



The Plymouth Area
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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January 2, 2018

Office of Electricity and Energy Reliability (OE-20)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Docket No. PP-441

To Whom It May Concern:

The Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce is submitting this letter in support of the Presidential Permit application filed by the Atlantic Link electricity transmission project in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The Chamber's position is aligned with support expressed by the Plymouth Board of Selectmen and the Plymouth Regional Economic Development Foundation.

The Atlantic Link project, proposed by Clean Power Northeast Development, a subsidiary of Emera Inc., has been proposed in response to the Massachusetts Clean Energy RFP (83D). The Chamber's support is founded on the benefits this project will deliver for and in the Town of Plymouth and throughout Massachusetts.

Atlantic Link proposes to repurpose existing transmission lines that currently deliver energy to the New England electricity grid from the Pilgrim Nuclear Station, which is scheduled to close in mid-2019. The project has an agreement in place to use land near the Pilgrim station, and the pursuit of the agreement was supported by the Plymouth Board of Selectmen which has expressed their support of this project to the state and the state RFP evaluation team.

Construction of the Atlantic Link will result in significant stable tax revenue for the Town, and the proposed project would deliver much-needed clean, reliable energy directly to Massachusetts consumers, businesses, and communities in support of state public policy goals regarding energy supply diversity and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Hundreds of new construction jobs will be created in Plymouth, with additional spinoff effects for the local economy, over a multi-year period. An independent economic assessment done for Emera has estimated that more than 200-250 full-time jobs per year will be created during construction.

The Atlantic Link proposal also includes a commitment to donate \$750,000 a year toward the support of energy-related low income programs in Plymouth. This will allow for the expansion of programs that assist families in the Plymouth area who face economic challenges.

The Chamber strongly supports any proposal that offers a reliable supply of cost-effective clean energy and that delivers that energy directly to the Commonwealth. By connecting into the existing electricity

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transmission substation in Plymouth, this project will create jobs and provide direct economic benefits for Massachusetts.

We have been encouraged by the commitment the Atlantic Link project team has made to engage and inform the community and seek input regarding the company's plans for development and construction of new facilities near the site of the Pilgrim Nuclear Station. Atlantic Link has opened an office in downtown Plymouth which offers daily drop-in hours and hosts local meetings with various stakeholders. The Atlantic Link team continues to meet regularly with town and state officials, environmental groups, fishing organizations, economic development groups, and neighbors. They have demonstrated an ongoing willingness to meet with anyone who is interested in learning more about the proposed project, which also provides individuals with the chance to have their voices and opinions heard.

The Chamber is pleased to offer its support of the Presidential Permit application filed by the Atlantic Link project. We look forward to continued discussions with the project team throughout the evaluation, permitting, and build/design process as Atlantic Link obtains all the necessary approvals and permits which will allow them to bring clean and reliable energy to Plymouth and all of Massachusetts.

Please let me know if we can provide any additional information. Thank you for your consideration of our perspective and the Atlantic Link federal permit application.

Sincerely,

Amy Naples
Executive Director

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