

SEC COMMENTS COLLECTION

SECDocket	2015-06 Northern Pass Transmission - Eversource
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CommenterWords

I am a 26-year resident and business owner in the North Country. Our economy is fragile, and depends significantly more than the rest of New Hampshire on tourism, and the chief draw for visitors is the breathtaking scenery. I believe, and my tourism clients likewise believe, that tall transmission towers will make the North Country far less attractive to tourists, jeopardizing the thin thread of viability of many tourism-related businesses.

Fundamentally, there are many owners of real estate who will also be irreparably harmed if towers are erected that blight the viewscape of their properties. Those properties are valued, partly, based on the desirability of the surroundings. Changing the view to include unsightly towers amounts to theft of value from these property owners, and will be reflected in adverse pricing when they attempt to sell their real estate. My guess is that the loss in fair market value of these properties will far exceed the additional property taxes generated by the towers themselves, resulting in a net loss for North Country communities.

The win-win solution that I think most North Country denizens would accept is to bury the power lines for the entire distance from Canada to the project terminus. Yes, it will be more expensive, but probably still an economically viable and profitable project.