



Durham Historic Association
1 Newmarket Road
Durham, NH 03824

December 7, 2016

VIA EMAIL AND USPS

Ms. Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

**Re: New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee 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 Construction
of New Transmission Line (Madbury to Portsmouth)**

Dear Ms. Monroe:

Please find enclosed our Reply in Support of Petition to Intervene, in response to Objections filed by Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy.

Copies of this filing have been sent via email to all parties on the SEC Distribution List.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nancy P. Sandberg
Curator

Encl.
cc: SEC Distribution List Docket 2015-04

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Docket No. 2015-04

REPLY IN SUPPORT OF PETITION TO INTERVENE

Application of Public Service Company of New Hampshire
d/b/a Eversource energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility for
Construction of New 115 kV Transmission Line (Madbury to Portsmouth)

Durham Historic Association submits this Reply in Support of Petition to Intervene in the above referenced matter and respectfully states as follows:

1. DHA is a non-profit organization whose members research the history of Oyster River Plantation and the Town of Durham. During its 165 year history, DHA has amassed historical documents specific to local events, residents, sites and structures. With their knowledge, DHA members advise and educate Durham officials, residents and others about the historic sites of Oyster River Plantation and the Town of Durham.
2. New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources data about Historic Resources and Archaeological Sites was redacted in Pre-Filed Direct Testimony and in the relevant Appendices to the Application. The data was withheld from the public because it qualifies as exempted information as defined by the United States Freedom of Information Act. The redacting of the Historic Resources and Archaeological Sites data is elective, not mandatory. The decision made by NHDHR to redact all data delayed DHA's evaluation of the historic and archaeologically sensitive sites that had been identified for consideration.
3. In Appendix 33, Communications with NHDHR and USACE Confidential, the data and maps are redacted. From what is visible, DHA determined the USACE Area of Potential Effect includes approximately 20 sensitive sites in Durham identified as containing a Historic Resource or an Archaeological Site. DHA is aware of additional historical and archaeological sites within the Area of Potential Effect. Many of the DHA-identified sites, including human burial sites, are not coded as historical sites on the maps in Appendix 2 SRP Environmental Maps.
4. The reports prepared by consultants hired to identify historic resources are superficial and incomplete. The hired consultants' research relied heavily on data easily found on the internet, such as map and census records dating from 1850. Oyster River Plantation was founded 220 years before 1850 and sites from the earlier periods were not researched. No reports mentioned that Durham is a rare First Contact Period locality, where the Wabanaki lived with the English during the mid-1600s. None of the affected sites from that period were identified or listed.
5. The potential destruction of archaeological and historical sites, not identified during the review process, affects the research of the members of DHA and their educational mission. These threats compelled DHA's board of directors to vote unanimously to petition the SEC for intervenor status. The loss of historical and archaeological sites affects members' research of local history, as well as precluding utilization of advanced scientific techniques at these sites in the future. Archaeological and historical sites are primary sources of data essential to the research of DHA members; there is no substitute.