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**From:** Patricia Martin <pmartin2894@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 20, 2018 12:49 PM  
**To:** PUC - Executive.Director  
**Cc:** Kreis, Donald  
**Subject:** RE: COMMENT LETTER for PUC Dockets DE 16-241 and DE 16-693"

July 20, 2018

Debra Howland Executive Director and Secretary

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord New Hampshire 03301

Re: Docket No. DE 16-241

Public Service Company of New Hampshire

Petition for Approval of Gas Infrastructure Contract with Algonquin Gas

Transmission LLC

Docket No. DE 16-693

Public Service Company of New Hampshire

Petition for Approval of Power Purchase Agreement with Hydro Renewable

Energy, Inc.

Thank you for accepting my comments on requests by Eversource to keep these closed dockets open so that they can prepare new proposals. I fully agree with and support the filing by the Office of Consumer Advocate, [https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2016/16-241/LETTERS-MEMOS-TARIFFS/16-241\\_2018-06-12\\_OCA\\_REPLY\\_EVERSOURCE\\_NOTICE\\_MOTION.PDF](https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2016/16-241/LETTERS-MEMOS-TARIFFS/16-241_2018-06-12_OCA_REPLY_EVERSOURCE_NOTICE_MOTION.PDF)

Specifically, the OCA states, "In reality, the petition in each docket is now moot and the Commission should therefore close both proceedings. "The doctrine of mootness is designed to avoid deciding issues that have become academic or dead." *Batchelder v. Town of Plymouth Zoning Board of Adjustment*, 160

N.H. 253, 255 (2010) (citation omitted). "Academic or dead" is an accurate summary of the current state of both proceedings."

As a citizen and a consumer, I do my best to educate myself on energy policy and the projects that are proposed to implement policy goals. This is often a frustrating exercise because the utilities can maintain secrecy around key financial and strategic factors and have an army of attorneys who are paid to file motions and open dockets at a rate that even dedicated citizens cannot hope to follow. Their lobbyists have direct access to legislators who sit down for meetings with them but have no time to meet with concerned citizens.

It takes months to come up to speed on the kinds of questions that consumers should ask about large infrastructure projects. And, we should be asking lots of questions about it. The future of energy is distributed generation, storage and microgrids. These are not solutions that are comfortable or familiar for the utilities. Money that should be spent on more instrumentation of the grid, making it easier for distributed generators and demand response resources to get on the grid, storage, energy efficiency, and time of use metering are instead going to overbuilds of infrastructure for imported energy. The struggle to get to lower energy costs will happen at the household and community level. The utilities favor large, institutional projects that address state or regional scale problems. We know that getting to 100% renewable energy means that we must first shift most of our energy consumption to electricity. That means transportation and home heating will grow demand for electricity. That all happens at the customer level. It should be a wonderful opportunity for the electric utilities to expand. Distributed generation could be a vehicle for the utilities to support local jobs and industry by rewarding their investment in demand response and distributed generation instead of throwing up roadblocks and lobbying for the next "coal scrubber."

The utilities should have to start from scratch with either of these plans. Perhaps taking a fresh look at the problem and holding conversations with stakeholders will stimulate new ideas and approaches? If not, the same resistance met with by the original projects has only grown stronger and more determined with time. Keeping these dockets open at Eversource's convenience is likely to signal to all sides that the battles rage on. Indeed, it will likely inflame passions for NP and Pipeline Tariff opponents to perceive that the utility is being given preferential treatment!

Thank you for accepting my comment.

Sincerely,

Patricia A Martin

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