



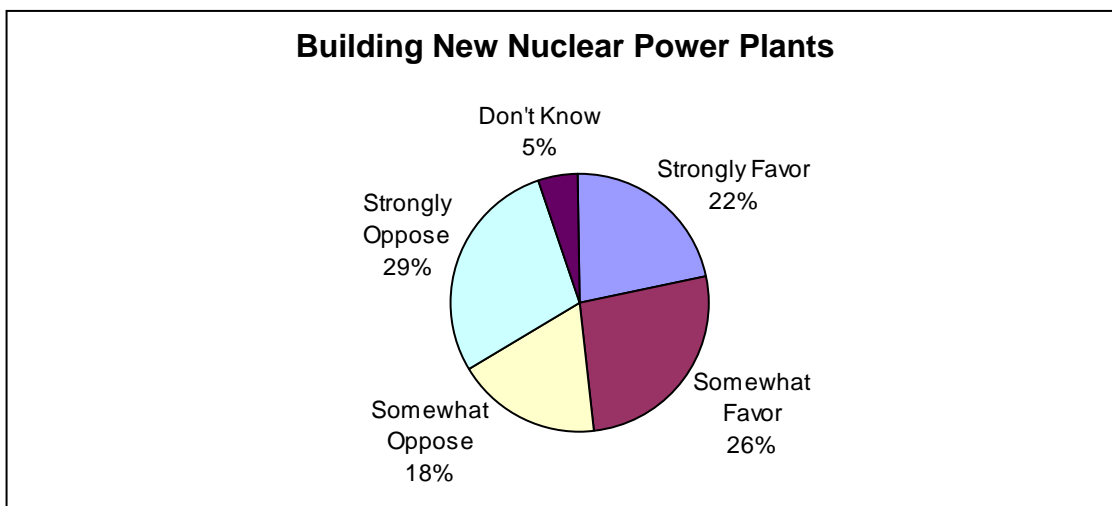
## Energy Infrastructure Preferences of New Englanders

A survey conducted by Opinion Dynamics for the New England Energy Alliance found New Englanders have solid support for electricity and energy infrastructure development in the region. Wind farms are preferred by an overwhelming majority and construction of LNG terminals showed substantial support. A narrow majority support transmission line construction as well as nuclear plant license renewal. However, support for constructing new nuclear plants and clean coal generating facilities remains mixed.

### Support for new nuclear energy plants remains evenly split

New England relies on nuclear energy plants to generate 27% of its electricity – the second largest source of supply. Supporters of nuclear energy point to the fact that this generating technology emits no greenhouse gases, has an excellent safety record, and eighteen plants with evolutionary designs offering significant safety enhancements have recently applied for construction licenses outside of New England. Opponents say there is still no workable solution for disposing of nuclear waste, that the plants are very expensive to build, and that an accident cannot be ruled out.

Forty-eight percent (48%) of New Englanders surveyed said they at least somewhat favor the construction of new nuclear plants in the region. Men were found to favor new nuclear plant construction more so than women – 59% versus 38%. The majority of Republican respondents also more often favored new nuclear plant construction – 61% compared to 50% of Independents and 39% of Democrats. New Hampshire survey respondents were found to be the most supportive, where 60% of those surveyed were at least somewhat in favor of new nuclear plant construction – while those in Rhode Island were the least supportive.





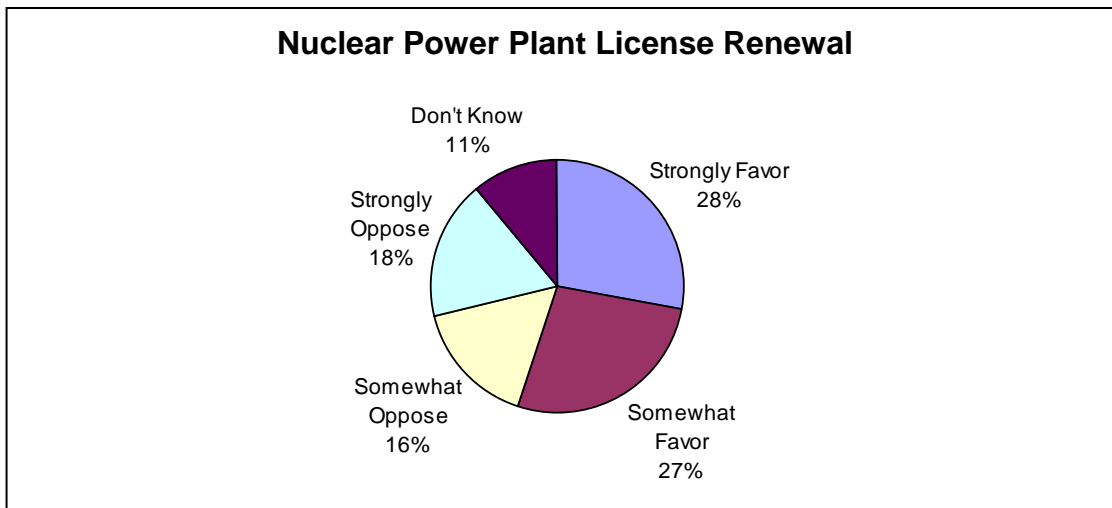
## Comfortable majority support license renewable of existing nuclear power plants

The 40-year license term of nuclear energy plants was originally established to reflect the amortization period that was traditionally used by electric utility companies for large capital investment – and not on a facility’s anticipated operating life, which is longer.

