

March 1, 2016

By E-Mail & U.S. Mail

Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429
pamela.monroe@sec.nh.gov

Re: 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:

As part of its review of the above-cited application, the Site Evaluation Committee (the “Committee”) has proposed to conduct a number of site visits to further its and the parties’ analysis of the impacts of the Northern Pass Transmission project (the “Project”). In preparation for that, you have asked us to assist in identifying specific locations to include in the site visit that would be valuable for the parties to view. At this early stage in the case we are unable to provide that assistance and instead suggest that you either postpone the planned site visits or begin to plan another set of site visits at a later date. Our reasons for this suggestion are as follows:

- The optimal time for conducting site visits would likely be in the late spring or early summer of this year. It is important to view these locations when foliage is at full growth. This will allow a true understanding of the potential screening ability of the vegetation, but it will also allow the Committee and the parties to see these locations at one of their more sensitive times.¹
- As of this date, the Committee has not established the parties to the docket. Those parties should have the right to attend a site visit and provide information to the Committee on the relevance and significance of the viewed locations. Moreover, the Committee may group some of the parties by relevant interests. It would be more efficient to understand those groupings and how they affect the operation of this docket before conducting the site visit.
- Additional time will allow Counsel for the Public, through visual impacts, historical resources, and construction planning experts and the other parties in the docket, to

¹ Counsel for the Public also acknowledges that it would be valuable for the Committee and the parties to view the locations in a leaf-off state as this is when the Project facilities are more likely to be visible.

investigate what locations are considered sensitive by the communities in which they are located. This will allow a more efficient organization of the site visit and the docket as a whole.

- The Joint Applicants just recently submitted their supplemental filing and there has not been sufficient time to review those documents. This filing may contain information that impacts where the Committee and the parties may want to view on a site visit.

Counsel for the Public will suggest dates for the site visits in a comprehensive docket schedule that will be presented to the Committee and the parties.

Copies of this letter and its enclosure have been forwarded via e-mail to all parties on the Distribution List.

Thank you.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Emerson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elijah D. Emerson

cc: Distribution List via e-mail