

To: The New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC)
Public Utilities Commission, Martin Honigberg, Chairman
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, NH 03301

From: Rebecca Weeks Sherrill More, Ph.D., Lancaster, New Hampshire

Re: Support for the July 29, 2015 AMC/SPNHF/Audubon Society concerning Proposed Changes to draft SEC Rules

Date: September 14, 2015

I am writing in support of the "Proposed Changes to draft SEC Rules," submitted on July 29 2015 by the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

The analysis and proposed revisions set forth by these three non-profit organizations are clearly designed with the best interested of the citizens of New Hampshire in mind. Their suggested revisions to the proposed rules will provide a *long-term* benefit to the State economy (tourism, education, habitat protection, etc.) through conservation of the State's natural and historic resources.

Specifically, the proposed revisions to **Site 102.07 and Site 102.18** would protect and enhance a State resource such as **Weeks State Park in Lancaster NH**. Weeks State Park was selected by the Department of Energy in its *Draft EIS* (July 2015) as one of its fifteen (15) "Key Observation Points" [KOP #LA-2a]. Weeks State Park (WSP) is among the many locations throughout New Hampshire that could be negatively impacted by poorly sited energy projects. In the case of Weeks State Park, such impacts would affect tourism, education and cultural resources in the North Country - an area that deserves statewide support. Weeks State Park commands a *unique* 360o view which includes: the entire Presidential Range from Mts. Madison to Moosilauke, both the northern and southern sections of White Mountain National Forest, the Connecticut River valley from the Percy Peaks to Gilman, west to Camel's Hump Mountain near Burlington Vermont and the ranges of the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont as far as Mt. Monadnock near Canaan. Visitors do not come to see ill-sited energy projects, but rather for the quintessential beauty of the White Mountains wilderness.

The superb WSP scenic outlooks along its winding drive to the summit bring visitors to a 1912 stone Fire Tower and the unique-to-New Hampshire 1913 Arts & Crafts style National Register of Historic Places home of US Congressman, Senator and Secretary of War John Wingate Weeks. For the thousands of visitors each year, the Lodge, Fire Tower and Park symbolize Weeks's crucial role in the creation of the White Mountains National Forest (1918) through the Weeks Act of 1911. In the 1913 Lodge atop Weeks State Park, visitors learn about the history of sustainable forestry in New Hampshire and the painstaking reclamation of lands stripped of trees by the nineteenth century logging industry over the past 104 years. They can see for themselves that prudent governmental protection can result in environmental, economic and cultural benefit to an entire region for the long-term.

Through careful revision of its proposed rules, the NH Site Evaluation Committee has the opportunity to establish long-term protocols that will promote varied and sustainable energy projects while conserving the valuable beauty of New Hampshire for future generations. This is the legacy of the Weeks Act of 1911 and I trust that the SEC will continue to honor that legacy.

Thank you.

Rebecca Weeks Sherrill More, Ph.D, 60 Weeks Rd., Lancaster NH 03584