

Regional Grid Operator Approves NORTHERN PASS CONNECTION

Northern Pass secured a key regulatory approval in July when ISO New England officially determined that the project can reliably interconnect with the regional electric grid.

By approving the project's I.3.9 application, ISO New England determined Northern Pass will not have a significant, adverse effect on the reliability or operating characteristics of the regional grid and its participants. All energy projects must secure this approval in order to be connected to the New England grid.

In 2014, ISO New England approved the I.3.9 application for the project's original 1,200 megawatt proposal. Northern Pass sought another approval for the redesigned proposal, which will bring 1,090 megawatts to the region and includes 60 miles of underground line.

Enabling Us to Move Forward

Jim Medlock became interested in Northern Pass because he believes our energy future is extremely important to us. In this video, he talks about how the project would move the region's energy mix toward a cleaner source, like electricity from Canadian hydropower.



"I think this is going to be a highly successful project," said Medlock. "And now that we're going to get some of the power off the line for New Hampshire people, I think it's going to be very beneficial."

To hear more of what Medlock had to say, go to www.northernpass.us/multimedia.

New Lights Shine on Lancaster

Residents of Lancaster are saving energy and town budget dollars with the installation of new LED fixtures in the downtown district. More than 260 street lights were converted to energy-efficient street lamps, made possible by advance funding from Northern Pass as part of the Forward NH Plan, which it will establish once its permits are received. The replacement will reduce Lancaster's street light energy consumption by about 63,000 kilowatt hours a year.

"Converting to LEDs will modernize our streetlights, reduce energy consumption and provide savings," said Lancaster Town Manager Ed Sampson. "And, thanks to the Northern Pass grant, this project will move forward at no cost to the taxpayers."

A light-emitting diode, or LED, is a type of solid-state lighting that uses a semiconductor to convert electricity into light. LED bulbs can last up to 90 percent longer, are more durable, and offer a higher quality of light than other types of lighting, according to the Department of Energy. LED fixtures also reduce light pollution by directing light down, rather than spilling light up into the night sky.

A few communities in New Hampshire have also made the switch to LED street lighting, but Lancaster is the first in the North Country to do so. The project was completed by Ray's Electric of Berlin, a local business that has been operating in the North Country since 1957.



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Grants to Help Restore NH Rivers and Forests

Environmental conservation, restoration, and research groups from across New England joined Northern Pass, Eversource, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) earlier this month at the University of New Hampshire to recognize this year's *Partners for New Hampshire's Fish and Wildlife* awardees. The program, which is the result of a partnership between Eversource and NFWF, awarded grants totaling nearly \$1 million this year. In 2015, Partners awarded more than \$700,000 to nine organizations that are currently doing conservation and restoration work across the state.

NFWF oversees the grant program and selects the awardees that have proposed action-based projects that will restore New Hampshire's forest and freshwater habitat and focus on community involvement and engagement. Collectively, this year's conservation grants will open 175 miles of streams for Eastern brook trout, improve habitat for New England cottontail, American woodcock, and golden-winged warblers on 852 acres of forestland, and reduce polluted runoff from entering streams, including 47 tons of sediment and 41 tons of phosphorus.

During the luncheon, representatives from all eight projects spoke about the work the funding will enable them to do. A number spoke about the importance of early successional forest — or young forests — to native species. David Wagner from the University of Connecticut said it's an important habitat to many species of butterflies and bees.

"Utility companies are the largest land managers of early successional forest in the Northeast," Wagner said. His studies have shown that most of the remaining Karner blue butterfly population lives in power line corridors, and that his research found 17 rare and endangered species in one corridor.

"We are extremely pleased with the impact this partnership has had in its first year, and the grants we are announcing today will build on that success here in New Hampshire," said Amanda Bassow, Northeastern Regional Director of NFWF. "The contribution from Eversource also has had ripple effects throughout New England, providing the seed funding to grow a larger public-private initiative that is accelerating the restoration of our northern forests and rivers."



The grant recipients are:

University of New Hampshire – Achieving multi-species benefits from young forest restoration and management in southern Maine and New Hampshire (New Hampshire, Maine) \$197,982

Belknap County Conservation District – Restoring and protecting Gunstock Brook habitat for Eastern brook trout through stream bank restoration and improved forest management (New Hampshire) \$70,033

Wildlife Management Institute – Providing technical assistance to New Hampshire landowners to create young forest habitat for New England cottontail, American woodcock, and other priority bird species (New Hampshire) \$145,000

Connecticut River Watershed Council, Inc. – Removing seven barriers to fish passage to restore access to one hundred and forty miles of Eastern brook trout spawning habitat (New Hampshire and Vermont) \$199,165

Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve – Creating New England cottontail habitat on under-utilized lands in southern Maine and New Hampshire (New Hampshire and Maine) \$60,000

Audubon Vermont – Recruiting private landowners in the Champlain Valley to restore habitat for golden-winged warbler and other priority bird species (Connecticut, New Hampshire and Vermont) \$70,000

University of Connecticut – Improving pollinator habitat in New England rights-of-way (New Hampshire and Massachusetts) \$111,077

Town of Brownfield, Maine – Replacing an undersized culvert on the Shepards River to re-connect habitat for Eastern brook trout (Maine and New Hampshire) \$100,000

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.