



Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook - Abenaki People
COWASS North America, Inc.
The Abenaki Nation of Vermont, Inc.
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16 March 2016

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

Subject: Northern Pass Transmission - Eversource (NPT) Project
New Hampshire Site Committee - SEC Docket No. 2015-06
Re: Petition to Intervene as a Native American Indian Tribal Organization

Greetings Ms. Monroe,

My name is Paul W. Pouliot, I represent the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki People (Cowasuck Band) as the Sag8mo (Grand Council Chief or principal speaker). I am also a Religious Elder, Tribal Historian, and Tribal Historical Protection Officer (THPO) for the Cowasuck Band. Our headquarters is located at P.O. Box 52, 840 Suncook Valley Road, Alton, NH 03809.

On the behalf of our Cowasuck Band, I am respectfully petitioning to be a intervening party in regard to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee in regard to the Northern Pass Transmission (NPT) (Project) proceedings under Docket No. 2015-06 as an Indigenous (Native American Indian) tribal organization with relevant legal and religious interest to this subject project. As per the SEC's requirements for petitioning to intervene, we forwarded email copies of this petition to intervene request letter to the latest (3/14/2016) SEC's distribution list for this proceeding as noted in the "cc" below.

I will state for informative purposes, that the Cowasuck Band went on record in 1993 with the U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs that we are seeking federal acknowledgment and protection under USC Title 25 as a Native American Indian tribal entity. The formal announcement of this acknowledgment request was made on April 6, 1995, in the Federal Register Volume 60, Number 66, Page 17614. The New Hampshire Secretary of State and the State's Attorney General have been formally notified through several prior filings and documents that our headquarters is located here in Alton, New Hampshire. Our Cowasuck Band maintains federal legal rights to intervene under several protective provisions of USC Title 25 and that our tribal group holds a very long historical presence (for centuries before colonial contact in the 1500's) in the Project's construction locus.

As for this Project's proposed locus, it appears to be fully within our tribal historical and present homelands. We consider our homelands, or N'dakinna, to encompass all of New Hampshire, portions of southern Quebec, and major sections of the other New England states. For a full description of N'dakinna please see our Constitution of Our People, Article 1, Section 11 on our website at: www.cowasuck.org.

As for our eligibility and interest for intervening: The Cowasuck Band, and particularly myself, have set a long term precedent by being actively engaged as a consulting and

intervening party with several federal and state agencies, departments, and divisions on a wide array of projects and issues since the 1990's to present. In particular to this Project we are and continue to work with the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR) and Bureau of Indian Affairs - Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Program on the matter of consultation and repatriation of human remains, funerary, sacred, and other items of cultural patrimony in the New England region.

In regard to the lands that will be impacted by the Project, in the Indigenous (Native American Indian) culture, all the lands of Mother Earth are considered a sacred gift from the Creator that we are obligated to "use, protect and maintain" as human beings. More importantly we have a religious and moral obligation to protect Indigenous sacred sites, ancestral human remains, funerary, sacred, and other items of cultural patrimony that may be discovered and or potentially impacted by the Project.

As this proposed Project progresses it has become very controversial in many ways because of the visual impact of transmission towers, the establishment of any new clearings for the Right of Way, and related transmission line structures that also may cause environmental and aesthetic related issues. More importantly this Project has a significantly greater impact on underground historical resources as this Project considers increased sections of underground direct buried transmission infrastructure. However, the Cowasuck Band understands the importance of the Project but likewise understands that the Project must be done in the public's best interests, carefully constructed, and fully aware of the impacts that it will have on the historical resources of the state of New Hampshire.

The Cowasuck Band is entering into the SEC application process as an intervening party in our "best good faith" efforts and understandings of the process. At no point in this process do we wish to negate or diminish our Tribal Rights or to avail ourselves to due legal process. Under no circumstances do we believe that any New Hampshire division, department, agency, or official is in a superior position in regard to Indigenous (Native American Indian) matters or to our standing as a Indigenous tribal authority.

The Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki People respectfully wish to work with all parties to make this process a successful endeavor.

Thank you in advance for your timely consideration to our petition to intervene.

Sincerely,



Paul W. Pouliot
Sag8mo - Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki People

This document is authenticated under the authority of our tribal seal on this 16th day of March 2016.

cc: Brian Mills, DOE
Caitlin A. Callaghan, DOE
SEC Distribution List of Docket No. 2015-06 - Copies sent by email