

The hearing on HB 302 HAS BEEN MOVED. It will now be held in Representative's Hall at 1:00 Tuesday, February 8th. PLEASE get the word out. I will try to make certain that there is a note on the door of the Legislative Office Building Room 304 – From Representative Larry Rappaport

## Update February 1, 2011

[Infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com](mailto:Infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com)

Send news, links or events you would like to share with others on this distribution list to [infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com](mailto:infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com).

Check out our Website at [www.livefreeorfry.org](http://www.livefreeorfry.org)

**For Donations or to order materials you can do that through the Power Line Education Fund by going to [www.livefreeorfry.org](http://www.livefreeorfry.org) and pay via PayPal or send a check or money order to the PLEF, PO Box 441, Colebrook, NH 03576 and designate what you'd like to order or to what activity donate.**

### **Upcoming Events:**

Holderness will be holding an info meeting:

Thurs., Feb. 10 at 6:30PM

Holderness Central School - rt. 175

with Will Abbott & Martha Richards

guests TBA

info: 536-2279

Senator Kelly Ayotte Announces Staff Office Hours (take this opportunity to express your opinions regarding Northern Pass and other issues)

Office Hours are:

Location: **Lancaster Town Hall**, Selectmen's Office, 25 Main St. Lancaster, NH 03584

Dates: February 2, March 2, April 6

Hours: 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

Location: **Plymouth Town Hall**, Gold Room, 6 Post Office Square, Plymouth, NH 03264

Dates: February 16, March 16, April 20

Hours: 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

Location: **Concord Public Library**, Shakespeare Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 45 Green St., Concord, NH 03301

Dates: January 27, Feb. 10, Feb. 24, March 10, March 24, April 7 and April 21

Hours: 11:30 to 2:00

Farm and Forest Expo: Friday and Saturday, February 4 & 5<sup>th</sup>: The No Northern Pass coalition groups will staff a booth at the upcoming **Farm & Forest Expo in Manchester on Feb. 4-5**. This is called New

Hampshire's "greatest winter fair," and it is a very popular event. Stop by our booth and say hello; please pass the word and encourage others to do the same. Wear your blaze orange and show your true colors. See you there! Information on the expo is here:

<http://www.nhfarmandforestexpo.org/index.html>

Tuesday, February 8, at 1:00 pm Hearing in Concord before the House Committee on Science, Technology and Energy. Buses and caravans of cars will be travelling down to the hearing to comment on proposed **house bill 302** which will change the definition of hydro power in the energy portfolio opening the door to large scale hydro projects in NH. A must attend event to show opposition to this piece of legislation and to Northern Pass.

Tuesday, February 15, from 10 to 1 **No Northern Pass Coalition Meeting** at the Rocks Estate in Bethlehem for groups in opposition to Northern Pass to review activities. For more information contact [infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com](mailto:infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com).

### **SIGNS, SIGNS, SIGNS**

From our Friends at Bury Northern Pass blog in Northern Grafton County a posting on making signs! Great images. Check out the post at <http://burynorthernpass.blogspot.com/2011/01/sign-gallery-1-10.html> Signs are cropping up everywhere. Make your own lawn sign or get inspiration from checking out the gallery of opposition signs.

### **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SCOPING PERIOD – NORMANDEAU ASSOCIATES TO DO THE STUDY**

Normandeau Associates Website at <http://www.normandeau.com/>

As many of you know, the Department of Energy, which has been petitioned to give a Presidential Permit to Northern Pass will be conducting scoping studies. The studies will be done by Normandeau Associates and paid by Northern Pass. These (NEPA) studies will most likely be used for the White Mountain National Forest Permit which will also be required and by the Site Evaluation Committee which will have the final say as part of the NH Public Utilities Commission. Those who are opposed to or concerned about the Project will need to watch this process very carefully and monitor that all information is accurate. These studies will be used to determine the final route (if the project continues) and lead to mitigation if needed, address issues of environmental degradation, soils, habitat etc.

