

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM



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March 7, 2015

Pamela Monroe, Administrator
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Re: New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee Docket No. 2015-06
Northern Pass Transmission Project Application
Response to Applicant's Response and Objection to Certain Petitions to Intervene

Dear Ms. Monroe:

On February 26, 2016 the Applicant submitted its *Applicant's Response and Objection to Certain Petitions to Intervene*. This is the response of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Bethlehem to that objection.

We are concerned by the Applicant's letter, specifically the following sentences in #47 and #52:

"47. The Applicants do not object to the petitions of Cities, Towns, or other Town Governing Bodies, provided that their interventions are limited to those issues for which they have demonstrated a concrete and well-defined interest."

"52. The Applicants recognize that municipal governing bodies have a substantial interest in this proceeding. Therefore, the Applicants do not oppose the petitions of Towns and Town governments, so long as their participation is coordinated and combined."

We read the Applicant as saying in #52 that it does not oppose our petition for intervenor status as long as our participation is "coordinated and combined" with other towns.

We strongly object to being combined with other towns and to having to coordinate our participation.

RSA 162-H:16, (b) reads: "The site and facility will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of municipal and regional planning commissions and municipal governing bodies."

Without allowing the Town of Bethlehem to participate fully as an intervenor, we do not think that standard is being met.

Our concerns and interests are different from those of some of the other towns. Bethlehem not only will have Northern Pass transmission lines, some of the lines will be buried in our town and Northern Pass will be building a Transition Station here. We are being triply impacted.

In addition, the site of the proposed Transition Station #5 imperils a development slated for abutting property. Please see our letter of January 29, 2016 requesting intervenor status.

When we submitted our letter requesting intervenor status we said we believe we had demonstrated that our rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests might be affected by the proceedings, per New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Site 202.11 for intervention.

We continue to state that case.

If the Applicant is requesting that towns be combined for purposes of granting intervenor status, or if they are requesting that our participation be coordinated, we object; and we ask that the SEC permit the Town of Bethlehem to participate fully as an intervenor.

The Board of Selectmen also support Bethlehem's Conservation Commission and Planning Board being granted full intervenor status. The legislature has given each of these municipal organizations different duties and obligations. For example, the Conservation Commission is a group that monitors the environment on behalf of the town. The Planning Board has its own duties and obligations.

We believe that each group deserves to participate fully as an intervenor.

We are sending this by e-mail to everyone on the distribution list.

Sincerely,


SELECTMAN


SELECTMAN


SELECTMAN