

July 25, 2014

Robert Chesebrough
27 Fletcher Lane
Hollis, NH 03049

New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning

Dear sir,

Energy planning for New Hampshire should have a vision of energy sources of the future. Current renewable resources like solar, wind and hydro should be considered for our future path. Investments in the development of these technologies and newer ones would support New Hampshire's energy needs well beyond the lifetime of depleting fossil fuels.

The natural gas industry proposes a future of new pipeline projects. They ignore that the gas in the pipelines is not sustainable for the future. New pipelines destroy scenic New Hampshire as easement swaths are cleared of everything but grasses. They put our precious natural water supply at risk during construction and later in operation as they leak. They put our residents at risk from contaminated water and explosions. Claims of "clean burning" gas puts our children at risk by ignoring that methane gas is released during the drilling, transportation and distribution of natural gas causing far more greenhouse gas than burning either oil or coal.

The New England concerns of natural gas "shortages" are based on a few high demand hours during a few weeks of the coldest months of the year. The remainder of the hours in the day and the remaining days of the year our pipeline capacity is more than adequate. This means our gas "shortages" could be solved with planning and storage of fuel during less than high demand periods.

Large projects such as the proposed Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline Northeast Direct Energy project would trample the hard earned and preserved properties of smaller communities. Residents and local governments are sold on a New England need for 600 million cubic feet/day. The pipeline as proposed would transport 4 times that amount of 2.2 billion cubic feet/day so that this pipeline could be used for export to Canada and beyond.

Natural gas is an important "bridge" fuel but future investment in new pipeline infrastructure would be a mistake. The temporary nature of a "bridge" fuel means funds committed to this effort would be better spent on research and renewable sources.

Investment in energy efficiency and conservation is also key to New Hampshire's energy future. Continuation of these types of programs already in place would reduce our energy demand.

New Hampshire should also continue investment in more local power sources. Large centralized sources require transportation of the energy and therefore require destructive easements through our scenic landscape. Local power sources like solar and wind could connect to the grid allowing energy flow on existing power lines without sacrificing more of our forests, residential properties and conservation lands to utility easements.

Please focus future energy plans on renewable energy sources that will be available in the future. Please avoid projects which would increase the infrastructure and dependency on limited fossil fuels. Please consider local power alternatives so that our treasured New Hampshire landscape can be preserved and enjoyed for many more generations.

Thank you,

Rob