

SEC COMMENTS COLLECTION

SECDocket	2015-06 Northern Pass Transmission - Eversource
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As a Bath resident, and a retired professional in construction and real estate, I can say without hesitation that ever since this plan was revealed years ago, we have already seen negative impacts to property values in the affected areas, including large sell-offs of timber land, and towns literally fighting for their future while lobbying for neighboring towns to instead be the impacted areas with the "alternate routes". One of these alternate routes veers farther west to avoid the communities of Sugar Hill, Franconia, and Easton, and it shifts the impact to Bath and Lisbon, communities less likely and able to initiate lawsuits. These impacted landowners have seen this before like when the failed DOT proposed US 302 bypass in Bath caused a number of owners to sell off their land and clearcut the timber, before values plummeted. The State of NH even wasted significant money buying up ROW land for a project never built, and actually removed existing residences from the tax base of our towns. This clearcutting has negatively impacted the local scenic views, water tables and water quality, and in some places the stability of the land itself. This new round of panic generated by Northern Pass is causing the same effect; people either bailing out and selling too fast, or digging in and preparing for class action lawsuits has created an atmosphere of chaos and instability in the market.

Finally, I will vow to oppose this disastrously ill-planned project until every legal avenue is exhausted; eminent domain must never be used to enrich private corporations, especially when the so-called public good being served by a so-called public utility is neither. Hydro-Quebec already has a bad track record against the First Nation peoples of Canada, and the plan as criticized, truly is nothing more than an extension cord laid across NH, impacting the most pristine areas, and benefitting no one but Hydro-Quebec. The claims of NH jobs and their numbers are a proven lie.

I will join other activists in any necessary effort to block this project. Our governor Sununu has a track record of ignoring dissent and acting personally as a lobbyist for a foreign government's undue influence on the property owners of NH. I find it ironic that the Republican administration, who have claimed for decades to be "for the rights of property owners", in the "Live Free or Die" state do just the opposite when money of this magnitude is being thrown around. I further feel the the SEC has done a grossly incomplete job, has stifled any opposition, giving no time for adequate hearings, and a near- impossible schedule of too few meetings for people in our neighborhood and to the north to ever be able to attend.

NO to the Norther Pass Project, period.

Respectfully,
Greg E. Steele