

Talking Points

NStar – PSNH 1200 MGW DC Transmission Line

When you make a call to a government official or write a letter to the editor here is some information for you refer to explain what the project is before stating the reason for your letter or call.

Facts:

- NStar and PSNH have proposed a 1200 MGW DC Transmission Line to bring electricity from Hydro Quebec to the NE Grid.
- The transmission line will use already granted right of way (ROW) except in Northern NH where about 40 miles of ROW must be obtained. Landowners will be asked to sell the ROW of about 150 to 250' for the power line, which can be used for other utility purposes. Once a ROW is granted it is legally binding. Landowners will receive payment for the ROW. If they refuse the ROW the use of eminent domain will be used.
- Hydro Quebec will finance the line which will be constructed by Northern Pass. It is estimated that investors in the line may have a rate of return of from 12% to 20% annually.
- An application to FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) has already approved their application.
- An application for the project will most likely go for review before the NH Site Evaluation Committee before the end of this year.
- The utilities have applied to the SEC to merge which if granted will make them the 15th largest utility in the US.
- The Utilities state that this is still early in the permitting process but the project has been in the works for the past 2+ years.
- The line will come into the United States somewhere in Pittsburg and travel down the Connecticut River Valley to a substation yet to be built in Franklin and then into the power grid to serve Mass and Conn. Estimates are that 125 to 200 MGW will be available to southern NH electricity users.
- There has still not been any word on where the line will cross the border from Canada into Pittsburg.
- Towns will increase their tax base when the lines are built, but utilities have asked for abatements as soon as the 5th year after construction. Property values of those lands with or close to the ROW have historically lost up to 40% of their value which if granted would permanently decrease a town's tax base.

Alternatives

Decide what your position(s) are. Here are some we have heard from residents. The line:

- Will destroy the views and beauty of the North Country hampering our last economic opportunity – tourism
- Will prevent the development of smaller electric generating opportunities in the North Country which may lead to jobs and increased tax base for towns.
- May have health impacts on residents living within a certain distance.
- Doesn't apply to NH's definition of renewable at this time. So it doesn't replace by 25% nonrenewable energy such as gas, coal, or oil. The generation of electricity by HQ has caused considerable irreversible devastation to the lakes, rivers and land in Quebec.
- There are other alternatives. It could be installed underground; the line can go over already obtained ROW in Vermont etc.

I'm sure you may have other reasons.