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January 12, 2018

**VIA IN-HAND DELIVERY & E-MAIL**

Pamela Monroe, Administrator  
NH Site Evaluation Committee  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301  
pamela.monroe@sec.nh.gov

**RE: NH Site Evaluation Committee Docket No. 2015-06: Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility**

Dear Ms. Monroe,

Enclosed please find the:

1. Business Intervenor Group's Post Hearing Memorandum in Support of Issuance of a Certificate of Site and Facility; and
2. Corresponding Certificate of Service.

On Behalf of the Business & Organizations with Economic  
Interests Intervenor Group,



Alan Raff



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

RE:

Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and  
Public Service Company of New Hampshire  
d/b/a Eversource Energy:

Joint Application for a Certificate of Site and  
Facility for Construction of a New High Voltage  
Electric Transmission Line in New Hampshire

SEC DOCKET No. 2015-06

Business Intervenor Group's Post Hearing Memorandum  
in Support of Issuance of a Certificate of Site and Facility

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Cate Street Capital, Inc., the Coos County Business and Employers Group, and Dixville Capital, LLC and Balsams Resort Holdings, LLC (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Business Intervenor Group") submit this Post Hearing Memorandum in Support of Issuance of a Certificate of Site and Facility, and say:

The Applicants, Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy, have the burden to demonstrate that the Project complies with the provisions of RSA 162-H:16, IV and the SEC's rules. The evidence presented in this matter supports a finding that the Applicants have meet their burden. As a result, the Subcommittee should issue a Certificate of Site and Facility.

**I. Northern Pass Meets the Requirements of RSA 162-H:16, IV.**

RSA 162-H:16, IV and the SEC's rules establish the standard that the Project must meet to receive a Certificate of Site and Facility. RSA 162-H:16, IV provides:

After due consideration of all relevant information regarding the potential siting or routes of a proposed energy facility, including potential significant impacts and benefits, the site evaluation committee shall determine if issuance of a certificate



will service the objectives of this chapter. In order to issue a certificate, the committee shall find that:

- (a) The applicant has adequate financial, technical, and managerial capability to assure construction and operation of the facility in continuing compliance with the terms and conditions of the certificate;
- (b) The site and facility will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of municipal and regional planning commissions and municipal governing bodies;
- (c) The site and facility will not have an unreasonable adverse effect on aesthetics, historic sites, air and water quality, the natural environment, and public health and safety.
- (d) [Repealed.]
- (e) Issuance of a certificate will serve the public interest.

While the Business Intervenor Group avers that the Applicants have met their burden on all statutory criteria, it circumscribes its post-hearing memorandum to highlighting how the Applicants have met their burden on two of the enumerated statutory criteria: the orderly development of the region and the public interest.

**A. Northern Pass “will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of municipal and regional planning commissions and municipal governing bodies.” RSA 162-H:16, IV(b).**

As the SEC rules provide: “In determining whether a proposed energy facility will unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region, the committee shall consider: (a) [t]he extent to which the siting, construction, and operation of the proposed facility will affect land use, employment, and the economy of the region; (b) [t]he provisions of, and financial assurances for, the proposed decommissioning plan for the proposed facility; and (c) [t]he views of municipal and regional planning commissions and municipal governing bodies regarding the proposed facility.”

Site 301.05.



Here, the Project is consistent with the orderly development of the region. A portion of the Project will go underground in and around the White Mountain National Forest to minimize and avoid potential impacts in this area. (Exh. APP. 6, Quinlan Supp. Pre-Filed Direct Testimony 1:23-25.) Moreover, much of the Project will be located within rights-of-way in which transmission lines already exist.

Additionally, the Project will make significant property tax payments throughout New Hampshire. For the first full year of operation, these tax payments will total between approximately \$35 million to \$40 million. These tax payments will help towns, cities, and counties improve existing facilities and infrastructure. For example, the tax payments to the City of Franklin will provide significant relief to the city and allow it to pave roadways and improve schools. See (Exh. FRANKLIN-BERLIN 2, Dragon Pre-Filed Direct Testimony.) The tax payments that will result from this Project will benefit the host communities and have a positive impact on individuals throughout New Hampshire.

Importantly, the Project will also create a significant number of jobs during the construction phase of the transmission line, which will benefit New Hampshire. The IBEW presented testimony from Joe Casey and Tiler Eaton to discuss the significant, positive impact this Project will have on members of the IBEW. See generally (Exh. BUS 11, Eaton Pre-Filed Direct Testimony); (Exh. BUS 10, Casey Pre-Filed Direct Testimony.) The Project will create good paying jobs for members of the IBEW and will increase the demand for well-trained electricians and apprentices. (Id.) It will further help add young and qualified workers to New Hampshire's construction industry in a significant way. (Id.) This will not only benefit the IBEW and its members, but it will also benefit New Hampshire as a whole. (Id.)



The CCBEG also presented testimony that this Project will help provide job prospects to individuals living in Coos County. See (Exh. BUS 3, Bouthillier Pre-Filed Direct Testimony.) As set forth in that testimony, the Project will provide invaluable economic benefits, both in the short term and the long term, that will help address local economic challenges by creating jobs, retaining population in Coos County, and enhancing the quality of life for those in Coos County.

