

## Letter to the Editor

When one looks at the alternatives for getting Quebec Hydro power to Southern New England, it amazes me when statements are made regarding the high expense to bury the lines somewhere, or to expand other rights of way. I guess it depends where you want to put the expense. Who's bottom line.

Our bottom line is forever. An expanse of high voltage power lines cutting through our forests and private properties is forever. Corporate bottom lines can be passed on over a few years and written down and off the books. Meanwhile we would still have the power lines.

Thanks to Charlie Jordan for standing up for all of us in opposition during the NH Public Radio broadcast last week. He was there by himself for us, or so it sounded like during the radio broadcast. I was on queue but never did get my two cents worth in before the hour was up.

The representative from Public Service mentioned a couple of times how the lower cost producer of electricity (Hydro Quebec) would displace the operation of higher cost fossil fuel plants when the grid purchased power. Although I am not a proponent of oil and coal plants per say, these plants exist in our country and are operated by American citizens. They will eventually loose their jobs. Those are real full time jobs and home owners that are adding to their town's tax base. The Northern pass jobs are short term and will be far and few between.

What's wrong with Public Service and other very profitable power suppliers investing in New England to generate hydro or other "Green Energy" projects within our borders? All the jobs would be American jobs and all the taxes would be ours forever. Also, coal and oil fired generators are like your furnace. The longer they run the more efficient they are. How do you slow down or idle a fossil fuel plant without raising the cost of operation even higher?

Public Service has a horrible track record. Look at the Seabrook Nuclear plant. Poor management and government regulations put the cost of construction into the stratosphere. Costs you are still paying for on your electric bill and they only completed one of the proposed three generators. Make no mistake about it. It's cheaper to go through private land and or use the eminent domain trump card than any other alternatives. Maybe they should consider the Swift Diamond watershed as a route instead of the residential areas of COOS County since they now are the major sponsor to the Swift Diamond Club. Maybe Al Qaida will offer \$30,000.00 for the 2012 Snodeo.

Are you aware that on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> the State of New Hampshire's House Science Technology & Energy Committee will be asked for a change in wording to the NH renewable energy portfolio to include hydro power and to change the wording of the portfolio to eliminate the words "in New Hampshire's best interest"? An example of how this will work in the

future is when the Northern Pass says that their transmission lines can not be enlarged. In the future all you have to do is change the laws.

Are you aware that Northeast Utilities has a project well underway that is looking at COOS County as the wind generation future of their grid? It is called the "Consortium Project". It wants to convert COOS County into a wind factory. The problem with this factory is you will live inside it and not have a job. It will not benefit us as the Northern Pass doesn't. The power from any wind generating would require another transmission line to get power to the grid for the Southern New England to use. They want to generate 1600 MW, significantly larger than the Northern Pass. If they all have their way Northern NH will be a conduit and power generating arm that will generate significant bottom line profits. The Northern Pass dollars will flow to Quebec.

So, how much was your electric bill in January? What percentage were delivery fees and other fees. Mine was 53% in fees. Your new power could come from Northern Quebec, down through our wonderful countryside, south through the state to the grid. Then back up to us with no increase in delivery charges? If you think that, then the smoke you're getting from your neighbors pellet stove that runs on electricity is too strong.

So if big companies and conglomerates can change the laws, why can't we? Our current laws won't permit this but its fun to think that since we are all about free enterprise and the bottom line, let's contact our legislators and submit a bill to allow us to contact Hydro Quebec and buy our power from the source. The heck with the middleman. Last I heard their rates were 3 point something cents per KWH in Quebec. According to a spokesperson at NH Electric COOP, mine is 15.3 cents. I understand some towns in Vermont have done just this. Only they left their negotiating skills at the curb, since they are paying 16c. per KWH.

It was an excellent meeting held in Colebrook on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Many people came from a long distance to learn why we are against this project completely. It was interesting to see who was not there. Business leaders, banking people, selectmen from towns that will be severely impacted.

Why were they not interested in learning what the issues are? They didn't have to speak or take a position, just learn why their silent majority is speaking out.

I was once the silent majority. Now I'm letting my selectmen know where I stand. How about you?

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