



FINAL

NORTHERN PASS TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

VOLUME 3: APPENDIX L

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ELECTRICITY DELIVERY
AND ENERGY RELIABILITY
WASHINGTON, DC

AUGUST 2017



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 2017

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed is the final *Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0463) prepared by the Department of Energy (DOE) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and its implementing regulations.

The United States Forest Service (USFS) – White Mountain National Forest, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Region 1, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – New England District, and the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (NHOEP) are cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS.

The proposed DOE action in the final EIS is to issue a Presidential permit to the Applicant, Northern Pass LLC, to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a new electric transmission line across the U.S./Canada border in northern New Hampshire (NH).

DOE has prepared this final EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts in the United States of the proposed action and the range of reasonable alternatives, including the No Action alternative. Under the No Action alternative, the Presidential permit would not be granted, and the proposed transmission line would not cross the U.S./Canada border.

In addition to its Presidential permit application to DOE, Northern Pass LLC applied to the USFS for a special use permit that would authorize Northern Pass LCC to construct, own, operate and maintain an electric transmission line to cross portions of the White Mountain National Forest under its jurisdiction. The final EIS will be used by the Forest Supervisor of the White Mountain National Forest to inform the Record of Decision in regard to this requested use.

DOE will use the EIS to ensure that it has the information it needs for informed decision-making.

The final EIS will also be posted on the project EIS website, http://www.northernpasseis.us/ and DOE's NEPA website at https://energy.gov/nepa/listings/environmental-impact-statements-eis.

Sincerely,

Bullet

Brian Mills

Transmission Permitting and Technical Assistance, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

U.S. Department of Energy

FINAL

NORTHERN PASS TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT DOE/EIS-0463

Volume 3: Appendix L. Comment Response Document

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OFFICE OF ELECTRICITY DELIVERY AND ENERGY RELIABILITY



COOPERATING AGENCIES

United States Forest Service – White Mountain National Forest United States Environmental Protection Agency– Region 1 United States Army Corps of Engineers – New England District New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning

August 2017

COVER SHEET

RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

COOPERATING AGENCIES: United States Forest Service (USFS) – White Mountain National Forest (WMNF); United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Region 1; United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – New England District; and New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (NHOEP)

TITLE: Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0463)

LOCATION: Coös, Grafton, Belknap, Merrimack, and Rockingham counties in New Hampshire

CONTACTS: For additional information on this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) contact:

Mr. Brian Mills, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Document Manager Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, OE-20 U.S. Department of Energy 1000 Independence Ave. SW Washington, DC 20585 Telephone: (202) 586-8267 Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov

For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please write or call:

Mr. Brian Costner, Acting Director
Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC-54
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585
askNEPA@hq.doe.gov

Telephone: (202) 586-4600 or leave a message at (800) 472-2756

ABSTRACT: Northern Pass Transmission, LLC (Northern Pass) has applied to the DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a 192-mile (309-km) electric transmission line across the United States (U.S.)/Canada border in northern New Hampshire (NH). This final EIS addresses the potential environmental impacts of the Project (Proposed Action), the No Action Alternative, and ten additional action alternatives (Alternatives 2 through 6, with variations). The NH portion of the Project would be a single circuit ±320 kilovolt (kV) high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line running approximately 158 miles (254 km) from the U.S. border crossing with Canada in Pittsburg, NH, to a new direct current-to-alternating current (DC-to-AC) converter station to be constructed in Franklin, NH. From Franklin, NH, to the Project terminus at the Public Service of New Hampshire's existing Deerfield Substation located in Deerfield, NH, the Project would consist of 34 miles (55 km) of 345 kV AC electric transmission line. The total length of the Project would be approximately 192 miles (309 km).

PUBLIC COMMENTS: In preparing this final EIS, DOE considered comments received during the scoping period, which extended from February 11, 2011 to June 14, 2011, and was reopened from June 15, 2011 to November 5, 2013 (DOE accepted and considered all comments during the scoping period from February 11, 2011 to November 5, 2013), and the public comment period on the draft EIS (July 31, 2015 through April 4, 2016). Comments on the draft EIS were accepted during the 45-day period

following publication of EPA's Notice of Availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register* on July 31, 2015; the public comment period was extended until April 4, 2016 following publication of EPA's NOA of the supplement in the *Federal Register* on November 20, 2015. DOE held four public meetings on the draft EIS in Colebrook, NH on March 7, 2016; Waterville Valley, NH on March 9, 2016; Concord, NH on March 10, 2016; and Whitefield, NH on March 11, 2016. All comments were considered during preparation of this final EIS. Appendix L in Volume 3 of this EIS contains the comments received on the draft EIS and DOE's responses to these comments. This final EIS contains revisions and new information based in part on comments received on the draft EIS. Vertical bars in the margins marking changed text indicate the locations of these revisions and new information. Deletions are not indicated. Appendices J and K in Volume 2 and Appendix L in Volume 3 are entirely new parts of this EIS; therefore, they do not contain bars indicating changes from the draft EIS.

The EIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts of DOE issuing a Presidential permit for the proposed Northern Pass Project, which is DOE's proposed federal action. DOE will use the EIS to inform its decision on whether to issue a Presidential permit. Additionally, Northern Pass has applied to the USFS for a special use permit (SUP) authorizing Northern Pass to construct, operate, and maintain an electric power transmission line crossing portions of the WMNF. The WMNF Forest Supervisor will use the EIS to inform its decision regarding: 1) whether to issue a SUP under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act; 2) the selection of an alternative; 3) any need to amend the Forest Plan; and 4) what specific terms and conditions should apply if a SUP is issued.

Copies of the final EIS are available for public review at 30 local libraries and town halls, or a copy can be requested from Mr. Brian Mills. The EIS is also available on the Northern Pass EIS website (http://www.northernpasseis.us/). DOE will announce its decision on the Proposed Action in a Record of Decision (ROD) in the *Federal Register* no sooner than 30 days after the EPA publishes the NOA of the final EIS. The USFS will announce its draft decision on the Proposed Action in a draft ROD in the *Federal Register* shortly after the EPA publishes the NOA of the final EIS.

APPENDIX L COMMENT RESPONSE DOCUMENT

Attachment C. Response to All Comments on the Draft EIS



PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

If you would like to provide Comment on the Northern Pass Project to the Department of Energy (DOE), you can write your comment in the space below and return the sheet to a DOE representative at one of the sign-in tables at this meeting. You can also fill this Comment Sheet out at home and return it to Brian Mills, DOE, via mail or fax to the address posted below. Comments must be received before April 4, 2016 to be considered in the scoping process; comments received after this date will be considered to the extent practicable. Please print legibly.

ame: Elizabeth S. Wyman
ddress: 15 Stevens Terrace
ty: Lancaster State: NH zip: 03584
mail: lizuyman @ yahoo com
omment:
I support Alternative 1, No Action, Overhead
transmission lines will have too many adverse impacts
on our landscape, tourism, property values, health,
and sense of place. However, betial of the lines
is not a paracea, and would result in equally if,
not greater adverse environmental impacts as well
as seric impacts on roadways due to and clearance
of regetation, and construction of access roads
along interstate highways. The project is
not recessario and has only been pursued by
Eversome end berause ownership of
the transmission lines will be obscenely profitable
for the company. If the energy were needed, it
should be transmitted through existing or proposed arridors
in Vermont and New York. However, I have no doubt
that an equal amount of energy, and pbs could be
generated by markers investing in energy conservation
Strategies and truly renewable sorutes that do not
flood canada's boreal forest and First Nothons lands>

Note: By Providing your name and address, it becomes public information and may be provided to individuals and organizations upon request under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1974. Except for proprietary information, DOE will make all submissions from organizations or individuals available to the public in their entirety.

www.northernpasseis.us

Brian Mills, Senior Planning Advisor
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585
FAX: 202-586-8008

0773-1 Thank you for your comment.

I oppose the Northern Pass project in its entirety. A Presidential Permit should not be issued for a project designed solely for the profitability of a private corporation at the expense of the citizens of New Hampshire, a majority of whom vehemently oppose the project as proposed.

0773-1 Continued Public Comment on Northern Pass Project Proposal

3.10.16

Concord, NH

People today are moving toward supporting local farms, businesses, permaculture, and community projects because they see the value in it. All involved have a vested interest in their business as well as the well-being of their community and natural environment. We are tired of being told half-truths and lies by large corporations, with no interest in the local communities, so they can make higher profits. We do not appreciate being told this project has to happen with scare tactics about the future when the most or even all, of the electricity from these lines will not go to New Hampshire residents, but we will be left with the scar on the land and the towers in the sky. Eversource has investors and scarling tolders to please and show profit. Community members have each other to work together and show value in the community, not the almighty dollar. Eversource will have you believe large scale utilities are the only option for the future. Evolving solar, wind, and geothermal energies are allowing individuals to provide power for themselves and their communities. It is local, responsible, and everyone in the community knows how things are working. More and more people are looking to move away from the grid, and as the technology for home owners continues to advance and become available, there will be even more options. I am strongly opposed to Northern Pass Project.

Greg Averill

Leg Auill
Canterbury, NH

0774

0774-1 Thank you for your comment.

