



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970

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March 17, 2016

Pamela Monroe, Administrator
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 South 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 Applicants' Response and
Objection to Certain Petitions to Intervene

Dear Ms. Monroe,

The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) is a non-profit organization established in 1970 to provide technical assistance and support to the 216 municipal conservation commissions in New Hampshire.

The Conservation Commissions of seven communities (Ashland, Bethlehem, Dalton, Deerfield, Easton, Franconia and Holderness) have filed for Intervenor status in the current docket. The Applicants filed a Response and Objection to Certain Petitions to Intervene on February 26, 2016 which proposes 1) that the conservation commissions be grouped together with other entities as "Municipal Sub-Units", and 2) that their participation in the process be limited.

We write in support of full Intervenor status for these seven conservation commissions. RSA 36-A:2 authorized creation of local conservation commissions "...for the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources and for the protection of watershed resources..." within the community. We do not agree with the Applicants when they assume that the conservation commission "...interests are already properly and sufficiently represented by their respective Towns and town governing bodies" (Applicants' Objection @48). A conservation commission's opinion may be contrary to that of another municipal body. Further, each conservation commission possesses a unique familiarity and specialized local knowledge of natural resources and water resources. We believe that local knowledge is essential for the SEC to make an informed decision on this proposal. In some locations the proposed transmission line may have a direct effect on conservation land managed by the conservation commission. The SEC has previously granted full Intervenor status to Conservation Commissions in the Antrim Wind Power Docket (2012-01), and we request that same status be granted in this case.

Respectfully,

Carol K. Andrews
NHACC Interim Executive Director