



## The Northern Pass

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### WHAT BENEFITS WILL THE PROJECT PROVIDE FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE?

We have listened to the concerns voiced in New Hampshire about our previous proposal. What we heard loud and clear was the concern over potential view impacts, especially in the most treasured areas of our state. Our new plan works to address those concerns by burying 60 miles of lines. The plan also maintains the fundamental promise of Northern Pass—to deliver clean, reliable, and economically priced power to New Hampshire and New England.

The Project's design changes include burying the line in and around the White Mountain National Forest, Franconia Notch, and the Appalachian Trail, completely eliminating the potential for view impacts from those sensitive areas. In addition, the Project is presenting a package called the Forward New Hampshire Plan, which will provide substantial benefits, totaling \$3.8 billion, including:

- Energy costs lowered by \$80 million annually for NH business and residential customers
- Additional energy cost savings and stability for Eversource NH customers through a power contract with Hydro- Québec
- Regional carbon emissions reduced by 3 million tons a year, equal to the emissions from 600,000 cars
- \$200 million fund to support community betterment, economic development, clean energy and tourism initiatives in NH, with emphasis on the North Country
- \$30 million annually in new tax revenue for New Hampshire
- 2,400 jobs during construction
- Commitment to hire NH workers first and an innovative electrical worker training program
- \$2.1 billion increase in NH GDP during construction and beyond
- \$7.5 million for North Country Jobs Creation Fund
- Grid upgrades to improve the North Country electric system capacity by up to 100 MW, removing constraints to existing renewable energy (e.g., wind, biomass, small hydro)
- \$3 million for Partners for NH Fish and Wildlife program, independently managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – enhancing forest health, wildlife habitat, and clean air and water
- Mixed use of 5,000 acres in the North Country land for recreational activities, economic development and natural resource preservation

### WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO USE ADDITIONAL UNDERGROUNDING?

Our new plan offers a balanced approach that reduces the impact of the Project in important ways while also providing unique economic benefits for New Hampshire. We've done a lot of listening over the last year. In our discussions with New Hampshire residents and stakeholder groups, we heard consistent support for more burial, particularly in the White Mountain National Forest, and more direct economic benefits for New Hampshire communities.

Major modifications to the Project balance critical environmental, economic and visual factors. This fundamental change addresses inter-related concerns expressed by New Hampshire citizens about tourism, historic landscapes, property values, and aesthetics. The additional 52 miles of underground, for a total of 60 miles, eliminates potential view-related impacts in the White Mountain National Forest, the gateway areas to the north and south, the Appalachian Trail, and other critical view sheds.

This additional underground construction will result in the longest HVDC land cable installation (underground) in North America. By adopting an innovative engineering approach to the project, and changing the cable technology, our engineers have been able to reduce the height of many of the remaining overhead HVDC structures, further minimizing potential view impacts.

At the same time, however, the change in cable technology results in a reduction in the capacity of the project (from 1,200 megawatts to 1,000 megawatts) and a corresponding reduction in clean energy benefits and potential revenues. As the Department of Energy (DOE) recognized in its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), using underground construction for the entire route would represent a significant increase in the cost of the Project.



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## HOW WILL THE FORWARD NEW HAMPSHIRE FUND DISTRIBUTE GRANTS?

The Forward NH Fund will receive and allocate \$200M over a 20 year period for projects associated with community betterment, clean energy innovation, economic development, and tourism. The Fund will work with an Advisory Board to evaluate projects for allocation of funds. Advisory Board members will be business, municipal, environmental and labor leaders, and North Country leaders, among others. The Advisory Board will review grant applications and responses to proactive grant-making initiatives and may also consider special programs aligned with key objectives to develop specific funding recommendations.

## WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC CONCERNS OVER POTENTIAL VIEW IMPACTS?

We have listened to the concerns voiced in New Hampshire about our previous proposal. What we heard loud and clear was the concern over potential view impacts, especially in the most treasured areas of our state.

The decision to use an additional 52 miles of underground construction in the White Mountain National Forest and along the north and south gateway areas is a major commitment to address the primary concern of most New Hampshire residents. More than 80 percent of the route is along existing transmission corridors or underground in public roadways. We have relied on professional view impact analysis to determine where to make other adjustments to structure locations and design. For example:

- In areas where there are sensitive public view sheds and historical resources, the Project plans to use a monopole design. We've changed 141 structures, and while they are more expensive than the lattice design, their more slender profile helps reduce potential visual impacts in certain sensitive areas.
- We've been able to reduce structure heights and the amount of clearing for the right-of-way along the DC portion of the route by using a different engineering design (V-string insulators).
- As a result of site visits with landowners, the Project has shifted the location of some structures and planned for vegetation screening, where practical, to lessen the potential view impact.
- The Project eliminated more than 400 of the proposed DC structures, as a result of the additional underground.

