

# THE WMUR GRANITE STATE POLL

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SURVEY CENTER

April 23, 2013

### GRANITE STATERS STILL DIVDED ON NORTHERN PASS

By: Andrew E. Smith, Ph.D.  
Zach Azem, M.A.  
UNH Survey Center  
www.unh.edu/survey-center  
603/862-2226

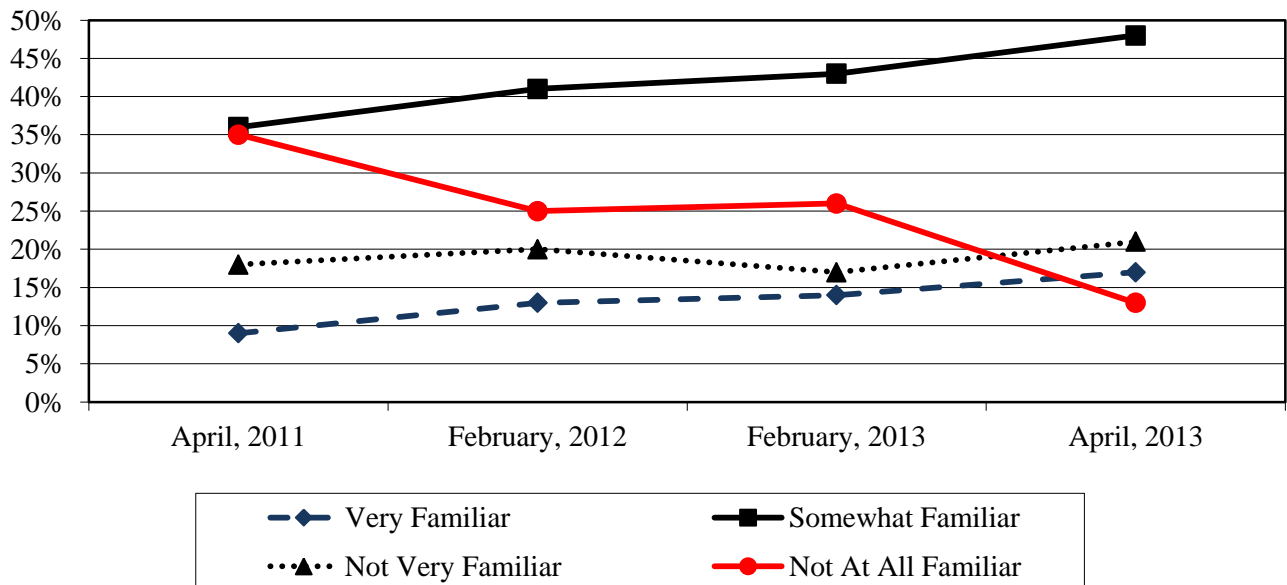
DURHAM, NH – New Hampshire support of Northern Pass has increased slightly, but Granite Staters are still largely divided over the project.

These findings are based on the latest **WMUR Granite State Poll**,\* conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred and seven (507) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cellular telephone between April 4 and April 9, 2013. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 4.4 percent.

#### Northern Pass

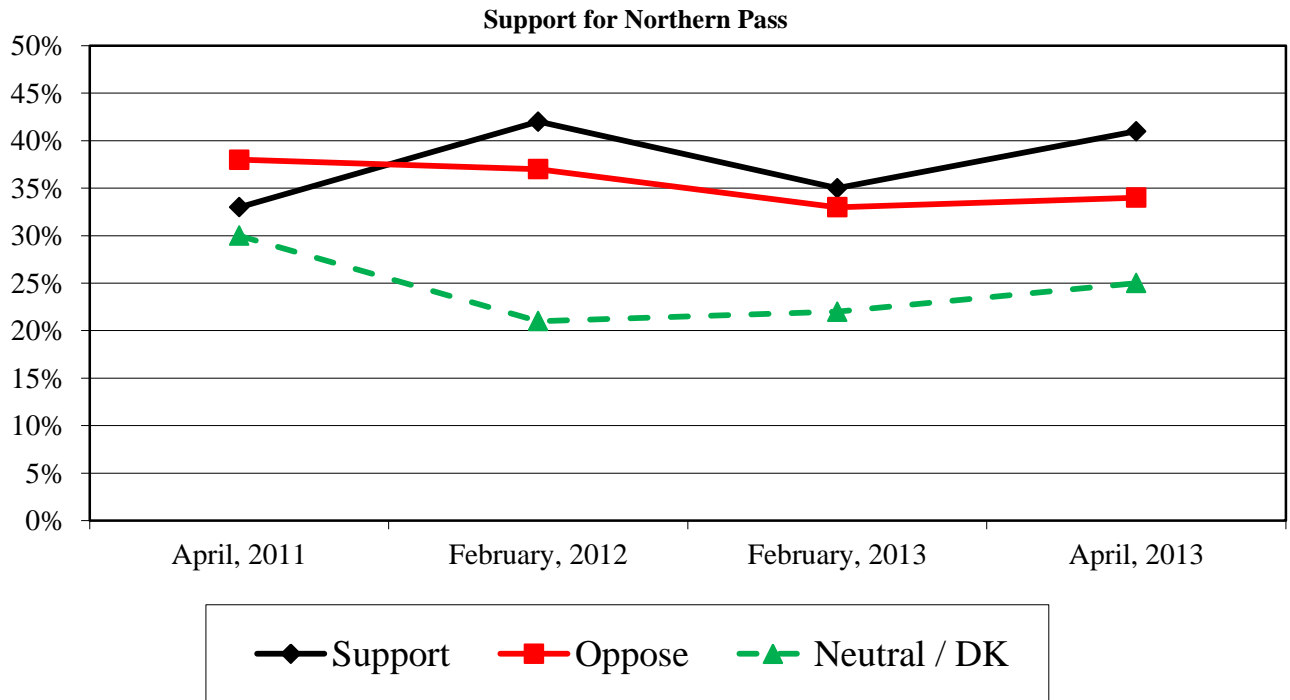
A controversial issue facing the state is the proposed “Northern Pass” project which would bring hydro-power electricity from Canada through New Hampshire on high tension wires. However, many New Hampshire residents, particularly those in the North Country, have expressed strong opposition to the project. Despite the publicity over Northern Pass, awareness continues to be increasing at a slow pace. Only 17% of New Hampshire adults say they are very familiar with Northern Pass, 48% are somewhat familiar, 20% are not very familiar, and 13% are not familiar at all.

