

From: Karen Payne [<mailto:dancingkaren@me.com>]
Sent: Sunday, May 14, 2017 9:02 PM
To: Monroe, Pamela
Subject: Northern Pass

Dear Pamela:

Please add my name to the record of people who oppose the Northern Pass route through New Hampshire.

HQ is in the process of diverting a high percentage of one of the largest rivers in Quebec, the Rupert River, through a 200-mile long transfer tunnel. Is this green? How does diverting major rivers impact the ability of future generations to meet their needs? How does flooding boreal forests and creating artificial reservoirs that cover thousands of square miles and put such colossal weight on the land that we cannot begin to fathom the effects, how does that impact future generations? How does re-engineering an area of wilderness the size of New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, and New York – combined - impact future generations?

During the hearing period, I asked the DOE for a rigorous and impartial analysis of whether the electricity generated by Hydro Quebec is truly sustainable. I asked the DOE for a rigorous and impartial analysis of whether the electricity generated by Hydro Quebec is truly “green.” I asked the DOE for a rigorous and impartial analysis of the impacts on New England’s economy of importing this power from a foreign source versus expanding American energy production by manufacturing the technology and generating sustainable power in New England from sources such as PV, micro-hydropower, and wind.

As a cogeneration facility, our home is net zero. Our electrician’s calculations show that our solar panels will be paid off in 9.2 years and the return on our investment will be 10.8%. We could find banks that would give loans for sustainable energy. Loans that would be paid off long before 40 years for sources that will generate energy, and jobs, for 40 years. I asked the DOE for a rigorous and impartial analysis of the “end use efficiency” and “demand side management options.” What choices are the users of this power making, not only as individuals, but also as towns (like mine who will have higher taxes in order to put energy efficient windows in our municipal building), and in the school districts (like mine who will have much higher taxes to renovate our building using as many energy saving practices as possible). To feel comfortable with a project like this, I need to know that the users are doing everything in their power to reduce, reuse, recycle and redesign before they hit the switch. When the consumers in southern New England turn on their switches, do they realize how far north the impact will reach? If they understood, would they make the same choices?

I asked them to assess the alternatives being presented, smart grids, distributed generation (including human-powered fitness equipment and play equipment such as school swing sets and see saws). If conscious consumption still warrants the impacts of Hydro Quebec’s large-scale projects, then please study the possibilities of submarine lines or collocation. I asked the DOE for a rigorous and impartial analysis of how the impacts of a submarine line under the Atlantic Ocean would compare to the project as currently proposed. I ask the DOE for a rigorous and impartial analysis of lower impact alternatives such as collocating the lines.

Health contributes to sustainability. I asked the DOE for a rigorous and impartial analysis of health impacts on humans. I asked the DOE for a rigorous and impartial analysis of health impacts on animals (such as farm animals that will be exposed to the line.) How will the project impact the health of North American waters? My insurance company rewards me for *Keeping Fit*. Would they be OK with me walking my 60 minutes every day, with my dog and grandchild, under these lines? Please include the effects that “developing” these wild areas will have on the occurrence of Nature-Deficit Disorder as described in *Last child in the Woods?* (Richard Louv, Chapel Hill, 2005).

These concerns have not been satisfactorily answered therefore, I still stand against the line.

When these concerns have been addressed and the clearest option left standing is removing New Hampshire's trees and wilderness and source of renewal, then I will consider entertaining the project. In closing, I asked you to please consider if there are some things that are priceless and can't be bought.

Sincerely,
Karen Payne
Carroll County