

PHILIP B. SCOTT
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

February 8, 2018

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Via e-mail to: marfp83D@gmail.com

RE: *NECPL – 100% Hydro Bid and NECPL – Hydro + Wind Bid*

Dear Evaluation Team:

In light of Northern Pass Project's inability to obtain regulatory approval for its proposal, we write to re-affirm the state of Vermont's strong support for the New England Clean Power Link Project ("NECPL"). As part of your process going forward, we want to ensure the Commonwealth is aware the NECPL Project has received all its key regulatory approvals,

enjoys strong community and statewide support and can be promptly constructed without the significant risk presented by other unpermitted and publicly-opposed projects.

The NECPL, which is proposed by TDI New England, provides a viable, permitted, and publicly-supported alternative to deliver clean, renewable power backed by Hydro Quebec to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in a timely manner. We urge the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to give the NECPL further close consideration when evaluating the best path forward to meet the Commonwealth's clean energy goals.

TDI New England has developed the NECPL in an inclusive and collaborative fashion. They proactively reached out to relevant state regulators, host communities, and other stakeholders, including local utilities, regional planning commissions, and environmental advocates to receive and incorporate their feedback into the NECPL Project plan. The result is a project that has earned Broad public support by burying the line within existing corridors and right-of-ways to greatly minimize environmental and community impacts.

After more than a year of planning and community outreach, permitting for the NECPL began in 2014, and the undersigned agencies have already issued the following permits:

- Section 1111, Right-of-way Permit (VTrans), received February 14, 2017
- Section 248 Certificate of Public Goods (VTPUC), received January 5, 2016
- Section 231 Certificate of Public Goods (VTPUC), received April 14, 2016
- 401 Water Quality Certification (VTDEC), received November 24, 2015
- Lake Encroachment Permit for Lake Champlain (VTDEC), received November 24, 2015
- Lake Encroachment Permit for Lake Bomoseen (VTDEC), received November 24, 2015
- Stream Alteration Permit (VTDEC), received November 24, 2015
- VT Wetlands Permit (VTDEC), received November 24, 2015
- Construction Stormwater Permit (VTDEC), received November 24, 2015
- Operational-Phase Stormwater Permit (VTDEC), received November 24, 2015
- Floodplain Permit (VTDEC), received November 24, 2015
- Takings Permit (VTANR), received March 8, 2016

These approvals represent the state approvals necessary for construction of the transmission line project itself. They are also final and not subject to any appeal risk.

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In addition, the NECPL has received all the necessary federal approvals, which are also final and have not been appealed, including:

- 1.39 Authorization (ISO New England) received November 1, 2016
- Negotiated Rate Authority (FERC) received March 10, 2014
- Presidential Permit (U.S. Department of Energy), received December 15, 2016
- NEPA FEIS (U.S. Department of Energy) received October 29, 2015
- Section 404 of the Clean Water Act & 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act Permits (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) received January 29, 2016

Finally, we understand TDI New England has obtained all the necessary landowner agreements and property-related rights to efficiently site its project. TDI New England secured these rights through land purchases, easements, permits and/or lease/option agreements, including lease options with the Vermont Agency of Transportation. The Project also has Host Town Agreements with the involved towns of Benson, Ludlow, and Alburgh, Vermont.

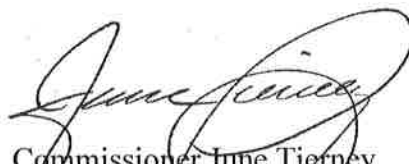
In this day and age, it is very rare to see a project of this size bring together so many varied interests to obtain such clear and broad support. Vermont has greatly appreciated the thought and diligence exercised during the comprehensive planning for this important regional project. If the NECPL Project is elected in this bid process, we believe the residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will benefit significantly from TDI New England's extensive efforts, and the certainty they provide.

We encourage Massachusetts to take these factors into consideration when reevaluating the best way to meet your clean energy goals.

Sincerely,



Secretary Julie Moore
Agency of Natural Resources



Commissioner June Tierney
Department of Public Service



Secretary Joe Flynn
Agency of Transportation



Secretary Michael Schirling
Agency of Commerce