With respect to the short term benefits, the Project will create thousands of jobs during construction and the Project has consistently stated it is committed to hiring New Hampshire workers first. Businesses in the northern part of New Hampshire ("North Country") will benefit from the opportunities that the Project will provide, which will produce a much needed economic boost and foster economic growth in this part of the State.

With respect to the long-term benefits, the Project has agreed to implement initiatives like the Forward New Hampshire Plan and the North Country Jobs Creation Fund, which will provide long-term economic opportunities for North Country businesses and communities. The Coos Loop will also be upgraded, which is critical for the future of the North Country because it will allow increased development of renewable energy in the North Country. The fact that the Coos Loop is at capacity prohibits the introduction of more renewable energy projects. However, if the Coos Loop is upgraded, it will increase output from existing energy infrastructure and may result in construction of new wind energy and solar energy facilities. These long-term benefits, coupled with the increased tax revenue from the Project that will go to host communities, will have a positive impact on Coos County, in addition to the rest of the state.

The Project will also address New Hampshire's and the region's energy supply diversity issue. It will allow up to 1,090 MW of electricity that is hydropower and does not depend on natural gas. It will help reduce volatility during the winter months and will collectively help save New



Hampshire business and residential customers millions of dollars. These benefits address concern from the business community that there is a decreasing availability of low cost, reliable electricity in New Hampshire. See, e.g., (BAE Comment Letter dated Feb. 13, 2017); see also (Exh. BUS 1, Otten Pre-Filed Direct Testimony 5:88–91) (“With more than 8,000 MW of capacity either having been retired or slated to be retired by 2020, the power capacity to New England that NPT represents is vital to ensure sufficient capacity exists to sustain the Balsams’ operations.”) As noted by BAE in its comment letter as well as in comments from other organizations, the Project would bring lower cost energy to the region. New Hampshire employers and residents currently pay fifty to sixty percent higher than the national average, year-round. (BIA Comment Letter dated June 29, 2017.) Manufacturers, are not only large energy consumers, they also the lifeblood of New Hampshire’s economy. As these manufacturers seek to expand their businesses, the availability of low cost energy will be a significant factor in whether they decide to grow within New Hampshire, or seek lower energy rates in neighboring states. (Id.) If existing companies move out of the region because of the high cost of energy, the state of New Hampshire will suffer a loss of jobs and tax revenue. (Manchester Chamber of Commerce Comment Letter dated Nov. 22, 2017.) The Project will dispel uncertainty for these businesses and remove a major impediment to business development in New Hampshire and the rest of the region.

Based on the evidence presented during the hearings, the Applicants have met their burden of proving that the Project will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region. The Project will, in fact, have a positive impact on New Hampshire and the region, given the many direct and indirect benefits that will result from the Project.



**B. Issuance of a certificate will serve the public interest. RSA 162-H:16,  
IV(e)**

Site 301.16 of the SEC rules provide the following with respect to evaluating whether a project serves the public interest:

In determining whether a proposed energy facility will serve the public interest, the committee shall consider:

- (a) The welfare of the population;
- (b) Private property;
- (c) The location and growth of industry;
- (d) The overall economic growth of the state;
- (e) The environment of the state;
- (f) Historic sites;
- (g) Aesthetics;
- (h) Air and water quality;
- (i) The use of natural resources; and
- (j) Public health and safety.

In making its determination, the Subcommittee must, consistent with the legislative history associated with RSA 162-H, assess whether the Project will provide benefits. It does not give the Subcommittee authority to weigh the negative impacts of a project against its benefits.

Based on the evidence submitted in this matter, the Project will serve the public interest. The Project will reduce pollution. The Project will also result in substantial property tax payments to the host towns, cities, and counties. As indicated in detail above, the Project will have a significant, positive impact on New Hampshire's economy by creating jobs and other economic benefits for New Hampshire businesses and residents. Additionally, the Project will have a positive



impact on the environment by reducing carbon emissions in New Hampshire and, in turn, in New England, consistent with existing environmental policies and efforts to combat climate change. These benefits, as well as others outlined during the testimony and in the evidence before the Subcommittee, are significant and demonstrate that the Project serves the public interest.

## **II. Conclusion**

As set forth in the testimony submitted during the hearings and based on the evidence, the Applicants have met their burden of proof on each of the statutory criteria set forth in RSA 162-H:16. For these reasons, the Business Intervenor Group respectfully requests that the Subcommittee issue a Certificate of Site and Facility in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,  
BUSINESS & ORGANIZATIONS WITH ECONOMIC  
INTERESTS INTERVENOR GROUP

By Its Spokesperson,

Dated: 1/12/18

By: ARH  
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### **Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that on this day the foregoing was sent to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee and a copy was sent by electronic mail or U.S. Mail, postage prepaid to persons named on the SEC distribution list.

Dated: 1/13/18

By: ARH  
Alan Raff