

March 12, 2016

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Re: DE 16-241

Dear Ms. Howland,

As Chair for the Temple, NH Energy Committee, I am writing on behalf of the residents of Temple. As a citizen of NH, I am writing in the interest of fairness and the common good for all NH ratepayers.

There is a campaign of misinformation underway directed at our citizens. On TV, on the radio, in newspapers across the state, and in mailings sent to people's homes, there are highly erroneous messages from groups spending millions of dollars to publically falsify the numbers and cloud the truth, in order to mislead and manipulate the people of our state. Kinder Morgan, the "Coalition to Lower Energy Costs", and the BIA's "EnergizeNH" are preaching a story of how they will greatly lower electricity prices through bringing massive amounts of "clean" energy to New England.

Their claims are far from the truth. As Pat Martin's Comment to the PUC dated March 4, 2016 stated and the eia.gov website illustrates, the average monthly residential bill in NH is \$108.57 and the national monthly average residential bill is \$114.19, including states with significantly higher electric bills.

Assuming that the NH Public Utilities Commission is an honest broker and a fair and trustworthy commission dedicated to serving the best interests of the taxpayers and ratepayers of NH, I am asking that you open your focus and bear in mind the following:

- What IS out of line with the rest of the nation and raises NH's electric bills? It is NOT the cost of energy. As Ms. Martin highlighted in her Comment, the real culprit is the unusually high transmission charges that are added to our bills to pay for the stranded costs from retired power plants and the additional equipment like scrubbers that have been charged to NH ratepayers rather than to the utilities. The charges for transmission in NE are so high that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is asking ISO-NE for a report explaining why they are so "unfair and unreasonable".

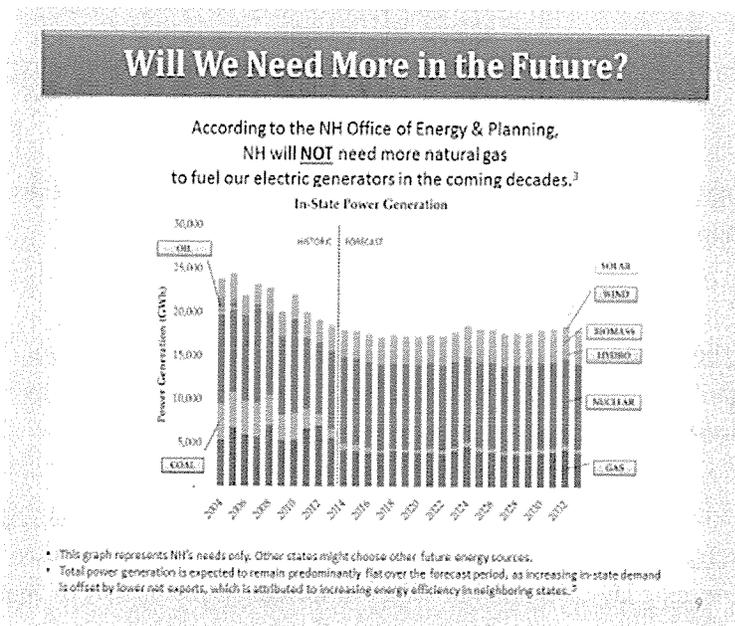
- What is also unreasonable is all of the commotion which has been fired up over the supposed “energy crisis” of 2013/14 and used by Kinder Morgan and other natural gas pipeline companies to slip their feet through the door, anxious to use NH’s land and communities to create highways for transporting their wares to other states and off-shore destinations, while ostensibly coming to help us with our “crisis”.
- It’s worth remembering what Dan Dolan, the President of the NE Power Generators Association, said last winter about NE’s supposed “energy crisis”. He was quoted in a March 4, 2015 article by the Power Plant Owners stating, “**The ‘energy crisis’ is overblown.**” More significantly, “This winter, not only is there the same amount of pipeline, but also a major nuclear plant and a big coal plant have been retired....and electricity prices (wholesale) dropped 60% from January 2014 to January 2015.” He and others blamed the 2013/14 “energy crisis” on the mismanagement of the grid....NOT a lack of energy.
- In December, 2015, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported that the average natural gas spot price at the benchmark Henry Hub for December 2015 of \$1.93 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) was **the lowest monthly average since March 1999.**
- Peter Brandien, Vice President of system operations at ISO-New England, said, “From a system operations stand point, the season (winter 2015) was fairly uneventful overall, due mainly to preparations made well before the winter season.” No energy “crisis” at ISO-NE. Interestingly, it was also a much colder winter. ISO-NE’s website has further indicated that they only anticipate a 1% annual rise in energy demand over the next 10 years.
- The NH OEP’s 10 Year State Energy Strategy, Appendix A, Chart #3 illustrates and states that **NH’s need for more natural gas will be flat up to 2032**, in part due to the reductions of our exports to MA resulting from their energy efficiency programs and renewable energy incentives.
- In fact, Liberty Utilities gave rebates to their heating gas customers in 2015 because the prices had been set too high in the fall, based on the story of the previous winter’s “energy crisis”. It was NOT because of an actual scarcity of energy. They even stated that they wished they could also give rebates to their electricity customers, but regulations tied their hands from doing so.
- In any case, Distrigas has already signed a 10 yr. contract for LNG to cover all the winter peak demand in NE, as reported in the May 11, 2015 issue of “Boston Business Wire”. So, to whatever extent there was any actual energy shortage, **it’s over!** And in 10 years, federal clean energy mandates will be in place requiring that we use renewable energy resources almost exclusively.

