

July 06. 2017 9:13PM

**National Grid, IBEW to build Granite State Power Link project**

**By**[**MICHAEL COUSINEAU**](mailto:mcousineau@unionleader.com) **New Hampshire Union Leader**

CONCORD — National Grid and a labor union announced Thursday an agreement to construct the proposed Granite State Power Link project, a potential alternative to Northern Pass.  
  
National Grid and development partner Citizens Energy have committed to using skilled local workers from International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 104 to build the project, estimated to create up to 2,000 jobs during construction.  
  
The memorandum of understanding “represents an important first step toward the development of a comprehensive project labor agreement,” said Tiler Eaton, IBEW’s international representative for business development.  
  
National Grid said it continues to meet with host communities, state and local officials, landowners and abutters as well as interest groups to discuss the project, which would bring up to 1,200 megawatts of energy from Canada to the New England power grid.  
  
“The Granite State Power Link will deliver significant benefits to families and businesses in New Hampshire and throughout New England,” said Joseph Rossignoli, GSPL project director.   
  
The proposal calls for installing a new, high-voltage, overhead line alongside an existing line running from the international border at Norton, Vt., through Vermont to a proposed converter station on National Grid-owned property in Monroe.  
  
The project is expected to require upgrading an existing National Grid overhead line in New Hampshire, from Monroe to southern New Hampshire, to accommodate the additional power flow from the new line.  
  
Meanwhile, the proposed $1.6 billion Northern Pass project is before a state committee considering the project. It needs several state and federal approvals before it can start operating in late 2019 or early 2020. Project officials hope to garner all necessary approvals by year’s end.  
  
The Northern Pass route runs from Pittsburg to Deerfield and includes 60 miles of buried lines, carrying 1,090 megawatts of electricity from Canada into New England.



**Granite State Power Link Continues to Hold Local Community Meetings   
By Jake Mardin**

**July 5, 2017**

Granite State Power Link hosted several community meetings to allow people a chance to talk with various experts about a proposed transmission line. Two of the meetings were held in Bloomfield last Tuesday and Norton on Wednesday.

National Grid is proposing a 168 mile line that would deliver up to 1,200 megawatts of energy from Canada to the New England grid. The line would enter the United States in Norton and go through Avery's Gore, Averill, Lewis, Bloomfield, Brunswick, Ferdinand, Granby, Victory, Lunenburg, Concord and Waterford in Vermont. The line in Vermont will be built along an existing Vermont Electric Power Company line, with the current right of way expanded by 150 feet. Current plans do not have the new towers being higher than the old ones. The line would cross into New Hampshire in Littleton and connect to a new converter station in Monroe. From there, the existing line would go south and terminate at a new switchyard in Londonderry.

At the meetings, engineers, environmental consultants, a representative from co-investor Citizen's Energy and a representative from the Northeastern Vermont Development Association were among those who were on hand to answer questions.

Shannon Baxevanis of National Grid said at the Bloomfield meeting that representatives have reached out to landowners by mail and are going door-to-door to ask for permission to do non-invasive surveying.

Bloomfield's meeting was sparsely attended, but Norton's meeting produced the highest turnout of the first five meetings. One difference is that there may be a converter station located in Norton, which would change the tax rate. If the station is built in Norton, the town would see new tax revenues ranging from $76,373 to $171,023, increasing every year over a forty year period. If the station is not in Norton, the town would see revenues ranging from $13,158 to $54,367.

"Overall the meetings have been very helpful in giving the project team the opportunity to discuss the project directly with local residents, landowners and abutters," Shannon Baxevanis of National Grid said. 'By showing our conceptual engineering maps, which are very preliminary at this point, we've begun to receive critical information that we can incorporate into our engineering and permitting."

Permitting and siting is scheduled to begin this fall and go to mid-2020. The project requires a Presidential Permit due to the line crossing the border as well as Section 248 and 231 permits in Vermont and a certificate from the Site Evaluation Committee in New Hampshire. Much like the SEC, the Section 248 process involves several steps, including discovery, public hearings, site visits and evidentiary and technical hearings.

Another community meeting will be held at the Unified Towns and Gores office in Ferdinand on Monday, July 10 from 4-6 p.m.



**Granite State Power Link Makes Pitch To Littleton**

**No Voiced Concerns Monday**

Robert Blechl  
Apr 25, 2017

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LITTLETON — Representatives of Granite State Power Link, the 1,200-megawatt capacity transmission line proposed by National Grid to import Canadian hydro and wind power through the Northeast Kingdom into New Hampshire, made their pitch to Littleton Monday.

