

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

January 25, 20016

Re: 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 (SEC Docket No. 2015-6) – Intervention of the Appalachian Mountain Club

Dear Ms. Monroe:

Enclosed is the intervention filing for the Appalachian Mountain Club relative to the "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" before the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC Docket No. 2015-6)".

Copies of this letter and enclosure have of this date been forwarded via email to all parties on the email distribution list.

We hereby also request that the following individuals be added to the interested party distribution list on behalf of the Appalachian Mountain Club:

- (i) Dr. Kenneth Kimball, Director of Research, Appalachian Mountain Club, PO Box 298, Gorham, NH 03581, 603-466-8149, kkimball@outdoors.org,
- (ii) Aladdine Joroff, Staff Attorney, Emmett Environmental Law & Policy Clinic, Harvard Law School, 6 Everett Street, Suite 4119, Cambridge, MA 02138 617-495-5014 ajoroff@law.harvard.edu
- (iii) Wendy B. Jacobs, Clinical Professor and Director of the Emmett Environmental Law and Policy Clinic, Harvard Law School, 6 Everett Street, Suite 4119, Cambridge, MA 02138 wjacobs@law.harvard.edu



If you have any questions or concerns, please forward them to us.

Sincerely,

Susan Arnold

Susan Arnold, Vice President for Conservation Appalachian Mountain Club 5 Joy Street Boston, MA 02108 603-664-2050 (home office) 617-391-6595 (Boston office) sarnold@outdoors.org

cc: Service List

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Docket No. 2015-6

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

PETITION FOR INTERVENTION BY APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

NOW COMES the Petitioner, Appalachian Mountain Club ("AMC") and respectfully petitions the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee ("the SEC" or "the Committee") to grant it leave to intervene in these proceedings pursuant to New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Site 202.11, and RSA 541-A:32. In support of its petition, AMC states the following:

- 1. AMC is a non-profit conservation group incorporated in Massachusetts and headquartered at 5 Joy Street, Boston, Massachusetts. It is a registered charity pursuant to § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- 2. AMC, established in 1876, is the oldest conservation and recreation organization in the country and has over 90,000 members, including more than 12,000 in New Hampshire. AMC's mission includes promoting

the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the mountains, forests, waters and trails of America's Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. We believe these resources have intrinsic worth and also provide recreational opportunities, spiritual renewal, and ecological and economic health for the region. Because successful conservation depends on active engagement with the outdoors, we encourage people to experience, learn about, and appreciate the natural world.

3. Throughout its 140-year history, AMC has advocated for the protection of New Hampshire's natural and recreational resources and landscape, including but not limited to:

- Calling for passage of the Weeks Act in 1911 that created the eastern US National Forest System and the White Mountain National Forest.
- Negotiating the settlement that resulted in the resolution of I-93 through Franconia Notch State Park in the White Mountains,
- Maintaining over 350 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and over 1800 miles of trails in the northeast, many of those miles in NH,
- Co-founding the collaborative effort (Northern Forest Alliance) to protect the Northern Forest in the 1980s that in NH is now known as the Great North Woods.
- Participating in the recent revisions to the NH SEC rules on energy siting and certification,
- Intervening in the ongoing US Department of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability's National Environmental Policy Act review for the issuance of a Presidential Permit for the Northern Pass Transmission Line.
- 4. AMC members recreate on the mountains and rivers of New Hampshire and enjoy its landscape.
- 5. AMC operates four front country facilities¹ (roadside), one island² facility, 8 backcountry huts³, and eight backcountry shelters. All are open to the public, and in 2015 hosted approximately 139,000 overnight stays. Some 500,000 visitors annually visit AMC's NH facilities as these facilities also serve as information

¹ Joe Dodge Lodge/Pinkham Notch Visitor Center, Highland Center Lodge and MaComber Visitor Information Center, Cold River Camp, and Cardigan Lodge

² Three Mile Island on Lake Winnipesaukee

³ Seven in the White Mountain National Forest and one in Franconia State Park

and education centers, and support backcountry rescue efforts. AMC's other public benefits include participating in search and rescue missions, maintaining hiking and cross country ski trails, including but not limited to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, providing adult, family, and school-age environmental education programs, and engaging in ecological research. Since 1907, AMC has been the pre-eminent publisher of both hiking trail and river guides and maps⁴ for NH. AMC annually employs almost 200 FTE jobs in the tourism sector and contributes almost \$18 million annually to NH's tourism economy⁵; jobs that are dependent on a highquality scenic landscape.

- 6. AMC has been granted intervener status and has appeared in a professional and responsible manner before the NH Site Evaluation Committee as an intervener and expert witness in other energy related cases impacting New Hampshire's natural resources and landscape, e.g. Granite Reliable Power (SEC Docket No. 2008-04 and SEC Docket No. 2014-03), Wild Meadows (SEC Docket No. 2013-02), and Antrim Wind Project (SEC Docket No. 2012-01).6
- 7. This Petition is filed in response to an application by Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy, ("Applicants"), on October 19, 2015 to construct, operate and

⁴ http://amcstore.outdoors.org/books-maps

⁵ "There are 142 full-time equivalent jobs in the state's directly affected industries. These 142 directly affected jobs support an additional 22 full-time equivalent jobs in its supporting industries, such as accounting services. These 142 directly affected jobs and 22 jobs in its supporting industries together support an additional 26 full-time equivalent jobs in services sectors, such as grocery stores. hospitals, gas stations, and restaurants." Daniel S. Lee, 2015. Economic Impact of the Appalachian Mountain Club's Huts and Lodges in New Hampshire - June 2014 to May 2015. The Center for Rural Partnerships, Plymouth State University.

