



THE NORTHERN PASS PROJECT UPDATE

NH BUSINESS LEADERS CALL FOR ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Business owners large and small know the impact higher utility costs can have on the company's bottom line. The New England states have some of the highest electricity rates in the country and business leaders across the region have taken notice. In the past few months, they have issued a renewed call for ways to reduce energy costs, including building additional energy infrastructure.

Just as the region's governors were meeting to discuss energy issues in April, the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire (BIA) signed on to a joint letter from similar business interest groups in Maine, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Sent to the governor in each of these states, the letter urged cooperation to address the energy crisis and to "allow for development of energy infrastructure projects as expeditiously as possible while working through local concerns."

Earlier this month, the head of New Hampshire's largest manufacturer wrote an opinion piece calling for more construction of transmission lines for clean energy projects, like Northern Pass, and for natural gas pipelines to meet our energy needs.

Paul Markwardt, of BAE Systems, explained that high electricity costs have negatively impacted New Hampshire's business climate.

“The undeniable fact is that without a major focus on bringing more power supply to the grid, the cost of electricity — essentially, the cost of doing business — will continue to increase, harming the competitiveness of New Hampshire businesses in U.S. and global markets.”

John Olson, President of Whelen Engineering Company, also penned an opinion piece arguing in favor of projects like Northern Pass.

“The shortage of energy, most importantly electricity, may well curtail any expansion of existing business with additional jobs, or actually shrink the businesses,” Olson wrote. “If they are small and energy dependent, they may be forced to close or leave New Hampshire.”

Many businesses are feeling the pinch of high energy costs and have joined the growing group of residents calling for new energy projects to increase supply and lower overall energy costs. Northern Pass and its affordable, clean hydropower is one way New Hampshire can begin to address these energy challenges.

PERMITTING PROCESS UPDATE

Beginning this summer, Northern Pass expects to reach some key milestones in the state and federal permitting processes.

FEDERAL ACTION EXPECTED SOON

The US Department of Energy (DOE) is scheduled to release its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Northern Pass in July. Following the release of the EIS draft, the DOE will take written comments and hold a number of public hearings that will allow residents to submit written or oral comments regarding the DOE's report. This document is a thorough review of the Northern Pass project, including the more than 20 alternatives to the Project's preferred proposal that the agency identified as part of its review.

STATE PROCESS TO BEGIN THIS YEAR

Soon after the draft EIS is released, Northern Pass plans to file its application with the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC). The SEC will have up to two months to determine that the application is complete and then up to 12 months to rule on it. There will be public information sessions held in each county that will host the project, both before and after the application is filed. These sessions will be an opportunity for the public to learn more about and comment on the project.

In the coming months, we will send out notices to landowners and other stakeholders to let them know the dates and times of upcoming public information sessions. If you have any questions about the permitting process or your opportunities to comment on the project, please call **1-800-286-7305** or email info@northernpass.us.



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TWO IMPORTANT INITIATIVES IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

Programs aimed at improving infrastructure and creating jobs in Coös County are moving forward this spring, thanks to funding assistance from Northern Pass.

The North Country Cell Service Initiative was announced in April at an event in Whitefield. This public-private partnership will provide broadband service that will support advanced 4G LTE data and voice service through multiple national cellular operators. The first phase of this effort will provide service in Groveton, Dummer, Milan, Stark, Errol, Dixville, Clarksville, Stewartstown, and Pittsburg. A commitment for 10 additional sites is scheduled to be completed within the next 12 months.

At the launch event, Senator Jeanne Shaheen spoke about the importance of having access to high-speed internet, broadband and quality cell service in the 21st century economy.

“Whether it’s residents who are living in the area, whether it’s businesses who are coming to the area, tourists who are coming to play in the North Country, they all want that service,” said Shaheen. “This is another step in making sure we are providing that coverage for everyone in the North Country.”

The Coös County Job Creation Association (CCJCA) also recently began its work developing economic growth projects in the North Country. The CCJCA searched for projects this spring that will promote education, job training and work force development in Coös County. The first round of grant applications closed on May 15, and the association will select the most promising projects and invite them to submit a formal grant application in the coming weeks. The CCJCA will use \$200,000 in seed money donated by Northern Pass, part of an overall \$7.5 million commitment made by the project.



GOVERNORS TALK ABOUT ENERGY

Five New England governors and representatives from New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan’s office met in Connecticut last month to discuss the region’s pressing energy issues. They all agreed that lowering energy costs, increasing the reliability of the region’s electric grid and investing in clean energy projects are top priorities.

“High energy costs have been a long-standing regional challenge, and today, I have joined my fellow New England governors in recommitting ourselves to addressing that challenge,” said Governor Hassan in a statement issued by her office.

Each state agreed to support policies that will promote energy improvements within their borders, which the governors hope will ultimately allow for better collaboration on energy projects between the states in the future.

A PERFECT FIT



Ray Berthiaume
Wagner Forest Management

Ray Berthiaume is a forester for Wagner Forest Management who manages private forest land in New Hampshire. He told us that when it comes to building power lines, “It’s a perfect fit for overall management of any forest property.”

“It shouldn’t take away from what we do. We can certainly co-exist,” he said.

To hear more of what Berthiaume says about Northern Pass, go to our website, www.northernpass.us/multimedia.



THE NORTHERN PASS HAS COMMITTED

\$7.5 MILLION

TO THE COÖS COUNTY
JOB CREATION ASSOCIATION

ABOUT NORTHERN PASS

The Northern Pass is an electric transmission line project that will bring New Hampshire and the rest of New England clean, renewable hydropower. 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**.