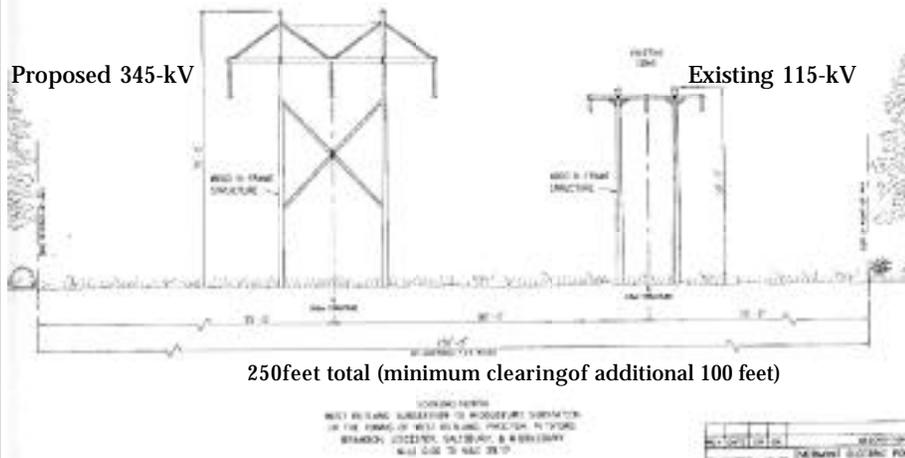


These Transmission Lines are Coming to a Town Near You, Unless Vermonters Speak Up for Alternatives!



•**Myth:** Transmission is separate from generation.

•**Fact:** The carriers of electric power are intimately entwined with the electric power generators (see NePool's website). Supporting this project bolsters the polluting industries Vermonters are trying not to sustain, by using more nukes, more oil, coal, and gas. These transmission lines would lock us into deals with other states and countries for the purchase of more CO₂-producing energy.

•**Myth:** Vermonters will need six times the power capacity they have now within 8 years.

•**Fact:** Burlington uses 65 Megawatts (MW) of peak power now. These lines are capable of carrying 345 MW (at 50% thermal rating), add the 115-kV lines and we have nearly 400 MW of power. We could build 6 more Burlingtons to use this capacity (in 8 years!). Should we widen Route 7 to an 8-lane highway now because there may be enough cars in the future?

•**Myth:** There are not any viable alternatives to the Northwest Reliability Project.

•**Fact:** Yes there are!

1) Demand-side Management (DSM): If residents and businesses address power needs by efficiency measures (ie: changing light bulbs, appliances, using renewables, etc.) Vermonters could save 25%-33% of the power they use within the 8-year period. The money generated for such measures would double itself in return to society, plus generate jobs and economic growth throughout Vermont. A report written for this project states that if costs of DSM programs are \$600 million, benefits would generate \$1.2 billion.

2) Renewable Energy: VELCO's commissioned report by La Capra claims to review "alternative" technologies but under those subheadings one reads, "it is beyond the scope of our study to review the range of factors...therefore this technology is not included in further phases of study" or "In the absence of an established 'northern states' track record...neither photovoltaics or solar thermal resources are evaluated further." Hardly an alternatives review! Other states recognize that clean energy is the way of the future and is available now. CA pays \$3.80/Watt for photovoltaic use and \$2.30/Watt for wind. NY returns up to 70% costs of renewable energy investments to homeowners. Even New Jersey rebates 30%-60% of system costs for purchasing renewables, but Vermont can do nothing but build power lines? If only one in ten people in VT bought a 100-Watt solar panel to offset energy use, we could save 6 million kilowatt-hours per year. There's nothing extraordinary about Vermonters creating solar, wind or fuel-cell facilities closer to where the power is needed.

•**Myth:** The NRP is the best thing for Vermont.

•**Fact:** VELCO's own commissioned report stated that demand-side management held the greatest benefits for Vermont. Let's choose this option. How can more nuclear waste and oil dependency, with their high environmental costs and surrender of self-sufficiency, be best for Vermonters?

•**Myth:** The NRP project does not interfere with Vermont's self-sufficiency.

•**Fact:** If this project is approved and the interstate/international connections developed, the government (FERC/DOE) will be empowered to accept or reject new lines/upgrades – (Under FERC rules, once any transmission line is built or upgraded as part of an interstate system, it must be made available to all who agree to pay standard charges). So, VELCO's transmission lines, as a matter of federal law, could not be set aside to serve Vermont need. The VPSB is the only check we have now; they will lose the ability to decide these matters.

•**Myth:** The costs are too high to use clean-energy technology.

•**Fact:** Try putting a cost to society on the everlasting hazard of nuclear waste, acceleration of global warming, or lives being lost for oil! Where are they figured into the social benefits of the NRP? Every day the costs of renewables come down. Search the web for discounted solar panels; a 1-kW wind turbine is \$1500. A \$600 solar panel/inverter offsets the use of an energy-efficient air conditioner, providing power at exactly the same time as the hot summer stresses the grid.

•**Myth:** The lines do not pose a health hazard.

•**Fact:** Without even considering the effects of magnetic fields on people, look at the materials being used for the project. VELCO will install sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) circuit breakers in place of breakers containing mineral oil. According to an EPA report, SF6 is a greenhouse gas lasting 3500 years in the environment with global warming potential 24,000 times that of CO₂. Other materials: copper chromium arsenate, creosote, herbicides, etc.

Clean-Energy Initiative
PO Box 303
E. Middlebury, Vermont 05740