



June 16, 2017

Leonine Public Affairs
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1 Blanchard Court
Montpelier, VT 05602

To Whom It May Concern:

The Northeastern Vermont Development Association, a Vermont regional planning and development corporation for Caledonian, Essex, and Orleans Counties, has met with representatives of National Grid and local communities along the proposed route to discuss the proposed Granite State Power Link (GSPL) project proposed for Vermont and New Hampshire.

As proposed, the GSPL project would deliver up to 1,200 MW of clean, reliable, and affordable power to New England, and benefit host communities. As the DC powerline project will adjoin the existing VELCO right of way, the construction and project impact would be less than for a new line. Furthermore, the GSPL project would provide economic benefits to host communities, the region, and Vermont, primarily through increased property tax revenue, lower energy costs for consumers, economic development assistance for the NVDA region, and employment during the project's construction.

NVDA has reviewed the GSPL project to determine its conformance with the adopted 2015 *Regional Plan for the Northeast Kingdom*. We have determined that the project is consistent with the following mission, policies, and goals of the regional plan:

NVDA Mission:

Work to improve the quality of life for people in the Northeast Kingdom through planning and by promoting economic development while preserving the region's natural environment.

Regional Plan Energy Policy Statement:

New industrial/utility energy development shall meet the highest standards required by law. Permitting authorities shall first consider current and historical land use and the culture of the region, community opinion, economic benefit, as well as the land owner's rights. Any development shall to the extent possible be done so as to mitigate adverse

impacts to the region. Any utility-scale energy generation project deemed acceptable by the Public Service Board shall include a plan for distributing benefits to the towns in the region proportional to the adverse effects experienced by that town. Long term maintenance, safety issues, decommissioning, and land reclamation procedures required at the end of the energy project's life must also be included in the project plan.

Regional Goals:

- *Support the upgrade of regional transmission systems to continue to reduce constraints.*
- *Encourage municipalities to reduce their energy costs through conservation and efficiency, and weatherization programs.*
- *Encourage municipalities to conduct energy audits and weatherization programs.*
- *Affordable energy alternatives will be available for the region's users.*
- *Future development should follow traditional development patterns, while providing for economic development opportunities and livable communities.*
- *New development will be compatible with existing land uses, and consistent with local plans.*

The proposed GSPL project is therefore in conformance with the adopted NVDA Regional Plan. For more information on the NVDA Regional Plan, please visit <http://www.nvda.net/regional-plan.php>. If there are additional questions, please contact me at dsnedeker@nvda.net or (802) 748-8303.

Thank you,



David Snedeker
Executive Director