



even wind power from remote areas of the region, as proposed by the Baker Administration. Substantial amounts of wind energy – at least 1,300 megawatts – are needed by 2020 just to avoid paying penalties for not meeting renewable portfolio standards.

It should also be noted that the most talked about transmission project likely to meet the proposed requirement for utility purchases faces strong opposition, especially in New Hampshire, making the hydropower the Baker administration wants uncertain at best, even if legislation enabling it passes the MA House and Senate.

The bottom line is that Secretary Beaton’s suggestion that we may be able to avoid, or even minimize, the need for pipelines through Massachusetts if we can get more hydropower from Canada seems to ignore the broader realities of regional energy needs.

The New England Coalition for Affordable Energy was formed last year out of concern by the business community about rising energy costs, resulting primarily from energy infrastructure constraints. The cost to the region over the next four years could easily top \$5.4 billion, according to a study done for the Coalition by La Capra Associates (now Daymark Energy Advisors) and the Economic Development Research Group. The study also found that New England could see the loss of nearly 170,000 jobs and \$12.5 billion in disposable income if energy infrastructure is not built in the region by 2020.

To avoid those consequences, the region needs an all-resource strategy. New England needs new and expanded pipelines to bring lower cost natural gas from the west, the construction of large-scale wind projects, additional natural gas-fired power plants, and new transmission lines to bring hydropower and large amounts of wind energy from the north. This is on top of continuing the region's aggressive pursuit of energy efficiency and solar. We need them all if the region's energy prices are to become more affordable and energy supplies more reliable.

Pitting one energy source against another, and arguing that any one state can address its needs without full and open consideration of the regional impacts is not helpful and not productive.

Contact: Carl Gustin  
978-491-0581  
cgustin@NEaffordableenergy.org

#####

The New England Coalition for Affordable Energy was formed to advocate for the expansion of all types of energy infrastructure in New England to lower energy costs, protect jobs and grow the economy. Founding members from all six New England states include prominent business and labor groups, representing tens of thousands of employers in the region.