The Chamber COLLABORATIVE of Greater Portsmouth

2018 28 September

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Seacoast Reliability Project

Dear Ms. Monroe…

My name is Valerie Rochon and I serve as the President of The Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth, a membership organization of approximately 800 businesses in the Seacoast region.

In recent discussions during our Executive Circle roundtables, C-level management has identified energy – its availability and cost – as the second most urgent concern after workforce acquisition and retention.

Access to reliable energy determines whether our major manufacturing operations at Pease Tradeport will remain in the Seacoast area or move their plants to more energy-reliable and less costly locations. Threats of brownouts and intermittent electrical service puts the health of our local economy at risk as we are in danger of losing current employers and creating a negative environment in which to attract new employers to our area.

Eversource has worked diligently to address all underground and above ground site corridor concerns. Our business community cannot function without reliable electrical power. Local residents have become uber-dependent on consistent electrical service as our use of technology has become interwoven in our daily lives.

We respectfully request that the SEC support Eversource's efforts to create a reliable energy transmission system for the Seacoast's current and future needs. At the same time, it is critical that the Seacoast Reliability Project protects the quality of life and environment in our communities. We ask that the SEC carefully consider how to mitigate any lasting negative impact to abutting businesses, property owners, our bays and the thriving sea-farming operations as this project moves forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie T. Rochon

President
Representing the Board of Directors of The Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth