



THE NORTHERN PASS PROJECT UPDATE

NORTHERN PASS JOINS PARTNERSHIP TO PROTECT NH'S FORESTS AND RIVERS



Northern Pass announced in March it has become part of a new effort that will provide more than \$4.5 million in land conservation and restoration grants to New Hampshire. Called *Partners for New Hampshire's Fish and Wildlife*, this program is aimed at restoring and sustaining healthy forests and rivers throughout the state.

Over the next two years, *Partners for New Hampshire's Fish and Wildlife* will focus on supporting cost-effective, hands-on conservation and research projects around the state. Projects will be selected based on their ability to achieve long-term, measurable outcomes that meet the program's goals, including:

- **Strengthening the health of the forest system;**
- **Sustaining working forests;**
- **Improving the quality of streams;**
- **Enhancing the biodiversity of New Hampshire's fish and wildlife population.**

Partners for New Hampshire's Fish and Wildlife is the result of a partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and Northern Pass' parent company, Eversource. Northern Pass has committed \$3 million to the partnership. NFWF and its funding partners are committing an additional \$1.5 million, boosting the total conservation impact to at least \$4.5 million. Through NFWF's efforts, there is the potential for more funding from additional partners.

NFWF has already granted funding to two early action projects. In Londonderry and Dover, NFWF has granted \$200,000 for protecting and rebuilding habitat for early successional species, or those animals that thrive in young forests, like the New England cottontail and the American woodcock. Overseen by the Wildlife Management Institute, the funding for this project will go toward restoring roughly 30 acres in both communities, as well as provide educational materials about the project to Londonderry high school and middle school students through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Schoolyard Habitat program.

A second early action grant will use \$180,000 toward its Eastern Brook Trout Aquatic Organism Passage project, which will reopen more than 10 miles of fish habitat in Haverhill and create 20 miles of interconnected habitat for the Eastern Brook Trout — a threatened species.

NFWF is an independent non-profit organization chartered by Congress in 1984 to protect and restore the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. NFWF collaborates with federal, corporate and individual partners to meet these goals and has committed more than \$2.9 billion in conservation projects since its inception, making it one of the world's largest conservation grant makers. In the coming two years, NFWF will continue to solicit additional grant applications for the Partners program from other projects around the state. These grants will be reviewed by a committee of government and academic experts, who aim to find projects that will produce effective and long-lasting results. The next round of proposals will be awarded this summer.

As the state's largest proposed clean energy project, Northern Pass is proud to be part of a partnership that seeks to protect and strengthen our state's most treasured and unique habitats. We look forward to seeing the results of the important conservation efforts that will be fostered by this partnership.

HELPING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

We spoke with Jon Cunningham, owner of Cunningham Logging LLC in Colebrook, about his thoughts on Northern Pass.



Jon Cunningham
Colebrook, NH

He told us that the business Northern Pass will bring to the region is much needed in his town.

"I see a lot of people without jobs, people losing jobs every day. I see the income going down in Colebrook," said Cunningham. "I think if this came through, people would have a better life. It would definitely help the economy out a lot."

Hear more of what Cunningham had to say about Northern Pass on our website,

www.northernpass.us/multimedia.



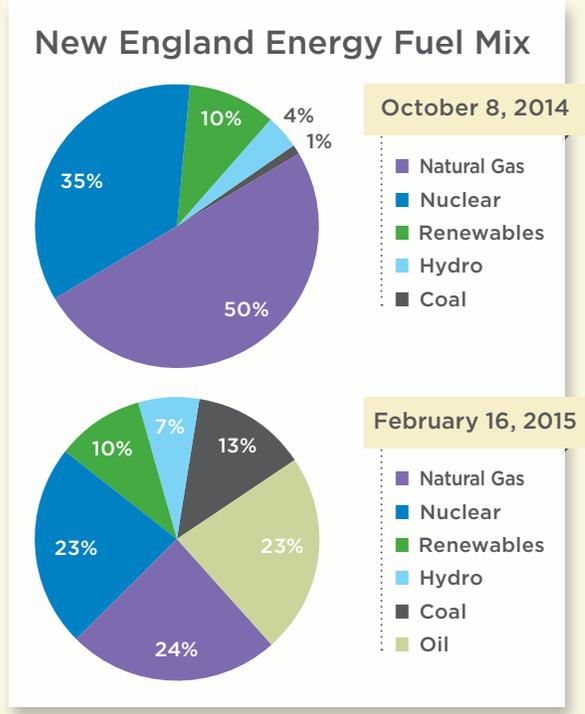
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NEW ENGLAND'S ENERGY MIX