⁶ AMC was granted intervener status in the Antrim Wind Project over the objection of the Applicant. The SEC Order stated: "[I] find that AMC's participation in this docket may be helpful to the Subcommittee and will not interfere with the prompt and orderly conduct of the proceedings. AMC's motion to fully participate as an intervener is granted pursuant to RSA 541-A:32, II. See also, Ruel v. New Hampshire Real Estate Appraiser Board, 163 NH 34, 41 (2011)."

maintain an approximately 192-mile transmission line from Pittsburg to Deerfield ("the Proposal"). 7

- 8. The Proposal includes approximately 132 miles of above ground and 60 miles of a buried 1100MW HVDC transmission line from the Canadian border to southern New Hampshire close to the border of Massachusetts. The siting, construction, and maintenance of the transmission line through NH substantially threatens the use and enjoyment of NH's rivers, trails, and scenic vistas by AMC members. There is a rich cultural background and history behind the identification and protection of these resources that AMC has been a part of for more than a century.
- 9. The Proposal includes 40-miles of new right of way through the forests of the North Country, which will be located primarily above ground. On information and belief, the Proposal will fragment the landscape, impair scenic and recreational resources—a crucial economic resource in the northern part of the state, and may affect federal and state threatened species in the region⁸.
- 10. AMC's and its members' interests will be directly affected by the Proposal, including its impacts to the aesthetics, wildlife, and historic and recreational sites of New Hampshire. AMC respectfully submits that it has a legitimate interest in participating in the proceedings and can offer a unique and expert perspective on the aforementioned issues.
- 11. The Applicants' recent revision to the Proposal, to bury an additional52-mile portion of the transmission line running through the White Mountain

⁷ Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission LLC & Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility, Executive Summary, http://www.northernpass.us/assets/filings/NP_SEC%20EXEC_SUMMARY_PRINT.pdf

⁸ See e.g., Dep't. of Energy, Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Chapter 4. pp. 4-65 and 4-67. (2015). at http://media.northernpasseis.us/media/EIS-0463-DEIS-v1-2015.pdf

National Forest (WMNF), is a change for which AMC advocated for several years, and underscores the value of continued participation of all interested parties in the Proposal's permitting process to ensure that: (i) all construction, either in the WMNF or elsewhere, is undertaken with a full understanding of all of the potential consequences; and (ii) adverse impacts are avoided or mitigated to the fullest extent possible.

12. AMC has been involved with proceedings related to the Proposal since 2010,⁹ and has helped define impacts related to this proposal through comments to the Department of Energy during the National Environmental Policy Act review and by performing its own Visual Impact Assessment.¹⁰ Because AMC is already fluent in the details of the Proposal, and because this proceeding is in its first stages, AMC's participation as an intervenor will not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings, and would help to serve the interests of justice.

SUMMARY

- 13. For the foregoing reasons, AMC asks leave to intervene pursuant to Site 202.11(b) on the following grounds:
 - a. This petition will be served and submitted within the time limits prescribed by statute. Site 202.11(b)(1);
 - b. This petition states facts demonstrating AMC's substantial interest in the proceedings. Site 202.11(b)(2);

 10 Kenneth D. Kimball and Larry Garland, AMC, "Northern Pass Visual Impact Assessment," (Sept. 25, 2012), $\it available~at$

 $\frac{http://www.outdoors.org/pdf/upload/NorthernPassVisualImpactAssessmentFinalReport.}{pdf.}$

⁹ AMC's Motion to Intervene in the Department of Energy's Presidential permit proceedings for the Proposal was granted on January 27, 2011.

http://media.northernpasseis.us/media/NP_Intervener_Letter_1_28_2011.pdf.

- c. AMC's participation as intervenor is unlikely to delay or disrupt the proceedings. Site 202.11 (b)(3); and
- d. Granting this petition will be helpful to the Subcommittee and best serve the interests of justice.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

14. WHEREFORE, AMC respectfully requests that the SEC issue an order granting its petition for intervention and granting such other further relief as it deems appropriate.

Respectfully Submitted,

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

Date: January 25, 2016	By: Susan Arnold

Susan Arnold, Vice President for Conservation Appalachian Mountain Club 5 Joy Street Boston, MA 02108 603-664-2050 (home office) 617-391-6595 (Boston office) sarnold@outdoors.org

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that, on the date written below, I caused the within Petition for Intervention to be served by electronic mail or by US Mail, postage prepaid, as provided in NH Administrative Code, Site 202.07, to the persons on the attached list.

_1/25/16	Susan Arnold	
 Date	Susan Arnold	•

Northern Pass Transmission LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire dba Eversource Energy SEC 2015-06 Distribution List 1 Rev. 1/12/2016

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