evaluation of how this project compares to four similar proposed power transmission projects in the northeast.

- Champlain Hudson Power Express is to be 333 miles long going through Lake Champlain in Vermont and down the Hudson River in New York State and will be submerged or buried along its entire length. The estimated cost is 2.2 billion dollars or 6.6 million dollars per mile to complete it. This project has been approved and will be built starting this year. This project has a proposed spur heading east from Poughkeepsie, NY to feed into the Eversource grid serving central Connecticut. <http://www.chpexpress.com/route>
- New England Clean Power Link is to run 150 miles through Vermont and New Hampshire and will be buried for its entire length. Estimated cost of this project is 1.2 billion dollars at 8 million per mile. It will feed into the Eversource grid going into Massachusetts and central Connecticut. <http://www.necplink.com/docs>
- Northeast Energy Link is a buried 230 mile project going through Maine and southern New Hampshire with an estimated cost of 2 billion dollars at 8.7 million per mile. <http://www.northeastenergylink.com/project/>
- Interstate 91 Corridor There is also discussion on burying a high voltage power line along I-91 from the Canadian border to Hartford, Connecticut with little or no impact to the land that it passes through.

Northern Pass is a 192 mile project with only sixty miles being buried in the White Mountain area. The remaining one hundred and thirty two miles going through New Hampshire is above ground including the upper forty miles of the proposed corridor being routed through rural, privately owned property that has not been purchased yet. Parts of this project going through heavily contested areas will be buried, while the rest is to be hung above ground on towers. The estimated cost of this project is 1.4 billion at a per mile cost of 7.3 million per mile. It would then continue on into central Connecticut through Eversource power lines. <http://www.northernpass.us/>

The April 4, 2016 NHDES EIS Page 11, para 2, 3, 4 pertaining to the Northern Pass project states: 'Additional consideration should be given to the burial of the section or sections of the line from Canada within existing roadway corridors through the forty miles to Northumberland. 'The EIS also states concerns about the proposed international crossing asking why other points of lesser impact were not considered. The NHDES EIS also questions why more of the electrical line is not being buried in that it will significantly reduce impact on wetlands that the project passes through.

While in the Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement Supplement (November 2015) the Federal Department of Energy clearly states concerns such as:

- The above ground installation will provide a need for 5,369 full time jobs for the three year construction period. Burying the power line will produce 10,687 full time jobs over the same time period.
- The report also states that burying the transmission line will provide for 1,518 full time permanent jobs while the overhead installation will provide 887 full time permanent positions.
- State wide tax revenue with the overhead transmission line will be +29 million while the taxes appreciated by the buried transmission line will be +59.8 million.

All four of these projects are being fed from sources in northwestern and northeastern Quebec, with the eastern project deriving its sources from the Canadian Maritime. In the winter of 1998 an ice storm along the northeastern United State and Canadian border devastated forests and overhead power transmission lines. It took many weeks of around the clock work to restore power to the region. The landscape along Auto Route 10 in Quebec was littered with high voltage powerline towers with the power lines lying on the ground.

Before such a project can be considered, concerted efforts should be made in southern New England to conserve and make power use more efficient. The energy supplier should and could consider alternate means of electrical generation closer to where it is needed using solar, wind and tidal sources for production, thereby reducing the need for costly long distance high voltage electrical power lines. More consideration must be given to the alternatives instead of blindly installing a system using twentieth century technology. We ask for your assistance in preserving the dwindling number of non-developed areas in New England while simultaneously nudging energy policy toward wiser alternatives before allowing such a project to take place. Please consider Nancy Martland's May 2, 2016 article in the Boston Globe where she states. "Reducing carbon is an admirable goal. So is respecting your neighbor's right to be treated fairly."

Thank you.

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