



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

State of New Hampshire, Department of Cultural Resources

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November 12, 2015

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

Re: Application of Northern Pass Transmission, NH Site Evaluation Committee Docket No. 2015-06

Dear Ms. Monroe:

This letter is to notify you that the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (DHR) has completed its determination as to whether the above-referenced application contains sufficient information for a decision of completeness.

The DHR has a responsibility to review this project under NH RSA 227-C:9 and under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended. NH RSA 227-C:9 directs all state agencies, departments, commissions and institutions to fully cooperate with the DHR in identifying historical resources and addressing adverse effects during state-assisted projects, activities and programs. Section 106 requires federal agencies to work with State Historic Preservation Officers and the public to consider the effects of agency actions on historic properties and to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment on them prior to implementation. For the Section 106 review of the Northern Pass Transmission Project, the US Department of Energy (DOE) has been designated the lead federal agency review.

Pursuant to NH RSA 162-H:7, IV, the DHR has conducted a preliminary review of the application and cannot consider it sufficient given the incomplete status of resource identification within the project area and the materials' inconsistency with documents prepared for the project's Section 106 review.

- Archaeological / below-ground resources: incomplete Phase IA/IB testing results and lack of Phase II recommendations.
- Architectural / above-ground resources: study methodology and results incomplete and inconsistent with Section 106 review and state and federal guidance.

The application is considered incomplete until the applicant concludes the identification process or until such time a Section 106 Programmatic Agreement has been executed between the applicant, DOE, DHR and other federal concurring parties.

Pursuant to NH RSA 162-H:7-a, the DHR designates two staff liaisons to assist the Committee if it has further questions: Edna Feighner, Review & Compliance Coordinator and Archaeologist, edna.feighner@dcr.nh.gov, and Nadine Peterson, Preservation Project Review, nadine.peterson@dcr.nh.gov. Thank you for providing the DHR an opportunity to comment; if you have any questions please contact me at 603- 271-2813.

Sincerely,

Edna Feighner
Review and Compliance Coordinator

