

North Country Scenic Byways Council

March 10, 2016

Pamela Monroe, Administrator
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 S. Fruit Street Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re. New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee Docket No. 2015-06
Northern Pass Transmission Project Application
Response to "Applicant's Response and Objection to Certain Petitions to Intervene"

Dear Ms. Monroe:

In its submission to the SEC on February 26, 2016, the Applicant objected to certain petitions to intervene and suggested that certain potential intervenors be grouped together. In Appendix A of this document, the Applicant listed the North Country Scenic Byways Council (NCSBC) under "2. Municipal Sub-Units," even though the NCSBC is not a municipal sub-unit. On page 18, the Applicant requests that municipal sub-units be either be "required to combine or coordinate their participation with their respective towns outside of these proceedings" or be treated "as parties to the proceeding as the Committee deems appropriate and least likely to impair the prompt and orderly conduct of the proceeding.

The applicant does not mention NCSBC except in its erroneous grouping of NCSBC with municipal sub-units in its Appendix. Since the NCSBC is not a municipal sub-unit of any town, it cannot be grouped with its "respective town." Thus, it is clear that the applicant a) does not object to the Committee's granting intervenor status to NCSBC and b) leaves it up to the Committee as to how NCSBC should be treated as a party to the proceeding.

In our petition for intervenor status, we showed how NCSBC has a unique perspective on the proposed Northern Pass Project. Since NH has designated nearly all of the major roads in Coos County and Northern Grafton County as scenic byways, we are concerned with the visual impact of the project throughout the entire North Country. The nature and scope of our concerns are unique, and they are central to an understanding of the adverse aesthetic impacts of the proposed project. As stated in our petition dated February 4, 2016:

The overhead portion of the project will cross scenic byways in eight location in Coos and Northern Grafton County, and they will cross access roads to many of the region's scenic, cultural and recreational attractions. At each of the more than 40 locations where the overhead lines cross the roads, travelers will have close views of massive towers, a view that they will likely consider to be adverse or even unreasonably adverse. Repeated views of industrial towers in an otherwise wild or rural area will have an increasingly negative and cumulative impact on visitors ...

We believe that we are uniquely qualified to represent the interests of the North Country Scenic Byways and that no other agency or organization could articulate or represent our concerns as well as we can. As applicant did not object to our participation, we believe that the SEC should accept our petition to be an intervenor.

Sincerely,

/s/

Carl D. Martland, Chair
North Country Scenic Byways Council
Home address: 16 Post Road, Sugar Hill, NH, 03586

cc: SEC distribution list (as of the date of this email) for Docket No. 2015-06. Copies sent by email.