

**PETER H. BORNSTEIN**

185 Mount Prospect Rd.  
Lancaster, New Hampshire 03584

September 6, 2015

HPUC 17SEP15 8:20

Martin Honigberg, Chairman  
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee  
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive  
P.O. Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Dear Chairman Honigberg: Re: Proposed Northern Pass Transmission Line

I am writing to advise you of my strenuous opposition to proposed Northern Pass Transmission Project insofar as it adversely impacts my property in Lancaster, New Hampshire.

My wife and I own a home on twenty acres of land on Mount Prospect Road in Lancaster. Mount Prospect Road is a designated scenic road under New Hampshire's scenic road statute, RSA 231:157-158. The proposed transmission line in this area will not be buried but will be placed on large metal transmission towers running roughly parallel to and approximately two-tenths of a mile from the eastern border of our property. The portion of the proposed transmission line that will be plainly visible from, and adversely impact, our property begins at Wesson Road and extends approximately two miles south. The proposed transmission towers in this segment will be 85 to 95 feet tall, or more than twice the height of and substantially wider than the existing wood utility poles, which are not visible from our property.

The New Hampshire legislature has recognized that "the selection of sites for energy facilities may have significant impacts on," among other things, "private property," "aesthetics" and "historic sites." RSA 162 – H:1. I respectfully submit that the construction of the proposed above-ground transmission line in this two-mile segment will have "unreasonable adverse effects" on our property, its value as a historic site, and its aesthetic qualities within the meaning of RSA 162-H:16, IV(c).

If these very large metal transmission towers are installed in this two-mile section, they will deface the landscape and ruin the many beautiful views that we presently have of the White Mountains (specifically, the Pliny Range and the Presidential Range). I enclose several photographs depicting some of those views. In her 1887 *Lancaster Sketch Book*, Persis F. Chase remarked that "of all short drives in this vicinity, the one around Mt. Prospect affords the grandest mountain views." Chase further notes that from the "farm owned by Mr. Johnson [our property] one can see the village of Jefferson, with Mt. Starr King, rising above" and that "towering grandly over all, [is] the "White ... mountain range." The view shed of Weeks State Park on Mount Prospect includes our view shed. The United States Department of Energy's *Northern Pass Transmission Project Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) has determined that the existing contrast-dominance rating for the Weeks State Park view shed is "weak" but that its contrast – dominance rating if the proposed above-ground transmission line is constructed would be on the high end of "moderate," which "indicates that the visual change would be clearly noticeable to a casual observer, and is likely to be considered adverse." (EIS, 4 – 95.) Moreover, the significant and adverse impact on our view shed will substantially reduce the market value of our property.

The proposed above-ground transmission line will also have significant and unreasonable impacts on the value and integrity of our property as a historic site. Our home, built in approximately 1810, is one of the earliest residences in the town of Lancaster. It was depicted as the J.A. Johnson property on a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century map of the town and was owned by the Weeks family from about 1915 to 1931. Congressman John Wingate Weeks

sponsored the 1911 Weeks Act that created the White Mountain National Forest and his son, Charles Sinclair Weeks, a United States senator from Massachusetts and President Eisenhower's Secretary of Commerce, maintained his summer residence at our property until he sold it in 1931. The Site Evaluation Committee should not permit the construction of an extremely unattractive above-ground transmission line in close proximity to, and in plain view from, a historic property once owned by the man who was responsible for establishing the National Forest in northern New Hampshire.

The principal consideration that prompted us to purchase this particular historic property for our permanent residence was its location in a pristine landscape with stunning views. We would not have purchased this property if the proposed transmission line had then been in place. The proposed above-ground transmission line in this two-mile segment will have unreasonable adverse effects on our property, its aesthetics, its quality as a historic site, and its market value.

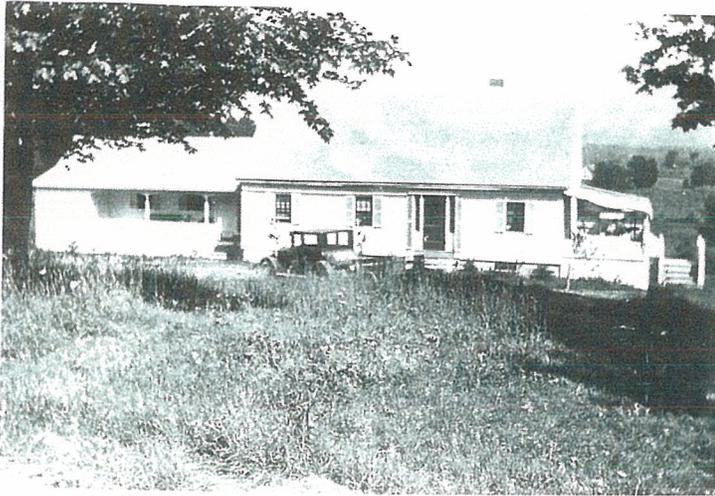
For the foregoing reasons, I request that the Site Evaluation Committee find that the proposed above-ground transmission line in this two-mile segment will have unreasonable adverse effects on our property, its value as a historic site, and its aesthetics and that the Committee not issue a certificate unless all such transmission lines and equipment are buried for two miles south of Wesson Road.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Very truly yours,



Peter H. Bornstein



*Figure 1 Weeks/Bornstein house c.1920*



*Figure 2 185 Mount Prospect Rd, 2015*



*Figure 3 Front of house with view from side deck of the existing row.*



*Figure 4 View from back of house. The ROW runs from left to right at tree line.*