“Local outreach is essential for what we do with our projects,” GSPL project director Joe Rossignoli said during the regularly scheduled selectmen’s meeting.”We take the local relationship very seriously.”

The first of GSPL’s two segments is a new high-voltage direct current overhead line that would run parallel to an existing HVDC transmission line in an expanded right-of-way from the international border at Norton, Vt., through the NEK to Littleton and then to a converter station on National Grid-owned property in Monroe.

“The compelling argument is it makes use of existing transmission rights-of-way and that drives down development costs and minimizes visual and environmental impacts,” Rossignoli said of the project.

The presentation drew no voiced concerns in Littleton and one expression of support by Selectman Milton Bratz.

Referring to Northern Pass, Bratz said, “Five years ago, we took a stand against another project because of cut trees and large towers. I think this addresses the issues we have back then.”

Bratz said if his two former select board colleagues were still on the board, they would likely agree.

The GSPL differs in several respects from the proposed 1,090-megawatt, $1.6 billion Northern Pass proposal, unpopular with many in the North Country.

In addition to GSPL’s $1 billion development cost being funded by the applicant (National Grid) and its investor (Citizens Energy, of Massachusetts) and not ratepayers, the GSPL would have more capacity, would cost more than a third less, and would be almost adjacent to or within existing transmission corridors, with new towers no taller and others smaller than the ones already there.

Although Northern Pass representatives said they do not view the GSPL as a competitor, both projects are bidding for the same Massachusetts clean energy request for proposal and there can only be one winner.

Because the GSPL will have little to no visual impact and the permitting process is expected to be a smooth one, Rossignoli said he is confident of the GSPL’s chances for the Massachusetts RFP. Bids are due by July.

“Last summer we started thinking of ways to get clean energy from Quebec,” he said, adding that some fossil fuel plants in New England are closing and replacement power is needed.

The company estimates the existing right-of-way would be expanded 150 feet through segments of the Northeast Kingdom and over the Connecticut River into N.H.

In the North Country, 4.6 miles of new line would pass through Littleton and 1.2 through Monroe. Four miles in Littleton and Monroe would use an expanded right-of-way for a new DC line.

In all, five miles of line would be in Monroe, eight-tenths of a mile in Lyman, 7.4 miles in Bath, and 8.7 in Haverhill.

Only voluntary land acquisition with private landowners will be needed and eminent domain will not be used, said Rossignoli.

There will be little to no view shed impact for 106 of the 112 miles in N.H, he said.

The second GSPL segment involves upgrading approximately 107 miles of existing National Grid-owned overhead lines from Monroe to southern New Hampshire to accommodate the additional power flows from the new HVDC line.

The primary market for the energy would be in southern New England, and while the Massachusetts RFP would be the main target, New Hampshire utilities can elect to purchase power from the GSPL, said Rossignoli.

The 24 N.H. communities the line would pass through, including those in the North Country, would also receive property tax revenue, estimates for which are expected to be available next week, he said.

“Not only does New Hampshire not pay for this, but there is a benefit to New Hampshire,” he said.

GSPL expects to file for its federal Presidential Permit this autumn and for its state permits in New Hampshire and Vermont in 2018 and secure all permits by mid-2020. After 24 to 30 months of construction, company is targeting the end of 2022 to begin commercial operations.

Last week, Rossignoli made a similar presentation to selectmen in Monroe. Additional meetings are planned with the Vermont communities as well.

The goal, he said, is to meet with abutters and discuss design changes “to make folks comfortable with the project and comfortable to support it … It’s the ethical thing to do and it makes good business sense.”

National Grid estimates the GSPL will reduce electricity costs by more than $1 billion over 10 years, and will result in $154 million in energy savings in N.H. over 10 years.

The company also estimates 1,500 new jobs during construction as well as energy affordability assistance to N.H. families from Citizens Energy.



**National Grid To Meet More Select Boards In NEK**

**Granite State Power Link To Run Beside Transmission Line In Essex County**

Robin Smith

 Apr 19, 2017

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The company planning a new high-voltage transmission line linking Quebec’s hydro and solar power to southern New England continues to present its project to select boards in Essex and Caledonia counties.

National Grid wants to install the new 1,200 mega-watt line, called Granite State Power Link, next to an existing transmission line owned by Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) that enters Vermont at Norton and heads south through Essex County.

