

## SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

### Annual Review and Evaluation of Application and Filing Fees

#### RSA 162-H:8-a, III

Prepared by: Pamela Monroe, Administrator

January 12, 2017

**1. SEC Docket No. 2015-05, Joint Application of New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource for a Certificate of Site and Facility to Construct a New 345 kV Electric Transmission Line in Southern, NH (Merrimack Valley Reliability Project)**

On August 5, 2015, the SEC received its first Application to be processed under the current statutory scheme. The project consisted of construction of a new 345 kV overhead transmission line, approximately 18 miles in length, located in an existing developed transmission line corridor. The project will be located in the Towns of Pelham and Hudson in Hillsborough County, and the Towns of Windham and Londonderry in Rockingham County. It is a reliability project selected by the Independent System Operator of New England to address identified transmission capacity needs for the continued reliability of the regional electric transmission system in Southern New Hampshire and northeastern Massachusetts.

There was 1 individual intervenor in this docket. The Subcommittee conducted two full days of adjudicative hearings and 4 hours of deliberations. On July 11, 2016, the Subcommittee decided unanimously to grant the certificate. The written order and certificate of site and facility, with conditions, was issued on October 4, 2016. The Subcommittee received a timely Motion for Rehearing from the intervenor and has issued an Order denying the motion.

Application Fee \$104,000 (\$50,000 base charge x 18 miles in length at \$3,000 per mile (\$54,000)). Total charges billed to date: \$28,718. There may be some additional unbilled charges related to the rehearing that will be minimal.

**2. SEC Docket No. 2015-02, Application of Antrim Wind Energy, LLC for a Certificate of Site and Facility for Construction of a Wind Project in Antrim, NH**

On October 2, 2015, the SEC received an Application for the construction and operation of 9 direct drive wind turbines capable of generating 3.2 MW for a total nameplate capacity of 28.8 MW, to be constructed entirely in the Town of Antrim.

There were 12 intervening groups in this docket. The Subcommittee conducted 13 full days of adjudicative hearings and 3 full days of deliberations. On December 12, 2016, the Subcommittee voted 5-1 to grant the certificate. The final written order and certificate, with conditions, is still pending.

Application Fee \$78,800 (\$50,000 base charge X 28.8 MW of power (\$1,000 per MW for a facility less than 40 MW). Total charges billed: \$50,564. The agency members and Counsel for the Public have not submitted their expenses for reimbursement for the time spent in hearings and deliberations. At a cost of \$650/day/agency member, the outstanding amount to be billed for the agency time in adjudicative hearings and deliberations is estimated to be an additional \$52,000.

**3. SEC 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 the Construction of a New 1,090 MW Electric Transmission Line**

On October 19, 2015, the SEC received an Application for construction of a new transmission line with a 1,090 MW transfer rating, extending approximately 192 miles from the Canadian border in Pittsburg, NH to a substation in Deerfield. Approximately 60 miles will be located underground.

There are 24 intervenor groups in this docket. Counsel for the Public has retained outside counsel to assist him and 8 consulting firms to provide expert opinion and analysis in the areas of: economic benefits; aesthetics and scenic resources; energy markets; historic and cultural resources; wildlife, wildlife habitat and rare, threatened and endangered species; and transmission design and construction. The adjudicative hearings are scheduled over twenty-nine days during April, May, June and July 2017.

Application Fee \$626,000 (\$50,000 base charge X 192 miles in length at \$3,000 per mile (\$576,000). Total charges billed to date: \$70,913.

**4. SEC Docket No. 2015-07, Joint Petition of Granite Ridge Energy, LLC and Calpine Granite Holdings, LLC, for Approval to Transfer Membership Interests in Granite Ridge Energy, LLC**

On October 28, 2015, the SEC received a Petition to transfer ownership of a 720 MW combined cycle natural gas-fired power plant that was granted a certificate by the SEC in 1999. The facility commenced commercial operation in 2003. In 2004, the SEC approved transfer of the ownership interests of the certificate holder, AES Londonderry, LLC (AESL), to its lenders through voluntary foreclosure and the use of a special purpose holding company.

