

## Call an Official, Write or E-mail a Letter

### NStar – PSNH 1200 Mw HVDC Transmission Line

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

#### Key Points and Facts:

- \* NStar and PSNH have proposed a 1200 Mw HVDC Transmission Line to bring electricity from Hydro Quebec to the lower New England Grid.
- \* The transmission line will use already granted right of way (ROW) except in Northern NH where 40+ miles of new ROW must be acquired. Landowners will be asked to sell the ROW of about 150 to 400' wide for the power line, which can be used for other utility purposes. Once a ROW is granted it is legally binding. Landowners will receive one payment for the ROW and still pay yearly taxes. If they refuse the ROW will be taken through Eminent Domain.
- Hydro Quebec will finance the entire line, which will be constructed by Northern Pass. It is estimated that investors in the line may have a rate of return of 12% to 20% annually.
- An application to FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) has already approved their application for this HQ / NStar / PSNH financial arrangement.
- An application for the project will most likely go for review before the NH Site Evaluation Committee early 2011.
- The utility companies have applied to the SEC to merge which if granted will make them the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 proposed line will come into the US somewhere in Pittsburg, go down the Connecticut River Valley, through the White Mountains, to a substation yet to be built in Franklin, then over to Deerfield and into the distribution grid that serve Mass. and Conn. Estimates are that 125 to 200 MGW will be available to southern NH electricity users. But NH already exports its excess electricity.
- Still no word on where the line will cross the Canada / US boarder into Pittsburg.
- Towns will increase their tax base when the lines are built, but utilities have asked for abatements as soon as 5 years 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, the Northeast HVDC Corridor, etc.

For more information go to: [www.livefreeorfy.org](http://www.livefreeorfy.org)

Click on: **Where and who should you write to?**

CONCERNED CITIZENS AGAINST THE NSTAR - HVDC POWER LINE IN NH