National Grid wants to widen the existing right of way for the VELCO line of 200 feet by another 150 feet.

The National Grid team has already met with the select boards of Lunenburg, Unified Towns and Gores, and Norton, according to Jackie Barry, director of strategic communications with National Grid.

The Lunenburg Select Board minutes noted that the National Grid officials offered a short presentation with plans to follow up with a community meeting sometime later in May at the school to get the townspeople’s feedback on the project.

“It may bring jobs to town while it’s being built,” selectmen said according to the minutes.

National Grid estimated that 2,000 jobs will be created during construction. The project will need approval of the Vermont Public Service Board.

The next select board meetings with National Grid in April and May are:

- Thursday, April 20 at 5 p.m. in Brunswick;

- Tuesday, April 25 at 6 p.m. in Granby;

- Tuesday, May 2 at 6 p.m. in Concord;

- Monday, May 8 at 6 p.m., Victory;

- Monday, May 8, 7:30 p.m., Waterford;

- Monday, May 15 at 7 p.m. in Bloomfield.

Public meetings in some towns are expected in late May or June, Barry said.



April 11. 2017 12:04AM

**New Granite State Power Link project rich in rights- of-way**

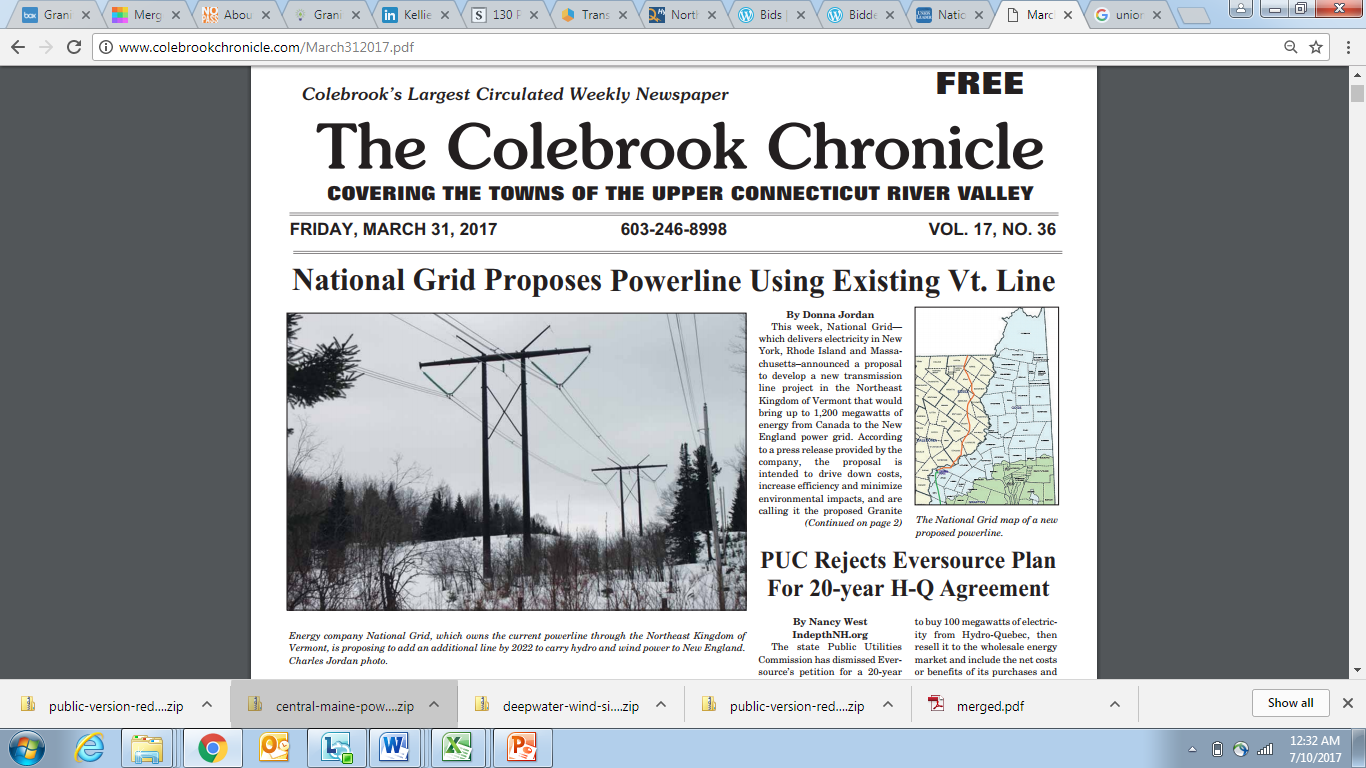
**By JOHN KOZIOL  
Union Leader Correspondent**