- Until then, LNG is the best choice for NH. It comes without destructive construction, tariffs, and public health threats from water and air pollution. LNG is the right “bridge fuel” until we are totally finished with fossil fuels, including methane. And LNG won’t leave old pipelines buried underground needing to be removed when Marcellus runs dry or we stop using its gas...leading to more stranded costs which also need to be factored into pipeline cost-effectiveness calculations.
- Last April, NE had the lowest wholesale energy demand in 16 years, reported by ISO-NE’s Newswire. In July, they reported that “energy consumption is at its lowest point in 5 years”.
- In April 2015, the monthly wholesale energy prices fell to a 12 year low, as reported by the ISO-NE Newswire.
- But domestic prices will RISE for natural gas if it is exported, according to the last two studies conducted by the EIA, as reported in the “Conclusion” of their report for the USDOE and available on their website.
- Kinder Morgan has revealed that they intend to export natural gas via the NED pipeline. See pages 9 and 22 from Kinder Morgan’s report to investors, entitled “Natural Gas Pipelines”, by Tom Martin, President of Kinder Morgan’s Natural Gas Pipeline Group.
- US manufacturers, such as Alcoa and Dow Chemical, are expressing worries that the exportation of natural gas to higher paying overseas markets will ultimately raise prices in the US, thereby raising their manufacturing costs, forcing lay-offs, and harming our domestic economy. For that reason, the Industrial Consumers of America are fighting and lobbying against this exportation of natural gas. From an Op-Ed in “Pipeline & Gas Journal” (August 19, 2014) Paul N. Cicio wrote that LNG exports “...will permanently and negatively impact the US natural gas market....with unsettling consequences for manufacturing industries that depend on affordable natural gas and power – in fact, it will substantially raise costs for all consumers and have detrimental economic impacts to the economy long-term.”

Taking all of that into account, it becomes clear that there is no legitimate excuse, let alone need, for “solutions” to solve an energy shortage which does not exist. It would be irresponsible and pointless to take such drastic measures as allowing the construction of a massive, excessive, and expensive \$5+ billion pipeline in NH that offers no benefits to our ratepayers, just harms. Tearing up our conservation lands and communities, contaminating our aquifers and wells from the blasting and drilling through NH’s arsenic and radon-laden granite, polluting our air, causing public health impacts from the toxic and carcinogenic emissions measurable by the tons from its 41,000 horse power compressor station (see the

“TGP NED Environmental Report, Resource Report 9”), and crashing the real estate market and local tax bases in 18 NH towns would be a disaster for our people and the state.

Clearly, the manipulation of NH citizens through the constant barrage of commercials and mailings filled with misleading and fabricated information should be taken into account by NH’s Public Utilities Commissioners as you evaluate the credibility, fairness, and respect for NH and her people from the out-of-state corporations attempting to buy their way to approvals that will hand them the right to use our state as a transportation venue for their own out-of-state and out-of-the-US profits.



Thank you for this opportunity to send my Comment to the Commission.

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cc: Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
Senator Jeanne Shaheen
Senator Kelly Ayotte
Congresswoman Annie Kuster
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission