

The State of New Hampshire DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



March 25, 2014

Amy Ignatius, Vice Chairman NH Energy Facilities Site Evaluation Committee Public Utilities Commission 21 South Fruit St., Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301

Re: Application of New England Power d/b/a National Grid Site Evaluation Committee No. 2014-02

Dear Vice Chair Ignatius:

This letter is to notify you that the Department of Environmental Services (DES) Water Division has completed its determination as to whether or not the various program applications contain sufficient information to complete the technical review. The following list contains the program application as well as the completeness determination:

- 1. Wetland Permit Application No. 2014-00407 deemed sufficient to begin review.
- 2. 401 Water Quality Certification Application deemed sufficient to begin review. It is noted that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has not yet determined if this project will require an individual Section 404 permit or if it will be covered under the general Section 404 permit [i.e., the State Programmatic General Permit (PGP)]. DES staff request that the Applicant notify the Watershed Management Bureau as soon as possible as to which ACOE Section 404 permit applies, as this will determine if an individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required or not.

The DES Water Division's detailed review of the project along with the provision for technical comments or conclusions will coincide with the SEC project evaluation process and timeframes. If you have any questions, please contact me at (603) 271-2951 or email at: rene.pelletier@des.nh.gov

Sincerely,

Rene Pelletier, Assistant Director Water Division

cc: Michael J. Iacopino Jane Murray, Secretary, SEC Vicki Quiram, Assistant Commissioner Harry T. Stewart, Director, Water Division David Keddell, ACOE Mark Kern, EPA Peter Walker, VHB Inc.