

Vermont takes post-campaign cordiality to Quebec

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By Terri Hallenbeck

Just back from their trek to Quebec, Gov. Peter Shumlin and Lt. Gov. Phil Scott held a news conference to talk about it Wednesday afternoon.

The highlights:

They didn't talk how much power or how much it would cost, but Hydro-Quebec told Shumlin it wants to sell Vermont more power, he said.

They're all pushing for a high-speed rail line that would go from New York City to Montreal, via Vermont. The route would follow that of the Montrealer - Springfield, Mass., to White River Junction, to Essex Junction to St. Albans to Montreal. They'll have to solve the little issue of the border crossing first, which now is such a bugger that Amtrak passengers de-train and have to take a bus across.

Shumlin wants Gaz-Metro to extend a natural gas pipeline from Chittenden County south into Middlebury and Rutland. He claims it'll bring jobs to Rutland. As Matt Cota, who represents Vermont's fuel oil deliverers, listened to Shumlin, he was thinking of the jobs it would cost.

Scott mentioned that Quebec officials were impressed that Shumlin's fall election foe, former Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie, joined the trip to introduce Shumlin to the Quebecois with whom he's done state business the last eight years, and that Shumlin was willing to ask Dubie to play that role. Quebec officials apparently said it wouldn't happen there. Suffice to say, most Americans would think it wouldn't happen here either. Credit goes to both gubernatorial candidates but if extra credit is being handed out, it goes to Dubie. It's easier to be gracious when you win, but Dubie dropped all public display of campaign combat sometime between midnight and 9 a.m. the day after the election.