The NRC formally reviews all license renewal applications in a stringent process that can last up to three years. To date, the NRC has approved license renewal for dozens of plants including Millstone Units 2 and 3 in 2005 in Connecticut. License renewal applications of both Pilgrim in Massachusetts and Vermont Yankee are undergoing review as the operating licenses for those plants will currently expire in 2012.

License renewal supporters point to the fact that nuclear plants are operating better than ever, must meet rigorous regulatory inspection requirements to gain renewal, and they don’t contribute to global warming. Opponents argue that nuclear technology is out-dated and older plants are too dangerous to continue operating.

Fifty-five percent (55%) of New Englanders are at least somewhat in favor of renewing the licenses of existing nuclear energy plants in the region – with 28% strongly in support. Again, men were found to be more in favor of nuclear plant life extension than women – 65% versus 47%. Survey respondents in New Hampshire were the most supportive – with 62% in favor. (Seabrook’s operating license does not expire until 2026.)



## About two-thirds favor building new LNG terminals

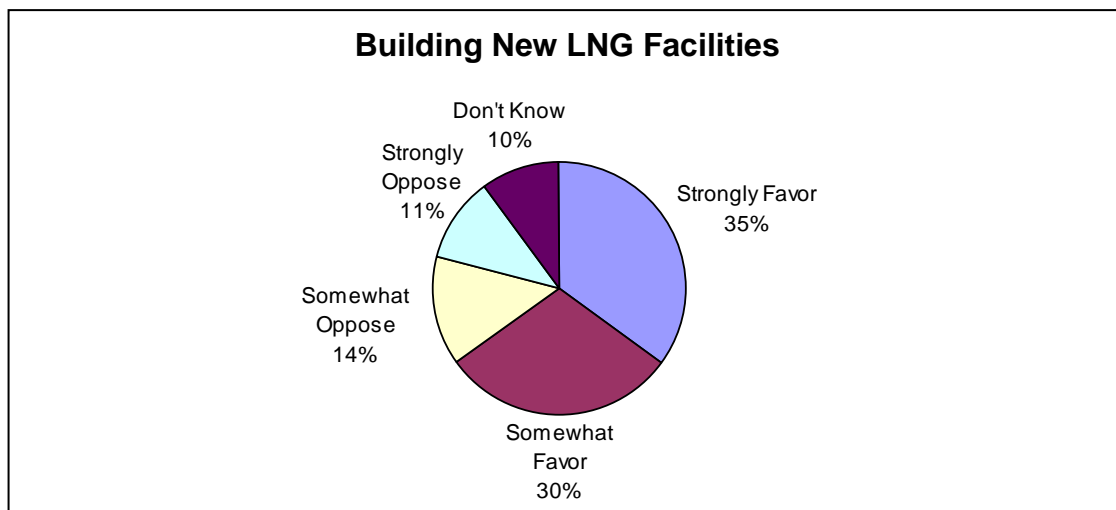
For decades, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) has been vital in maintaining a balance between the region’s natural gas supply and demand. LNG is delivered by tanker from the Caribbean country



of Trinidad and Tobago through Boston Harbor to the DISTRIGAS terminal in Everett. Offshore deepwater LNG ports in New England include the recently completed Northeast Gateway facility located off Cape Ann, Massachusetts, and the Neptune LNP port, being built approximately 10 miles off the coast of Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Supporters of LNG terminals point to the fact that LNG currently supplies 30% of the region's natural gas on a cold winter day, has a proven track record of safety all over the world, and that we need to expand supplies of natural gas. Opponents point to safety concerns like vulnerability to a terrorist threat.

Sixty-five percent (65%) of New Englanders surveyed are in favor of building new LNG facilities in the region – with 35% strongly in favor. Survey respondents in Rhode Island seemed to be the most supportive – with almost 70% at least somewhat in favor of constructing new terminals.



## Overwhelming majority favor building large wind farms

Technology advancements along with federal and state subsidies have enabled wind generating facilities to produce electricity that is now cost competitive with other sources of generation. Wind facilities have no fuel costs, but they do have maintenance and capital development costs that must be recovered over periods of intermittent operation (typically much less than half the time as electricity generation can be highly variable depending on wind speeds).