## WHO WILL PAY FOR THE PROJECT?

Northern Pass Transmission LLC, a subsidiary of Eversource Energy, will finance and fund the full cost of the development and construction of the Northern Pass project, and will recover those costs from Hydro Renewable Energy, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Hydro-Québec, over the 40-year term of a FERC accepted Transmission Service Agreement. Northern Pass will own and operate the transmission line and related facilities. Most importantly, New Hampshire residents will not pay any of the cost of building or operating the Northern Pass project, and will, instead, receive substantial direct and indirect economic benefits as a result of Northern Pass.

## WILL NORTHERN PASS HARM SMALL-SCALE RENEWABLE PROJECTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE?

No. A concern has been raised, focusing on New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), that Northern Pass may harm renewable projects by reducing the value of the renewable energy credits available under the RPS program. Northern Pass, however, does not qualify for the RPS program and will therefore have no impact on the value of renewable energy credits. Moreover, the project will invest over \$50M to upgrade the Coös Loop transmission system, and as part of the Forward New Hampshire Plan, will invest over \$1 million in the Coös Loop to enable renewable projects to provide their output to the grid. Finally, the large-scale hydropower from Northern Pass will help to balance the intermittent power from wind and solar projects, which has been a concern for the Independent System Operator (ISO). This hydropower is a good partner for non-hydro renewables, which require a reliable backup - this, in turn, could encourage more renewable projects.

## HOW MANY JOBS WILL BE CREATED?

Northern Pass will create approximately 2,400 jobs during the peak of construction. In addition, the Project is committed to hiring New Hampshire workers first; has supported an innovative electrical worker training program; and has committed \$7.5 million to a North Country Jobs Creation Fund.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS DOES THE PROJECT PROVIDE?

The Project will improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gases in New Hampshire and New England, consistent with national, regional, and state air quality and climate change goals. The Project will reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the region by as much as 3 million metric tons a year, which is equal to the emissions of approximately 600,000 cars.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New England states have long recognized that regional approaches are needed to help reduce air emissions. The New England Governors Association, Coalition Of New England Governors (CONEG), Northeast States for Coordinated Use Management (NESCAUM), the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC), the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and other groups have been working together cooperatively for many years to improve air quality and address climate change in the region.

New Hampshire's Climate Action Plan sets goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, which is consistent with the New England Governors' and Eastern Canadian Premiers' resolutions. The Plan supports the construction of high voltage transmission lines to import clean power generated from Canadian hydro and wind sources as a complementary policy to developing non-carbon emitting sources of power in New Hampshire. The Plan states that the importation of electricity from Canadian hydropower and wind resources "could provide new power sources to offset future local and regional growth and facilitate retiring or curtailing the operation of fossil fuel-fired plants in New England."

Because the hydropower from Northern Pass does not qualify under New Hampshire's RPS program requirements, it will complement, rather than compete with, locally produced wind and solar power. It will also serve as a base-load, or constant, source of renewable energy while wind and solar operate intermittently.

The Project also helps meet national, regional and state air quality goals by displacing fossil fuel fired forms of generation. At the national level, the federal Climate Action Plan is a blueprint intended to slow the effects of climate change by deploying a clean energy strategy. The Plan directs the EPA to develop carbon pollution standards for new and existing power plants. In response, the EPA developed the Clean Power Plan (CPP) to achieve a 32% reduction of CO2 emissions by 2030 from 2005 levels. The "All-Of-The-Above" Energy Strategy recognizes that "low- and zero-carbon renewable, nuclear, and clean coal energy sources have a central role to play in a clean energy future," and supports the production of electricity from renewables. Canadian hydro is recognized by EPA as a qualifying renewable resource in its final Clean Power Plan.

## ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PUBLIC TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT AND PROVIDE INPUT?

Northern Pass will continue to reach out to communities, landowners, and public officials, along the route. Additionally, there are a number of opportunities for the public to comment on the record in both the federal and state processes. The Department of Energy will accept comment on its Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the project through October 29, 2015, and will hold hearings on October 6, 7, and 8. Furthermore, as the project enters the state permitting process with the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (NHSEC), public information sessions will be held before and after Northern Pass files its application with the NHSEC, and also a round of public hearings conducted by the NHSEC. These sessions will be held in each county in which Northern Pass traverses. Public comments received at these forums will become part of the record before the NHSEC. An Open House will immediately precede and run concurrently with the first round of public information sessions. During the Open House, Project representatives will be available to provide information and answer questions one-on-one. The public is also invited to connect directly with the project via our hotline phone number (1-800-286-7305) or email ([info@northernpass.us](mailto:info@northernpass.us)).

## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS FOR NORTHERN PASS?

Northern Pass will be submitting its application for a Certificate of Site and Facility to the NHSEC this fall. An integral part of this process is the series of Public Information Sessions that will take place both before and after the application is submitted.

The NHSEC has 60 days after receiving our application to determine that it is complete and up to twelve months thereafter to act on it. This process is adjudicative, with hearings in which the Committee will consider testimony from expert and other witnesses offered by the applicant, counsel for the public, and intervenors.

While the state process proceeds, the federal review process also continues. We anticipate that the DOE will issue a final EIS in the summer of 2016, and a Record of Decision and Presidential Permit for the project in late 2016 following the completion of the state siting process.