

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

**ORDER AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING**

**JUNE 1, 2012  
10 AM**

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the Site Evaluation Committee for the State of New Hampshire shall conduct a Public Meeting and Hearing on **JUNE 1, 2012**, at the Offices of the Public Utilities Commission, 21 South Fruit Street, Concord, N.H. The agenda for said Public Meeting and Hearing shall include:

**AGENDA ITEM NO 1:**

**Docket No. 2012-02: Motion of Granite State Gas Transmission Company for a Declaratory Ruling Regarding the Little Bay Bridge Crossing Project Between Newington, Rockingham County and Dover, Strafford County, New Hampshire**

**The Proceeding**

On April 3, 2012, Granite State Gas Transmission Company (GSGT) filed a Motion for Declaratory Ruling Regarding the Little Bay Bridge Crossing Project between Newington and Dover, New Hampshire (Motion). On June 1, 2012, at 10 o'clock a.m. the Site Evaluation Committee (Committee) shall review the Motion and hear argument from GSGT and any other parties. Immediately thereafter, the Committee may deliberate and rule on the merits of the Motion or order further review.

**The Proposed Facility**

GSGT owns and operates a bi-directional high pressure pipeline (492 psig MAOP) that transports natural gas between Haverhill, Massachusetts and Portland, Maine. The pipeline contains a tie-in of 10 inch pipe that consists of buried pipe on either side of Little Bay channel and crosses over Little Bay channel between Newington and Dover New Hampshire. The tie-in is suspended below the Little Bay Bridge, U.S. Route 16 and the Spaulding Turnpike. The pipeline segment suspended below the bridge is approximately 1,500 feet in length.

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) plans to remove the existing Little Bay Bridge and to construct a new bridge as part of the Newington-Dover Project No. 11238. GSGT will not be permitted to re-locate the pipeline underneath or along the new bridge. GSGT has been informed that the existing pipeline will need to be removed before mid-2013 to allow for the removal of the existing bridge.

GSGT proposes to replace the existing pipeline with an underground 10-inch diameter steel pipe that will be approximately 2,500 feet in length and sit in bedrock 30 feet below the bed of the Little Bay channel and Piscataqua River. GSGT proposes to install the replacement pipe through the use of horizontal directional drilling. The replacement pipe will run parallel to the Little Bay Bridge and enter and exit the river bed on state owned property administered by NHDOT. The Dover tie-in would be located within Hilton Park. The Newington tie-in would be located in the area of Shattuck Way.

### **The Motion**

GSGT requests that the Committee issue a declaratory ruling pursuant to New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Site 203.01 and RSA 541-A: 1, V, finding that the construction and operation of the proposed replacement pipeline does not constitute a sizable addition to an existing bulk power facility and therefore does not require a certificate of site and facility under RSA 162-H: 5, II.

The Motion seeks an expedited determination.

### **Public Inspection and Intervention**

Additional details concerning the proposed project and all other correspondence, filings, and public records regarding this matter including the Motion are available for public inspection at the Office of the Chairman of the Committee located at the Department of Environmental Services, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire. The Motion and Objection, and other correspondence regarding this matter may also be available at <http://www.nhsec.nh.gov/current.htm>.

It is further ordered that a copy of this Order and Notice of Public Hearing and Meeting shall be served, via first class mail, to all parties participating in the aforementioned docket. GSGT shall cause this Order of Notice of Public Hearing and Meeting to be published on or before May 11, 2012, in a newspaper of statewide circulation and also in newspapers of general circulation in Rockingham and Strafford Counties. GSGT shall file Affidavits attesting to said publication of notice with the Chairman of the Committee on or before May 25, 2012

Any person who may be interested in participating as a party to the Committee's Consideration of the Motion shall file a motion to intervene on or before May 23, 2012. Motions to Intervene should be addressed to the Chairman of the Committee at the following address:

Thomas S. Burack, Chairman  
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee  
c/o New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95  
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Petitions for intervention, pursuant to RSA 541-A: 32 and New Hampshire Code Of Administrative Rules, Site 202.11, must set forth facts demonstrating that the petitioner's rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, or that the petitioner qualifies as an intervenor under any provision of law; and, that the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings would not be impaired by allowing the intervention. The Chairman of the Committee will rule on all motions for intervention in accordance with RSA 541-A: 32 and New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Site 202.11. Intervenors may be subject to conditions, limitations and/or consolidation with others.

Written public comment is welcome through the conclusion of the proceedings in this docket.

BY ORDER OF THE SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012.

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee

  
Thomas S. Burack, Chairman