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Signs on Route 135 in Monroe, on April 5, indicate the location of the New England Electric Transmission Corp.'s HVDC converter and TransCanada's Comerford hydro station. National Grid, the parent of NEET, has announced plans to build a new DC converter facility somewhere in the immediate area as part of its Granite State Power Link project that would bring Canadian hydropower into the New England energy market. (John Koziol/Union Leader Correspondent)

MONROE — National Grid officials say the company’s proposed Granite State Power Link, which would bring hydroelectricity from Canada into New England, would also bring economic benefits to the 24 New Hampshire communities it crosses, including this town along the Connecticut River.  
  
With a population of 788 in the 2010 Census, Monroe is best-known as the home of Pete & Gerry’s Organic Eggs. It has two churches, but no stores. What Monroe has in abundance, thanks to its location on the Vermont-New Hampshire border, are electrical generation and transmission facilities, overhead power lines and energy rights-of-way.  
  
Joe Rossignoli, project leader for Granite State Power Link, said the project would entail the construction in Monroe of a direct-current converter station. He estimated the cost “will be in the low nine-figure range.”  
  
Some 110 miles south of Monroe, in Londonderry, Rossignoli said National Grid proposes to build a switching station whose cost “would probably be an eight-figure number.”  
  
Construction of the facilities would increase the total assessed valuation in both communities, meaning increased property taxes, he said.  
  
Utility companies are typically among the largest property owners and taxpayers in many New Hampshire cities and towns.   
  
Keith Merchand, who has been Monroe’s tax collector for 21 years, said utilities currently pay about 62 percent of all property taxes in town.   
  
Monroe in 2016 had a tax rate of $11.34 per $1,000 of assessed valuation.  
  
In Monroe, according to town records, seven electric companies pay taxes on property with a total assessed value of $338,324,800.   
  
At almost $200,000,000, TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc. is the utility with the largest assessment in Monroe.  
  
Rossignoli said the proposed Monroe converter station will interconnect with TransCanada’s transmission facilities at Comerford Dam off Route 135. He said he would not pinpoint the location until he and others from National Grid meet with the Monroe Board of Selectmen on April 18 at 7 p.m.  
  
With three exceptions — in Litchfield and Londonderry, as well as a four-mile stretch between Littleton and Monroe in which National Grid will have to purchase land to widen the rights-of-way — nearly all of the Granite State Power Link transmission line will be within existing rights-of-way.   
  
South of Monroe, only 20 percent of the existing transmission towers will be replaced, said Rossignoli.  
  
**Northern Pass**  
  
Rossignoli declined to make comparisons between Granite State Power Link and the Northern Pass transmission project proposed by Eversource.   
  
Northern Pass would also bring Canadian hydropower into the New England market via New Hampshire. It would do so along a 192-mile route from Pittsburg to Deerfield, with all but 60 miles above ground.  
  
Eversource says more than 80 percent of the line “will be located beneath public roadways or within existing transmission corridors,” but critics have demanded that the entire length be buried.  
  
Northern Pass created a $200 million economic-development initiative known as the Forward NH Fund. National Grid plans to announce its own initiative which, “at the very least,” said Rossignoli, will match the Forward NH Fund.  
  
Eversource has said Granite State Power Link is well behind Northern Pass in applying for permits and going through the regulatory process.  
  
Rossignoli disagreed: “We feel that the benefits of this project, and the way of using the existing rights-of-way and existing infrastructure and the minimal environmental impact and cost-effectiveness that results from that, are so compelling that we can permit and commercialize this project in a very timely manner.”  
  
Society for the Preservation of New Hampshire Forests does not have an official position on Granite State Power Link.   
  
But spokesman Jack Savage said the society has long wondered why proposed transmission projects can’t use “the lines already running in northern New Hampshire.”  
  
He said Granite State Power Link represents “a clear alternative to Northern Pass” and because it will cost less to build, “has the potential to blow Northern Pass right out of the water.”   
  
