

# DOE Supplement Confirms Analysis of the Northern Pass Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has released a Supplement to its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Northern Pass project, finding that our proposed route would have the same or fewer impacts than alternative routes analyzed in the draft EIS that was released in July.

As noted in the Supplement, almost all of the work needed to fully analyze the modified route, identified by DOE as Alternative 7, is already encompassed by the draft EIS. Northern Pass is confident that the modified route and Forward NH Plan represent a balanced approach to meeting the region's energy needs, while offering unique benefits to New Hampshire. The release of the Supplement to the draft EIS underscores that.

### NOTABLE TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE EIS INCLUDE:

- Potential impacts resulting from Alternative 7 would be similar to or less than impacts disclosed in the draft EIS
- An adjusted border crossing, three miles of additional buried line in Bethlehem, and new transition stations not previously analyzed would "result in impacts of the same nature as those discussed in the draft EIS"
- Alternative 7 is projected to create more jobs over the construction period than the Northern Pass' previously preferred route. The net change in average scenic impact for Alternative 7 is less than the previously preferred route and less than the other partial-underground Alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS

Northern Pass unveiled a modified route in August that includes an additional 52 mile of underground technology that eliminates the potential for visual impacts in and around the White Mountain National Forest. In addition to the improved route, Northern Pass announced the Forward NH Plan, a comprehensive package of environmental and economic benefits totaling nearly \$4 billion in value.

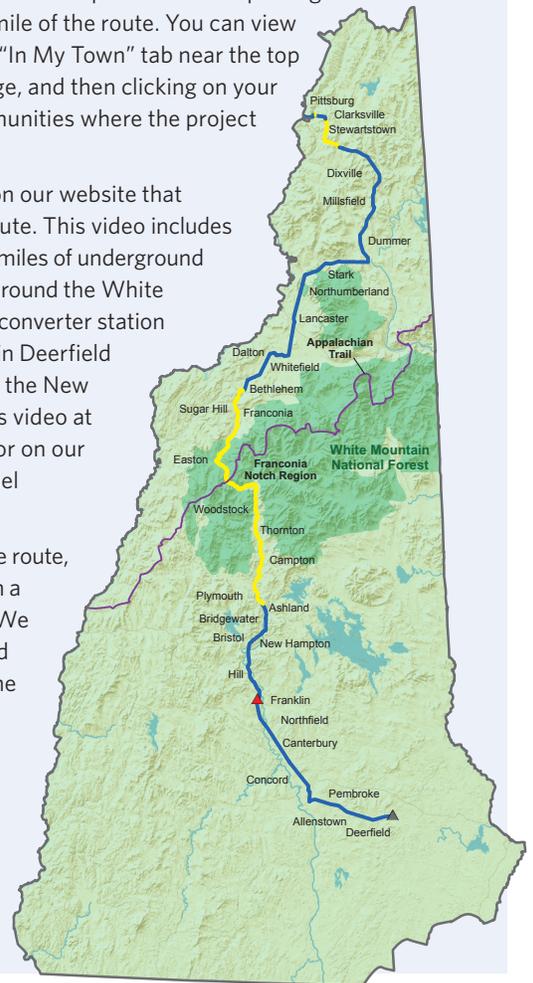
## Get the Details on Northern Pass in Your Town

Since announcing the Forward NH Plan in August, we have been reaching out to communities and answering questions from a wide range of stakeholders about the plan and the redesigned route. Part of our effort to provide information to the public includes posting detailed online maps of each mile of the route. You can view these maps by clicking on the "In My Town" tab near the top of the Northern Pass homepage, and then clicking on your city or town in the list of communities where the project will be located.

We have also posted a video on our website that provides an overview of the route. This video includes details about the additional 52 miles of underground line that will be located in and around the White Mountain National Forest, the converter station in Franklin, and the substation in Deerfield where the electricity will enter the New England grid. You can view this video at [northernpass.us/route-info](http://northernpass.us/route-info), or on our Northern Pass YouTube channel and Facebook.

If you are a landowner along the route, you can request a site visit from a Northern Pass representative. We can answer your questions and walk the right-of-way where the proposed line will be located.

As always, property owners and any member of the public can call or email the project with questions at any time at [info@northernpass.us](mailto:info@northernpass.us), or on our hotline, **1-800-286-7305**.



## The Impact of Closing Nuclear Power Plants Across the Northeast

### Northern Pass can help replace lost energy sources with its low-carbon electricity

The past year has been tough for nuclear power plants across the Northeast. Vermont Yankee retired in December 2014, and just last month Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Massachusetts announced plans to close by 2019.

These plant closures put added strain on the regional electric system in many ways. These plants do not burn fossil fuels, and contribute greatly to the region's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Nuclear plants are also "baseload" sources of power, operating continuously for long periods of time and producing a relatively large amount of electricity, unlike other carbon-free sources like wind and solar. The large amount of baseload power produced by these plants cannot be replaced by renewables alone. The void will be filled by carbon-emitting sources, like natural gas. This will make it harder to reach our clean energy goals unless we add other sources of low-carbon or carbon-free baseload power.

New Hampshire has long been a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which aims to significantly reduce carbon emissions in the Northeast by 2020. The federal Clean Power Plan additionally requires states to curtail their greenhouse gas emissions, and promotes a reduction in overall energy use in the coming decades. And just this past month, New Hampshire signed on to the

Under 2 MOU pledge, agreeing to push for more aggressive carbon goals. With the closing of nuclear plants in neighboring states and our region's greater reliance on natural gas, a fossil fuel, New Hampshire must find ways to meet these ambitious goals.

Although New England is at the end of the energy pipeline for fossil fuels, our proximity to abundant baseload Canadian hydropower puts us in a unique position to benefit from this clean energy source. Analysis of Northern Pass' impact compiled as part of the state and federal permitting process shows that adding 1,090 megawatts of hydroelectricity into the grid from Northern Pass will offset enough carbon-emitting generation to reduce regional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than 3.3 million tons, the equivalent of removing 690,000 cars from our roads.

The less we rely on fossil fuel-fired plants for electricity, the less we'll burn fossil fuels, resulting in an overall reduction of New England's carbon emissions and its impact on the climate. New Hampshire has made carbon emissions reduction a high priority, and building Northern Pass is in line with this goal.

## Submit Your Comments to the NH Site Evaluation Committee

Northern Pass began its state permitting process last month when it filed an application to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC). The SEC is currently reviewing our application for completeness. While this review is being done and in the months to follow, the public can send their comments about Northern Pass to the SEC. These comments will be added to the public record, which you can view online at [www.nhsec.nh.gov/projects/2015-06/index.htm](http://www.nhsec.nh.gov/projects/2015-06/index.htm).

You can also send comments to the SEC through mail, email, fax and phone at:

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New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee

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### 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](http://www.northernpass.us). You can also email questions to [info@northernpass.us](mailto:info@northernpass.us) or call **1-800-286-7305**.