

From: Lawrence B Peck <pecklb@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2017 11:52 AM
To: Monroe, Pamela
Subject: Comments on Northern Pass project

Ms. Pamela Monroe, Administrator
Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Ms. Monroe

I am writing with my input on your upcoming decisions concerning the proposed Northern Pass power line project. While I am not a New Hampshire resident, I have been and will continue to be someone who visits New Hampshire as a tourist, and have friends in the state as well. But my main reason for writing is my long experience in a related industry, the oil pipeline business.

Siting of utilities that provide service to many, but in some cases not to those living nearby the right of way where the utility runs, is a common, ongoing problem for a growing economy. In my career I served for many years as a vice president of Amoco and then BP Pipelines, at the time among the largest pipeline operators in the U.S. (I am speaking for myself, as I have retired from that company some time ago.) We faced issues of siting many times, and dealt with obtaining and protecting rights of way for our transportation services as a normal part of our business. In some cases that involved permitting new routes, but in most cases, it involved expansion of service along existing routes already served by underground pipelines (and in many cases sharing these rights of way with electric transmission lines).

My experience was that siting new services by making use of existing rights of way was invariably preferable to trying to create new routes that had no existing services. In the case of existing routes, nearly everyone affected by that right of way had made a decision about their own location with foreknowledge of the existing service. This did not mean they did not care about changes, but it did mean that they had a more open view to the process for managing the permitting needed for any changes. By contrast, opening a new route means everyone affected along the way must come to terms with something inevitably viewed as negative, since any benefits typically did not accrue to them. Individuals affected typically feel powerless against the industry and government entities involved, particularly when they had no opportunity to make the choice not to locate where the right of way would affect them. Likewise tourists will not feel any positive aspects of the projects, but will find any such changes to be a negative.

It is my understanding that there is an existing route for high voltage transmission that could be used, and that it is conveniently located for the needs of the origin and destination of the electric power, and that the only drawback of this route is that some view it as potentially more expensive, depending upon whatever deal is reached with the owners of the existing route. My own experience is that use of existing routes is invariably cheaper in the long run, given all of the issues with siting of new routes. Along with being at least as economically attractive, the use of existing routing also gives everyone involved a much stronger feeling that they have had a measure of control over something that affects their lives.

I urge you to work hard to find and select the alternative(s) that make use of existing service routes, rather than trying to create a new one that causes a lot of concern and could negatively impact growth and tourism in the area under consideration. You will find that to be a much better way forward, as I have in my own past experiences. The parties involved can come to satisfactory business solutions, particularly with some strong guidance from the people's governmental representatives.

Thanks for considering this input.

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