



July 18, 2016

Mr. Roy D. Gilbreth, Chair
Franklin Conservation Commission
316 Central Street
Franklin, NH 03235

Re: Comments, NH Site Evaluation Committee Docket No. 2015-06- Joint application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire dba Eversource Energy

Dear Mr. Gilbreth:

On behalf of Northern Pass Transmission LLC ("NPT") we are responding to the comments contained in your letter dated February 11, 2016 and addressed to Pamela Monroe of the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee ("SEC") related to the Northern Pass Project. We respectfully offer the following response to your comments regarding the protection of migratory birds and other avian and mammal species, use of land within an existing ROW, and the proposed converter terminal and associated lands ("Converter Terminal Site").

Migratory Bird and Other Species Protection

Rare, threatened and endangered species, their associated habitats, and other important wildlife habitats were reviewed, surveys were conducted, and potential impacts were assessed and reported in the *Wildlife Report and Impact Assessment* (SEC Application Appendix 36). Project commitments for wildlife impact avoidance and minimization, such as timing restrictions and construction monitoring, are included as Appendix B to the *Natural Resource Mitigation Plan* (SEC Application Appendix 32). In addition, the Project will comply with all state and federal laws, regulations, and permit conditions regarding the protection of these species and natural resources.

Construction Matting and the Great Gains Memorial Forest

Construction matting will be used as needed for construction vehicle access in the wetlands located in the existing transmission line ROW that passes through portions of the Great Gains Memorial Forest (GGMF) in the vicinity of Flaghole Road. Existing access roads will be utilized to the greatest extent possible in upland areas located within the existing ROW where it passes through the GGMF.

Franklin Converter Terminal Site and Design

We are not aware of wild lupine at the Converter Terminal Site, and this information was not included in data provided by the NH Natural Heritage Bureau (NHNHB) for this location, but please provide us with specific location information and we will investigate this and coordinate as appropriate with the NHNHB. Once we have completed our investigation, we would be happy to meet with you to discuss the results and any next steps if warranted.

Final design of the converter terminal will not be complete until mid-2017 so we do not yet know what type of lighting or roofing will be used. Most construction will be in the day time hours so the need for lighting during construction will be the minimum needed to allow for work to proceed safely. Once constructed, the converter terminal will not be illuminated at night unless repairs, inspections or maintenance is occurring. In that situation, lights must illuminate the necessary equipment, some of which is elevated. For electrical safety reasons, the converter terminal roof will not be designed to encourage nesting by birds or any other animals.

We believe the foregoing information addresses the comments expressed in your letter, and appreciate the time and effort your Commission has expended so far on the review of this Project.

Sincerely,



Lee E. Carbonneau
As agent for Northern Pass Transmission, LLC.
Senior Principal Scientist
Normandeau Associates, Inc.

CC: Mr. Collis Adams (collis.adams@des.nh.gov)
Mr. Craig Rennie (craig.rennie@des.nh.gov)
Ms. Pamela Monroe, Administrator- NH Site Evaluation Committee
(pamela.monroe@sec.nh.gov)