

Appendix 7.4.TDI-NE.2

NECPL - Letter From Conservation Law Foundation (June 2017)

June 2017

Comments on TDI-NE New England Clean Power Link Proposal in response to the March 31, 2017 Massachusetts request for proposals for long-term contracts for clean energy projects.

To whom it may concern:

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) offers the following comments regarding the TDI-NE New England Clean Power Link project, for consideration in evaluating the TDI-NE proposal for a long-term contract.

Conservation Law Foundation is a New England-based environmental advocacy organization. CLF has offices in five of the six New England states. Our work includes a strong focus on fostering responsible energy solutions, and for more than a decade CLF has been involved in regulatory and permitting proceedings regarding the siting, need for, and environmental impacts of electric transmission projects.

Conservation Law Foundation specifically comments on the proposed project's environmental impacts from siting, which is an element of the qualitative evaluation pursuant to Section 2.3.2 of the RFP. TDI-NE has not yet made public its power supply partners, therefore CLF cannot comment on other aspects of the proposal at this time.

The proposed New England Clean Power Link project will be underwater or underground, and its land portion will be beneath existing roadway rights of way. As a result, the proposed project adequately "avoids ... impacts to conservation lands and/or public or private conservation easements," and "avoids ... impacts from siting" by "siting with compatible existing ... roads." RFP Section 2.3.2 vii.

TDI-NE has demonstrated care in addressing siting impacts of the New England Clean Power Link project. TDI-NE's buried transmission line in Vermont shows that the facilities needed to transport electricity can meet high environmental standards for siting and be developed in a responsible, cooperative manner.

Sincerely,



Sandra Levine
Senior Attorney