

**News and Action Digest**  
[infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com](mailto:infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com)

(If you would like your name removed from this news and action digest just reply to this email and type in "remove my name".)

**"Working together, we can make a difference."**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Action to Take: Contact the US Dept. of Energy comment on Presidential Permit**

**URGENT: By or Before December 16, 2010**

Northern Pass Transmission has applied for a presidential permit to transport electricity from Canada to the United States. The final day for comments is December 16<sup>th</sup>!

You can send comments to the US Dept. of Energy on this application. Here is the web site of the notice in the Federal Register with contact information and requirements -

<http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2010/11/16/2010-28811/application-for-presidential-permit-northern-pass-transmission-llc>

- Must be submitted prior to December 16<sup>th</sup>
- Address comments to Brian Mills, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585. **(Do not send regular mail, send delivery confirmation, receipt requested or with tracking via Fed Ex or UPS – my comment)**
- For further information contact: Brian Mills (Program Office) at 202-586-8267 or via electronic mail at [Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov), or Michael T. Skinker (Program Attorney) at 202-586-2793.
- This is for a presidential permit for the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of facilities at the international border of the United States for the transmission of electric energy between the United States and a foreign country is prohibited in the absence of a Presidential permit issued pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 10485, as amended by EO 12038.
- **FR Doc. 2010-28811 Filed 11-15-10; 8:45 am**
- 15 copies must be sent. Be sure to check the requirements before sending a letter or petition.

.....

**Action to Take: Submit a petition to your local town to have a petition put on your town warrant.**

**URGENT: ASAP**

We are encouraging towns along the transmission line route to pass petitions regarding the power line and have a sample we can send to you for your town. The instructions for submission of the petition are included in a document. You can modify the language of the petition to suit your town's needs. We have people doing this in Colebrook and Pittsburg. We need someone from each of these towns. Clarksville, Stewartstown, Columbia, Stratford, Northumberland, Lancaster, Stark, Whitefield, Bethlehem, Sugar Hill, Littleton, Franconia and points south. Sorry we've left out a town!

Contact [infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com](mailto:infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com) if you would like to take this action in your town for more information and the form and instructions needed.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Links:**

“Live Free or Fry” is now up. Take a look at it and make any suggestions for information and changes.

Address: <http://www.livefreeorfry.org/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Links:**

**POWERLINE IMPACTS ON HEALTH** (There is much debate on this issue and we’ve tried to find web sites that are well documented.

**Power Line Health Facts Website** has extensive information on health impacts including Facts, what EMF (Electro Magnetic Fields) are and additional information at <http://www.powerlinefacts.com/FAQ.htm>

**American Cancer Society Radiation and Cancer Risk website** at <http://www.cancer.org/Cancer/CancerCauses/OtherCarcinogens/MedicalTreatments/radiation-exposure-and-cancer> which gives a balanced picture of possible risks to high voltage power lines which are included in a list of many sources of radiation. Go down about half way in the listing and you’ll find Power Lines and other electrical devices the recent status of research which is mixed in relationship to cancer and EMF.

**Safe Space Protection** at <http://safespaceprotection.com/emf-health-risks/sources/electrostress-from-power-lines.html> explores the impact of EMF on health. It includes citations to studies that indicate a correlation to health risks.

**Controversy: Do Large Power Transmission Lines Cause Childhood Cancer** at <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn7460-large-study-links-power-lines-to-childhood-cancer.html>  
This site reviews a British study in 2005 and discusses possible cause and other variables.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Other Links:**

**Is hydroelectric power renewable (yes) but is it “green”**

For an analysis of what is considered a renewable energy and the high money stakes of getting states to consider Hydro Quebec as renewable and “green” check out this website:

<http://www.hartfordbusiness.com/news15678.html>

Currently nuclear power doesn’t qualify as renewable or green due to the waste that must be disposed. According to this article in the Hartford Business Journal on line written by Brad Kane **“At the Nov. 5 energy conference in Boston, officials from Canada urged the United States to accept hydro as a renewable power. A main concern regarding hydro is that the flooding resulting from dams causes leaves and other foliage to decompose, emitting methane, one of the worst greenhouse gases. The Canadian officials argued that the water in their provinces is so cold that the leaves don’t decompose.”**

NH does not consider Hydro Quebec power as renewable. Recently Vermont changed its long standing opposition to HQ and has changed the definition of renewable to accommodate HQ power. It would only take a vote in the NH Legislature to do the same and qualify HQ for the goal of NH to use 25 by 25 or 25% of our energy by 2025.