My name is Greg Rahe, and I've worked for Eversource NH for 14 years. As an Account Executive, I work with Eversource's large commercial/ industrial customers in the greater Seacoast area. The Seacoast region's electric demand is growing at twice the rate of the rest of the state and is expected to represent approximately 25% of New Hampshire's electric demand by 2020.

This growth is due in part to business expansion. Several of the largest industrial customers on the seacoast are multi-national concerns with corporate offices located Europe and Asia. When deciding where to expand, seacoast businesses are often competing against their counterparts in other U.S. locations or abroad. The talent pool companies can draw from here in New Hampshire is abundant, which strengthens the argument to expand here. However, many of these customers have stated that the high cost of utilities, especially electricity, is a prime concern. They tell me electricity rates for their businesses in New Hampshire are nearly double the national average for manufacturing, and almost forty percent higher for the commercial segment. These are energy intensive businesses that consume a lot of electricity, and any opportunity for them to reduce their variable costs is very beneficial.

To give you some perspective, a large business on the seacoast consumes 3,000,000 kilowatt hours a month. That is six thousand times more than the average home. To equate those figures to costs, that business would pay \$255,000/month for energy, not including transmission and distribution charges. A 5% reduction in energy costs would save the business upwards of \$150,000 annually. Those are funds they can use to hire additional staff, expand their product line, and give back to the community.

I support Northern Pass because it's a renewable energy source which will reduce energy prices, help mitigate the price volatility we've witnessed over the past several winters, and help business and industry to thrive and expand in New Hampshire.

0775

0775-1
Thank you for your comment.

Harry C. and Susan O. Brown

19 Backiel Drive

Stewartstown, NH

03576

603-237-5716

SEC Hearing - Colebrook - March 7, 2016

My name is Harry Brown and I am currently the
President of the New Hampshire Off Highway Vehicle
Association but I am not representing them tonight. I
am speaking for my wife and myself. We live in
Stewartstown and have not taken a position pro or con
on the project, but we feel the majority of testimony
given thus far has seemed unbalanced. We want to take
this opportunity to express our concern over the
behavior of some of our North Country neighbors that

0776-1

0776-1

Thank you for your comment.

has been exhibited at previous hearings. They have hissed, booed, and shouted out derogatory remarks to individuals that have expressed neutral or supporting views of the project. This behavior is and will remain unacceptable to us and is just another form of bullying. Respecting the process is as important as having supporting, opposing or neutral views.

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire
Forests campaign has stated that the above ground
transmission lines will have a negative impact on
tourism and recreation. In our opinion this has no
factual basis from any studies and is pure hype, a scare
tactic. Coos County's economy relies heavily on
OHRVing and snowmobiling and it will not be affected
by the Northern Pass transmission lines. Where
presently allowed, they utilize many miles of trail under
power lines throughout New Hampshire, the rest of the

United States, and the Canadian Provinces. This is without any negative effects to the participants concerning these types of recreational pursuits, quite the opposite, it allows them access to trails that would not otherwise be available. The State of New Hampshire, clearly recognizes that the sport is greater

than a half billion dollar a year industry especially in Coos County as it has lit new life for many current and new business owners – an economic stimulus when many could not see any light through the tunnel previously.

We want to recognize that without landowners giving us permission to utilize their properties for our trails, there would be no Ride the Wilds nor snowmobiling in Coos County or throughout the state. Northern Pass is one of those landowner, allowing the sports on their land that affects ten major trails – without them being a

good neighbor, this would virtually shut down Northern Coos County for the sports.

Yes, we voted at the Stewartstown Town Meeting on March 3, 2011 to oppose the 1200 Megawatt High Voltage Direct Current Transmission Line as PRESENTLY PROPOSED. This was almost five years ago. Since then the project has been down sized to 1090 megawatts and all the line is being buried in Stewartstown except for on land that Northern Pass owns. Susan and I are retired and living on entitlements such as Social Security – if the latest route is accepted this will afford us nearly 50% in property tax relief. Many of my fellow citizens in Stewartstown are economically challenged – this would provide significant relief for taxpayers. Just think – Northern Pass would pay huge property taxes annually without any buildings so that we will not have to provide fire,

EMS and police and no KIDS – no BIGGER SCHOOLS. These are examples of the positive side of the project.

Finally, neither Susan nor I are OHRV enthusiasts. Through the OHRV initiative, we just wanted to help our neighbors be able to raise their standards of living. We are also concerned that in the end result, all the conservation groups that oppose Northern Pass will cash in like they always do in projects like this and that will not help our economic initiative at all – quite the contrary they will do whatever they can to curtail OHRVing and Snowmobiling in Coos County. We hope that SEC can deliberate wholly on the facts. Thank you.

Harry C. and Susan O. Brown 19 Backiel Drive Stewartstown, NH 03576 603-237-5716

Colebrook 3/7 7:58 Pm (Followed by Jasan Balin

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0777

0777-1 Thank you for your comment.

Jeanne Menard 36 mountain Rd Deerfield
To the woman and men
The son Market by the presence of "blue" in this room, The work you do to keep the lights on is appreciated. My comment tonight is not intended
on pitting small business against by business. Region
by the planning
by the planning
by the commission
A 2015 NH economic development study announced that NH ranks # 2 in the nation for being small business friendly. I am a small business owner. A driving argument for the NP project has been to meet The need of low cost power for businesses I would like to respect fully request the SEC be open to firther rigerors discussion of the facts
grantifies the
and criteria that Astrobana, Whichteellete states
that the theorem that positioned high ranking of small business in NH to ensure that this project does not under nine a very healthy small business environmen

0778-1 Thank you for your comment.

Brian Mills
Senior Planning Advisor
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy
Reliability (OE-20)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

Good Evening. My name is Jack Savage and I represent the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. We would like to make a brief comment on the Draft EIS to add to those made by my colleague Will Abbott on Monday evening in Colebrook.

We commend the DOE for including analysis of a variety of alternatives to the proposed route of Northern Pass. We note that two potential alternate routes, one along rail corridors, and an overhead alternative in Clarksville and Stewartstown, were determined to be impractical in part because the applicant would likely have difficulty in acquiring necessary property rights to implement those alternatives. The overhead alternative, we note include the problematic because of a conservation easement held by the state of New Hampshire.

DOE also noted that Alternative 3, burial within the PSNH ROW, would be made difficult because PSNH easements "do not grant the Applicant the authority to install or operate underground transmission cables within the land governed by the easements".

Furthermore, we understand that the applicant is required to obtain a special use permit to bury under or along roadways through the White Mountain National Forest, in part because the federal government owns the land on either side and under the roadway. In essence, Northern Pass must seek permission from that landowner to bury along the roadway.

Since the release of the supplemental DEIS in November, the Forest Society has filed suit against
Northern Pass LLC in Coos County Superior Court See the applicant's proposed use of land we own, the
Washburn Family Forest, to construct their project for use by Hydro Quebec. Two other conserved
properties we own, the Kauffmann Forest in Stark and the Rocks Estate in Bethlehem, present potential
challenges to the applicant's ability to construct their preferred route, and certain easements we hold on proposed specifically prohibit construction as proposed by the applicant.

The NH SEC has acknowledged that it does not have the authority to resolve these legitimate property rights issues. As an elective transmission project, Northern Pass is prohibited under New Hampshire law from using eminent domain. It is reasonable to assume that the applicant's preferred route would be difficult to implement, even if permitted by the SEC. At best it is very uncertain.

Consequently, we would request that the DOE acknowledge these issues in its analysis of the applicant's preferred route. In particular we urge the DOE to compare and contrast the current preferred route, in the DOE to compare and contrast the current preferred route, in the DOE to Compare and contrast the current preferred route, in the DOE to Compare and contrast the current preferred route, in the DOE to Compare and contrast the current preferred route, in the DOE to Compare and Contrast the current preferred route, in the DOE to Compare and Contrast the current preferred route, in the DOE to Compare and Contrast the current preferred route, in the DOE to Compare and Contrast the current preferred route, in the DOE to Compare and Contrast the current preferred route, in the DOE to Compare and Contrast the current preferred route, in the DOE to Compare and Contrast the current preferred route, in the DOE to Compare and Contrast the current preferred route, in the DOE to Compare and Contrast the current preferred route, in the DOE to Compare and Contrast the Contrast

We believe that this analysis will further support our request that the DOE look at an alternative international border crossing in Derby Vermont. Thank you.

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0779-1

Thank you for your comment. The Applicant would be responsible for securing all necessary rights and land use approvals to utilize any route permitted by the SEC. Alternative 3 was analyzed in the final EIS despite potential issues with legal rights to use the existing transmission ROW to ensure all reasonable alternatives were considered. As detailed in Sections 1.1.3 and 1.3 of the EIS, Northern Pass has applied to the USFS for a Special Use Permit authorizing Northern Pass to construct, operate, and maintain an electric power transmission line crossing portions of the WMNF and is part of the USFS' Purpose of and Need for Action on this EIS.