Familiarity with Northern Pass



\* We ask that this copyrighted information be referred to as *the Granite State Poll*, sponsored by WMUR-TV, and conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

When asked if they support or oppose Northern Pass, attitudes remain mixed. Currently, 41% of New Hampshire adults who are familiar with Northern Pass support the project (16% strongly support and 25% somewhat support), 34% oppose the project (20% strongly oppose and 14% somewhat oppose), and 25% are neutral or don't know enough to say. Overall support for Northern Pass has remained surprisingly unchanged over the past two years. The strongest opposition to the project comes from people who live in the North Country (61%).



## Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the latest WMUR Granite State Poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred and seven (507) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cellular telephone between April 4 and April 9, 2013. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 4.4 percent.

The data have been weighted to adjust for numbers of adults and telephone lines within households, respondent sex, and region of the state. In addition to potential sampling error, all surveys have other potential sources of non-sampling error including question order effects, question wording effects, and non-response.

### Northern Pass

“How familiar are you with an electrical transmission project called the Northern Pass project? Would you say you are very familiar with it ... somewhat familiar ... not very familiar ... or not at all familiar?”

	<u>Apr. '11</u>	<u>Feb. '12</u>	<u>Feb. '13</u>	<u>Apr. '13</u>
Very Familiar	9%	13%	14%	<b>17%</b>
Somewhat Familiar	36%	41%	43%	<b>48%</b>
Not Very Familiar	18%	20%	17%	<b>21%</b>
Not At All Familiar	35%	25%	26%	<b>13%</b>
Don't Know / No Opinion	2%	1%	0%	<b>1%</b>
(N=)	(502)	(527)	(580)	<b>(505)</b>

“Based on what you have seen or heard, would you say you support or oppose the Northern Pass project?”  
 “Is that strongly or just somewhat?”

	<u>Apr. '11</u>	<u>Feb. '12</u>	<u>Feb. '13</u>	<u>Apr. '13</u>
Strongly Support	14%	16%	16%	<b>16%</b>
Somewhat Support	19%	26%	19%	<b>25%</b>
Neutral/Don't Know	30%	21%	22%	<b>25%</b>
Somewhat Oppose	15%	14%	18%	<b>14%</b>
Strongly Oppose	23%	23%	25%	<b>20%</b>
(N=)	(316)	(383)	(428)	<b>(430)</b>

**“How familiar are you with an electrical transmission project called the Northern Pass project? Would you say you are very familiar with it ... somewhat familiar ... not very familiar ... or not at all familiar?”**

