



New Hampshire Sierra Club

The Engaged Sierran

After the NED Pipeline Permit Retraction: What Happens Next?

Guest article by Sierra Club member
Beverly Edwards

Because of sustained pressure by groups such as this, Kinder Morgan finally withdrew their permit application to the US [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission \(FERC\)](#) for the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) [natural gas pipeline](#) on May 24, 2016.



Citizens rally at the State House in December 2015 after delivering 10,000 signatures to Governor Hassan asking to stop the pipeline.

Victory! Kinder Morgan quit. The application for their oversized, nasty, unnecessary and outrageously expensive fracked gas pipeline is dead!

Our conservation land, rivers, wildlife, aquifers, farms, air quality, and drinking water have been saved from the threat of destruction and contamination from this project for the time being. Thus far, NH has NOT succumbed to any new fracked gas infrastructure, locking us into more fossil fuels for years on end, especially methane - possibly the worst greenhouse gas of all for climate change.

Now we need to protect NH from other bad deals with pipeline companies eyeing other parts of the state to invade. Our Pipeline Health Study Group is working with MA and NY folks to engage our congressional delegations in becoming accountable for the public health threat of fracked gas pipelines by:

- Asking the delegates to add a Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment (CHIA) for FERC's pipeline evaluation process. So far, one congressman and both senators from NY, plus Representative Kuster, Senators Ayotte and Shaheen and Governor Hassan have come through!
- Requesting a Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment for NH's permitting process at the SEC, as well
- Asking Governor Hassan and DES to expedite important revisions to outdated exemptions for "natural gas" from New Hampshire's Toxic Air Statutes.

Other group activities include:

- Improving FERC by providing our congressional delegation with recommendations for restructuring FERC, protesting at FERC's headquarters, litigation
- Supporting the new Shaheen/Kuster Congressional bills to fund and develop an effective Office of Public Participation and Consumer Advocacy at FERC
- Protecting NH from HV/HF pipelines by attending hearings, writing to the **PUC, SEC and DES**
- Supporting fossil fuel divestment, RGGI, sustainable energy programs by collaborating with Sierra Club, Toxic Action, and other groups fighting GHG emissions
- Sharing information with other states threatened by pipelines

We remain dedicated to protecting our environment and communities.

Concord Market Days: Thursday-Saturday, June 23-25

The Sierra Club will be out for all three days of Concord's

Market Days event. Stop by to learn about our current initiatives, check out Sierra Club merchandise, and purchase a chance to win a gorgeous signed, numbered, and framed lithograph of scenic New Hampshire. See it in the Rowland Studio storefront display at 23 N. Main Street, just up the street from our table.

We'll see you there!



Exploring the Earth

Join us on our outings, or, take the initiative - lead one yourself and make new friends! [Check our website](#) for more information.

Sunday, June 26 - North Pack Monadnock

Greenfield, NH

As part of our NPS-100 program, we will climb North Pack Monadnock (2276') on loop from the east, via Ted's and Carolyn's Trails and the Cliff Trail. Much of the route is in the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge. Many outstanding views. 5.9 miles, with 1350' elevation gain. Moderate.

Contact Outings Leader Peter Hope at 603-863-6456 or phope@worldpath.net if you are interested in joining us!

Action Alert: Preserve the C&D Ban

Just when you think it is safe, they lift the ban on burning construction and demolition debris and we have to go into the rink to defend our values. Well, the waste lobby is pretty strong and they have important friends. The good news is that we have science and we have supporters like you.

A little background: Burning construction and demolition debris (C&D for short) was banned in New Hampshire by former Governor John Lynch because it contains otherwise invisible volatile toxins, like heavy metals and dioxin, that put our health at risk when it is burned. The C&D ban is actually a two-step process. The first step is separating the materials and the second is burning it at another facility.

For the separation process, an old demolished building crushed into truckloads of debris enters the separation facility where it is reassigned to different piles of similar materials. About 60 percent is crushable stone, wall board, shingles, or metal and all of it is covered in grit from whatever was inside the house. Twenty percent is new trash, or municipal solid waste, that would go to the local New Hampshire landfill. This is important because most C&D comes from out of state -- this is new, imported trash filling up the limited space in our landfills. Keep that in mind.

The last twenty percent is mostly some form of wood: usually broken pieces of pressure treated, untreated, and painted wood. All of this wood is reduced to chips with varying amounts of grit while most of the obvious pressure treated and painted pieces are removed. Workers can take instruction on how to identify the tainted pieces of wood, but currently there are no monitors or standards to maintain the quality of the wood debris leaving the separation facility.

At the trash burning facility, like the one in Concord near exit 17 on I-93 that produces electricity by burning municipal waste, truckloads are dumped into a dock and dropped into the fire. There is no monitoring of the materials before it is dumped. The owner of the burning plant in Concord, Wheelabrator, said that they would like to burn the wood because they never get enough trash in the winter months to produce the maximum amount of electricity for the plant. One could argue that the charge to take the trash is too high or that the goal is actually to have less waste, not more. Never mind -- the lifting of the ban was supported by two well paid businesses in the state to benefit their bottom line.



There are two steps we can take to prevent the industry lobbyist from cakewalking to the bank at our expense.

Step one: NHSC invites you to attend a pre-meeting at 6pm **Tuesday, June 28 at 40 North Main Street, the NHSC office, in Concord.** We will talk about strategy and ways we can participate.

Step Two: The state just announced a stakeholder meeting scheduled for **11am on Thursday, June 30**, in Room 208C at the offices of NH Department of Environmental Services on 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH. They would like to discuss the rule making that would allow for the burning to commence. Please attend - there will be other meetings about this, but **this is when we want to make a lasting impression.** Call or email the office 603-224-8222 or catherine.corkey@sierraclub.org for more information.

Volunteer With Us This Summer

Amherst, NH 4th of July Celebration - We'll have a table to help celebrate Independence Day! We'd love to have your help for this popular event. Contact us at NHSC603@gmail.com or (603) 224-8222.



Volunteers Needed to Stop Northern Pass - Join our team to Stop Northern Pass! The New Hampshire Chapter of the Sierra Club has intervened with the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee to oppose Northern Pass. We need volunteers to attend hearings, work with our partners and help organize our effort to Stop Northern Pass.

Please contact Chapter Chair Jerry Curran at Jerryglc44@gmail.com if you can help.

Writing Assignment: Climate Change is Real

Recently, grist.org published, and re-published, an article describing how the Earth's global high temperature record has been shattered, over and over, these past few months.

This month's assignment: [Read the article](#), then, write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, sharing your perspective with your neighbors. [Find your local newspaper](#) on our website.

For consistency, please conclude your letter with this message:

We need to act now. The connection between climate trends and energy use is real because fossil fuels produce the pollution that causes climate change. We need to strengthen the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to more aggressively invest in residential and low income housing, lower the carbon cap and eliminate the redundancies in the program. This is the way we act for our communities and the future of humanity.

For more information on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), visit www.rggi.org.

[Become a member today](#), and support our efforts to explore, enjoy, and protect our Earth!



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This email was sent to: malicejp@gmail.com

This email was sent by the [Sierra Club New Hampshire Chapter](#)

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