

SEC COMMENTS COLLECTION

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| SECDocket | 2015-06 Northern Pass Transmission - Eversource |
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| CommenterCity | Hebron |
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CommenterWords

Please, for the sake of both environment and economy of the Lakes Region and North Country, do not approve Eversource's Northern Pass project. I offer you my opinion as Hebron's long-time Moderator, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair, attorney (now retired) specializing in land use matters and real estate litigation, and bed and breakfast owner and manager.

As Hebron's Moderator, I've presided over many a town meeting discussion about Northern Pass and industrial wind farms. Hebron was one of the first municipalities in New Hampshire to adopt a rights-based ordinance, and it did so unanimously. Knowing full well that RBOs are worth little more than the paper they're written on, the people of Hebron, nevertheless, felt strongly that they needed to tell both state government and industry that they want a larger voice in big energy projects, such as Northern Pass and industrial wind farms, that directly affect them.

Hebron folks know the value of their surroundings. They want to preserve their small town character, and more importantly, they want to conserve Newfound Lake and its 57,000-acre watershed. Very simply, Newfound Lake is the economic engine for our region. It drives our tourism economy. Everything we do in our watershed directly or indirectly affects the lake. Just imagine what DC towers--nearly twice as high as the AC towers we already have running down ridgelines on the western side of the lake--will do to the scenic beauty of this place. Tourists and summer residents come here for the lake and its scenery. It goes without saying my B&B and wedding business is 100% dependent on tourist trade that is put at risk by Northern Pass.

The environmental costs that come with projects of Northern Pass scale are enormous. Having lived through the Iberdrola industrial wind farm development at the northern end of Newfound Lake, Hebron and Groton residents have grown wiser to the environmental consequences of such big energy projects--woodlands cleared, mountaintops and ridgelines excavated, wildlife habitat destroyed or damaged, access roads through sensitive areas, runoff damage, and recreational access and use that is restricted or denied altogether.

Iberdrola didn't bring jobs to the area; Northern Pass won't either. Iberdrola didn't reduce our electric bills; Northern Pass won't either. Iberdrola's promised tax benefits to Groton and other towns never materialized; town valuations went up, though, and so did their county and state tax bills. Iberdrola's power generated here doesn't stay here; Northern Pass power won't stay here either. As you hear often around here, Northern Pass is nothing more than an overhead extension cord supplying power to states south of our borders.

Finally, the Northern Pass partners have not been honest with you, or with us. Grafton County Attorney Lara Saffo and other intervenors have caught Northern Pass in countless lies. I ask you not to reward bad behavior. We all know that the bad behavior won't stop if Northern Pass gets its way. Again, consider the Iberdrola experience: After a slick and very deceptive marketing campaign, Iberdrola got its way and then--as state regulators know all too well--continued its deception, significantly deviating from approved plans when it suited their purposes, blowing off regulators, buying silence from aggrieved landowners, and lying to the public. We're in for more of the same from Northern Pass.

While I realize that Northern Pass is out of sight and mind of most New Hampshire residents who live south of Concord, please weigh most heavily the views of those of us who live, visit, and make our livelihoods here

because of the unique character and scenic beauty of this place. Thank you for your consideration.