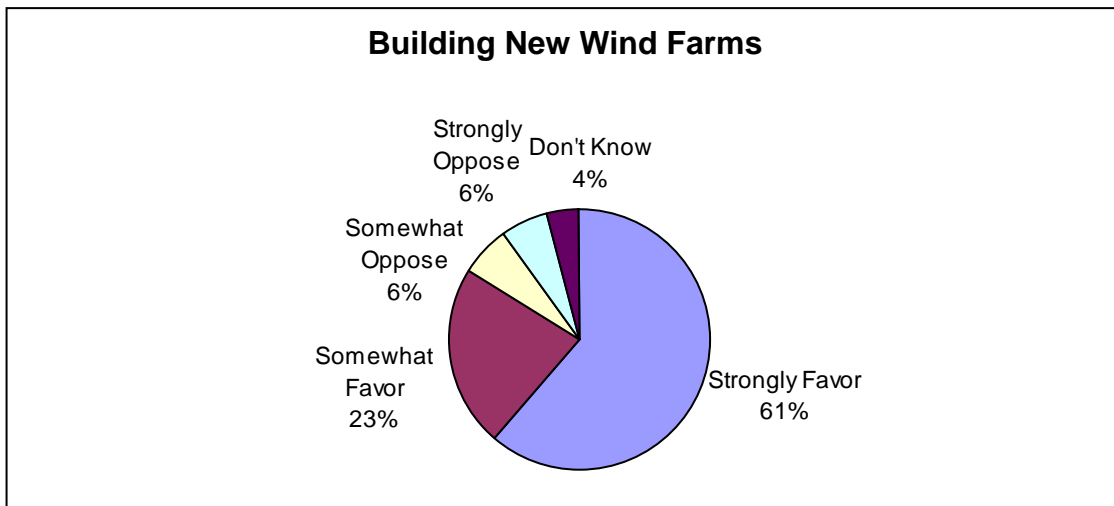
Wind generation currently comprises less than 1% of New England's electricity supply. Because the best locations for wind generation tend to be in scenic mountain and ocean-side areas, the siting of turbines has often proven to be controversial. About two-thirds of New Englanders



remain concerned that the Cape Wind project has been blocked by a “not in my backyard” attitude.

Supporters of large wind farms say that they don’t emit greenhouse gases, the wind is free and unlimited, and new advances in technology make this a more viable source of electricity supply. Opponents point to the fact that wind farms are aesthetically unappealing, they are expensive -- even with taxpayer subsidies -- and that they only operate about 30% to 40% of the time.

Eighty-four percent (84%) of survey respondents said they are in favor of constructing large wind farms. Overall favorability remained the same as last year – but the “strongly favor” portion increased by 10 percentage points to 61%. In terms of favorability, there seems to be no difference between the desirability of small land-based versus large off-shore wind farms. The public simply seems to strongly like wind energy in general.



## Support for clean coal plants is evenly split

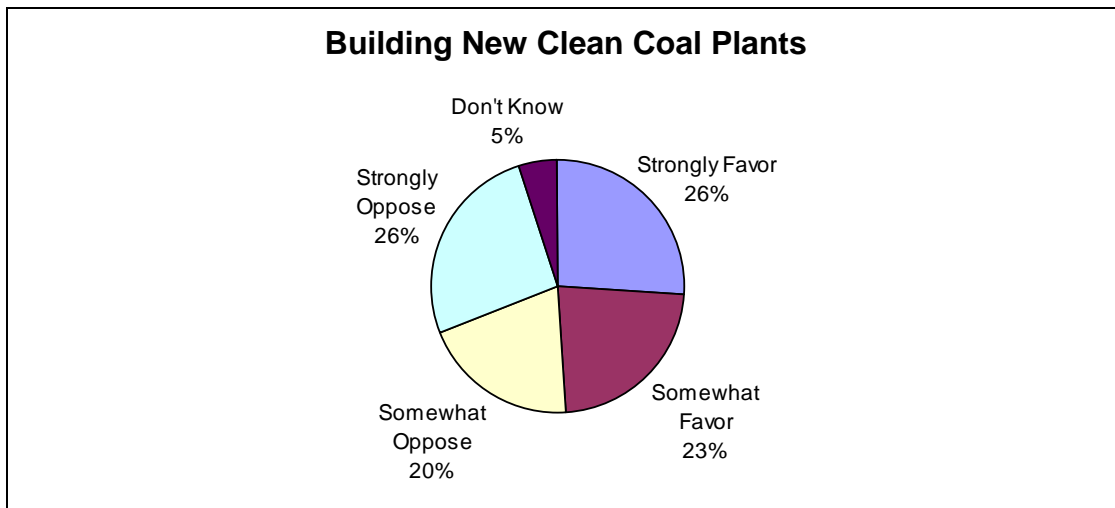
Coal is used to generate about 11% of New England’s electricity. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested in the region in emission control equipment, to significantly reduce the by-products of coal combustion including sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate emissions. Coal burning, however, does produce significant carbon dioxide emissions, a leading global warming gas.