References: Burial on ROW: The portion of the Alternative 3 Project corridor which would be located within the existing PSNH transmission route is governed by more than 644 separate easements or other agreements. A review of a representative sampling these easements indicates the majority of the easements do not grant the Applicant the authority to install or operate underground transmission cables within the land governed by the easements. Therefore, in order for Alternative 3 to be implemented, the majority of these easements would need to be amended through agreement with each individual land owner. This aspect of Alternative 3 may be challenging to implement. (Page 2-15)

Rail: A physical review of these corridors indicated that many property owners adjacent to the railroad corridor have constructed structures (e.g., fences/walls) along one or both edges of easement such that additional width may not be available. Based on discussions with NHDOT, these corridors also contain stone box culverts which are historic/cultural resources that would create challenges for siting. Furthermore, in many cases the railroads themselves constitute historic resources. Finally, according to NHDOT, for segments owned in fee by the State, there may be limitations on how the land may be used (for example the only allowed use may be for rail transportation).(Page 2-35)

Overhead/Underground in Stewartstown:[DOE determined that this alternative was not reasonable due to access restrictions. The terms of the NHDRED easement prohibit this use. The conservation easement was created to protect the qualities of the viewshed and natural resources on the property, with terminology included to specifically preclude the type of development the Project would require. Further, the Applicant made extensive efforts with the land owner to acquire rights for this use of the land which were unsuccessful.](Page 2-37)

Jack Savage
VP Communications/Outreach
Society for the Protection of NH Forests
54 Portsmouth St.
Concord, NH 03301
603-224-9945 ext. 330
603-724-5362 (cell)

0779

My name is Jeff Stevens and I am a Construction Manager working on The Balsams Renovation. I live in Dixville Notch and have built large projects all over the world. Infrastructure is a necessary component of all development projects and the Balsams project is no exception. In fact, there are many good aspects to The Balsams project and the Northern Pass, including the fact that they will use clean renewable hydro power and will help Coos County to grow rather than shrink.

Exactly thirty years ago, I helped to build the Pontook Hydroelectric Project in Dummer and that has been a boon to Coos County and New Hampshire, in terms of its economic, environmental and recreational opportunities; with minimized visual impact from the infrastructure and transmission lines. I look forward to doing the same with the Balsams Redevelopment.

0780

0780-1 Thank you for your comment.

Powers That Be

To the powers that be: do you not see?

Can you not hear? Or are you just acting out of fear?

The fate of our land is resting in your hands.

The people have spoken. Please prove to us that the system's not broken.

To the powers that be, in such a powerful company:

How much more will you take from us? Do you realize how much is at stake for us?

How can you stay blind to the devastation left behind

Once you have taken of what we love?

Will it ever be enough?

Or once you have **taken**, will you just **rape** us again and again?
You never once asked our **permission**. You just continue to **force** your own mission.
Well, this is all we have left. And there is **no turning back** once the **damage** is done.
The **loss** for us is much greater than the gain might be for anyone.

For the ones without a voice: Nature has no choice in this.

For all sacred land: I hear you and I understand.

So I sing this for you, that the powers that be may see the truth.

That they may be brave enough to stand up for all of us.

And may they be wise to distinguish the truth from the lies.

May they represent you and me, for

We are the ones who give them the power to be.

Katie Rose, Whitefield 2016 0781

0781-1 Thank you for your comment.

Good Evening,

Thanks again for coming to hear our opinion of this dreadful proposal.

My name is David Van Houten. I live in Bethlehem, and you will remember from my comments in Colebrook on Monday that I disagree with the Applicant's contention that they have the right to build this project on my land.

As I read the Summary of the Draft EIS, I felt that something was being left out. Paragraph S. 3 spells out the Project Objectives, which are: diverse electric supply, low-carbon electric supply, and non-intermittent electric supply. The primary Project Objective has been omitted, and that is for Hydro Quebec and Eversource to make a lot of money. This has guided their every move since day one.

The route that was first proposed cost the least to build and made the most money for the Applicant. The proposal now before us costs a little more, and would yield slightly lower profits, but is still very lucrative. The Committee will not have failed to notice that this proposal is still rejected by the people of NH by a 3-1 margin. You have also heard that some of the opponents might be willing to settle for a route that was completely buried along major corridors in ground that has already been disturbed. Coincidentally, this would line up with statements in the Draft EIS that the least environmental impact and greatest economic benefit to NH would come from this approach. The Applicant claims that it cannot afford such a project. According to the Montreal Gazette, Hydro Quebec **profits** in 2015 were \$3.1 billion. That represents a lot of buying power when considering a project that will generate income for decades.

I had hoped to see what might be called Alternatives 7a and 7b, burial from Derby Line, Vt down I-91 to Hartford, or I-91 to I-93. These are already developed corridors that are large enoughto absorb a project of this magnitude. Instead I see Routes 112 and 116, which are not big enough, and Route 3 barely qualifies as a major corridor. The idea to bury this in Franconia village and Main St Plymouth, close by homes, schools, and businesses, is simply ridiculous.

I have also not seen much discussion about the wisdom of building a project on our land that will funnel money out of the country. This money would be much better invested in American workers implementing energy efficiency and conservation measures, and ramping up solar electricity capacity here in New England. Are the electrical workers who come to these meetings looking for jobs going to follow the money to Canada? It won't be here any more.

Will Eversource sell this project to Hydro Quebec when it is all done? What would the implications of that be?

How do we know that the electricity coming down from Quebec is this supposedly clean hydro power? There is nothing to stop Hydro Quebec from building a 1,000 MW coal plant just north of the border to feed this line.

Normally, I would draw this to a conclusion, but I can't, it just goes on and on...

I hope you will decide that the no-build alternative is the best, and if you can't bring yourselves to do that, please stipulate that the entire project be buried in a sensible fashion.



0782-1

0782-1

Thank you for your comment. Northern Pass has applied to the Department of Energy for a Presidential permit for an international border crossing associated with an HVDC transmission line that would run from Quebec, Canada to Deerfield, NH. Executive Order (EO) 10485, as amended by EO 12038. "requires that executive permission be obtained for the construction and maintenance at the borders of the United States of facilities for the exportation or importation of electric energy." DOE is authorized to "receive applications for the construction," operation, maintenance, or connection, at the borders of the United States, of facilities for the transmission of electric energy between the United States and a foreign country[,]" and "[u]pon finding the issuance of the permit to be consistent with the public interest, and, after obtaining the favorable recommendations of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense thereon, to issue to the applicant, as appropriate, a permit for [the] construction, operation, maintenance, or connection." (EO 10485). DOE, however, does not have siting authority for the Project. In this case, the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee has siting authority for the Project in the state of New Hampshire. Additionally, the USFS has siting authority for portions of the Project located in the White Mountain National Forest. (For further discussion, see Sections 1.1-1.3 of the final EIS.) While DOE's authority is limited to the approval or denial of the amended Presidential permit application (August 2015) as requested by the Applicant, DOE's policy is to analyze not only the proposed border crossing, but also the alignment of new infrastructure required between the proposed border crossing and connection to the existing U.S. electricity system as a "connected action" under NEPA. In keeping with this policy, DOE analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the alignment proposed by the Applicant. In addition, in response to input from Cooperating Agencies, other agencies, and extensive public comment, DOE analyzed a range of other alignments and underground and overhead configurations between the proposed border crossing and connection with the existing U.S. electricity system. The EIS analyzes in detail the No Action Alternative and eleven action alternatives. Additionally, seventeen alternatives were considered but eliminated from detailed analysis. Section 2.4 of the final EIS has been updated with additional information on alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed analysis. Among these alternatives, DOE considered two alternate border crossings. One was an alternative that would utilize the existing National Grid Phase I/II route, including its border crossing in Vermont. Based on its review of the National Grid alternative DOE determined that this alternative is not reasonable. Section

0782



0782

2.4.3 of the final EIS has been updated with additional information related to the National Grid alternative. Separately, in response to comments received on the draft EIS, DOE considered a second alternative border crossing in Vermont, specifically identified as a border crossing at Derby Line, VT that would utilize I-91. DOE determined that this alternative is not reasonable. Section 2.4.17 of the final EIS has been added to reflect consideration of this alternative and DOE's determination.

Potential impacts in Canada from the construction and operation of electricity infrastructure, including hydropower generation and transmission in Canada, are beyond the scope of this NEPA analysis. NEPA does not require an analysis of potential environmental impacts that occur within another sovereign nation that result from actions approved by that sovereign nation. Additionally, the construction and operation of Hydro-Quebec power generation projects and electricity transmission line projects in the bulk Hydro-Quebec system will occur regardless of and independent to whether DOE issues a Presidential permit for the proposed Northern Pass Project international border crossing. For these reasons, potential environmental impacts in Canada are not addressed in this EIS. Section 1.5.4.1 of the Final EIS has been updated in response to this comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening. My name is Lee Lajoie. I live in Concord on Mountain Rd. I am an abutter to the Northern Pass project, as the existing right-of-way cuts across the back of my property.