District 1 State Sen. Jeff Woodburn, D-Whitefield, who represents all of Coos County as well as many communities in Grafton County, including Littleton and Monroe, said it appears that National Grid and Northern Pass are courting the same energy provider — Hydro-Quebec.   
  
“Quite frankly, these projects need to live and die on their own,” said Woodburn, who for now is happy to “let the process play itself out.”





**Does Northern Pass Have A Competitor?**

Robert Blechl

 Mar 29, 2017

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After having lost its $1.6 billion development reimbursement in N.H. and its power purchase agreement, Northern Pass Transmission is now seeing another project on the scene - the Granite State Power Link, officially announced Tuesday.

Unlike NPT, National Grid is proposing its line along its existing corridors and transmission infrastructure.

After Tuesday’s announcement, representatives from Eversource Energy, parent company of NPT, downplayed NPT’s recent challenges and a new project that could potentially compete for the same clean energy request for proposals, such as the one Massachusetts is expected to issue this spring.

“Today’s announcement by National Grid speaks to the regional need for new sources of reliable and clean power to replace retiring power plants across New England,” said Eversource spokesman Martin Murray.”The Granite State Power Link and Northern Pass both represent a significant step toward a more secure energy future.”

ISO-New England has said that transmission infrastructure is needed to reach clean energy sources and warned of more than 4,000 megawatts of lost electric capacity in the immediate future, he said.

Studies from ISO as well as the University of N.H. have projected declining energy use into the future in some New England states, and UNH concludes New England does not need new energy to continue to grow its economy.

Critics of NPT, first proposed in 2010 and now delayed in its permitting and construction by several years, argued NPT could go along the existing right-of-way National Grid is now proposing for the GSPL.

Murray said, “Northern Pass did, as part of its development, review many potential project routes, including the use of the existing “Phase I/II” right-of- way. Our application for a Presidential Permit included the results of our analysis, which found that the Phase I/II right-of-way would not be suitable due to the presence of existing infrastructure. We ultimately selected the route that is most viable and effective.”

The proposed NPT route, which is mostly overhead and along existing or new Eversource right-of-way, would net Eversource about $10 billion in revenue during the 40-year term of the line, including a guaranteed profit of $4 billion, according to federal filings.

Eversource representatives have declined to say if they are seeking to site NPT along their right-of-way as much as possible to maximize profit.

“Numerous projects have been announced that are in the early stages of planning and development in the region,” said Murray. “Northern Pass stands in contrast to these concept projects because it is in the advanced stages of permitting in both the U.S. and Canada, and has a confirmed source of clean, reliable power.”

NPT is seeking a permit from the N.H. Site Evaluation Committee and a federal Presidential Permit.

Because NPT has many opponents concerned about tall towers impacting property values, scenic resources and tourism, however, any permit granted is likely to be appealed.

On Monday, the N.H. Public Utilties Commission dismissed a petition submitted by Eversource asking the PUC to approve a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA) between Eversource and Hydro-Quebec.

The PUC concluded the proposal cannot be approved because it is inconsistent with N.H. law, specifically the electric utility restructuring statute.

Murray said a PPA is not a requirement of the permit process but was proposed as a response to those in the Granite State asking for a guarantee that N.H., as host state, would receive a fair share of energy from the project and economic benefits above those received by other New England states.

In the works, now, though, is Senate Bill 128, which seeks to modify electric utility restructuring.

Eversource has said N.H. rate payers would not foot the cost for NPT, but project opponents said SB 128 could open the way for N.H. consumers paying for the project.

“We know there is broad support in the Legislature to provide regulators with assurance that they have the authority to consider whether proposals like the PPA would be in the best interest of customers,” said Murray. “SB 128, if passed into law, would provide that assurance.”

The bill is scheduled for a N.H. Senate vote on Thursday.



**Granite State Power Link Could Reduce New England Energy Costs by $1B Over 10 Years**

[March 29, 2017](https://www.energymanagertoday.com/granite-state-power-link-reduce-new-england-energy-costs-1b-10-years-0168655/) by [Cheryl Kaften](https://www.energymanagertoday.com/author/cherylwk/)

A proposed transmission project in New England [could decrease energy costs across the region by $1.1 billion over its first 10 years of operation](https://www.vermontbiz.com/news/march/12-gw-granite-state-power-link-proposed-would-start-vermont) – and would not be paid for by utility customers, according to a March 28 report by *Vermont Business Magazine.*

[National Grid– Massachusetts](https://www.nationalgridus.com/MA-Home/)has proposed to develop the transmission project, which would bring up to 1,200 MW of clean energy from Canada to the New England power grid. [To drive down costs, increase efficiency, and minimize environmental impacts, the proposed Granite State Power Link (GSPL) would be constructed almost entirely along existing transmission corridors](https://media.nationalgrid.com/press-releases/) and would maximize use of existing infrastructure.

