

To: Pamela Monroe, Administrator, Site Evaluation Committee (“SEC”)  
Northern Pass Transmission - Eversource Docket 2015-16

From: Linda McDermott, 394 Timber Lane, Franconia, NH

We first learned about Franconia when we spent half of our honeymoon at the charming historic Franconia Inn 23 years ago (the other half in Vermont). We fell in love with the laid back culture and peacefulness of Franconia, the serenity and scenic views of the surrounding mountains. We dreamt about retiring there, or at a nearby town north of the notch. We were ready to purchase a home a few years ago but held off because we were worried about the location of the Northern Pass. We would look around but many of the homes for sale with a “good” price were near the existing ROW. We referred often to "What's Happening In Your Town" link on the Northern Pass website. Even after looking at homes that we were serious about purchasing, we'd still carefully scout the area and review the surrounding land on Google Earth for proximity to the ROW and the proposed Northern Pass route.

After all that careful research to avoid the Northern Pass route, our dreams came true last year (2015) when we purchased a home in Franconia to enjoy nature and the mountains in a peaceful town now and into our future retirement. However, after we purchased our home we somehow missed the updates about the change in route. We learned about the new route in Franconia when we were taking a leisurely drive and saw opposition signs along Easton Road in Easton, “No Northern Pass on Rte 116”. Well, we panicked and I became sick to my stomach. I felt better when I learned the lines were being buried,

certainly preferable to overhead lines, but I'm opposed to underground lines going through such a small historic town for several reasons.

I feel it would be an unnecessary disruption to this very small quiet historic town. I also feel there are less populated and straighter (thus less materials and costs?) alternative routes available along utility corridors or highways. If you take a close look at Main Street and Easton Road/Route 116 you'll see that it is very winding and rolling.

The small town of Franconia also isn't a place for an underground transmission line project of this scale. There are several historic inns, businesses, and homes on Easton Road/Route 116 and Main Street that very close to the edge of the roads that could suffer damage during construction. Businesses that we and many tourists depend on may have to close during construction and suffer financial loss. Even if they stay open, lack of tourists in the area will negatively impact these small businesses. I spoke to one business owner directly and it is very worrisome. And I learned from a town selectman who spoke at a hearing that there are some underground utilities in the roads.

There is an extensive network of delicate wetlands, rivers, streams, and brooks that cross under and flow along Easton Road/Route 116 and Main Street. These waters are an important resource for bears, moose, deer, beavers, and other wildlife in the area. Easton Road/Route 116, especially as it passes through the White Mountain National Forest stretch, is a lovely treed and scenic area.

Scenic Easton Road/Route 116 is loved by many tourists from around the world and is highly utilized by bicyclists, and we ride our bikes there as well. The Franconia Inn, just one example of the inns on

Easton Road, offers lots of activities for us and tourists: horseback riding, cross-country skiing, bicycling, gliding and hand gliding from its airfield, tennis, and swimming in an underground pool close to the road. There are several historic sites off Easton Road/Route 116 and Main Street that we and tourists visit: two White Mountain National Forest trail heads (Kinsman Ridge and Coppermine to Bridal Falls), the Frost Place, the Iron Furnace, and Wonderfall Farm off Route 116 in Easton with unique fainting goats and natural goat milk products.

We don't have intervener status because our home isn't directly impacted but we feel we should be part of the process (though I'm not applying for intervener status because of the stringent rules) because anything that happens in this very small town will affect us.

Construction of underground lines has the potential to severely alter the aesthetic quality of our quaint town if not handled respectfully or restored improperly, depress property values, impact tourism, and impact small local businesses. It will a hardship not having local businesses and amenities available to us during construction and will interfere with town events and activities.

I don't even want the Northern Pass in New Hampshire for many reasons (the lack of need, scar on the revered landscape, continued protection of conservation lands, environment, viewsheds, to name a few), but if it has to be then the *entire Northern Pass should be buried to be fair to all people* impacted by its baneful presence. That's the equitable and respectful way to treat society.

With serious concerns for our future and the heritage of New Hampshire,

Linda McDermott

Link to photos I took of the Town, Main Street and Easton Road/Route 116: <http://myhaymac.com/2016/03/17/franconia-and-the-northern-pass/>

When HQ decided to send electricity and enter the US, I feel it chose the least expensive way to do so, thinking it would be an easy sell to NH. I feel HQ knew the underground cost and avoided it just so it could get the job off the ground, and started using money to influence people and buy strategic plots of land. For technology in this day and age it is preposterous to me that these lines are not underground. Other utility companies have done it in Maine and Vermont. With all the millions of money HQ has spent buying people out, buying property, donating to causes - conservation!, and other programs including the NH Forward Plan, plus the recent \$2 million investment in the Balsams (more in future), it seems this money should have been earmarked to spend on burying the NP in the first place. Plus I'm curious about the cost to maintain above ground structures versus underground.

HQ/ES are corporations and a corporation is not a person. I get that. But PEOPLE run HQ/ES and these people are benefitting from profits/benefits and will do so for many many years to come. Their lives will be improved overtime. They'll have a good job, buy things, send their kids to good schools, maybe outgrow their current homes and purchase larger ones, with bigger yards, and so on. But the people in NH who are directly impacted by NP will not. Many below the notch will lose their beloved homes, businesses, yards, views, etc. Above the notch, the same. Except that there's a unique bond people in the north country have with the land that you don't understand. And putting massive grotesque towers with humming electromagnetic lines will not only rip the heart out of NH but the rip the heart and soul out of these

people. It will be like taking a child away. They have nurtured, cultivated, and loved the land for generations or someone came here not long ago to do so. They have sacrificed for their land. They have fished, hunted, farmed, eating off the land. They have used the land to educate their children. And they want the same for future generations. HQ/ES you - have an environmental and moral responsibility to bury the NP.