



**TOWN OFFICE**

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*mailed  
5/14/12*



May 14, 2012

The Honourable Jean Charest  
Premier of Quebec  
Édifice Honoré-Mercier  
835, boul. René-Lévesque Est  
3e étage  
Quebec, Quebec  
Canada G1A 1B4

Dear Premier Charest:

We write you in our capacity as the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Stewartstown, New Hampshire. Under the laws of New Hampshire we are charged with carrying out the prudential affairs of our Town. We are the executive, managerial, and administrative body that does whatever is necessary to carry out the votes enacted at Stewartstown's town meeting.

We write this letter in protest and complaint regarding the local activities of Hydro-Quebec and its partner, Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and its affiliates. It has come to our attention that Northern Pass Transmission affiliates have been purchasing rural and residential properties in several parts of Stewartstown in an ill-conceived effort to construct an above-ground high voltage transmission line corridor from Quebec through Stewartstown and much of the rest of New Hampshire which will ultimately be paid for by Hydro-Quebec and used exclusively by Hydro-Quebec. We also understand that Hydro-Quebec is a wholly owned crown corporation of the Province of Quebec.

This is to advise you and, by copy, Hydro-Quebec's management that the Town of Stewartstown finds such activities to be reprehensible and contrary to our Town's wishes as approved by the voters. On March 13, 2012, at our Annual Town Meeting, the voters of Stewartstown overwhelmingly voted in favor of a Directive imposing a ban on any more construction of above ground high voltage transmission lines within the borders of Stewartstown. The directive also provides that henceforth any high voltage transmission lines must be buried in approved underground corridors or existing rights of way. A copy of that Directive is attached.

Hydro-Quebec's stated policy on its website provides, in relevant part, that its projects must be "favorably received" by the local host communities where they are to be built. <http://www.hydroquebec.com/sustainable-development/themes/engagement.html>. Please be advised that the Northern Pass project is not favorably received in this community and that is an understatement.

On January 31, 2012, New Hampshire's Governor Lynch also stated in his State of the State Address: "[T]he proponents of Northern Pass need to listen better. This project cannot happen without local support." [www.governor.nh.gov/media/news/2012/013112-state-of-state.htm](http://www.governor.nh.gov/media/news/2012/013112-state-of-state.htm). Why

then is Hydro-Quebec still supporting and promoting such a project that is so opposed by the impacted communities in New Hampshire?

Please be advised that continuing efforts to buy up private property for construction of Hydro-Quebec's high voltage transmission line in Stewartstown will only lead our community to conclude that the proponents of Northern Pass, including the Province of Quebec, cannot be trusted to keep their word. You must also know that Stewartstown is not alone. Overwhelming and often unanimous votes in over 30 other towns in New Hampshire have opposed the Northern Pass above ground transmission line project since it was publicly disclosed some 18 months ago.

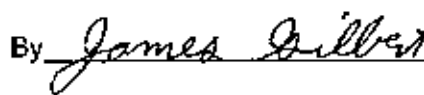
Premier Charest, in the past we have been proud of our good relations with Quebec as a neighbor and as a trade partner. We have felt a deep kinship not just because so many of our citizens have a common heritage, but also because of the mutual benefits we have gained through local commerce and tourism across the border. The continuance of the Northern Pass project, however, is causing serious damage to our relationship with, and feelings towards, Quebec. The goals and local methods of Quebec's crown corporation, Hydro-Quebec, are at irreconcilable odds with our local values and our environment. We are asking you to intervene and correct this situation. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Very truly yours,

The Stewartstown Board of Selectmen

By 

By 

By 

cc: Michael L. Turcotte, Chairman of the Board  
Hydro-Quebec  
75 Rene-Levesque Boulevard West  
Montreal  
Quebec, Canada H2Z 1A4

Thierry Vandal, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hydro-Quebec  
75 Rene-Levesque Boulevard West  
Montreal  
Quebec, Canada H2Z 1A4

**Petition for a High Voltage Transmission Line Directive  
Presented as Warrant Article 7  
Town of Stewartstown, Annual Town Meeting, March 13, 2012**

WHEREAS, the Town of Stewartstown is located in the vicinity of an existing electrical transmission line right of way that carries a High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) power line designated by Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH); and

WHEREAS, PSNH et al., acting on behalf of Northern Pass, LLC, are attempting to purchase property in towns throughout New Hampshire's North Country for a new high voltage electrical transmission line right of way that will extend the aforementioned PSNH right of way generally north to the Canadian Border; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Northern Pass transmission line would carry 1,200 Megawatts of High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) power generally south from Canada through New Hampshire on visually damaging power lines hung from tall, intrusive steel towers at heights ranging from eighty (80') feet to one hundred and thirty-five (135') feet in the air, well above tree height; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the Town of Stewartstown have concluded that the Northern Pass transmission line, as it has been proposed, would cause significant area-wide degradation of real estate property values resulting in losses of property tax receipts well in excess of any conceivable property tax revenues from levying tax assessments on the aforesaid towers and transmission line; and

WHEREAS, numerous other negative impacts from the aforesaid proposed Northern pass transmission line will occur or can reasonably be expected to occur, over time, including but not limited to:

- a. A drop in area-wide tourist visits and revenues as damages from the power lines to the region's natural scenic beauty will be a deterrent to people coming to visit or live in the region.
- b. A drop in toll fees and New Hampshire gas tax revenues as motorists choose other routes into Northern New England or worse, choose not to come at all.
- c. The strong likelihood of negative health impacts from High Voltage Transmission lines or cables.
- d. A drop in business revenues and consequently, a drop in employment at local businesses throughout the region such as, ski areas, restaurants, gas stations, construction firms, shops, stores, banks, real estate firms, to mention just a few—all of which are heavily dependent upon visitors coming to the area.

THEREFORE, the undersigned citizens of Stewartstown, by petition, respectfully ask the town to adopt the following Directive:

**Other than high voltage electrical transmission lines in existence as of the effective date of this Directive, there shall be no further overhead development of alternating current or direct current high voltage transmission lines within the borders of the Town of Stewartstown. All such future electrical transmission lines must be placed underground within power line rights of way or within yet to be established power line corridors and installed in a manner approved by the State of New Hampshire's Public Utility Commission and/or Department of Transportation. Distribution lines carrying electrical power and other utility lines such as telephone and cable television for local residential or commercial use may continue to be installed above ground, but undergrounding of such lines is strongly recommended and encouraged.**

**This Directive shall take effect immediately upon its passage.**

**Directive Passed by majority vote at the Annual Town Meeting on March 13, 2012.**