\*\*\*\*\*

**News:**

Below is a link with an interesting series of reports on how much of the funds from the American Stimulus for green energy has been in the form of grants awarded to foreign corporations (over 80%). The reason is that foreign countries have far and away newer and better technology than American companies. The US has fallen behind since it's not been a national priority. Are we continuing to depend on foreign technology rather than US ingenuity?

The link is at <http://investigativereportingworkshop.org/investigations/wind-energy-funds-going-overseas/story/overseas-firms-collecting-most-green-energy-money/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Grafton County residents increasingly oppose the power line.** We continue to hear from our southern neighbors in Grafton County of their opposition to the power line. Groups have been active in Whitefield, Sugar Hill and Easton. The Grafton County Group has started a blog at <http://burynorthernpass.blogspot.com/> the groups email address is [burynorthernpass@yahoo.com](mailto:burynorthernpass@yahoo.com) if you would like to contact them.

As soon as we get more information we will share it.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Resource: Find out more about the Coos Community Benefits Alliance** which promotes energy decision that result in long term benefits for Coos region Communities. For more information contact [coosce@gmail.com](mailto:coosce@gmail.com).

**OVERVIEW**

Coos County and surrounding communities are blessed with abundant natural resources: forest lands, free flowing rivers, and stunning peaks and ridgelines.

Harnessing these resources to provide the most comprehensive long-term benefits for the region's residents, businesses and institutions is the primary focus of this alliance.

Decisions that will have long-term impact on the economy and landscape of the region will be made in the coming months and over the next few years including:

- Expansion of the Coos Transmission loop
- Potential construction of large scale Direct Current high voltage line from Quebec to southern NH and New England;
- Construction of large-scale wind and biomass to energy generation facilities.

Presently NH and (Coos County) pay the 6<sup>th</sup> highest energy cost in the nation and 30% more per heating Btu than the rest of the nation. Seventy six percent of the cost of fuel (heating and transportation) leaves the Northeast region, which means this capital is not circulating in our local communities or building wealth for local families. With our abundant local resources we can reverse these trends, attract new industries, create jobs and begin on a path to family economic success and healthier communities. What energy development options will provide the most long-term benefit for Coos County and surrounding communities? And is there a way renewable energy projects can spur innovation and attract young professionals to the region?

Our natural assets are our primary economic assets. They provide the basis for tourism, wood products, and services and amenities that can attract new investment and entrepreneurship to the region. These assets have been the backbone of the region's economy for generations and they are critical to the emerging economy of the North Country as well as the four-state Northern Forest region.

#### COOS COMMUNITY BENEFITS ALLIANCE

The mission of the Coos Community Benefits Alliance is to ensure that energy projects in the Coos County region result in long-term, tangible benefits for local communities and our natural resource base.

The Coos Community Benefits Alliance will:

1. Advocate ensuring that energy projects in the Coos Region result in long-term, tangible benefits for local communities and our natural resource base.
2. Build local, state and regional support for investment in diverse site and community-scale energy and distributive heating production in the North Country.
3. Develop linkages with other rural areas of the state for collaborative efforts and shared learning.

Our work will be defined by our success in:

- Expanding opportunities for economic development through low-cost heat, power and fuel for residential, commercial and transportation users in the Coos region
- Improving efficiencies in generation and energy use to ensure sustainability of our critical natural resources;
- Lessening impact on the environment by reducing emissions and improving air quality
- Building local wealth through local hiring and use of local vendors
- Expanding community control and/or ownership of renewable resources and production and transmission facilities
- Preservation of the region's abundant natural assets for multiple uses such as forest products, regional energy production, wildlife habitat, water quality, recreation and tourism.

The Alliance will be guided by the following principles:

- Value added and leveraged investments in energy production and transmission
- Evidence and science-based analysis of available natural resources and technology, policy and specific projects
- Triple bottom line analysis that weighs social, economic and environmental bottom lines

David Van Houten & Dick Harris