What fuel sources power the region when it's cold outside?

New England on average relies on natural gas for roughly half of its electricity, but during the coldest weeks of the year, natural gas plays a smaller role. The reason is that there's not enough room in the region's pipeline system to provide all the natural gas needed for both generating electricity and heating our homes.

The natural gas that comes into New England is first distributed for home heating use. The remaining natural gas, available to power plants, is limited and very expensive during periods of high demand — like when it's very cold outside. When natural gas is scarce and expensive, many natural gas power plants are forced to temporarily stop running. Other fuel sources, like coal and oil, are used to fill the gap.



The chart on the top shows what energy sources are being used on a day with average electricity usage and mild temperatures.

The chart on the bottom shows the fuels being used on the morning of February 16, 2015.

The temperature that day averaged 18 degrees. As you can see, 23 percent of New England's power was being generated by oil at that time. This is exceptional because oil typically makes up less than 1 percent of energy production during the rest of the year.

The chart also shows that 24 percent of New England's electricity came from natural gas. That's roughly half of the typical amount and is due, in part, to

the scarcity and high cost of natural gas on very cold days. When people talk about a lack of energy diversity as being a problem, it's because of days like February 16, 2015. Our region relies heavily on one fuel — natural gas — which has suffered from supply problems in recent years. When natural gas plants aren't running, other fossil fuels, like oil and coal, must run more to meet our energy needs. By making clean, renewable hydropower from Northern Pass available to the New England grid, it will further diversify our energy portfolio and make us less reliant on natural gas. It will also help us reduce our use of other fossil fuels that run when natural gas is unavailable. This will bring us closer to meeting our regional clean energy goals, as well as stabilize the wild cost shifts that are driving up costs for electricity customers.

ABOUT NORTHERN PASS

The Northern Pass is a 187-mile transmission line project that will bring New Hampshire and the rest of New England clean, renewable hydroelectricity. This reliable and affordable source of clean power will also lower energy costs, increase tax revenue in communities along the route, and create many jobs during construction. To learn more about Northern Pass, go to www.northernpass.us. You can also email questions or request a site visit from one of our representatives at info@northernpass.us or by calling 1-800-286-7305.

NORTHERN PASS PROJECT STATUS

Northern Pass requires certain federal and state permits before construction can begin. The project has already received a number of key approvals and will apply for its final major permit — the NH Site Evaluation Committee's Certificate of Site and Facility — later in 2015. Here is a summary of where Northern Pass stands in its comprehensive approval process:

- **The project's Transmission Service Agreement has been accepted** by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This approval formalizes the agreement between Hydro-Quebec and Northern Pass to transmit Canadian hydropower along Northern Pass' transmission lines.
- **Northern Pass' I.3.9 application has been accepted** by the regional power grid operator, ISO-New England. This decision is a determination that the line can reliably interconnect to the New England grid.
- **The U.S. Department of Energy is currently reviewing Northern Pass' application** for a Presidential Permit. The DOE is expected to release a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the project later this spring. It will include information about potential impacts the project might have on the state and if any of the alternative routes the DOE considered are feasible.
- **Northern Pass expects to submit its application to the state Site Evaluation Committee later this year.** This is the final major approval Northern Pass will need before construction begins. This state permitting process includes a number of opportunities for the public to comment on the project.

For more information about Northern Pass' permitting process, please send your questions to info@northernpass.us or call one of our representatives at **1-800-286-7305**.