

Gile Beye, 11 Dec 2016

The 150+ foot towers and power lines proposed for the Northern Pass project are out of scale for rural NH. Deerfield is a rural town in southern NH that has an active farm community, and remaining managed forests.

The town has voted repeatedly to preserve the rural character of the town by strategic conservation of open space. The Northern Pass powerlines threaten the Dowst Cate Town Forest adjacent to the proposed expanded substation that is part of the open space infrastructure of Deerfield.

The collective work of local land trusts including Bear Paw Regional Greenways, the Society for the Protection of NH forests and the Deerfield Planning Board and Conservation Commission has created a greenway network that connects state and town forests that protect valuable animal habitat as well as important NH soils.

My family put land into conservation during the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) to preserve the rural character of Deerfield. The Northern Pass elevated power lines will degrade important habitat on conservation land and a Town Forest. The rural nature of Deerfield will be compromised as well and Deerfield will become more suburban and developed.

My family is extremely disheartened that this proposed industrial scale project will offset the conservation qualities that prompted the donation we stepped up to participate in.

Thank you for your consideration of my perspective.