

March 28, 2016

Pamela G. Monroe, Administer
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Dear Ms. Monroe,

I am writing to request a review of the decision to group all non-abutters petitioning to intervene under one spokesperson who would be responsible for representing everyone from Pittsburg to Bethlehem.

While these non-abutters share largely similar opinions of the proposed project, their specific concerns are varied and specific, and can not be effectively communicated by one person. How could someone who has never even been to Stewartstown, for example, represent the unique concerns of an intervenor from that town? This is not a credible exercise of due process.

I appreciate the concern for orderly hearings, but the number of intervenors is abnormally high precisely because the specific impacts of Northern Pass's proposed project are so many and so widespread. I am sure a middle ground can be reached, but without more local representation, there is no way the current intervenors, including myself, will have the effective participation which the SEC process is meant to provide for.

I am asking for a more granular grouping, wherein local spokespeople for the intervenors will more ably represent specific and disparate concerns. One possible division could be, instead of just North and South non-abutters, splitting the North into the White Mountains and the Great North Woods. There is precedent for this, for example, in the way by which the DOE's Section 106 analysis is being carried forth.

I will echo my neighbor Martin Kaufman's sentiment that an even better breakdown would address the types of concerns brought forth by intervenors, for example:

1. Property value and view issues: One example is the Dixville Notch- Harvey Swell Location Intervenors Group (already a self-grouping), 44 people and growing, all have similar concerns regarding the natural and historical resources of our area, and the negative impacts to property values, aesthetics, wildlife including bat hibernaculae, and tourism.
2. Water issues:
 - Impact on springs
 - Water lines
 - Wells/aquifers
3. Historical landmark issues: In the Kenneth Poore Foundation Museum in Stewartstown, as well as the Library of Congress in Washington, are historical maps with a designation of Bear Rock as a specific location near Heath Road and Holden Hill Road, worthy of further research, which is now being done. On that spot is planned a transition area from underground to overhead towers on Bear Rock. We believe Bear Rock and the surrounding district to be eligible for designation by the National Historic Trust, and have a specific interest in seeing it protected.

4. Cemeteries:

- North Hill Cemetery where Metallak is buried. Local knowledge is not yet reflected in the DOE evaluation of the proposed route(s).
- This is a sensitive area in that there are people who have planted trees in memory of loved ones, and loved ones who have been buried outside of typical cemeteries and burial sites. This is not an abstract concern. In at least a handful of places, there are burials that would be disturbed by Northern Pass's proposed underground route. This is another example of a specific concern that merits its own grouping.

The concern for an orderly hearing is warranted and understandable, but this is a very messy project. In order for it to be evaluated with prudence and care, it necessitates more than a one size fits all approach.

In addition to greater flexibility in terms of grouping, it is essential that the timeline be extended as well. The DOE, which has been evaluating this project for over 5 years, has still not finished its Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and the Section 106 Review is still in early stages. The DOE is discovering new impacts and concerns daily, and is unlikely to conclude its work for at least several more months. With the current SEC timeline, our state evaluation will have been half over at that point, before many of the facts are on the table.

In closing, my requests are two-fold. Please separate the large and growing group into more localized groupings, such as Great North Woods and the White Mountains, or into groupings reflecting specific concerns, and extend the SEC hearing time-frame from 12-months to 24-months.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Peter Petrofsky
680 Bear Rock Road
Stewartstown, NH 03576