

York, Marylisa

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To: DEP, NECEC
Subject: Testimony on NECEC

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I testify as follows:

- I am a longstanding environmentalist (and a former member of the Clamshell Alliance that fought against the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant). The NECEC is not the Seabrook plant. I am in full support of the NECEC.
- Climate change is a looming environmental disaster that is not reversible, period. I have heard and read many statements that "we must act now to reverse climate change". Unfortunately, natural laws will not allow that to happen. We need to act - now to keep things from getting worse.
- HydroQuebec (HQ) has excess capacity in existing dams that is now simply to going to waste. This fact makes it imperative that we utilize its waste power and put it to work.
- There are fossil fuel plants currently scheduled for decommissioning. What will replace this power? Likely it will be natural gas, which not really a solution.
- The NECEC will provide clean, fossil-fuel free power that can replace the critical baseload power that will be lost by the decommissioning of some those plants.
- Concerns about the climate change benefits of the NECEC are spurious. Given the excess capacity of HQ, and the well-documented low relative production cost for existing hydropower, there is no reason for HQ to seek more expensive fossil fueled power sources. Market forces on their own will assure that HQ will utilize inexpensive hydropower over more expensive fossil-fuel based sources.
- Renewable energy must play a substantially increasing role in our power mix. Unfortunately renewable power is hampered by its intermittency. The NECEC will provide the constant baseload power currently being provided by fossil fuel plants. These plants must be taken down as soon as possible.
- We cannot have it both ways. Our desire to "electrify everything" will require electrical transmission over long distances to assure delivery reliability. The NECEC is by one piece of making that happen. -There are no other technologically viable alternatives at this time. Yes, future technologies may be promising, but they are not here yet.
- The NECEC must be built.

Thank you.

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