

Power Purchase Agreement Announced For Northern Pass

A power purchase agreement (PPA) reached last month between Eversource and Hydro-Québec ensures that Eversource customers in New Hampshire will receive a substantial supply of clean energy from the Northern Pass hydroelectric transmission project. This 20-year contract, which was submitted to the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission in late June, also supports the goals of New Hampshire's 10-Year Energy Strategy and its Climate Action Plan, as well as other regional carbon reduction goals.

Savings for New Hampshire Customers

The PPA establishes a number of ways New Hampshire customers will save money. It guarantees that no other state or power purchaser receives a better price for Northern Pass' power for at least 10 years. It is also designed to provide price stability and predictability, which is much needed at a time when the volatile electricity market is subject to dramatic spikes. It is estimated this could result in up to approximately \$100 million in energy cost savings over the life of the contract.

As part of the New England regional electric grid, New Hampshire consumes about 9 percent of the power used in the region each year. The PPA guarantees that Eversource New Hampshire customers will receive their proportional share of the power from the Northern Pass line — approximately 100 megawatts, or enough energy to serve approximately 100,000 customers.

Environmental Benefits

The PPA ensures that the energy sold by Hydro-Québec to Eversource under the agreement will be 100 percent certified hydropower. Use of hydro generation avoids carbon emissions, consistent with New Hampshire's environmental goals and policies. In addition, 100 percent of the financial value of the environmental attributes associated with that energy will also benefit New Hampshire customers. If and when hydro generation is recognized as an acceptable power source to meet clean air goals in other New England states, the value of those environmental attributes could be quite significant, and could be worth in excess of \$300 million in additional value to customers over the 20-year period. The sale of the environmental attributes, potentially in the form of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), to those other New England states would directly benefit New Hampshire customers through a credit to customers' bills.

It is also important to note that the benefits of the PPA are in addition to the \$800 million in energy costs savings for New Hampshire from the lowering of market power prices announced through the Forward NH Plan. In all, Eversource customers in New Hampshire stand to receive more than \$1 billion in energy cost savings from the Northern Pass Project. While New Hampshire customers will receive substantial benefits from hosting Northern Pass, they will not pay for any costs associated with construction of the transmission line.

The Process and Confidentiality

Typical for such agreements, the PPA has been filed with the NH Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and will undergo rigorous review by regulators to ensure it is in the best interest of Eversource customers in New Hampshire. It is also standard practice for parties to a PPA to request that the price data be kept confidential, and the PUC's own rules and past practice recognize that these types of competitively sensitive pricing terms are typically held confidential. Keeping prices confidential, in a competitive energy market where customers are free to purchase energy from a supplier of their choice, helps ensure customers receive the most competitive price for their energy. State regulators and officials (including the Office of Consumer Advocate) have already received the PPA's confidential pricing data as part of the PUC filing.

The NH PUC will make the final decision on the Northern Pass PPA, and the process is in place to fairly evaluate the agreement on its merits.

NH SEC Continues to Gather Comment as Project Heads into the Next Phase

Northern Pass has now moved into the discovery phase of the permitting process, during which the project, the Counsel for the Public, and interveners share information with each other. This is a procedural step that is part of the overall adjudicative process, which will continue through the summer.

The SEC continues to accept comments on Northern Pass. You can send it via mail, email, phone or fax to:

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee

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North Country High School Students Get New Job Training Opportunity

Members of the Coös County Job Creation Association (CCJCA) joined faculty and students at White Mountain Regional High School (WMRHS) on June 6 to celebrate the installation of a new construction excavation simulator for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program.

Purchased by WMRHS through Anderson Equipment of Lancaster and paid for with a \$61,000 grant from the CCJCA, the simulator is designed to provide students with a real-life experience of operating excavators and other construction equipment.

The CCJCA was formed in January 2014 following a pledge by the Northern Pass Transmission project to provide the Association with \$7.5 million for the purpose of supporting job creation initiatives in Coös County. Northern Pass provided an initial \$200,000 in seed money for the Association, which last year issued eight grants, including funding the school's simulator.

"Everyone is just ecstatic to have this technology," said WMRHS Career and Technical Education Instructor Dana Graham, who has experience running small excavators. "Students who train with this simulator will walk away with certification that gives them a good chance of getting jobs out of high school or furthering their education."

"This tool is crucial because not every student is going to go to college. This provides youth with an opportunity to come out of high school and get right to work in a high paying job," said Allen Bouthillier, CCJCA Board Member and owner of AB Logging in Lancaster.

Used at vocational colleges to train students in running heavy equipment, the state-of-the-art technology is rarely found in a high school classroom.

"Investing in job training for young people in the North Country will help us to retain the next generation of skilled employees," said John Gallus, CCJCA Board Chair and former NH State Senator. "We are thrilled to see these funds used in a way that will both create employment opportunities for our youth and support local business owners."



Improving Fish Habitat on the Connecticut River

A variety of conservation and land stewardship organizations were awarded grants in 2015 through the Partners for New Hampshire's Fish and Wildlife grant program. One of



the focuses of the grant program, run by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and supported through \$3 million in funding from Eversource and Northern Pass, is restoring the river and stream habitat of Eastern Brook Trout and other aquatic species.

The Connecticut River Watershed Council and American Rivers are the recipients of grants that are funding work being done within the Connecticut River watershed to eliminate fish barriers and improve the habitats for aquatic life.

Eastern Brook Trout Aquatic Organism Passage

The Connecticut River Watershed Council received funding to replace stream crossings in tributaries of Oliverian Brook in Haverhill, using natural stream simulation design techniques. The project will open 10 miles of streams and 20 miles of interconnected tributaries to fish passage. The effort includes outreach to 50 residents living near the culverts in an area that covers 25 acres of watershed.

Outreach and Assistance for Landowners

Landowners who support restoring water passages for fish don't always have the resources to do the work on their property. The Connecticut River Watershed Council is working with at least six private landowners to repair the waterway habitat on their land. The result will be 12 miles of restored habitat and enacting management practices to reduce sediment and nutrient loading in the Connecticut River, which will also help advance the goals of the Long Island Sound Regional Conservation Partnership Plan.

Identifying Fish Barriers

American Rivers will work with local landowners along the Connecticut River Tributaries to identify and prioritize up to six barriers for removal. The project will also include preliminary engineering for removing barriers, which will restore access to more than 60 miles of stream habitat for Eastern brook trout, river herring, and Atlantic salmon.

Connecting Streams

The Connecticut River Watershed Council is also funding another Haverhill-area connectivity project that will assist in the design, engineering and assisting in permitting the replacement of an undersized perched culvert on Oliverian Brook. When the culvert is replaced, it will open and connect streams that will benefit Eastern brook trout and other aquatic species.

ABOUT NORTHERN PASS

Northern Pass is a 192-mile electric transmission line project that will provide New Hampshire and New England up to 1,090 megawatts of clean hydropower. This reliable and competitively-priced power will also bring a range of benefits to New Hampshire, including hundreds of millions of dollars in energy cost savings, additional tax revenue, and thousands of jobs during construction and beyond. To learn more about Northern Pass, go to www.northernpass.us. You can also email questions to info@northernpass.us or call **1-800-286-7305**.