I purchased my home in 1990 and one of the things that made the property attractive to me was the presence of the ROW – I knew that no one would be building behind me and I have direct access to a snowmobile trail in the right-of-way. In the intervening 26 years I have yet to purchase a snowmobile, but I still have hope. As I expected, the presence of the right-of-way has prevented further development directly behind my home, despite numerous houses and developments being constructed in my neighborhood. Feel the preservation of the open space more than outweighs the impact of the lines. The COM CONCORD HAS NEWLY A DEVELOPMENT THEY DOON TO LIKE

I have attended a number of these public hearings and one of the common themes I have heard is that Northern Pass will decimate the value of adjacent properties. In addition to the original purchase I have refinanced my property two or three times and can tell you that not one of the appraisers mentioned the transmission lines, none of the comparison properties evaluated had rights-of-way, and my property value is in line with similar properties in the City of Concord, so my personal experience does not correlate with the opinions expressed by others. BASED ON THE VARIABLE TESTINARY OF ONE OF AN EXPERT A PERSON ON ALL THE VARIABLE TESTINARY OF ONE OF AN Engineer by training, I am an admitted geek. My wife used to give me a hard time because I came back from Switzerland with pictures of transmission lines climbing over the top of the Alps and from Hawaii with photos of lines climbing up and over the top of extinct volcanoes. To my knowledge, neither place has had a collapse in their tourism industries, another common theme I have heard in these forums.

I also confess to liking creature comforts. When it gets hot in the summer I like to have air conditioning. When I get home at night I like to flip the switch and have the lights come on. I play hockey at the rink in Laconia and understand the need for electricity to keep the ice frozen. For these and many other reasons I fully support having an adequate supply of electricity in the region based on a variety

0783

0783-1 Thank you for your comment.

of fuel sources and with the changing landscape of power supply in New England I understand the need for additional sources such as the Northern Pass.

I have also heard numerous times that New Hampshire is a net exporter of electricity. I am not an economist, but I fail to see how this argument makes a case against Northern Pass. If a state is an exporter of a commodity, in my mind that means you have jobs in the state producing that commodity (which is good) and are getting money from someone out of state (which is also good). There is nothing more "New Hampshire" than trying to get money from people out of state.

In closing I do not envy the task you have in front of you. I wish you all the wisdom of Solomon in balancing the various positive and negative aspects of the project. I hope you are able to put aside emotions and carefully weigh the facts when making your decision. Thank you.

0783

0783-1 cont'd

0783-1 Continued

Testimony of Les Otten to SEC - March 10, 2016

- My name is Les Otten and I am the developer of the Balsams Resort in Dixville NH and a Selectman of that unincorporated town.
- Our business has received a \$2mm investment from what will become the Forward NH Fund, established to help lift one of the poorest economies in the Northeast. This investment was made with no strings attached
- Northern Pass may make a more substantial investment in our project in the near future as the Northern Pass progresses.
- Our North Country community is suffering from decades long job losses. Drugs have invaded our schools and communities and there has been a dramatic and continuing decline in our wood products industry.
- On a positive note our communities have already embraced renewable energy for decades with hydro power generation stations on the Androscoggin river and 33 wind towers sited along our ridge lines. These dams release water on schedules that have enhances the recreation rafting industry
- 7 of these wind towers are located on our property and do not negatively impact the economic viability of the 143mm investment my company is attempting to make in its first phase of development adding an estimated 1,700 long term jobs and 600 construction jobs

0784

0784-1

0784-1

Thank you for your comment.

0784

- I have been involved with resorts from California to Maine including 3 resorts in New Hampshire, none of which have been negatively impacted by transmission lines to my knowledge
- Our Resort will benefit from the reduced power costs we expect as a bulk power buyer from the proposed Northern Pass DC power line, estimated by my staff initially at over \$200 thousand annually
- We are attempting to build a green farm to table renewable power reliant resort which we believe will be favored globally as a vacation destination
- It is long past the time for us to acknowledge there is no silver bullet to solving the effects of fossil fuels on our environment. Northern Pass is one positive step that will reduce our dependence on the sources of power generation that are harming our environment.
- Since 2008 I have been investing in clean renewable energy in NH.
 My company Maine Energy Systems has been the leading installer of clean renewable central heating pellet boilers and has been delivering fuel produced in Maine, NH and Ca to New Hampshire residents
- Finally, my father was born in 1886 if my son lives as long as his
 grandfather he will live until 2079. In that 193-year time span
 we will have consumed the vast majority of all of the fossil fuels
 created by our planet in its 6-7 billion year history. Releasing that
 CO2 into the atmosphere is understood to have devastating effects

to the eco system of our planet. It is also shame full for us to not make every reasonable effort to move to renewable resources like the hydro power we are discussing.

• I support renewable energy locally and globally and I therefore support Northern Pass

0784

0784-1 0784-1 cont'd

Committee

Mr. Chair, Members of the Gommission,

My name is Ted Tichy, I live in Milan, NH I am here tonight representing North Country Forestry Inc. and the local forest industry. We currently run two log and pulpwood concentration yards in NH. One in North Stratford, and one in Woodsville NH. We currently employ six employees in NH and contract with many many logging contractors who are our suppliers in this State.

We would like to purchase the forest products that the ROW cutting of The Northern Pass Project will produce. The wood that is harvested will provide may jobs, not only for the Loggers, Truckers and Wood buyers, but for the entire Forest Product Industry as well as the supporting businesses, ie. equipment suppliers, fuel suppliers, grocery stores etc.

One thing above all others that would help out NH families and businesses would be a guaranteed rate reduction. The electric rates in NH are killing our economy. This winter has been very mild, and fuel prices are the lowest they have been in years, but my wife told me our electric rates just went up again this month! That is one big reason we have fewer sawmills in this State. Just ask the few mills we have left what their biggest operating expenses are (besides taxes)

The reason I say GUARANTEED is that promises don't keep. We were promised Seabrook would lower our rates. They did not and we are still paying for that one! I am sure Eversource has a long term rate agreement with Hydro - Quebec. Why not make a long term contract with rate payers for a lower rate for ten years? We can make processing of wood products as industry on a again in the

You folks on the Commission can make sure this happens. Thank you for your Time.

Ted Tichy 12 Spruceville Road Milan, NH

If People are really concerned with environmental impacts
they would not be calling for the burgar of the line. The impact will
be vastly greater on all Lands, not just aetheriss.
MY WIFE & I HAVE RIPPEN OUR Horses on the Veltro Line IN Vermont many
times. These Trails Browde many Spectacular Views that would otherwise never
be seen.

0785

0785-1

0785-1

Thank you for your comment.

March 7, 2016

Office of Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability (OE-20)

U.S. Dept. of Energy

1000 Independence Ave., SW

Washington, D.C. 20585

Mr. Brian Mills:

My name is Trevor Lewis; I live and work here in Coos County and I'm here tonight to voice my support for Northern Pass. While some people oppose this project for reasons ranging from esthetic concerns to the importation of a foreign energy source, I can understand and respect those views. In saying that I do believe there is room for conservative, responsible change and growth for this county and state. As a forester I consider myself first and foremost a conservationist and with that I feel there is a balance that can be found between economic growth with development and the protection and preservation of our environment.

Northern Pass has heard the concerns of those individuals that oppose this project; this is evident from the changes that have been made from the initial proposal. I see this is a fair and balanced compromise for both parties as we move forward in this effort to grow economically while making our community a stronger and more vibrant place for the future.

Sincerely;

Trevor Lewis

Sur Celis

0786

0786-1 Thank you for your comment.

The Truth About the Northern Pass

English Composition

Luke Wotton

Mrs. Hill

16 October 2013

0787-1

Thank you for your comment. The commenter's concern is noted regarding potential power line impacts on air pollution particles. Section 4.1.4.2 in the EIS addresses impacts related to electric and magnetic fields.

To start this essay off I will have to explain what The Northern Pass is. It is a project took on by Hydro-Québec to have a total of 153 high-voltage DC (direct current) to be converted into AC (alternating current) at a conversion center in the town of Franklin, New Hampshire, From there they will have 34 miles of high-voltage AC power lines going to Deerfield, New Hampshire where it will connect to the New England power grid. This proposed route consists of above ground power lines will consist of towers that will range from 85 to 100 feet tall. Their proposal consists of another line that will go into New York State and connect to their power grid also, this includes New York City. This will be a lot shorter of a line roughly 31 miles long. This proposed route is mostly underground.

This is where a lot of the controversy starts. Why can't the New Hampshire high-voltage power lines also be buried underground? In response to the overwhelming public response to the Northern Pass's power lines being an eyesore they have agreed to put 7.5 miles underground. When Hydro-Québec was asked why can't the whole line be placed underground they responded by saying that it was just not cost-effective. They have since removed that response from all Internet sources. (This information is no longer available on the northern pass website.)

High-voltage power lines that are above ground can ionize the air around them. This effect is called the corona discharge. In this corona discharge airborne pollutants such as nitrogen oxides along with particles in the ozone get oxides and sticking in your longs when you breathe them in. EMF (electric and magnetic fields) are another concern near high-voltage power lines. With EMF's it might sound overwhelming but in reality all household electric

0787-1 Continued

The Truth About the Northern Pass appliances put off a certain amount of EMF's (Zeman, 2011). What it comes down to is how much is too much? It is a known fact in the science community that living next to hide voltage power lines is bad for your health. On all the high profile diagnostics and surveys on this topic they cannot come to the conclusion that all the people's bad health was a result from the high-power voltage lines. On the other hand they cannot rule out the fact that it could have been a result from living next to the high-voltage power lines (Adams, 2007).

