



Business and Industry Association
New Hampshire's Statewide Chamber of Commerce

122 North Main Street, Concord, NH 03301
Tel: 603.224.5388 • Fax: 603.224.2872 • Web: www.BIAofNH.com

March 23, 2015

David K. Wiesner, Staff Attorney
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Re: NH Site Evaluation Committee Rulemaking Docket No. 2014-04

Dear Mr. Wiesner:

The Business & Industry Association (BIA) is New Hampshire's statewide chamber of commerce and leading business advocate. The BIA represents more than 400 members in a variety of industries including advanced manufacturing, high technology, professional services, financial services, health care, hospitality, tourism, higher education and insurance. Our member firms employ 86,000 people throughout the state, or one in eight jobs, and contribute \$4.5 billion annually to the state's economy.

BIA has worked hard to make New Hampshire legislators and policy makers aware of energy cost pressures New Hampshire businesses face as they compete in the national and global economies. Up to now, we worried about lost job growth and economic activity as advanced manufacturers and technology companies expanded operations elsewhere. Given current energy prices, we now face a bleaker scenario: employers moving existing jobs in New Hampshire to lower-cost places around the country or world.

The independent electric grid operator, ISO New England, has made it clear that until more infrastructure is added to the region, electricity consumers can expect volatile pricing for natural gas and wholesale power. Our continued lack of infrastructure, retiring power plants and future energy pricing all indicate our energy prices will continue to rise.

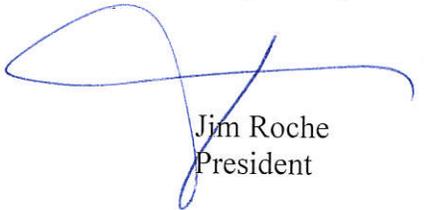
While the BIA has been engaged in legislative efforts related to the siting of energy infrastructure projects in New Hampshire, the association does not support or oppose any specific development project. The BIA's primary concern is the cost of electricity and New Hampshire's economic vitality. Given the regional need for additional transmission and pipeline capacity, we believe it is important to have a clear, consistently-applied, expeditious and balanced siting process in New Hampshire. Without it, New Hampshire will continue to pay some of the highest electrical energy rates in the nation and be perceived by many as having an environment that does not foster economic growth or encourage investment.

March 23, 2015
Page 2

To that end, BIA requests that the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) adopt rules that provide a fair and certain regulatory process that will enable the development of needed energy infrastructure in New Hampshire. As indicated in my October 29, 2014 letter to you, the BIA strongly supports the rules proposal filed by various energy groups on September 22, 2014 and the annotated version filed on October 3, 2014. We believe that this approach is reasonable, and fully embraces and implements the provisions of RSA 162-H by establishing clear, comprehensive and fair criteria for evaluating energy projects. The BIA urges the SEC to adopt final rules that are consistent with the aforementioned filings and take care to avoid rules that are overly restrictive or thwart construction of energy infrastructure projects in New Hampshire.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Roche', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is stylized with a large loop and a horizontal stroke.

Jim Roche
President