	<u>Very Familiar</u> 17%	<u>Somewhat Familiar</u> 48%	<u>Not Very Familiar</u> 21%	<u>Not At All Familiar</u> 13%	<u>Don't Know/Not Sure</u> 1%	<u>(N)</u> 505
<b>STATEWIDE</b>						
Registered Democrat	18%	49%	21%	11%	1%	124
Registered Undeclared	19%	49%	20%	11%	1%	229
Registered Republican	20%	47%	16%	15%	1%	113
Democrat	18%	48%	20%	12%	1%	200
Independent	18%	43%	24%	13%	3%	122
Republican	17%	49%	20%	13%	0%	170
Liberal	19%	46%	25%	8%	1%	108
Moderate	17%	45%	22%	14%	2%	221
Conservative	16%	49%	18%	16%	1%	147
Support Tea Party	22%	41%	22%	13%	2%	102
Neutral	11%	50%	25%	13%	2%	160
Oppose Tea Party	21%	48%	18%	11%	1%	205
Union household	33%	41%	18%	6%	2%	64
Non union	15%	48%	21%	15%	1%	437
Read Union Leader	21%	53%	17%	7%	2%	151
Read Boston Globe	17%	59%	14%	7%	2%	75
Watch WMUR	18%	49%	20%	10%	2%	335
Listen to NHPR	24%	52%	18%	6%	0%	153
18 to 34	16%	28%	29%	25%	3%	60
35 to 49	14%	47%	26%	13%	0%	128
50 to 64	21%	53%	18%	7%	1%	175
65 and over	16%	49%	17%	16%	2%	127
Male	23%	49%	17%	11%	0%	248
Female	12%	46%	24%	16%	3%	257
High school or less	14%	35%	23%	24%	4%	99
Some college	15%	50%	15%	19%	2%	115
College graduate	14%	54%	24%	8%	0%	158
Post graduate	28%	45%	20%	7%	0%	128
Attend services 1 or more/week	18%	46%	21%	14%	1%	116
1 2 times a month	25%	46%	7%	20%	2%	52
Less often	15%	45%	27%	11%	2%	137
Never	16%	50%	20%	13%	1%	184
North Country	34%	36%	14%	15%	1%	39
Central / Lakes	24%	44%	23%	7%	2%	82
Connecticut Valley	19%	53%	16%	10%	2%	81
Mass Border	13%	46%	23%	17%	2%	135
Seacoast	15%	39%	26%	18%	2%	86
Manchester Area	12%	62%	15%	11%	0%	82
First Cong. Dist	13%	46%	25%	15%	1%	230
Second Cong. Dist	21%	49%	17%	12%	2%	276

**“Based on what you have seen or heard, would you say you support or oppose the Northern Pass project?”**

**“Is that strongly or just somewhat?”**

	<b>Strongly Favor</b> <b>16%</b>	<b>Somewhat Favor</b> <b>25%</b>	<b>Neutral</b> <b>17%</b>	<b>Somewhat Oppose</b> <b>14%</b>	<b>Strongly Oppose</b> <b>20%</b>	<b>Don't Know</b> <b>8%</b>	<b>(N)</b> <b>430</b>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>							
Registered Democrat	14%	22%	13%	22%	25%	5%	110
Registered Undeclared	14%	25%	21%	12%	20%	8%	200
Registered Republican	25%	33%	13%	9%	14%	7%	95
Democrat	13%	23%	16%	21%	22%	4%	172
Independent	11%	26%	23%	6%	24%	9%	103
Republican	22%	27%	14%	11%	15%	11%	147
Liberal	11%	20%	22%	21%	21%	4%	98
Moderate	14%	25%	18%	13%	19%	11%	186
Conservative	21%	29%	15%	10%	19%	5%	122
Support Tea Party	19%	29%	24%	5%	17%	6%	87
Neutral	18%	28%	17%	13%	13%	13%	136
Oppose Tea Party	14%	21%	15%	19%	28%	4%	180
Union household	16%	19%	14%	15%	31%	5%	59
Non union	15%	26%	18%	14%	18%	8%	366
Read Union Leader	21%	22%	19%	12%	22%	4%	138
Read Boston Globe	6%	23%	17%	21%	23%	10%	68
Watch WMUR	18%	25%	15%	13%	21%	7%	294
Listen to NHPR	13%	19%	16%	18%	26%	8%	144
18 to 34	7%	27%	32%	8%	17%	9%	43
35 to 49	11%	27%	23%	15%	17%	8%	111
50 to 64	20%	21%	13%	17%	21%	8%	160
65 and over	17%	31%	13%	13%	22%	4%	104
Male	17%	30%	16%	12%	19%	6%	221
Female	14%	20%	19%	16%	20%	10%	209
High school or less	20%	29%	16%	9%	18%	9%	71
Some college	12%	27%	18%	13%	23%	7%	91
College graduate	14%	25%	17%	15%	20%	9%	143
Post graduate	18%	21%	20%	17%	19%	5%	119
Attend services 1 or more/week	18%	19%	21%	10%	21%	12%	97
1 2 times a month	24%	28%	11%	18%	14%	5%	40
Less often	18%	25%	9%	16%	23%	8%	120
Never	11%	29%	23%	15%	18%	4%	158
North Country	9%	16%	11%	20%	41%	2%	33
Central / Lakes	16%	18%	17%	16%	30%	3%	75
Connecticut Valley	22%	27%	9%	13%	26%	5%	71
Mass Border	14%	30%	25%	13%	12%	7%	110
Seacoast	18%	21%	16%	14%	13%	18%	68
Manchester Area	15%	33%	18%	11%	13%	10%	73
First Cong. Dist	14%	27%	23%	12%	13%	12%	193
Second Cong. Dist	18%	24%	13%	15%	26%	5%	237