All the high-profile tests were run by the United States or Canada's government.

Nonsense! Hydro-Québec and Hoover Dam, for an example, are the products of Canada's and the United States' governments. You have to start to question whether or not the information is skewed. It is part of your research to find out where this information comes from and whether or not it can be trusted. Now if your information is coming from the source of the high-power voltage lines, wouldn't that make the source unreliable?

On to the big topic of renewable energy. Hydro-Québec produces a little over 35,000 Mega Watts of electricity each year (Hydro-Quebec.com, 28 September 2013). They do this by hydropower which has required the flooding of 1,000 acres of land with a hydro dams. This was back in the 90s now with the Northern Pass disturbing electricity to all of New England plus the electric line going down into New York, Hydro-Québec has slated to build the final stage of the Great Whale project (Mathew, n.d.). This will be yet another hydro dam built up in Québec on the Creed's native land. (faculty.virginia.edu, 1992) With this new hydro dam they will need to flood an area the size of New Hampshire about 10,000 square acres. (Feit, n.d.) So the Northern

0787-2

Thank you for your comment. Potential impacts in Canada from

the construction and operation of electricity infrastructure. including hydropower generation and transmission in Canada.

0787

are beyond the scope of this NEPA analysis. NEPA does not

require an analysis of potential environmental impacts that occur

within another sovereign nation that result from actions approved

by that sovereign nation. Additionally, the construction and

operation of Hydro-Quebec power generation projects and

electricity transmission line projects in the bulk Hydro-Quebec

system will occur regardless of and independent to whether DOE

issues a Presidential permit for the proposed Northern Pass

Project international border crossing. For these reasons, potential

environmental impacts in Canada are not addressed in this EIS. Section 1.5.4.1 of the Final EIS has been updated in response to

this comment.

The Truth About the Northern Pass

Pass will bring renewable energy to all of New England. Whether or not it is a good source of

renewable energy is a question?

compare the two that's how bad it is.

According to Northern pass.us on 6 October 2013 the Northern Pass will reduce carbon emissions up to 5,000,000 tons a year (Northern Pass Transmission, LLC, 2013). With that being said I myself have seen this number arise from 250,000 tons a year to its current status of 5,000,000 tons a year over a month of research time. I do not see exactly where they're getting this hypothetical number. The only thing is that I can find is they reinstate the fact that it is a hypothetical number. Mr. Elliot my old biology teacher how has his Ph. D. in the subject, brought to my attention a couple things. You not only have taken into account the trees that are necessary to cut down while flooding the reserve for the Hydro dams, which we have stated earlier about the size of New Hampshire (Elliott, 2013). The fact the matter is the land that they are going to flooding to build this reserve is and was permafrost soil. When you rapidly melt you release a mess of methane gas into the atmosphere. (ICTMN Staff, 2013)Methane is a

What they have done, and will continue to do, with these Hydro dams is cut down trees and harm the forest well making the ever larger Hydro dams. It is not limited to trees but it is a good reference point. With the removal of all these trees from the forest from not only the Hydro dam but also from the high-voltage power lines' paths. When you look at it like that, yes the Hydro dams are cleaner energy then say a coal plant to produce electricity. With a Hydro

whole another beast compared to carbon dioxide I have been unable to find out how to even

The Truth About the Northern Pass

dam there are some setbacks to it especially with the location of these Hydro dams in northern Québec.

Now that we are on the subject of environmental impact there are some of facts that a high power voltage lines bring to the local environment. Animals move from one place to another, this will include dear, turkeys, and birds for instance will be hindered by the highvoltage power lines being put up. Wildlife on the ground will tend to just stay away from high voltage power lines and not be around them. What this will create is an invisible barricade for the wildlife that they will tend not to cross or come near the power lines. This could become a problem in the North Country particularly because the high-voltage power lines tend to be put in valleys in low paths between mountains, the same spot where animals that migrate tend to travel on (Eigil Reimers, 2007). With birds the same can be said about the effects of power lines. With animals that fly there is the fact that some of them will fly into the power lines or nest on the power lines. In the report by Audubon Society of Omaha it shows that there is a slight decrease of birds near high-voltage power lines but according to them nothing to alarming (Doherty, 1996). During my in to view with Mr. Elliott he stated his concerns about how many birds flew into the power lines and died during his time up in Canada during his research on the Cree people (Elliott, 2013).

On to the subject matter of job creation for New Hampshire that The Northern Pass claims to be significant. I have looked into the subject matter a great deal and found out what I believe to be a straight out lied from them, The Northern Pass. Yes there will be workers that will be needed for the construction of the power line, but most if not all of those people will be

0787-3

Thank you for your comment. Habitat connectivity related to wildlife movement across the landscape is discussed in Sections 4.2.11 Northern Section, Wildlife, of the EIS and in more detail in Section 3.2, Northern Section of the Wildlife Technical Report.

0787-4

Thank you for your comment. Section 3.1.1.2.2, Impacts from Operations, Maintenance, and Emergency Repairs, Terrestrial Species, specifically discusses impacts to migratory birds from collisions with transmission lines.

0787-3

0787-5

Thank you for your comment. Potential socioeconomic impacts are addressed in the EIS within Section 4.1.2, including an evaluation of construction related, and long-term operations, changes to employment and income in New Hampshire.

0787-4

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NH Site Evaluation Committee Hearings Northern Pass

I am Ted Fitts, a property owner in Whitefield, and I teach courses in environmental history. My ancestors showed up in New Hampshire in 1634, and now responsibility for the land is on our watch just as it was earlier on theirs.

So I speak with some reverence for tradition. The decisions that you make in this case will have a huge impact on the legacy you bestow to our state.

Think well on it. Nothing is lost by taking time to reflect on the degradation of a transformed landscape.

When you walk out of here tonight, and when you meet to make siting decisions, you will see and feel the power provided by electricity. We use it; we need it; we appreciate its advantages as it lights our world. And you may also turn out those lights at times, perhaps after you read your children a bedtime story—I'd recommend **The Lorax** by Dr. Seuss—tonight or any other night. All across this state, thousands of citizens are depending on the power this company provides.

But what my neighbors in the North Country and I resist, and what I appeal, as an intervener, that you embrace, is the transformed power of a degraded landscape that you have the power to prevent.

The issue here is NOT about individual jobs, nor about individual rights to use land or corporate rights to provide services, nor about individual preferences.

The one issue in front of you is your responsibility to our COMMON birthright: an environment preserved from selfish and greedy assault and scarred by corporate muscle. The lands around our communities, the vistas we see, are not the provenance of the powerful and the wealthy and the greedy. The scar that enormous towers represent stands as emblematic of a willingness to give privilege to profit over preservation, to prioritize speedy development over assured safety, to declare that all progress is good progress.

So I rise here to ask that you embrace the precautionary principle and oppose a project whose electromagnetic health risks are yet unknown.

And I rise here to ask that you reject a project whose negative transformation of the environment IS known and would be visible to every community as long as steel shall stand against sky.

I am asking you to stand against those towers. Bury them if this project is, in your judgment, essential, but deny the right to degrade our state.

0788

0788-1 Thank you for your comment.

You will leave a legacy to your children and to my children and to the children of power company executives. You will decide if enormous towers that can be buried are worth degrading our communities. I am asking that you NOT allow this company's proposed scar to be tattooed into our common landscape.

Thank you.

0788

0788-1 cont'd

March 7, 2016

Office of Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability (OE-20)

U.S. Dept. of Energy

1000 Independence Ave., SW

Washington, D.C. 20585

Mr. Brian Mills:

We might all agree that these are not the best economic times. But our concept of hard times is nothing compared to what our grandparents endured during The Great Depression. We might ask how the people of that era dealt with that economic crisis.

Well, Roosevelt's great public works projects provided the springboard for the nation's recovery. The CCC employed thousands of young men building roads through the wilderness, roads that are still in use today. The TVA and the Bureau of Reclamation built big hydro-electric projects that continue to provide cheap electricity to the southeastern and western states.

Here's what the iconic American folk singer, Woodie Guthrie had to say about these enormous hydroelectrical projects:

"And on up the river is Grand Coulee Dam,

The mightiest thing ever built by a man,

to run these great factories and water the land,

Roll on, Columbia, roll on."

Woodie Guthrie was a starving Oakie right out of the Dustbowl. Now this iconic American folksinger wrote a couple dozen songs about these big hydro-projects. And it's interesting to note that if you did a word search on his entire body of lyrical work, phrases like "snail darter" or "endangered species" don't come up.

And the hundreds of thousands of refugees from the poverty of the dustbowl didn't pass up these temporary construction jobs. Maybe they and President Roosevelt realized that sometimes you need a brief but intense spark to ignite something bigger and longer lasting. When you go camping and carefully build your fire lay with the tinder and the kindling, and the tiny twigs with some bigger sticks on top and you get ready to strike a match, nobody ever says, "Oh, don't bother with that match. Those things only last five or ten seconds. You can't unthaw your big toe with those temporary things."

