



Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



William Cass, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

March 17, 2017

Ms. Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
NH Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

**Subject: Northern Pass Transmission, LLC & Public Service of New Hampshire d/b/a
Eversource Energy – Docket No. 2015-06**

Dear Ms. Monroe:

I'm writing in regards to the Department of Transportation's review of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy's application to the NH Site Evaluation Committee (Docket No. 2015-06). The original SEC order accepting the application was issued on December 18, 2015. Per RSA 162-H:7 VI-c, all state agencies having permitting authority shall make and submit to the committee a final decision relating to its permitting and other regulatory authority no later than 240 days after the application has been accepted.

In this case, the regulatory date for final decision was August 15, 2016. On June 15, 2016, the SEC issued an Order on Motions to Suspend. Per this order, the Subcommittee shall issue a Final Order and Decision denying or granting the application by September 30, 2017. The order also authorizes the Presiding Officer of the Subcommittee to review and rule upon any proper request for suspension of the deadlines set forth in RSA 162-H:7, VI-b and RSA 162-H:7, VI-c from the state agencies to which such deadlines apply.

Given the anticipated mid-December 2016 final submission from the applicant, the Department anticipated at least 10 weeks to review and determine permit conditions and requested a suspension of the deadline to February 28, 2017 on granting a Departmental permit(s) and any related conditions required to grant the permit(s).


The Department has been meeting regularly with the applicant on a near monthly basis for more than a year to facilitate review. The applicant submitted a sample set of plans for the Department to review prior to submission of plans for the entire underground portion of the project. Comments to the sample set were forwarded to the applicant on December 2, 2016. The applicant submitted plans to the Department on November 30, 2016, December 8, 2016, and December 13, 2016.

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The plans submitted did not address the Department's comments of December 2, 2016. The Department also forwarded comments on the November 30th submission on February 10th. The Department has continued to review the other plans sets and recently completed that review. Given the complexity of the project, the potential impacts to the transportation system, and the multi-tiered overlapping nature of the review comments, additional time is required to review, consolidate, and determine the conditions to be included within the Use and Occupancy Agreement, excavation permits, driveway permits, crossing agreements and licenses.

The Department of Transportation respectfully requests an extension of the deadline set forth in RSA 162-H:7, VI-c to April 3, 2017.

Sincerely,


Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

cc: W. Cass
D. Rodrigue
S. Winters
M. Esterberg