

SEC COMMENTS COLLECTION

SECDocket	2015-06 Northern Pass Transmission - Eversource
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CommenterWords

My name is Ben MinerD and my family and I have lived in Deerfield, NH for over 5 years now. My wife and I both grew up in NH, went to school at UNH (graduating in 2011), and settled here to raise a family because, simply put, we love the granite state. NH's natural beauty is one of our top priorities in choosing to live here.

New Hampshire has an extremely rare quality in that provides a variety of rural landscapes in close proximity to a large metropolitan area--Boston--not only at a public level, but also an individual property level. I studied Computer Engineering at UNH and searched around the country in various tech hot spots like Seattle, WA, Silicon Valley, and Boulder, CO, for a unique combination of tech job availability and rural properties within commuting distance of those jobs that we could actually afford to purchase. I don't think it's a stretch to say that New Hampshire is perhaps the only spot in the country where this is actually achievable.

Consequently, I'm concerned about the proposed Northern Pass project and what it might mean for our beautiful state. While state tourism could certainly be affected by addition of humongous new towers, I'm going to be selfish here and say that I'm even more concerned about what it means for me in my little town of Deerfield. The proposed Northern Pass route runs a few hundred feet behind my house. Every morning when I get my coffee and peer out my kitchen window across our fenced pastures, I will now be greeted by metal towering high above the trees. When I travel and hike the north country, I'll be greeted by more and more towering metal.

I'm wholly for decreasing our dependence on fossil fuels and increasing our creation of renewable energy, nationally and locally. But when so little of this power is destined for NH, I have a hard time seeing how this benefits our state. There are many viable power generation technologies that don't require slashing across neighboring states to get access to them.

I could support a plan that involved safely burying the entire Northern Pass line. That would attempt to minimize the negative impacts and still allow lower NE to benefit from this power source. But again, if I'm being selfish (and I think I'm allowed to be), I don't think it's a good deal for NH.