The GSPL would be a commercial project:  [Its development would be funded by National Grid and its investors](https://www.vermontbiz.com/news/march/12-gw-granite-state-power-link-proposed-would-start-vermont) – not customers of its regulated companies, *Vermont Business* said. What’s more, [Citizens Energy](https://www.citizensenergygroup.com/)has pledged to use 50 percent of its own profits from the project to fund energy assistance programs for local families.

Under the National Grid plan, the GSPL would comprise two segments:

* A new high-voltage, direct current (HVDC) overhead line in Vermont, alongside an existing HVDC line in an expanded right-of-way corridor from the Canadian border at Norton, as well as a converter station on National Grid-owned property in Monroe, New Hampshire; and
* An upgrade of an existing National Grid overhead line in New Hampshire to accommodate the additional power flow from the new HVDC line; as well as a new switching station in southern New Hampshire.

“We designed this project to be a win-win-win for New England’s energy consumers, the project host states and communities, and the environment,” John Flynn, SVP of Business Development for National Grid. “When you combine the project’s potential to lower regional electricity rates, economic development investment, environmental benefits, its cost-effectiveness, and the minimal visual and environmental impacts to the host communities, it’s clear that GSPL is uniquely positioned to bring clean energy to life in the region.”

“NVDA is pleased to support and welcome the development of the Granite State Power Link in the Northeast Kingdom,” Dave Snedeker, executive director of the [Northeastern Vermont Development Association, told the local business news outlet.](https://www.nvda.net/) “The project, developed next to an existing transmission corridor, will have a limited environmental and visual impact, and will deliver significant economic benefits to an area of Vermont that desperately needs an economic boost. We look forward to working with National Grid to further define what the specific economic benefits will be.”

National Grid has experience in this technical and geographic area. The utility built, co-owns, and operates [the nation’s first HVDC system, which interconnects New England and Canada and has delivered up to 2,000 megawatts of clean energy for more than 25 years.](https://www.abb.com/cawp/seitp202/5685eb71f1afdf3085257ef20049e5b0.aspx)

In December, National Grid completed [sea2shore](https://sea2shore.org/): The Renewable Link, a transmission project that interconnected the nation’s first offshore wind farm, located off the Rhode Island coast, to the mainland grid.



March 28. 2017 10:03PM

**Northern Pass critics and supporters hail National Grid transmission project**

**By JOHN KOZIOL  
Union Leader Correspondent**

BERLIN — The announcement Tuesday by National Grid that it was looking to bring hydro-electric power from Canada via New Hampshire into southern New England was hailed by both supporters and critics of the similar Northern Pass transmission project, albeit for different, contradictory reasons.  
  
National Grid officials said Tuesday they wanted to use their existing rights-of-way [**to bring the power from Canada into New Hampshire**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bw1u4tuUje88RDVzWUg2TFRTNzg/view?usp=sharing).  
  
By comparison, Northern Pass would bring hydropower along a 192-mile long route into the state. Some 60 miles of the transmission lines, mostly within the White Mountain National Forest, would be buried underground.  
  
Critics of Northern Pass, amongst the loudest of which has been the Society for the Preservation of New Hampshire Forests, have charged that the project is unnecessary and that its high towers would ruin viewscapes and bring down property values.  
  
Supporters, among them Berlin Mayor Paul Grenier, argue that Northern Pass is a statewide benefit, while in the North Country, it would pay to revitalize the Coos Loop, a local energy-distribution system.  
  
Should the Coos Loop be brought back, Berlin, which is nowhere near the proposed Northern Pass route, could theoretically have 100 percent daily access to the regional power grid.  
  
Berlin is home to a wind-turbine farm, several hydro-electric dams, including Smith Hydro which is owned by Eversource, the company behind Northern Pass, and to a bio-mass energy plant. Those cumulatively generate some 135 megawatts of power that can’t always find its way to markets, said Grenier, because of the Coos Loop’s limitations.  
  
Given the continued retirement of power plants that use fossil fuels to make energy, “I think we need both projects,” said Grenier.  
  
