

November 7, 2014

Richard G. Verney
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

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Dear Mr. Wiesner:

I am writing in response to the Site Evaluation Committee's (SEC's) request for public comments regarding the administrative rulemaking called for by N.H. RSA 162-H:10, VII.

Monadnock Paper Mills employs approximately 170 employees in Bennington, New Hampshire. Energy costs are a significant portion of our overall costs and have a major impact on our ability to compete in a world-wide market. It is critical for us that as new energy alternatives are identified in New Hampshire that there is a balanced and consistent method to evaluate them.

After careful review of the submissions, I strongly support adoption of the proposal submitted on September 22, 2014 by "various energy groups." This proposal is a thorough and even-handed approach, which will clarify the current submission and approval process. The proposal acknowledges the judicial nature of SEC proceedings and will give the SEC well-informed guidance on application submissions, process and criteria to be applied when determining project approval.

It is important to recognize that this proposal implements the law, as passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor. The rulemaking proceeding is not an opportunity to change existing statutes or legislative policies. While this proposal may not satisfy everyone, it will create a balanced process that allows for the development of infrastructure, while providing for public participation and consideration of local opinions.

After review of the annotated submission dated October 3, 2014, we believe this proposal represents a balanced approach based upon best practices, past SEC decisions and consistent siting criteria employed in other states. I believe this proposal establishes clear, comprehensive, and fair criteria for developers, the public and the SEC.



MONADNOCK PAPER MILLS, INC.

I respectfully request that the SEC adopt these draft rules as submitted in formulating its Initial Proposal for Rulemaking. Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard G. Verney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard G. Verney