Here's more information passed on to us from one of our members:

"I have been in touch with the US Department of Energy, who has primary responsibility for the environmental analysis for this project. The Dep't of Energy is finalizing a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement. They expect that Notice of Intent to be published in the Federal Register in the next week or two. That publication will begin the scoping period, which is the first public comment period for this project. The comment period will last until a week after a round of public

meetings, which will be held in March. The details on the public meetings and the comment period, including where to send comments to will be included in the Notice of Intent. I do not know the Dep't of Energy website for this project. Once we have that information we will get it out to everyone.

### **LETTER TO INTERVENORS FOR PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT PROCESS FROM DOE**

In regards to the Presidential Permit, the Dept. of Energy has sent out letters to all interveners listing the procedures they will follow. If you'd like a copy of the document contact [infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com](mailto:infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com). It includes a list of the names of all Presidential Permit interveners. They write that all documents will be posted on the Northern Pass website. When that is up and running we'll send the appropriate link.

### **MOU BETWEEN DOE, NORTHERN PASS AND NORMANDEAU ASSOCIATES FOR STUDIES**

We have received a copy of the MOU between the Dept. of Energy , Northern Pass and Normandeu Associates which lays out the process whereby Normandeu will do the NEPA (Environmental Protection) studies and report to the DOE. Northern Pass, which recommended Normandeu, a well established and qualified group, will also pay Normandeu. Northern Pass has oversight of the budget and the DOE of the studies although NP is given the right to challenge a finding to the DOE. If you would like a copy of the agreement just contact [infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com](mailto:infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com) and we will send you the PDF document.

### **INFORMATION ON NORTHERN PASS TO APPLY AS A PUBLIC UTILITY**

There has been a large outcry when word was received that Northern Pass will be applying as a utility from the Public Utilities Commission. This was to be expected since it will be necessary for the NP project to go before the Site Evaluation Committee of the PUC and eventually, if the project is approved be able to take land through eminent domain. Of course it's an important issue but not primary since it's inevitable. Here's a good explanation of this from one of our Info list members:

“A public utility is defined, among other things, as any person or entity that owns or operates a transmission line. Northern Pass will be a public utility by definition. It will be required to register as a public utility with the PUC and will become subject to various PUC filing and oversight requirements. It is an interesting question of when NP should register with the PUC. NP is currently requesting approvals from FERC (erg, for securities issuances) that have mirror image regulatory requirements in NH. “

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION – LINKS**

Brian “Bulldog” Tilton, radio talk show host on the Pulse at 107.7 WTPL covered the Landowner's Rights meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> and decided to provide his listeners with a source of information on the Northern Pass Project. Brian has won many awards as a journalist and his keen investigative approach along with careful objectivity and analysis will bring attention to a large NH audience to the Project. Here's the link to Brian Tilton's website page dedicated to Northern Pass at <http://www.briantilton.com/NorthernPass.html> There are audio highlights of the Landowners' Rights meeting here <http://www.briantilton.com/NorthernPass-ColebrookMeeting012811.html> where you can listen to some of the guest speakers Peter Powell, Valerie Herres, Rep. Larry Rappaport, Attorney Bob Baker and Rick Samson.

Check out this YouTube video regarding studies for Northern Pass interview of Tom True from Color & Colantonio at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bed9wAgBg0M&feature=mfu\\_in\\_order&list=UL](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bed9wAgBg0M&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL)

Also look at this YouTube video with of 30 year Hydro Quebec employee, scientist Claude Demers reviewing the his finding on green house gases at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efWxf2c486c&feature=BF&list=ULOYOCfxSZje0&index=9>

Form your own opinion on its objectivity

If you can get through the pop ups which are annoying go to

[http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/nst\\_jepsen-urges-hearings-on-utility-merger-1443145.html](http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/nst_jepsen-urges-hearings-on-utility-merger-1443145.html) which is an article in Trading Markets from January 24<sup>th</sup> that discusses the merger between North East Utilities and NStar and the opposition that it has created. There are several steps involved in this merger including a review and approval by the state of Connecticut's Public Utilities Commission which had ruled that a public hearing is not required.

