

# Orr&Reno

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August 3, 2017

**Via First Class Mail and Email**

Pamela Monroe, Administrator  
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee  
c/o New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Rene Pelletier, PG, Assistant Director  
Water Division  
Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

***Re: SEC Docket No. 15-04, Application of Public Service Company of New Hampshire  
d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site And Facility for the Construction of a  
New 115 kV Transmission Line from Madbury Substation to Portsmouth Substation –  
Response to August 1, 2017 Letter from DES to the Site Evaluation Committee***

Dear Ms. Monroe and Mr. Pelletier:

The Town of Durham and the University of New Hampshire, intervenor in the above-captioned docket, have received the August 1, 2017 letter from Mr. Pelletier to Ms. Monroe and the detailed description of items requiring additional response/information from the Applicant, Public Service Company of New Hampshire, d/b/a Eversource Energy. The letter indicates that the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (“DES”) is, understandably, unable to complete its final review of the Seacoast Reliability Project at this time. Durham/UNH is appreciative of the diligent efforts of DES to ensure protection of the Little Bay.

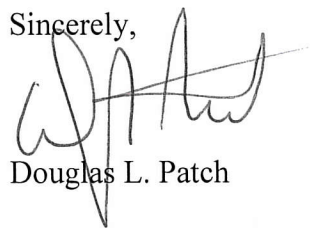
As you know Durham has provided, through its pre-filed testimony and the comments it submitted directly to DES earlier this year, its concerns relative to the impacts of the cable crossing of Little Bay. These comments and testimony were provided each time based on the information regarding the project plan, analysis of environmental impacts as well as the project’s logistics available then. Such information has changed and been supplemented now a number of times

between subsequent filings, studies done by the Applicant and responses to record requests. The Applicant has substantially changed several key aspects of the proposed project, some in response to our concerns and some for other reasons. Changes for example include the shallower depth of the jet plowing (which will have unknown impacts on the organisms in and on the sediment), the time it will take to jet plow (although this has been questioned and is now more vague than clear), and the manner in which they will conduct the jet plowing, which will now require some pilings. That, in addition to the many other remaining un-addressed activities, including the use of pilings for the barge (a new issue), the absence of any impact assessment for the removal of the existing cable, and questions about the use of concrete mats and their visibility during low tides, base case and worst case of impacts from cable installation leave the public and ultimately the Committee with an incomplete picture of potential impacts, let alone a comprehensive and integrated picture of those impacts. The information on which Durham based the comments and testimony will now change yet another time, something which was not anticipated by the schedule which the Presiding Officer approved on June 20, 2017.

Given this changing status of information as well as the schedule, and given the importance of the information being requested, which we agree with and appreciate as necessary for review of the project, Durham/UNH respectfully requests that they receive copies of any and all correspondence and information when it is submitted by Applicant to DES in response to their letter. In addition, once it has received this information, Durham/UNH request that they be given an opportunity to meet with DES so that we may ask questions and provide comments to DES before it submits its final findings. Durham/UNH have substantial interests which are at stake in this docket and believe that the granting of this request is critical for them to be able to protect those interests.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Patch', with a stylized, cursive-like script.

Douglas L. Patch

DLP/eac

cc (via email): Service List in SEC Docket 15-04 and New Hampshire Department of  
Environmental Services