



For a thriving New England

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February 18, 2016

VIA EMAIL AND HAND-DELIVERY

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

**RE: New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee 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 for Construction of a New High Voltage Transmission
Line in New Hampshire**

Dear Ms. Monroe:

Please find enclosed for filing in the above-referenced matter the Un-Assented to Motion of Conservation Law Foundation for Additional or Deferred Public Hearings.

Copies of this Motion have, this date, been forwarded via email to all parties on the Service List in this docket.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Melissa E. Birchard

/dlh

Encls.

cc: Docket No. 2015-06 Service List

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Docket No. 2015-06

**Re: 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**

**UN-ASSENTED TO MOTION OF CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION
FOR ADDITIONAL OR DEFERRED PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Conservation Law Foundation (“CLF”) respectfully submits this Motion requesting that the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (“SEC” or “Committee”) schedule additional county-based public hearings in Docket No. 2015-06 to accommodate the need for public review of and comment on supplemental information anticipated to be filed on March 15, 2016. In the alternative, CLF asks that all public hearings be deferred pending receipt of that information. In support of this Motion, CLF states as follows:

1. On October 19, 2015, Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire, d/b/a Eversource Energy (collectively, “Applicants”), filed a joint Application for Certificate of Site and Facility (“Application”) in connection with a proposed 192-mile high-voltage electric transmission line extending from Pittsburgh, New Hampshire to Deerfield, New Hampshire. On December 18, 2015, the Committee issued an order accepting the Application. Subsequently, on December 28, 2015, the Commission advised Applicants it had readopted with amendments certain rules applicable to the Application. On January 15, 2016, Applicants indicated that they required an additional two months to prepare supplemental information in order to comply with the Committee’s revised rules. It is thus anticipated that on March 15, 2016, Applicants will file additional relevant information.

2. Although the Application lacks information that Applicants have indicated is necessary to comply with the Committee's revised rules, the SEC has scheduled county-based public hearings to take place on March 1, 7, 10, 14, and 16. The Committee intends to hold two of these jointly with the U.S. Department of Energy. Due to the fact that Applicants are expected to submit new information on March 15, 2016, CLF asks that the Committee grant an additional round of such hearings following that date to comply with Site 201.3, with a reasonable period of time to enable meaningful public review of the supplemental application materials.

3. The Committee has discretion to grant additional public hearings as appropriate. RSA 162-H:4(II) provides that "[t]he committee shall hold hearings as required by this chapter and such additional hearings as it deems necessary and appropriate."

4. Additional county-based public hearings are necessary and supported by good cause. Although the Committee nominally accepted the Application on December 18, 2015, that Application appears to lack information necessary for its review. The Application will not contain the outstanding information until at least March 15. It would be unjust for the Committee to complete the county-based public hearing process before the public has had the opportunity to review the supplemental information upon which Applicants intend to rely.

5. Alternatively, CLF asks that the Committee defer all public hearings until after Applicants' supplemental information is made available, with a reasonable period of time to enable meaningful public review of the supplemental materials. At that time, the Committee, the parties to Docket No. 2015-06, and interested members of the public will have had the opportunity to assess the scope, volume, and nature of the new information. Based on that assessment, it can be determined whether the best course of action is to in effect re-set the clock in this proceeding to allow for adequate review of the new information, or whether the scope of

new information is limited and the proceeding can move forward generally as planned, with the exception of deferred public hearings.¹

6. The Committee has ample discretion to defer the scheduled hearings. Pursuant to RSA 162-H:14(I), the SEC has the discretion to temporarily suspend certificate proceedings when in the public interest. The Committee need not suspend the entire proceeding at this time, however. It merely need suspend the timeframe for county-based public hearings, pending receipt of further information.

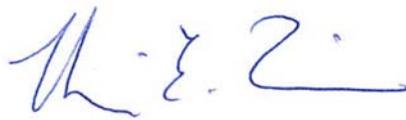
7. This procedural avenue would be in the public interest. It would avoid confusion of the issues, enhance efficiency, and give due weight to process rights.

8. Applicants do not assent to this motion. Counsel for the Public does not object.

WHEREFORE, Conservation Law Foundation respectfully requests that the Committee either grant an additional round of county-based public hearings after March 15, 2016, or defer all hearings until after that date, in either case to provide the public with a reasonable period of time to meaningfully review and comment on additional materials to be submitted by Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION

By: 

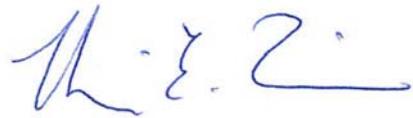
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February 18, 2016

¹ CLF reserves the right to seek any further relief that maybe appropriate at that time, including but not limited to a potential re-set of the procedural clock.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this day, February 18, 2016, a copy of the foregoing motion was sent by electronic mail to all persons named on the Service List in this docket.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M.E.B.', is written above a horizontal line.

Melissa E. Birchard