Although Northern Pass is already working through the permitting process and National Grid has yet to start, Grenier thinks the two of them might generate the same controversial issue — high towers.  
  
Jack Savage, who is a spokesman for the Forest Society, thinks the National Grid project “has the potential to blow Northern Pass right out of the water.”  
  
The proposal by National Grid, which has 110 miles of rights-of-way in New Hampshire, is some $600 million less expensive to build than Northern Pass, he pointed out, and it represents “a clear alternative to Northern Pass.”  
  
Overall, Savage said there are three projects that want to do essentially the same thing: New England Clean Power Link, Northern Pass and now National Grid. At present, the one with the most uncertain future, Savage noted, is Northern Pass, whose energy-providing partner, Hydro-Quebec, recently said it would not help pay to build a transmission line in New Hampshire.  
  
Savage thinks that only one project will ultimately prove to be viable.  
  
“We (the Forest Society) don’t have a position on the National Grid project but we’ve long asked the question that if New England wants to avail itself of more hydro power from Quebec, why can’t it use the lines already running in northern New Hampshire.”  
  
Savage dismissed the possibility of the Coos Loop upgrade falling to the wayside if Northern Pass falters.  
  
“It’s a misnomer to say it’s Northern Pass or northing,” said Savage, who said the City of Franklin, too, would succeed without it; Franklin is the site of a proposed Northern Pass converter terminal.  
  
That facility, according to Northern Pass, would be valued at more than $350 million and would annually produce property tax payments in the range of $3.2 million to $7 million.



**With New Project, National Grid Puts Forward Possible Alternative to Northern Pass**

By [TODD BOOKMAN](http://nhpr.org/people/todd-bookman) *•* MAR 28, 2017

*A new utility project from National Grid would transmit renewable energy from Quebec along 114 miles of power lines in New Hampshire.*

Utility company National Grid says it wants to build a new transmission line that would bring 1,200 megawatts of renewable power from Canada into New England. The major new project would take a different route than the controversial [Northern Pass](http://www.northernpass.us/index.htm?gclid=Cj0KEQjwk-jGBRCbxoPLld_bp-IBEiQAgJaftfuU5nQ0t5ovhVHiLCNDyN2MVDdUU5gBKvN9E2ag8xMaAj4s8P8HAQ) proposal put forward by Eversource.

National Grid’s new plan, called the [Granite State Power Link](http://www.granitestatepowerlink.com/)  looks to harness wind and hydroelectric energy in Quebec, and transmit it along 58 miles of line in Vermont. It then would cross the Connecticut River into Littleton, New Hampshire, and continue for 114 miles, before terminating in Londonderry.

The project, which has a $1 billion price tag, would require 6 miles of new transmission lines in New Hampshire, although National Grid says those lines would be built along existing utility corridors. The company says it plans to use 108 miles of existing transmission towers, which would be retrofitted with new lines.

“Our customers need access to cost-effective energy, cost-effective clean supply, and they need it in a way that is ...not very environmentally impactful,” says Joe Rossignoli, project director for Granite State Power Link.“So we think that this project using existing corridors and networks delivers both of those.”

National Grid says the project would create 600 construction jobs in Vermont, and approximately 1,500 jobs in New Hampshire, and the company hopes to finish the project in 2022, but first must get approval by state and federal regulators.

[Northern Pass](http://nhpr.org/topic/northern-pass#stream/0) was first proposed in 2011, but has faced pushback from some residents, as well as criticism from environmental groups concerning its route in New Hampshire’s North Country. Eversource’s plan would require approximately 40-miles of new transmission lines, and comes with a  $1.6 billion price tag. It would transport 1,090 megawatts of electricity from Quebec.

**'This is, from our perspective, clearly an alternative to Northern Pass and would seem to have many advantages to it.'**

“Today’s announcement by National Grid speaks to the regional need for new sources of reliable and clean power to replace retiring power plants across New England,” said Martin Murray, a spokesperson for Eversource. “Northern Pass and the proposed Granite State Power Link both represent a significant step toward a more secure energy future."

Environmental groups say they need more details about Granite State Power Link and what natural resources may be impacted by the new proposed power lines. But there is cautious optimism about the project.

“It’s always good to wait and take a close look at what it means on the ground, and what it means in particular communities, and we’ll be doing that as we learn more about the project,” said Jack Savage with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. “But this is, from our perspective, clearly an alternative to Northern Pass and would seem to have many advantages to it.”