Then on January 31<sup>st</sup> the regulators decided to hold hearings after the opposition and Attorney General of Connecticut urged they do so. Go to:

<http://www.theday.com/article/20110126/BIZ02/301269944/1069/rss04>

### **OPINION PIECE IN RESPONSE TO A RECENT MANCHESTER UNION LEADER STORY**

From Bob Baker, Columbia

"New Hampshire is rightly concerned about being invaded by the Provincial Government of Quebec for the purpose of constructing an "energy corridor" through our lands. As many of you know, Hydro Quebec is a crown corporation completely owned and controlled by the Provincial Government of Quebec. This "energy corridor" will be an extension of the Hydro-Quebec power monopoly into southern New England. If you want to know what an "energy corridor" looks like in a province where Hydro Quebec has a monopoly, go visit Windsor, Quebec, just north of Sherbrooke. That is where the substation is located that will upload the DC power into the proposed "corridor" that the Province of Quebec intends to take from private land owners in New Hampshire. Windsor, Quebec is inundated with huge power transmission lines coming in and out of that Hydro-Quebec substation. Attached are actual photos taken in Windsor, Quebec. Franklin, NH is likely to look just like Windsor, Quebec in 15 years. It will become just as blighted with power towers and lines and it will be just another piece of Quebec real estate that will be trashed by its power brokers. The "energy corridor" through New Hampshire won't be just one or two transmission lines with accompanying towers; it will give birth to more and more. It will bring the New Hampshire and its North Country kicking and screaming into the world of ugly and unhealthy commercial sprawl and it will leave the North Country with nothing to offer its residents and visitors. It will crush our tourism industry and it will crush our spirit of independence and our desire to be good stewards of the land.

But that isn't all. The massive amount of power directed southward from a foreign nation will be in direct competition with, and it will deter and defeat, many smaller diversified renewable power projects in this state and the rest of New England. It will support foreign jobs in the Canadian power centers and it will destroy U.S. jobs in the construction and operation of local renewable power projects. It will also encourage more consumption of electricity; and discourage energy efficiency and savings and smarter grid technologies. In short, it is anti-competitive and will hurt the green house gas initiatives that we can and should control.

The claim that 5 million tons of carbon dioxide will be eliminated from the atmosphere is pie in the sky. Who are the officials that claim this figure? They are not identified in the Union Leader's story. When the Northern Pass people spoke in Plymouth two weeks ago, I believe that the Northern Pass representatives said that they really didn't know what the actual savings might be but that it might be as low as 1.5 million tons. Can someone who attended that meeting verify this please? In any event, it is documented that the

Northern Pass representatives have given many conflicting numbers and answers to those questions regarding the carbon savings.

This importation of foreign power will also add to our trade deficit by sending our consumer and business dollars north to Canada. It is the exact opposite of the programs that President Obama announced he wanted us to develop in his state of the union speech. We must deter--not increase--our reliance on foreign power.

This would be horrible precedent for a State that has rejected the Supreme Court decision in Kilo v. New London. It was less than five years ago that New Hampshire squarely rejected the concept that the state's power of eminent domain could be used for private purposes as long as there was some indirect public benefit. This power corridor project is strictly for the benefit of a foreign government and private power company investors and shareholders in Hartford and Boston. It will be a private power line without any demonstration of need. The best they can do is show that it will be convenient. Who will gain? It will be the investors and shareholders in Northeast Utilities/NStar who will get a 12.5% return on equity guaranteed by Hydro-Quebec; and it will be the government of Quebec who will get a ready market for its brown hydro-power monopoly. And why should the politicians in Quebec care? Here is why: In the last fiscal year that is reported, 10% of the power sales of Hydro-Quebec were outside the province of Quebec. That 10% of sales outside Quebec accounted for 30% of the profits of Hydro-Quebec. In other words, the ratepayers outside Quebec were actually subsidizing the ratepayers in Quebec. Who are those ratepayers in Quebec? They are the voters who will elect the next government. Imagine that.

Finally, what happens after New England is complacently on a steady diet of Canadian hydro power when a terrorist or act of God strikes? When the supply of power from Canada falters, do you think the juice will still keep flowing south across the border? It would be far better to have our own diversified and regulated power sources in this country. That will be the best plan for our national security."

Regards, Bob Baker