

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

ORDER AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING

April 15, 2014

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Site Evaluation Committee for the State of New Hampshire will conduct a public meeting on June 12, 2014, at 10:00 AM. The meeting shall be held at the offices of the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire.

The business of the Site Evaluation Committee shall include the following docket and any other business that is lawfully before the Committee.

**Docket No. 2014-01
Motion for Declaratory Ruling on Squamscott Replacement Project**

Background

On February 4, 2014, Granite State Gas Transmission Company (Granite State) filed a Motion for Declaratory Ruling on the Squamscott Replacement Project (Motion). Granite State is a New Hampshire corporation with a principal place of business in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Amongst other assets, Granite State owns and operates an interstate bidirectional 86 mile long high pressure (492 psig MAOP) natural gas transmission pipeline that transports natural gas between Haverhill, Massachusetts and Portland, Maine.

Granite State constructed the initial 15.6 mile section of 6-inch diameter pipeline between Essex Station in Haverhill, Massachusetts and Newfields Road in Exeter, New Hampshire in 1955. The pipeline from Newfields Road in Exeter, New Hampshire was extended to Pease Air Force Base in Newington, New Hampshire using 8-inch diameter pipe in 1956. Granite State upgraded some of its original facilities with 10-inch diameter pipe in 1968.

The relevant portion of the line, however, was not upgraded and consists of the original 8-inch pipe that had previously been serviced as an oil pipeline. As a result, the coating of the pipeline deteriorated and has become disbonded from the pipe making it difficult to maintain effective cathodic protection. Granite State plans to replace the 0.9 mile section of 8-inch diameter disbonded pipe located between Newfields Road in Exeter, New Hampshire and Route 101 in Stratham, New Hampshire thereby allowing for continuous internal pipeline inspection for 24 miles of 10-inch pipeline.

Granite State also plans to realign a portion of the replacement pipeline by co-locating it with the existing, Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline and Portland Natural Gas Transmission System 30-inch pipeline through easements and co-location agreements. Granite State plans to relocate the pipeline so that, instead of intersecting the Town of Exeter Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), it will go around WWTP. Finally, Granite State plans to adjust the existing

pipeline crossing of the Squamscott River by way of horizontal directional drilling to parallel the existing Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, LLC and Portland Natural Gas Transmission System pipeline in order to minimize environmental impacts on the river, river banks and shoreland areas.

Granite State 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 change or addition to an existing energy facility and therefore does not require a certificate of site and facility under RSA 162-H: 5, II. In the alternative, Granite State requests the Committee to treat the Motion as a request for exemption under RSA 162-H:4, IV and grant such exemption.

The Motion and other information pertaining to this matter may be reviewed during business hours at the Office of the Chairman of the Site Evaluation Committee located at:

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord N.H. 03301

or at the Committee's website: www.nhsec.nh.gov.

Authority for Hearing

The Committee's authority to undertake this proceeding is set forth at RSA 162-H:4, RSA 162-H:5, I and N.H. CODE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES, Site 203.01. The Committee must determine whether the construction and operation of the proposed replacement pipeline constitutes a sizable change or addition to an existing energy facility requiring a certificate of site and facility under RSA 162-H: 5, II. The Committee may alternatively determine whether the project should be exempt under RSA 162-H:4, IV.

Intervention and Public Comment

Any person wishing to intervene in this matter shall file a motion to intervene on or before May 26, 2014. Motions to intervene should comply with the requirements of N.H. CODE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES, Site 202.11 and shall be filed with:

Jane Murray, Secretary
NH Site Evaluation Committee
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord N.H. 03301

Motions to intervene may be electronically mailed to Ms. Murray at Jane.Murray@des.nh.gov.

A copy of any motion to intervene shall also be provided to counsel for the Petitioner, Maureen D. Smith, Esq., at Orr & Reno, 45 S. Main Street, PO Box 3550, Concord, NH 03302 or by electronic mail at msmith@orr-reno.com.

Objections to motions to intervene shall be filed by June 3, 2014. Written public comment on the Petition will be accepted through the conclusion of the proceedings. Written public comment shall be mailed to the Secretary to the committee at the above-listed address or sent by electronic mail to Jane.Murray@des.nh.gov.

At the public meeting, the Committee will consider motions to intervene, if any are filed, and in the absence of intervention, may deliberate on the merits of the Motion or may determine that further proceedings are necessary.

ORDER AND NOTICE

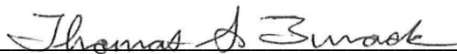
It is hereby ordered, that the Site Evaluation Committee for the State of New Hampshire, will meet in public session for consideration of matters pending in the above referenced dockets on June 12, 2014 at 10 AM at the offices of the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, N.H. 03301; and,

It is hereby further ordered, that Granite State Gas Transmission Company, Inc. shall cause a copy of this order and notice of public meeting to be published no later than May 5, 2014, in the New Hampshire Union Leader or New Hampshire Sunday News which are newspapers of regular statewide circulation. Granite State Gas Transmission Company, Inc. shall bear the cost of said publication; and,

It is hereby further ordered, that Granite State Gas Transmission Company, Inc. shall cause a copy of this order and notice of public meeting to be published in an additional newspaper of regular circulation in Rockingham County on or before May 5, 2014. In addition, Granite State Gas Transmission Company, Inc., shall publish a display ad in said newspaper advising the public of the date, time, place, and subject matter of the public meeting in Docket Number 2014-01. The display ad shall include the deadline for filing motions to intervene. The display ad shall be published not less than 10 nor more than 21 days prior to the date of the meeting.

The Applicant shall file an affidavit attesting to said publications of notice with the Chairman of the Committee on or before June 3, 2014.

By Order of the Site Evaluation Committee, this 15th day of April, 2014.



Thomas S. Burack, Chairman
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee