

State of New Hampshire
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee

Docket No. 2015-06

Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission LLC (“NPT”) and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource”) for a Certificate of Site and Facility for the Construction of a New 1,090 MW Electric Transmission Line

RE: Objection to grouping and limiting discussion of New Hampshire Sierra Club

New Hampshire Sierra Club (NHSC) respectfully responds to the motion from Eversource Energy to propose grouping of NHSC with non-governmental groups and limit the scope our discussion.

First, we object to the grouping proposal. While NHSC is encouraged by the many groups and individuals who have also requested to intervene, our main focus is environmental. We feel we are best positioned to represent our specific policies that have been developed by our staff and volunteers since the group was formed over 120 years ago with the mission to “explore, enjoy, and protect the earth.”

NHSC has specific policy opposing large hydro-electric projects and the associated transmission lines. The energy needs of New Hampshire and the region can be met with truly clean and renewable energy sources, like energy efficiency, solar, wind and other methods. NHSC also opposes the burying alternatives since it is really just a continuation of the project and burying will not stop the project.

Secondly, NHSC rejects the statement that the renewable energy characteristics of the project are irrelevant. It is the Applicant who claims the energy source is renewable and clean; therefore, the Applicant must prove their claims. It is a major selling point of the project and a claim we call “green washing” – or unfounded assertions of environmental benefits. The application process poses the burden of proof on the Applicant.

NHSC does not agree that the energy is renewable or clean. The source of the energy is destructive. The energy source has displaced First Nations People in Canada for years and the legal disputes are well known. For the People of the First Nations, Hydro Quebec’s reservoirs have eliminated traditional villages, hunting grounds, and clear cut sensitive forests completely changing their way of life.

The reservoirs have destroyed habitat for rare and potentially endangered species, including migratory birds, mammals and fish. The anadromous fish that must migrate into the ocean and return to a specific turn in a river to reproduce are deeply impacted because the river has been destroyed and the reproductive cycle forever ruined. How are any of these resulting impacts “clean” or “renewable”?

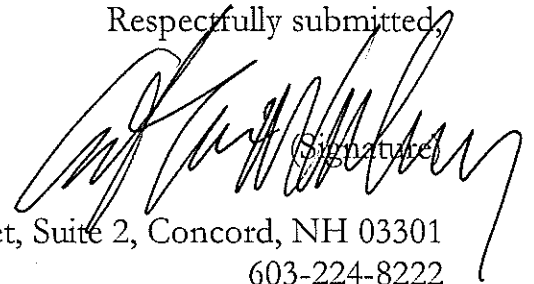
Further, if this project is permitted, it will only encourage continued expansion of flooding throughout the Provinces of Quebec and Newfoundland, Canada that will cause ever more population displacement, more environmental destruction and more broken animal life cycles. Not to mention the impacts on our climate.

Closer to home, the chilling effect Northern Pass would have on local truly renewable energy and efficiency measures would be huge. In a state with aging inventory of schools, municipal buildings, homes and businesses, efficiency efforts are important investments to lower energy demand and costs.

The property rights of New Hampshire landowners would be violated by the prospects of additional substantially taller towers in the old land easements. These easements are anywhere between 60 to 80 years old and never envisioned an international transmission superhighway suspended 90-130 feet in the sky over farms, rivers, hills and valleys of New Hampshire. The visual impacts would destroy the peace and quiet of the Granite State.

Lastly, Hydro Quebec, a company that has repeatedly broken contracts in the past, might be a risky partner that could result in years of litigation. Eversource’s proposal includes a proposed 100MW power purchase agreement for New Hampshire customers, a proposal that is anti-competitive and not in the best interests of New Hampshire ratepayers. The Committee should fully understand all of the parties, implications, and the underlying contracts of this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,



(Signature)

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Certificate of Service

I certify that service of this filing was made pursuant to SEC rules on all parties on the service list this 7th day of March, 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'ME'.

