



# THE NORTHERN PASS PROJECT UPDATE

## OUR TRUE ENERGY NEEDS: BUSTING A COMMON MYTH

As people across New Hampshire discuss our energy future, they often ask if it's true that New Hampshire produces more energy than it needs and exports energy out-of-state. If more energy is generated in New Hampshire than its citizens consume, they ask, then why should new energy projects be hosted here? The problem with these questions is that they are based on the idea that New Hampshire is an energy island, instead of part of a single regional electric grid and energy market.

New Hampshire is joined together with the other New England states for delivering power to meet customers' needs. All six states share power across their respective borders, and the price that New Hampshire residents and businesses pay for electricity is largely determined by the market price of all the energy in the regional "pool," not by what's available in one state.

There have been many news reports and warnings from officials about the lack of an adequate energy supply for New England's power grid, which has led to skyrocketing electricity costs. Our grid is losing sources of power at a time when solutions have been slow to develop. As we mentioned in last month's Project Update, our grid operator (ISO-New England) estimates that the region will need to add more than 6,000 megawatts of electricity to meet our future demand, even with energy efficiency efforts. The 1,200 megawatts of clean, reliable hydroelectric power that Northern Pass can deliver will provide a significant contribution to help meet that demand.

In the debate about our energy future, we know it can be difficult to separate fact from fiction. Our website offers many documents and links to helpful resources. You can check it out at: [blog.northernpass.us](http://blog.northernpass.us)

## CONNECT WITH NORTHERN PASS ONLINE

Northern Pass uses social media to stay connected and provide timely updates about the project. We regularly post updates on the project and important New England energy news to the Northern Pass Facebook page and Twitter feed. You can also get updates on our Project Journal located on the Northern Pass website under the "News" tab. There you will find our Energy Brief, which highlights the top energy news stories of the week.



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## BOOSTING THE SIGNAL IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

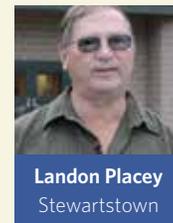
### New communications tower began service in November

Many people living and traveling in the Great North Woods noticed cell phone coverage improved markedly in November, thanks to the addition of AT&T cell service on the recently built Groveton communications tower on Morse Mountain. The communications tower helps fill a gap in wireless cell phone and internet service in New Hampshire's North Country and Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. The calling equipment will also improve safety and emergency response, benefiting both the local community and tourists.

The communication tower was the result of collaboration between the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the Northern Borders Regional Commission, the North Country Investment Corporation, the Northern Pass project, and Public Service of New Hampshire.

## THE MOST SENSIBLE WAY TO GO

Stewartstown small business owner Landon Placey says he supports Northern Pass because it will bring clean, affordable energy to the region. We spoke to Placey in Colebrook after a meeting held there by the Department of Energy.



Landon Placey  
Stewartstown

"We certainly need the hydropower and the jobs that go along with having the line," says Placey. "As far as I'm concerned, the available, inexpensive hydropower in Canada is by far the most sensible way to go."

Hear more of what Placey has to say about the project on the Northern Pass videos page at: [www.northernpass.us/multimedia](http://www.northernpass.us/multimedia).



# THE NORTHERN PASS PROJECT UPDATE

## BUSINESS LEADERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ENERGY PRICES

Rising electricity rates will certainly hit the pocketbooks of New England residents this winter, and mean higher operating costs for businesses in the region.

Two recent energy forums highlighted the challenges facing New Hampshire and the impact higher electricity costs are having on local businesses. At the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce energy forum, state Sen. David Watters of Dover said area businesses are on edge.

“We have so much advanced manufacturing and composites here, and they’re getting hammered by electric rates,” Watters told Foster’s Daily Democrat. “We lost a potential manufacturer who considered moving into the area. I think the question for the Legislature is, how are we going to be able to, in the short term, increase energy supplies ... given the likelihood of local resistance?”

Manufacturing costs were also a concern at a recent Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce energy event. Presenter Brian Ramsey, Facilities Manager at Velcro, said that rising rates are forcing Velcro to spend money on energy instead of expanding the business and hiring new staff.

The continued growth in energy costs is the most pressing issue facing New Hampshire businesses, said Jim Roche, president of the state’s largest business organization, the Business and Industry Association.

“Up to now, we worried about lost job growth and economic activity, as advanced manufacturers and technology companies expanded operations elsewhere,” Roche recently wrote in a letter to New Hampshire newspapers. “Given the current price spikes in energy, we now face a bleaker scenario: employers moving existing jobs in New Hampshire and throughout New England to lower-cost places around the country or world.”

Business leaders are advocating for additional energy infrastructure as a way to lower energy costs. As Roche recently said, “We’re at a crisis point.”

Developing new energy infrastructure, like Northern Pass, will help to stabilize energy costs for New Hampshire’s homes and businesses and provide a much-needed boost to our economy.

## HOW NEW HAMPSHIRE RANKS

New Hampshire has long considered itself a business-friendly state. Our lack of a sales or income tax is known as the “New Hampshire Advantage” and is considered a draw for people and businesses looking to relocate here. But in a recent ranking by Forbes magazine of the best states in which to do business, New Hampshire ranked 35th (in the 2009 ranking, New Hampshire was 19th in the nation, and 1st in New England). Although the state got high marks for its quality of life, the magazine said high electricity costs, which are a problem throughout New England, were partly to blame for the ranking. In the chart below, you can see how New Hampshire stacks up to its fellow New England states.

### The Best States for Business and Careers

Top 5 States								
Rank	State	Business Cost Rank	Labor Supply Rank	Regulatory Environment Rank	Economic Climate Rank	Growth Prospects Rank	Quality of Life Rank	Population
1	Utah	5	4	9	6	10	16	2,923,000
2	North Dakota	9	9	18	4	2	24	733,200
3	North Carolina	4	7	2	24	9	31	9,901,400
4	Virginia	24	2	1	12	33	5	8,292,700
5	Colorado	35	1	13	8	4	9	5,307,800
New England States								
13	Massachusetts	49	3	9	11	16	1	6,719,000
35	New Hampshire	43	19	46	33	24	6	1,325,000
36	Connecticut	47	20	37	44	28	3	3,596,700
43	Vermont	44	24	47	19	47	18	625,000
46	Rhode Island	36	35	49	39	35	20	1,052,200
49	Maine	40	36	45	48	48	27	1,307,800

Source: [www.forbes.com/best-states-for-states-business/list/](http://www.forbes.com/best-states-for-states-business/list/)

## ABOUT NORTHERN PASS

The Northern Pass is a 187-mile transmission line project that will bring New Hampshire and the rest of New England clean, renewable hydroelectricity. This reliable and affordable source of clean power will also lower energy costs, increase tax revenue in communities along the route and create many jobs during construction. To learn more, go to [www.northernpass.us](http://www.northernpass.us). You can also email questions to [info@northernpass.us](mailto:info@northernpass.us) or call **1-800-286-7305**.



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HYDROELECTRIC  
ENERGY

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**PRO-NH**  
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