

NO TO NORTHERN PASS

It has been many years now since I started reading the many news articles, from local Newspapers here in Coos County to Newspapers from Manchester to Concord. At first it was the visual seeing of the many signs being placed, stating "Stop Northern Pass". At first, I didn't even know what Northern Pass was about. Not until 2013, did we see the first of the mailings to property owners in Coos County. Probably, because, in the summer of 2014, an announcement was sent out that there will now be a new forty (40) miles northern route. This new route will now be starting in Pittsburg, the original entry from Canada, then to Clarksville, Stewartstown, Dixville, Millsfield, Dummer, Stark, Northumberland, ending up at Deerfield. This "money grab" and I will quote, "The entire route is planned on land that is owned by PSNH or under easements that it holds or on public roadways available for use by utilities, explained PSNH spokesman Mike Skelton". (this quote was taken from the News Article in The Berlin Reporter, July 3, 2013. Also in this same article, it states that "The proposed new route does not go through the towns of Colebrook, Columbia, or Stratford, as did the original proposal. The new route is designed to, take into account, the public's desire to keep transmission towers out of sight as much as possible...." Public's desire? So, does this mean that the new route, using the OLD EASEMENTS, is in the Public's desire? No, it's a business agreement between huge Corporations. The public has nothing to say about it. Even our New Hampshire Supreme Court, doesn't want to hear any cases about this "hostile" use of these old easements. I attended the PUC meeting in February of 2016. There is something very wrong here, the PUC I understand is an Entity that is there for the Public, I believe the Public means the residences of New Hampshire. At this PUC meeting I listened to the Attorney's for PSNH (Eversource) and to the Groups and private citizens, who are stating how these towers will cause total destruction of New Hampshire's Coos Country's Great North Woods. I read how the property owners, at the beginning of this proposed route, have not been contacted directly, by PSNH (Eversource). Ninety nine percent (99%) of the information has been sent through an email lists. I can name, more than one, property owner, that has the old PSNH easement, that do not have access to the internet. At this PUC meeting, the fact that PSNH (Eversource), can use these old easements, to place these huge towers, and not one (1) but two (2) towers on these easements and stating it is not their position to prove they can, it's up to the property owners to prove they can't. Just to inform the Public, the easement states, "one electric pole placed in the middle of the one hundred and fifty feet (150') easement"..... PSNH bought the easements sixty (60) plus years ago, for \$20.00 per acre, from people who wanted electricity brought to rural New Hampshire. These people signed voluntarily because they needed the electricity. They did not sign for the Northern Pass.

There will be two towers, the taller of the two, being place near the north side of the easement and the second line being placed towards the southern side of the easement. Then I read that any timber, that "PSNH Eversource" believes to be in the "tree fall" area, which could or could not be outside the existing easement, will be harvested. Then to make this even more of a complete arrangement between Hydro-Quebec and Connecticut based Eversource Energy Service Company, the arrangement that changed everything, that PSNH (Eversource) is going to lease, their holdings of these old easements, to Northern Pass, for, which I have read, is a six (6) figure yearly amount. Let's see here, if the property owners of these easements, still "OWN" the land that these easements go through, pay yearly property taxes on the land that these easements go through, how can PSNH (Eversource) be above the law of the land? How do you lease property you do not own? If there is going to be lease payments to PSNH

Page Two

(Eversource) from Northern Pass, doesn't it seem that the property owners of these easement, should be paid for this lease? Is this the reason the proposed route changed from the already existing 2000 MW HVDC Transmission Line, already constructed for this use, to the old easements? More Corporate Greed.

Now comes the icing on the cake, "eighteen (18), New Hampshire Towns, the municipal petitioners include, Towns of Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Bristol, Clarksville, City of Concord, Deerfield, Easton, Franconia, Littleton, New Hampton, Northumberland, Pembroke, Pittsburg, Plymouth, Stewartstown, Sugar Hill, Whitefield, Woodstock and the Ashland Water and Sewer Department, has asserted that only a local community has the legal right to authorize the use of local roads for a project like Northern Pass". (taken from the Newspaper of Coos County Democrat, December 28 2016) Let us see how the SEC renders it's decision and response to the petition. I don't have a crystal ball, but every time, one stands up to this hostile take-over, it's the same thing over and over again. Martin P. Honigberg, Presiding Officer of the NH Site Evaluation Committee, and their well-paid Attorney's, file their Motion to Reconsider, deny, deny, deny. As far as I can understand, when I read all of the on-line information, newspaper articles, public meetings, meetings at the SEC and the PUC, they take the laws of New Hampshire and manipulate the wording, to suite their agenda. One very good example of the manipulation of words, is "Abutters" The property owners of these old easement, are spoken to in this manner, owners of these old easement, we abut up to it, we do not abut up to it, we own the land that these easements are on. As far as I am concerned, when and if PSNH (Eversource) starts this complete destruction of the Great North Woods, using these old easements, they are VOIDED as stated, and then PSNH (Eversource) will be required to obtain new easements, stating exactly how, these huge towers will be placed. If I remember rightly, the State of New Hampshire made a ruling that PSNH (Eversource) cannot use eminent domain or right-a-ways to erect these towers.

It is so sad to live in an age, where Corporate Greed, can do whatever they want, no matter the negative outcome of their actions.

Resident of Stark New Hampshire
Karen J J Spencer