November 20, 2017

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

RE: NH Site Evaluation Committee Docket No. 2015-06: Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility

Honorable Members of the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee,

On August 31, 2017, the Subcommittee, discussed the schedule for the remainder of the adjudicative hearings and extending certain deadlines. After discussion, the Subcommittee voted to suspend the statutory deadlines and put forth the schedule for the remainder of the adjudicative process that would conclude all testimony by December 31, 2017, accept briefs until January 31, 2018, finish deliberations by February 28, 2018, and render a final decision by March 31, 2018. This was the second time that this matter has been extended past the original statutory timeframe. This was also the second time that the IBEW’s membership had been told that they will have to wait even longer to get these desirable jobs, where they work where they live, and be paid enough to support their families. The IBEW and the signatories of this letter feel that there is a very real potential for this matter to be concluded prior to the dates set forth above, and that all reasonable efforts to do so should be undertaken.

Over the past week the Subcommittee has been discussing scheduling matters and upcoming deadlines, specifically, the possibility closing the record in this docket by December 22, 2017. The IBEW and the signatories to this letter strongly urge the Subcommittee to make all reasonable efforts to close the record and move forward with the process of deliberation as quickly as possible. The IBEW and the signatories to this letter wish to, once again, impress upon the Subcommittee the severe economic losses that have already been incurred due to delays in this matter. These losses continue today. For example, every day the Subcommittee delays their decision on this project, the City of Franklin loses more than fifteen thousand dollars in additional tax revenue that they desperately need to invest in their schools, fire department, police department, and infrastructure. These communities cannot financially afford to wait any longer for this project.

The IBEW and the signatories to this letter understand the magnitude and scope of these proceedings. We also acknowledge the reasoning in the Subcommittees prior decisions regarding suspending the timeframe, but we believe it is important that the exception found in RSA 162-H:14 does not destroy the statutory mandate in RSA 162-H-7. This is the second time that this proceeding has been extended and it has resulted in over a year of delay of benefits to many interested parties, including the member of the public. It is in the public interest for the Subcommittee to ensure the timely evaluation of the Application. As has been noted previously, this Project will provide significant benefits to members of the IBEW and others throughout New Hampshire in the form of jobs and economic benefits. Unnecessary delay in the schedule will, amongst other things, further delay IBEW and the signatories receiving these benefits.
The signatories to this letter respectfully request that the Subcommittee take reasonable steps, if possible, to adjudicate this Application before the aforementioned dates have lapsed. The Subcommittee's September 18, 2017 Order suspending the statutory timeline does not mention the desire of the Subcommittee to make an effort to do this, despite the transcript from the Subcommittee’s deliberations evidencing an intention, if possible, to adjudicate this matter prior to the deadlines. We believe that this intention should be memorialized and adhered to in good-faith.

We thank you for your consideration and your dedication to these proceedings.

The following individuals/parties are signatories to this letter:

On Behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,

Brian Murphy  
Business Manager  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
Local Union # 104

On Behalf of the New Hampshire AFL-CIO,

Glenn Brackett  
President  
New Hampshire AFL-CIO

On Behalf of the City of Franklin,

Anthony Giunta  
Mayor-Elect of the City of Franklin  
Franklin City Council

The Coos County Business and Employers Group