One of the most important aspects of this project is the upgrade of the Coos Loop. This really is a very significant for all of Northern New England, because it will allow the biomass boiler in Berlin to run at full

0789

0789-1

Thank you for your comment. To accommodate the Project, portions of the existing 115 kV transmission line presently within the Project corridor would be relocated. As an incidental benefit of the Project, Northern Pass plans to upgrade the capacity of a portion of this 115 kV line in the North Country (also known as the "Coos Loop") by up to 100 MW. While this capacity upgrade is not necessary for the implementation/operation of the Project, Northern Pass has determined that upgrading the line would be an incidental benefit to surrounding regional generators. Under the No Action Alternative, this upgrade would not specifically occur.

capacity. With the slowdown of the pulpwood sector, we desperately need this market for low grade wood.

We need to build this project for the good of New Hampshire, for the good of New England, for the new generation of Americans who will need this low cost electric energy to build a flourishing economy for the future.

Mark A. Armstrong

P.O. Box 121

Errol, NH 03579

0789

0789-1 cont'd

Susan Seitz

I am asking a sking a favor

of you. Dut warry - no one will

Know it you do it or hot.

Wednesday when you do you bus

tour of Decrirch please put

your set in our

Imagine how you would feel it

The church you have attended

all you life suddauly has a

130 tower very alose to it.

you thought how locky you were

to got your parent into e eduly

housing nother calls

you crying because She can't

Sleup because of the noise

from the line

Its old Home days - many small

towns in New Pampoke toold

Them. your of the gazielso

0790-1

Thank you for your comment.

behind our his toric four had. A frend colls your name you turn do look and see the towers engolfing the historic distric. Please consider The human aspect of this project and not use New Haupshie as po Throway for power do the grid. And Please consider The Boleans because this project and sin Their back yourd and No one cores

0790-1 Continued **0790**

0790-1 cont'd

From: Monique Petrofsky

Date:03/10/2016

To: DOE concerning the Northern Pass

Thank you for the opportunity to share one of many reasons why I am opposed to the Northern Pass as currently proposed

When a natural gas pipeline was being constructed in Stewartstown specifically in Riverside there was a spring with a spring house in the area that no one thought to express concern over or to request that the pipeline carefully avoid the site so as to not disrupt it. Unfortunately, the gas pipeline passed through right alongside (in plain view of the springhouse) which ruined the spring. When I asked my parents about it they replied that no one thought to bring this up. The spring location was well known and marked and had a lovely spring house (that still exists) that was used by the local population as well as tourists. I mention this because Stewartstown has such a site that I would like to point out that no one to date has mentioned in the concern of preserving.

Bear Rock is well known to locals and has been named Bear Rock since settlement times.

It is historically known for bear sightings even after the area was cleared for agriculture. as early as

The precise location is noted on a map dated 1861. Bear Rak's also mentioned in learning the same rock that gives its name to Bear Rock Road, Bear Rock Bog, Reports. the Bear rock school house that still stands in Colebrook, and the Bear Rock Adventures, and other local businesses. A whole part of town named after it.

In the town reports you can find pictures of it as schools would take field trips and take photo ops at the Rock.

Even songs written about it.

Bear Rock is a large outcropping of granite shaped by glaciers, several small cliffs, and is known to have caves

Currently the plan is to put a transmission station directly on top of the granite outcropping region known as Bear Rock. It would be blasted through by line.

0791-1

0791-1

Thank you for your comment.

0791-1 cont'd

0791-1 Continued

I suspect that there are many such sites along the 180 mile route, worth preserving, well known to locals that will be destroyed, like the spring in Riverside either out of total disregard or ignorance.

In 30 years when we have far graduated from needing resources from power lines and when it will be deemed an archaic method -NH will have lost its one advantage – that of its natural beauty due to this shortsightedness. What a pity.

THANK YOU CONNITTEE - FOR COMING TO COLEBROOK - SEPSEAKER

I have to say this right at the beginning --- Charlie Jordan said it best ...

This is like being trapped in the movie -- Groundhog Day.

I KNOW THIS IS THE PEOCETHERE ...

The same thing over and over again — year after year ... EIS, DOE hearings, SEC hearings — and absolutely nothing has changed ... all the few Pros on NP are the same and all the many Cons on NP are the same

But the Groundhog Day meetings, hearings and steps in this so-called process go on and on.

And to make things even more ridiculous – we are here again to comment ... even though NP has not completed its application and still doesn't even have a route to build the project.

 You are going to hear nothing here that you haven't heard many times before

AFTER Millions & Million & of words ABOUT THIS -

- It is impossible, no matter how many speakers there are or how articulate, for anyone to say something different or shed a new thought on this saga.
- If you are among the few that support this exploitation or if you are among the many that are against this project w/o burial – you will hear nothing new ... it's all been said.

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Thank you for your comment.

0792-1 Continued 0792-1 cont'd 0792

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Occasionally it is a good practice for each of us to reflect on the reasons for instituting government. Both the US and our New Hampshire Constitutions state clearly that government is instituted for the safety and welfare of the People. Neither of those documents make any mention of corporate rights yet, all too often the welfare and wishes of the People are ignored or trampled on by corporations that claim superior rights to those of actual human beings. Worse yet, Corporations regularly display contempt for the welfare of our human communities by damaging public and private property, and despoiling the environment with projects that feed their bottom lines while leaving the People poorer.

There are, of course, projects of public need such as power lines to transmit electricity needed to "keep the lights on" or to supply water and discharge waste. Even in those cases, however, it is incumbent upon those planning and building a project to use up to date technology and building techniques that will do the least harm to the host human communities and their natural environment. The Eversource insistence on using nineteenth century overhead technology to build their for-profit high voltage corridor through NH is a blatant case of corporate disregard for the welfare of the People. They are well aware of the proven, cost effective, storm proof, and community friendly line burial technology that Hydro Quebec has used world wide.

Eversource should be instructed to be a good neighbor to our NH communities by burying the entire Northern Pass project or forfeit the privilege to build the project at all.

0793-1

Peter E. Martin Phone: 603-738-2942 / E-mail: martinp003@gmail.com



Susan Arnold, Appalachian Mountain Club Northern Pass Comments to the NH SEC and US Department of Energy March 10, 2016 – Concord, NH

My name is Susan Arnold and I am Vice President for Conservation at the Appalachian Mountain Club. The AMC is the oldest conservation and recreation organization in the country, with more than 100,000 members and supporters from Maine to Washington, DC, including more than 12,000 here in New Hampshire. In our 140 year history, AMC has helped to protect this region's open spaces, including from poorly sited energy projects such as Northern Pass, which is requesting to use high impact, old technologies to maximize profits at the expense of NH's iconic landscape. Yes, parts of this proposal use an existing ROW where current tower structures are less than tree height. This project will congest that ROW with over 1,100 new towers that are more than 2-3 times tree height, and cut a new swath for 40 miles through northern NH. It is that unnecessary impact that has brought out so many people in opposition to this project as proposed. And the choice is not Northern Pass or nothing, or Northern Pass versus expensive energy.

I will reference but not repeat here AMC's comments provided earlier by Dr. Kimball in Meredith and Colebrook, and Chris Thayer in Waterville. The following points are germane to both the SEC and DEIS processes:

- 1. The choice before the SEC and DOE is far from Northern Pass, or nothing. It is whether you will allow the use of yesterday's technologies with their high environmental impacts at the expense of NH's landscape. You know that other competing projects are completely buried using 21st technology and that different energy alternatives exist. Both the SEC Application and the DEIS fail to acknowledge or appropriately examine competing and other reasonable alternatives to meet regional energy needs. The need for Northern Pass and its impacts must be reviewed within a broader framework.
- 2. Along with Northern Pass, other competitive projects have bid into the recent New England Clean Energy RFP for the MA, CT and RI market. Grid scale storage is not entirely futuristic as suggested in Northern Pass's introduction. Over 40 MW of grid scale battery storage were just bid into the New England Clean Energy RFP. The U.S. energy storage market surged 243% in 2015 and is estimated to hit the 1 gigawatt threshold by 2019. And ironically one of these RFP projects the Vermont Green Power Line-- even has Hydro-Quebec power as part of its bid, and it is a totally buried transmission proposal. Much of the future energy need Mr. Quinlan presented in his opening presentation will be met with or without Northern Pass, but New Hampshire's landscape will be permanently scarred if Northern Pass is approved as proposed.