Clean coal is chemically washed of impurities or gasified, burned and then treated with steam to remove sulfur dioxide and re-burned so as to make the carbon dioxide in the flue gas recoverable. The Brayton Point Station located in Somerset, Massachusetts is hosting a pilot-scale clean coal gasification plant – to demonstrate the conversion of coal into natural gas. The process prevents the release of carbon dioxide and captures other by-products.



Clean coal supporters point to the fact that clean coal plants reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 50% from existing technology, it is a low-cost domestic source of fuel, and the plants are easy to build and operate. Opponents say clean coal plants still produce considerable amounts of greenhouse gases, and that mining coal damages the environment.

Forty-nine percent (49%) of survey respondents said they favor building clean coal plants in New England – with 26% strongly in favor. Republicans seem more inclined to support clean coal facilities – with 71% at least somewhat in favor of them, compared to only 40% of Democrats and 49% of independents. Survey respondents in Rhode Island were the most supportive of clean coal – with 61% at least somewhat in favor. Vermonters were the least supportive.



## **60% favor building new above-ground transmission lines**

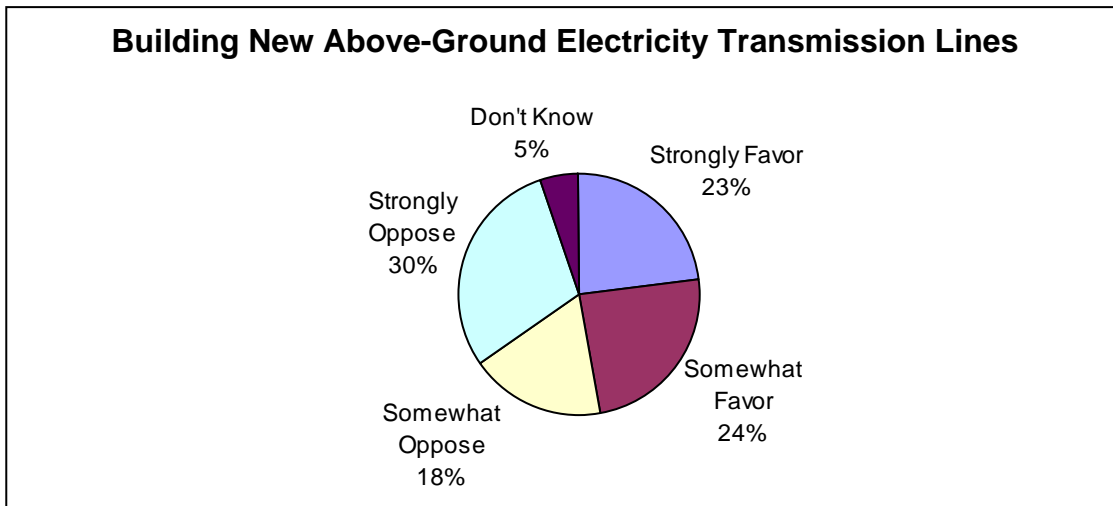
The region's transmission system serves two vital roles: to ensure reliable delivery of electricity from power plants to where it is needed, and to facilitate the trading and delivery of the commodity in the region's wholesale market. Without a reliable and efficient transmission system to move electricity as a tradable commodity, the ability to meet electricity demand reliability and economically is diminished. Over the past few years, significant progress has been made to expand and upgrade the region's transmission system. But more is needed.

Supporters say congestion on existing transmission lines costs consumers hundreds of millions of dollars each year and jeopardizes reliability, and that new lines would solve this. In addition, new lines could bring in electricity generated by renewable hydroelectric and wind facilities in Canada as well as from wind farms located in the mid-west. Opponents say transmission lines



are aesthetically unappealing, require rights of way through many communities, pose health risks and their expensive construction could be avoided if we simply reduce our use of electricity.

Sixty percent (60%) of respondents said they at least somewhat favor the construction of new transmission lines in the region, with support strongest in Maine and Rhode Island – both at 67%.



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The annual telephone survey was performed by Opinion Dynamics Corp for the New England Energy Alliance in January 2009 and included 600 registered voters proportionately distributed throughout New England. The margin of error is +/-4%. The complete results on a variety of energy issues are available at [www.newenglandenergyalliance.org](http://www.newenglandenergyalliance.org).

**The New England Energy Alliance** is a coalition of energy providers and trade organizations that advocates for action to ensure the availability, reliability, and affordability of future energy supplies.