On January 19, 2016, the Subcommittee conducted its adjudicative hearing and completed its deliberations in 5 hours, unanimously determining that the petitioner, Calpine Granite, had adequate financial, managerial, and technical capabilities to assure the continued operation of the facility in continuing compliance with all of the terms and conditions of the original certificate. A final written decision and Order was issued on February 3, 2016.

Application Fee \$3,000 (3-member subcommittee). Total charges, \$1,409.

**5. SEC Docket No. 2015-08, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC**

On November 16, 2015, a docket was opened when Tenn. Gas filed a letter with the SEC stating that it intended to submit an application for a Certificate of Site and Facility to construct a compressor station, and 71 miles of natural gas transmission pipeline from the Massachusetts border in Winchester, NH to Pelham, NH.

On January 5 and 12, 2016, the Subcommittee convened to consider intervening in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) proceedings involving the siting of high pressure gas pipelines in order to protect the state of New Hampshire. *See* RSA 162-H:10-b.

On May 24, 2016, Tenn. Gas filed a letter with the SEC, stating that it had withdrawn its application for the project with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and that it no longer planned to file an application with the SEC.

An application fee was never received, since an application was never submitted. Total charges to the SEC Fund, \$2,935.

**6. SEC Docket No. 2016-01, Rulemaking**

RSA 162-H:10-b, effective July 20, 2015, required to SEC to adopt rules relative to the siting of high pressure gas pipelines within one year.

On January 25, 2016, the SEC opened a rulemaking docket, seeking input on specific rules language. In order to comply with the statutory deadline, a contractor was retained to conduct research, review the advance public comments that were received, and to work with the Administrator in drafting rules consistent with state and federal law. On June 30, 2016, the SEC held a public meeting to consider the oral and written public comments that were received and to approve specific language and the text of a final proposal. On July 21, 2016, the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules approved the final proposal, and on August 15, 2016, the SEC held a public meeting and approved the adoption and filing of the final proposal as approved by JLCAR.

Total billed charges to the SEC Fund, \$12,267.

**7. SEC Docket No. 2016-02, Joint Petition of IFM Global Infrastructure Fund and Nautilus Generation, LLC for Approval of the Transfer of Ownership Interests in Essential Power Newington, LLC**

On February 29, 2016, the SEC received a petition to transfer the ownership of a 525 MW combined cycle, dual fuel, (natural gas and oil) power plant that was granted a certificate by the SEC in 1999. The facility commenced commercial operation in 2002. In 2008, the SEC approved transfer of 100% of the membership interests of the certificate holder, EP Newington, to Essential Power, LLC.

On June 2, 2016, the Subcommittee conducted its adjudicative hearing and completed its deliberations in 2 hours, unanimously determining that Nautilus Generation had adequate financial, managerial, and technical capabilities to assure the continued operation of the facility in continuing compliance with all of the terms and conditions of the original certificate. A final written decision and Order was issued on June 3, 2016.

Application Fee \$3,000 (3-member subcommittee). Total charges, \$503.

**8. SEC Docket No. 2015-04, Application of Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility for the Construction of a New 115 kV Transmission Line**

On April 12, 2016, the SEC received an Application for construction of a new 115 kV transmission line between existing substations in Madbury and Portsmouth. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 12.9 miles in length and is comprised of a combination of above ground, underground, and underwater segments in the Towns of Madbury and Durham in Strafford County, and the Town of Newington and the City of Portsmouth in Rockingham County. This is a reliability project required to address concerns in the NH Seacoast Region, which have previously been identified by the Independent System Operator of the New England electric system.

There are 7 intervenor groups in this docket and Counsel for the Public has retained 3 consulting firms to provide expert analysis and opinion of the project's effects on aesthetics, historical and cultural resources, and the quality of the environment. There are 5 days of adjudicative hearings currently scheduled in May.

Application Fee \$88,700 (\$50,000 base charge X 12.9 miles in length at \$3,000 per mile (\$38,700). Total charges billed to date: \$499.