

From: Gretchen Draper [<mailto:bgd@metrocast.net>]
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Monroe, Pamela
Subject: Public Comment of Gretchen Draper

Dear Ms Monroe,



When I look out my office window, as I have for nearly 40 years, I see Alexandria, Danbury the Smith and Pemigewasset River watersheds. If the Northern Pass Transmission Project is allowed to be built, my neighbors and I will have 80 to 90-foot steel, lattice towers in a row before us, easily above the tree line.

Blake Hill Road in New Hampton is a town scenic road with no current view of electric lines. The PSNH/ EverSource right-of-way is less than a quarter mile in front of us. It parallels the Pemigewasset River and already presents a wide, open challenge for any animal migration from Hershey Mountain to our back as they make the trek down to the waterfront.

But this is only my story. We all have stories. Every person who lives, visits or works in this state has a story to tell -- and what I have learned is that no one story is more important than another.

I have sat for nearly two years (and more before that) listening to public comments, then the "expert" witnesses and organizations, and finally the people who live and love their rural state. People shared deep family memories about the White Mountains, favorite places along the 192 mile route and the harder realities of living and working in small towns or farms.

It's a project willing to dig beside peoples' wells and over town aquifers. We lose countless acres of trees and important tree cover. They are willing to destroy wetlands, threaten wildlife and move endangered species, all the while telling us how temporary or minimal the impacts will be.

They will bury high voltage lines down the center of small towns and next to gas pipelines. They request waivers from state agencies, because in truth, they cannot build this project without thousands of "exceptions and exemptions" from laws and regulations the rest of the public are

required to follow.

I oppose the Northern Pass Transmission Project for its lack of respect for the Public Interest. That criteria alone should stop this application in its tracks. In my view, it threatens the welfare and health of the population. It disrupts how towns plan for their futures. The confusion and large scale construction will drive the public away from local roads and local businesses.

The Northern Pass Project has already lost public trust and confidence by its own actions. The Legislature has given the Site Evaluation Committee new and powerful criteria to apply in their work. "In the Public Interest" holds the key to whether this project moves ahead or not.

Thank you.

Gretchen Draper
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