



*Bethlehem Conservation Commission
Bethlehem, NH 03574*

March 27, 2016

Pamela Monroe
Administrator
Site Evaluation Committee

RE: SEC Docket No. 2015-06: Letter to Change Intervenor Grouping in
the Order of Motions To Intervene of March 18, 2016

Dear Ms. Monroe, Mr. Honigberg and members of the SEC:

The Bethlehem Conservation Commission voted unanimously to request a change in our intervenor grouping as defined in its Order of Motions to Intervene of March 18, 2016.

We request that the Conservation Commission, the Bethlehem Board of Selectmen and the Bethlehem Planning Board be grouped together instead of making us part of Municipal Group 1 with eight other municipalities.

The municipal groupings are too large and ignore geographic realities, especially in the North Country. That and having a single spokesperson for such a large grouping will make it difficult for municipalities to present their views on the orderly development of their regions pursuant to RSA and for the SEC to give due consideration to the views of municipal governing bodies under RSA 612-H:16, IV (b). Also, we are unsure of how we would work with a town such as Littleton, which is represented by legal counsel; and there is no time to figure that out.

We think our proposed grouping is justifiable on the basis that the project as envisioned in Bethlehem will consist of not only transmission lines but buried lines and Transition Station #5. And, from an environmental standpoint, we are unique as well.

It will impact two important water bodies: The Ammonoosuc River (a NH Designated River, with special protection by the NH River Management and Protection Program under RSA 483) and Miller/Baker Brook Pond (subject to the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Program).

And, lastly, Bethlehem's wetlands will be more adversely impacted than those in many other towns. Of three towns (Bethlehem, Whitefield and Dalton) with wetlands that the project will impact, 55 of the 110 wetlands are in Bethlehem.

Thank you for considering our proposed intervenor grouping.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Jensen, Co-Chair, Bethlehem Conservation Commission

Signed copy of the letter is attached. This was sent by e-mail to the SEC distribution list revised as of 3/25/2016