



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE of the COMMISSIONER
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December 7, 2015

Ms. Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
NH Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

RE: **Docket No. 2015-06**, Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility

Dear Ms. Monroe:

The Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) has made a preliminary review of the application and associated information for the Northern Pass Transmission, LLC project (the Project) and finds the application sufficient for its purposes. In addition, beginning in February of 2010, DRED has periodically met with officials representing Hydro Quebec and Public Service of New Hampshire – now Eversource, for the purpose of reviewing the Project as it has developed, and to specifically discuss possible impacts to state lands under DRED management. Based on its review of the application and recent meetings with Project representatives, DRED understands that the current Project will not require additional state rights, and proposes to cross, utilizing existing utility corridors only, the following state-owned lands under DRED management:

- Nash Stream Forest (LCIP funded)
- Percy State Forest (LCIP funded)
- Cape Horn State Forest (LCIP funded)
- William H. Thomas State Forest
- Bear Brook State Forest (subject to LWCF criteria)

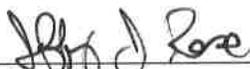
However, pursuant to a letter to the NH Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) dated November 12, 2015, from Director Meredith Hatfield of the Office of Energy and Planning and Chairman of the Council on Resources and Development, DRED wishes to echo Director Hatfield's alert that any temporary or permanent Project-related impacts to properties purchased through the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) would require Legislative action. In addition to LCIP funding, DRED's Bear Brook State Park, as noted above, is subject to a federal funding program known as the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (LWCF). Please be aware that pursuant to Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act, any Project-related impact outside the existing

Eversource utility easement would require “substitution of other recreation properties of at least equal fair market value and of reasonable equivalent usefulness and location”, as approved by the Secretary of the US Department of the Interior. Finally, it is important that the SEC be aware that any temporary or long-term rights required by the Project outside of the existing utility corridors would require full “state-surplus” process pursuant to RSA 4:40. Again, based upon the current proposal, DRED finds that the Project will not trigger any additional state surplus process. DRED also takes this opportunity to point out that as noted in Appendix 15 of the Report, page 4, footnote #3 makes note of a current title flaw in the Eversource Easement across Cape Horn State Forest, which DRED is currently working with Eversource to fix.

While DRED does not have direct regulatory authority over the Project, DRED respectfully requests to participate in this proceeding pursuant to RSA 162-H:7-a(III), and asks that you keep DRED informed as review of the Application by SEC proceeds. Please contact Bill Carpenter – Administrator of Land Management, by phone at 603-271-2214, or via email at william.carpenter@DRED.nh.gov, with any further information, comments or questions regarding the Project.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey J. Rose
Commissioner