

State of New Hampshire
Site Evaluation Committee

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December 31, 2015

VIA E-MAIL AND INTER-DEPARTMENT MAIL

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John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner
NH Dept. of Safety
33 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03305

Carol Henderson
NH Fish & Game Department
11 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Re: 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, Site Evaluation Committee Docket No. 2015-06

Dear State Agency Leaders:

NOTICE OF INITIATION OF PROCEEDING

On October 19, 2015, Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy filed a joint application for a certificate of site and facility (Application) with the Site Evaluation Committee (Committee). The Application seeks the issuance of a Certificate of Site and Facility (Certificate) approving the siting, construction and operation of a 192-mile transmission line and associated facilities with a capacity rating of up to 1,090 MW from the Canadian border in Pittsburg, NH in Coos County to Deerfield, NH in Rockingham County.

On November 2, 2015, a Subcommittee was appointed in this docket. The presiding officer is Martin Honigberg. On December 18, 2015, the Subcommittee issued an order finding that the Application contained sufficient information to carry out the purposes of RSA 162-H. The purpose of this letter is to formally notify your agency, pursuant to RSA 162-H:7-a, II, that the Committee has accepted the Application and initiated a proceeding.

The Application and all other filings in this docket are located at the Committee's website: www.nhsec.nh.gov.

All filings in this docket should be directed to:

Pamela Monroe, Administrator
NH Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301
Pamela.monroe@sec.nh.gov.
(603) 271-2435

**STATE AGENCIES WITH PERMITTING
OR OTHER REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

If your agency has permitting or other regulatory authority over any aspect of the Application, RSA 162-H:7-a governs how you may participate in the proceedings.

Your agency should review those portions of the Application that pertain to your permitting and other regulatory authority. In accordance with RSA 162-H:7, VI-b, your agency must **report your progress** to the Subcommittee no later than **May 16, 2016**. The progress reports shall include an outline of draft permit conditions and specify additional data requirements that are necessary to make a final

decision on the parts of the Application that relate to your agency's permitting or other regulatory authority.

Further, in accordance with RSA 162-H:7, VI-c, your agency must make and submit to the Subcommittee a **final decision** on the parts of the Application that relate to your agency's permitting or other regulatory authority no later than **August 15, 2016**.

RSA 162-H:7-a, I(c), provides that your agency should identify any issues of concern about those portions of the Application that relate to your permitting or other regulatory authority or advise the Subcommittee if there are no issues of concern for your agency. In the event that issues of concern exist, you may designate witnesses to appear before the Subcommittee at a hearing to provide the agency's input and to answer questions posed by the Subcommittee and the parties to the proceeding.

Lastly, RSA 162-H:7-a, IV, provides that if your agency intends to participate in the proceeding, that you advise the presiding officer the name of your staff that will be the agency liaison. The presiding officer may request the attendance of your agency's designated liaison at a session of the Subcommittee if that person could materially assist the Subcommittee. The agency liaison should be someone other than the staff person that has been designated as a witness.

STATE AGENCIES THAT DO NOT HAVE PERMITTING OR OTHER REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Pursuant to RSA 162-H:7-a, III, if your agency does not have permitting or other regulatory authority related to the Application or the Project, but wishes to participate in the proceedings, your agency must file a request to participate in the proceeding within 30 days of receipt of this letter to Pamela Monroe, Administrator, at the address listed above.

In your request you should set forth, in detail, the material interest that your agency has in the proceeding. In accordance with RSA 162-H:7-a, III, the presiding officer of the Subcommittee will determine whether your agency has a material interest in the proceeding and whether your agency's participation conforms with the normal procedural rules of the Committee. If permitted to participate, you must designate a staff liaison from your agency. Your staff liaison to the Committee should expect to be required to attend all hearings, pre-hearing conferences and technical sessions. Your staff liaison should review RSA 162-H and the Committee's administrative rules, Site 100, *et seq.* Both are available on the Committee's website. Your agency, if permitted to participate, will be required to conform to all the same requirements as other parties to the proceeding including any procedural orders issued by the presiding officer.

Your agency may also choose to file a formal motion to intervene in the proceedings consistent with the requirements of RSA 541-A:32 and NH CODE OF ADMIN. RULES, Site 202.11.

PUBLIC RECORDS AND EX-PARTE COMMUNICATIONS
(RSA 162-H:7-a, V; and RSA 541-A:36)

Please be aware that all communications between your agency, its witnesses or its liaison, and the Subcommittee will be included in the official record of this docket and will be publically available. Ex-parte communications with Subcommittee members about the Project or the Application are strictly prohibited.

Should you have any questions about this notification please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. G. Monroe', written over a horizontal line.

Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
Site Evaluation Committee