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Deerfield, NH. Executive Order (EO) 10485, as amended by EO 12038. "requires that executive permission be obtained for the construction and maintenance at the borders of the United States of facilities for the exportation or importation of electric energy." DOE is authorized to "receive applications for the construction," operation, maintenance, or connection, at the borders of the United States, of facilities for the transmission of electric energy between the United States and a foreign country[,]" and "[u]pon finding the issuance of the permit to be consistent with the public interest, and, after obtaining the favorable recommendations of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense thereon, to issue to the applicant, as appropriate, a permit for [the] construction, operation, maintenance, or connection." (EO 10485). DOE, however, does not have siting authority for the Project. In this case, the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee has siting authority for the Project in the state of New Hampshire. Additionally, the USFS has siting authority for portions of the Project located in the White Mountain National Forest. (For further discussion, see Sections 1.1-1.3 of the final EIS.) While DOE's authority is limited to the approval or denial of the amended Presidential permit application (August 2015) as requested by the Applicant, DOE's policy is to analyze not only the proposed border crossing, but also the alignment of new infrastructure required between the proposed border crossing and connection to the existing U.S. electricity system as a "connected action" under NEPA. In keeping with this policy, DOE analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the alignment proposed by the Applicant. The New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning, 10-year State Energy Strategy is discussed as a portion of the Project Objectives (section 1.4.1). In addition, in response to input from Cooperating Agencies, other agencies, and extensive public comment, DOE analyzed a range of other alignments and underground and overhead configurations between the proposed border crossing and connection with the existing U.S. electricity system. The EIS analyzes in detail the No Action Alternative and eleven action alternatives. Additionally, seventeen alternatives were considered but eliminated from detailed analysis. Section 2.4 of the final EIS has been updated with additional information on alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed analysis. A power generation alternative was considered but was eliminated from detailed analysis in the EIS because it is not a reasonable alternative. Section 2.4.8 of

Thank you for your comment. Northern Pass has applied to the

Department of Energy for a Presidential permit for an international border crossing associated with an HVDC

transmission line that would run from Quebec, Canada to



0794

the final EIS has been updated with additional information about this alternative. Section 1.4 of the final EIS has been updated to include new information on market trends and energy use, including demand-side management and energy efficiency, since the draft EIS was published in 2015. Edit Master Response



- 3. Mentioned but downplayed in Mr. Quinlan presentation are distributed energy and energy efficiency. These alternatives are clearly ways to help meet future energy need without the negative environmental impacts and increased foreign trade deficit of Northern Pass. And the fact is they would create more NH jobs than NPT. Energy efficiency and distributed generation are emphasized in New Hampshire's updated 10-Year Energy Strategy from the Office of Energy and Planning in 2014, the most recent official NH State energy document, but it is not even cited in the DEIS or SEC Application. Why not? It needs to be.
- 4. These paradigm shifts for meeting energy needs are happening at an accelerating rate. On Tuesday night the Town of Lancaster voted to give the select board permission for solar arrays to reduce the Town's total energy cost by 25%. Ironically Franklin's plan to build a much larger 8.5-megawatt solar project can't proceed until more people are allowed to net meter, though it would help halve that city's electric bill. The NH Electric Coop released a study they commissioned showing that net metered solar was not unfairly raising customer rates since it comes on line when demand and electric rates are highest. Big utilities like Eversource are championing continued regulatory barriers to growing net metering; Eversource and its ilk are themselves the primary barrier to getting more distributed generation on line faster. Imagine what the playing field would look like if there were a cap on imported Hydro Quebec power such as exists with net metering in New Hampshire.
- 5. Northern Pass's presentation discusses the NE region's Forward Capacity market and argues that prices will be going up in the short term because of a "scarcity situation." But Moody's most recent analysis last month states that this market is expected to be further depressed (i.e. prices lowered) because (i) 371 megawatts of demand-side resources (promises by large energy users to reduce usage when called upon by the power grid operator), (ii) 6.8 MW from the first US offshore (34-MW) wind farm under construction off Block Island, RI, (iii) incorporation of the first long-term forecast for solar growth, with small-scale New England solar facilities expected to reduce demand in 2019-2020 by 390 MW —which is 57% of the power going off line because of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station retirement that Mr. Quinlan noted in his presentation, and (iv) two large fuel cell facilities, providing 2.5 MW each. The DEIS's analysis of these alternatives is absent or much out of date, and needs to be included and updated in the FEIS. And these are factors the SEC should consider when it determines the overall public good, or lack thereof, of Northern Pass as proposed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

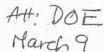
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New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301-2429

February 20, 2016 Comment on the Northern Pass Transmission Project, Docket 2015-06

Dear Ms. Monroe:

Hydro Quebec hydroelectric power is not clean energy. It comes at great cost to the environment, the indigenous people of Quebec, the fishing and tourist industries.

My concern is with the Carbon Footprint Hydro Quebec plans to make in New Hampshire via the Northern Pass Project, and the absence of a comprehensive mitigation plan to offset

- 500 miles of access roads
- · widening the existing row
- blasting to prepare for pilings
- cement for pilings
- · heavy equipment used to create 35' pilings to carry the new lines

The following questions need to be addressed before the NP application is accepted:

- What is the Northern Pass Project Mitigation Plan?
- How much will it cost?
- What recognized Carbon Footprint Monitoring System is being used? (i.e., CDP Carbon Disclosure Project, a London based global non-profit)
- Who will pay the bill?

Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth Terp 55 Birch Bend Dr. #5 Thornton, NH 03285

P.S. for a smaller carbon footprint,

Bury The Line ! down Rte 93!

ETerp

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Thank you for your comment. Air quality impacts potentially resulting from the Project, including carbon emissions, are discussed in Section 4.1.10 of the EIS and the Air Quality Technical Report. Appendix H of the EIS includes several Applicant-proposed impact avoidance and minimization measures related to air quality, but DOE has not developed nor is planning to develop a carbon monitoring program.

Table 2-3 in the final EIS provides information regarding project costs. The EIS does not attempt to speculate how Northern Pass would, or would not, structure the financial and taxation obligations of the project. As is normal for an EIS analysis, property tax calculations included in Section 4.1.2 of the EIS are based on the estimated capital cost of the project (equipment, materials, labor) and are not depreciated over time due to the

level of speculation which would be required.

TALKING POINTS -DOE -MARCH 7th Meeting-Steve Adams, PAR Electrical Contractors

- My name is Steve Adams and I am President of PAR Electrical Contractors, a Quanta Services Company.
- I want to thank the Department of Energy for allowing me the opportunity to speak in support of the Northern Pass Project.
- Quanta Services is the largest utility line contractor in the country employing over 22,000 employees and the parent company to over 45 operating companies across North America. PAR Electrical Contractors, a Quanta Services company was pleased to be recently selected as the general contractor for the Northern Pass Project.
- As the general contractor for the Northern Pass Project, Quanta's role includes design, engineering, construction, and overall management for the project. We will also be in charge of contracting with the various subcontractors necessary to successfully construct this project. As with all of our projects safety remains our highest priority. PAR Electrical Contractors has one of the best safety records in the industry and takes great care to be sensitive to the environment while preforming our work.
- Quanta Services operates two construction companies in New Hampshire PAR
 Electrical Contractors in Bow, NH and JCR Utility Construction in Raymond, NH.
 We currently employ approximately 200 people in New Hampshire with some of
 our local operations dating back over 30 years. These employees live and work
 in New Hampshire and raise their families here. With Northern Pass we
 anticipate increasing this local work force significantly adding thousands of direct
 and indirect jobs to support the construction activity.
- An important aspect of the Northern Pass project is Eversource's "New Hampshire First" commitment that requires the general contractor to provide work and job opportunities for New Hampshire citizens and businesses. This local requirement includes several Eversource transmission projects in New Hampshire, including the Northern Pass. While there are certainly aspects of this project that will require specialty workers, there has been considerable effort to plan and structure this project in a manner that maximizes opportunity locally. The "New Hampshire 1^{str} commitment is reflected in the bid that Quanta put forward to Eversource for the Northern Pass. In fact, over the past six to eight months we have worked with many contractors and small businesses in New Hampshire to review the capacity of the local workforce, catalog local

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0796-1 Thank you for your comment.

construction resources and secure local pricing on labor and materials. This information is part of our winning bid.

- Given Quanta's experience working on large electric transmission projects around the country, I wanted to provide some information on the economic benefits these types of projects will bring to New Hampshire. While many people can see the jobs and economic benefits that flow to electric linemen, sometimes it is difficult to appreciate the fact that these benefits flow much broader and deeper into the local economy. As an example, a similar transmission construction project that was just completed is the Maine Power Reliability Project. The so called MPRP was a \$1.4 billion project that was constructed from 2010 to 2015. In total, more than 390 contractors were hired to build that project and approximately 270 of those contractors were based in Maine. At the height of construction, the project created approximately 2,700 jobs and a positive economic impact of \$436 million dollars to the Maine economy. There are many similar examples across the country of the widespread economic benefits provided by these projects, but I would encourage this committee to consider the MPRP impacts due to location and recent construction schedule.
- We anticipate the overall economic impact of NP to be similar to MPRP. We
 have a few examples of the typical items that will be needed in order to construct
 the Northern Pass project. Some examples include
 - o Gravel 7M
 - o Concrete-8M
 - o Conduit-27M
 - o Lodging-10M
 - o Fuel-9M
 - o Meals-10M
- Northern Pass will provide opportunities for local road builders, excavation companies, lumber mills, and loggers. Landscapers, waste management, salvage, aggregate hauling, equipment and supply transportation by truck, train and air. These projects also require major supplies of local gravel, concrete, hay and wood for environmental mats.
- Finally, as we have experienced countless times on other similar projects, this
 spending will extend well beyond the construction industry to retail stores,
 restaurants, motels and campgrounds and many other services necessary to
 support this large mobile workforce. This is not a complete list, but I hope this
 information demonstrates the broad economic benefit these projects bring to the
 state.
- In the coming months, Quanta and our operating companies will be reaching out to local contractors to further explain opportunities, discuss ways to best

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integrate local companies into the project, discuss training and safety requirements, and anticipated project timelines. Quanta looks forward to continuing to work with local contractors and others as we prepare for this project, and being a dependable partner for New Hampshire as we build on our existing business here in New Hampshire.

 Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments; we encourage the Department of Energy to approve this important project. 0796

0796-1 cont'd





Coös County Commissioners' Office

P.O. Box 10 West Stewartstown, N.H. 03597 603-246-3321 fax: 603-246-8117

Department of Energy

March 11, 2016

Brian Mills

Re: Docket No. 2015-06

Dear Mr. Mills,

My name is Richard J. Samson, Coos County Commissioner, and District Three. I represent eleven towns and eight unincorporated places in District Three. Of the eleven towns six will be directly affected by Northern Pass. Four of the eight unincorporated places will be directly affected.

The towns of Pittsburg, Clarksville, Stewartstown, Colebrook, Columbia, Stratford and Groveton or Northumberland have all voted at their annual town meetings in the past several years to oppose the Northern Pass project. At this time there are no transmission lines in Pittsburg, Clarksville or Stewartstown. There is a transbution line only in Stewartstown.

In the towns of Clarksville and Stewartstown there are several cemeteries that may impact the route that Northern Pass is proposing. Are any of these cemeteries historical in nature or on a historical register? Are they included in the Section 106 review?

There is also federal grasslands that may be impacted by this proposed project. Are they listed anywhere in the environmental statement and with what specificity?

There are also wetlands in Pittsburg, Clarksville, Stewartstown, Dixville, Millsfield, Dummer, Stark, Groveton or Northumberland. Will these wetlands be addressed as well?

COMMISSIONERS

THOMAS M. BRADY, Jefferson PAUL R. GRENIER, Berlin RICK SAMSON, Stewartstown

0797-1

Thank you for your comment. Any cemeteries proximate to the Project were identified and assessed for their National Register eligibility through the Section 106 process. If cemeteries have been identified as being within the direct and indirect APE, and therefore as within the study area for the EIS (Section 3.1.8), then they are considered in Sections 4.1.8 of the final EIS.

0797-2

Thank you for your comment. All land uses and specific designations are detailed within Sections 3.1.6 and 4.1.6 of the final EIS. The grassland noted in the comment was not specifically identified.

0797-3

Thank you for your comment. Methods used for delineating wetlands are generally described in Section 1.4 in the Water Resources Technical Report, and are more specifically described in the Wetlands and Waterbodies Assessment for Project Alternatives (July 2015) and Wetlands, Waterbodies, and Vernal Pools Assessment Proposed Action (July 2015). Additionally, estimates of direct, temporary and secondary wetland impacts have been reviewed and, where necessary, revised. The results are presented in Table 4-66 and accompanying text in the final EIS, and throughout Section 3 of the Water Resources Technical Report. While there are differences in acreages of wetlands delineated, many of the differences with respect to impact calculations are derived from the assumptions used in disturbance areas.

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Coös County Commissioners' Office

P.O. Box 10 West Stewartstown, N.H. 03597 603-246-3321 fax: 603-246-8117

Coos County's electrical generation and power is now controlled by Canadian companies at this time. Approval of Northern Pass and the issuance of a

Presidential Permit will only further our dependence on foreign supplies of our electricity.

Neither New Hampshire nor the United States federal government has an energy policy. By rightfully denying a Presidential permit for the proposed Northern Pass project will require the United States to consider and institute an energy that will start us on the path to energy independence.

As county commissioner for the unincorporated towns of Dixville and Millsfield I am one of three selectman representing the unincorporated places. It is one of my responsibilities to protect these unincorporated places and their land. A serious responsibility.

Based on these concerns, I respectfully request that the Department of Energy recommend that a Presidential permit for the proposed Northern Pass be denied.

"THE SMART WAY TO KEEP PEOPLE PASSIVEAND OBEDIENT IS TO STRICTLY LIMIT THE SPECTRUM OF ACCEPTABLE OPINION, BUT ALLOW VERY LIVELY DEBATE WITHIN THAT SPECTRUM."

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Samson

Coos County Commissioner District Three

COMMISSIONERS

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FROM THE DESK OF J.A. GARNEAU P.O. Box 24 • 765-767 Central Street • Franklin, N.H. 03235

603- Tel: 934-2270 Fax: 934-1970

April4,2016

U.S. Department of Energy Mr. Brian Mills 1000 Independence Ave,SW, Washington, D.C. 20585

Mr. Mills,

My Name is Joseph A. Garneau, and I live at 7 Garneau Road, in Franklin, N.H. I have lived my whole life on Garneau Road, that being almost 63 years. My land is adjacent to the Webster Substation, and under high tension lines owned by PSNH or now called Eversource Co.. Those lines feed part of the western portion of N.H.. By documentation, I believe my mother gave the right of way to PSNH, in the early 50's to cross our property, which then was I believe for two lines. That property was passed to me and my sister Mary, upon our parents deaths. We own houses and other buildings adjacentto the lines. For many years we had good relations with PSNH, but in the last 10 years or so they have been terrible neighbors. It got to be such a strained relationship, we had to have the chairman and others of the N.H. PUC come to our property to have a meeting so that we all could decide with my attorney present which trees that year could be trimmed without ruining and completely ruining the property value and it's aesthetic view of Chance pond. The PUC of N.H. told PSNH which trees they could trim and which ones that weren't to touch, that were not under their lines. Everybody agreed that day, however, following that meeting the trimming company cut down my prized maples and oaks, and trimmed trees that they were not supposed to. They completely disregarded th PUC ruling. I planted those trees in the 70's with my own hands in the location that was allowable. Some of the trees they cut actually got felled into Chance Pond, and were left there by PSNH. I was contacted by the DES of N.H. to remove those trees. I was blamed for felling those trees, but I indicated to them at that time I was not the one that had done that. They in turn contacted PSNH, and subsugently were removed. I was then told by PSNH that I would be compensated by them for them ravishing my property, by doing extensive plantings. They planted three small dwaft trees , that died. They had to be removed. So, what we had agreed to, never materialized. Then we were contacted, and they said they would do the plantings, but now there was a string attached, we had to agree to let them clear cut the remaining property under and adjacent to the lines. That was not the original agreement. After ravageing our property, it cost us over ten thousand dollars to have the property repaired so that our property would not continue to erode into Chance pond, after all the cuttings. This is a travesty of justice However a small landowner cannot fight a large company like PSNH.

On another note, the PSNH Co. has already added equipment to the Webster

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0798-1 cont'd

FROM THE DESK OF J.A. GARNEAU P.O. Box 24 • 765-767 Central Street • Franklin, N.H. 03235

Tel: 934-2270 Fax: 934-1970

THIS APALY 16

Substation, in the anticipation of getting approval for it's Northern Pass project. As far as I know, that permission has not yet been given by our federal, or local goverment. But they are so sure it will be given, they have gone ahead of this permission anyway. THAT IS PURE AND UTTER ARROGANCE. This kind of behavior should not be tolerated by the PUC, the DOE, or the SEC. I know with full knowledge, that my city of Franklin, is the proposed location of the station for converting DC power to AC POWER on this side of the Canadien border, however that does not change the fact that PSNH at not the people they claim to be, because they are not and are not good neighbors... I was also under the impression that our federal government was supposedly heading our country towards energy independence from other countries. But now in that midst, we the USA is considering taking power (energy) from a private company, in Canada, and running it through New England to power our and mostly other states, as we already a atomic plant in our state of N.H... WHICH IS IT ? Energy independence, or more energy from another country, that our government wants. IF the USA would allow FERC to relax the regulations on Hydro power, which is just one facet of power that could help us, so that it wouldn't take 5 years to get a license as just one example, we wouldn't need power from another country, or at the very least could help in our God given water rich part of the country... The boldness and arrogance of PSNH is not acceptable. And as just one land owner, that pays taxes so that PSNH can run their lines over my taxed property, and being adjacent to the bigger and foreign powerful proposed Northern Pass, I am NOT in favor of it's getting a license to do so. I know that in my heart, that to give PSNH a free hand to ruin some of the majestic land in this great nation would be a travesty, and that I think that it contradicts and is in conflict with our contries energy policy, and that it's just wrong. IF you would like to view my property, or talk with me, donot hesitate in contacting me at the above telephone number, during working hours. I Know that much has been written and said, but I would appreciate you thinking about my views also.....

Thank you for your time and consideration......

Joseph A Garneau , Landowner

Note: I will be sending hard copy in the US mail.....

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0799-1 Thank you for your comment.

----Original Message-----

From: Jean Public [mailto:jeanpublic1@yahoo.com]

Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 10:54 AM To: Benna, Tiffany T -FS <tbenna@fs.fed.us>

Subject: northern pass transmission line special use permit

I oppose this project. tell the profiteer to buy private land to destroy. we need to protect every single inch of national land we have. every profiteer wants to use it.

you should keep that in mind. we need to protect our childrens world too jean publiee

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