

From: Margaret Gale [<mailto:galemargaret@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2017 7:13 PM
To: Monroe, Pamela
Subject: Public Comment re: Northern Pass Transmission Project (NPT)

Dear Ms. Monroe;

I am a year-round resident of Bethlehem, N.H. and own property that includes a section of the PSNH Right of Way between Route 116 and Route 302. I frequently walk along that ROW and know that it is part of a unique wetlands complex that provides rich habitat for many species of flora, fauna, birds, amphibians, and insects. The proximity of that kind of high-quality habitat is very important to my family, to our neighbors, and to the local ecosystem as a whole. It is beyond unacceptable that this fragile natural resource would be irreparably damaged by a private, commercial project.

I am also a member of the Bethlehem Conservation Commission, which requested a wildlife study of ROW in question. Our commission chair, Cheryl Jensen, has referenced that study in written remarks and in her testimony before the SEC. Please refer to her submissions for more detail concerning the "value" of these wetlands. I will confine myself here to my personal impressions.

As proposed, the NPT would completely disrupt the entire section of the corridor between Route 116 and Route 302 in Bethlehem. By constructing metal towers much larger, and more intrusive in every way, than the simple wooden poles that have been there for decades, by installing substantial concrete foundations for each tower, and by building new access roads to enable this activity, NPT will certainly cause unacceptable disruption to human and non-human residents alike.

To add insult to injury, NPT proposes to site one of its proposed Transition Stations immediately adjacent to the section of Route 302 that is the "gateway to our village," and the only direct roadway into the town. This modest two-lane highway is used by hundreds of thousands of visitors in all seasons, as well as residents and school children.

The possibility of such calamitous nearby activity is what initially drew me to learn more about "Northern Pass," back in 2010. It soon became clear that the local damage was only one argument against a project that would wreak havoc over many miles of Coos and Grafton Counties, ruining some of our most scenic vistas and negatively impacting many precious acres of pristine farmland.

And if that were not enough to persuade me to oppose this ill-advised project, there is the issue of the "collateral" damage to huge areas of wilderness in Quebec; the negative impact on the native residents of those ancestral territories; and the fact that the residents of New Hampshire stand to gain almost nothing in exchange for allowing an ugly scar to be cut down our collective mid-section. (For me as an individual, no gain would justify the negative aspects of NPT.)

Lastly, on a personal, philosophical level, I strongly believe that the citizens of the United States need to become much better stewards of our finite resources. This makes CONSERVATION--and ENERGY EFFICIENCY--the only responsible, sustainable options. When, and if, we have maximized the savings that serious conservation and efficiency can realize, then we will deserve to look to new, genuinely GREEN and RENEWABLE sources of energy production.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this PUBLIC COMMENT on the Northern Pass Transmission Project to the N.H. Site Evaluation Committee. I await your decision with hope.

Sincerely,

Margaret Gale
Bethlehem, N.H.