# Alan Robert Baker Attorney at Law

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January 26, 2016

Via First Class Mail and email (Pamela.monroe@sec.nh.gov)

Pamela Monroe Administrator, Site Evaluation Committee 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord NH 03301

Re: SEC Docket No. 2015-06

Northern Pass Transmission LLC and Public Service Company of New

Hampshire dba Eversource Energy

Dear Ms. Monroe:

Enclosed please find for filing in this matter:

- My appearance on behalf of Elaine V. Olson and Eric M. Olson, individually and as co-trustees of the Eric M. Olson Revocable Trust, and Joshua Olson and Elaine V. Olson, individually and as co-trustees of the Elaine V. Olson Revocable Trust; and
- 2. A Petition for Intervention by Elaine V. Olson and Eric M. Olson, individually and as co-trustees of the Eric M. Olson Revocable Trust, and Joshua Olson and Elaine V. Olson, individually and as co-trustees of the Elaine V. Olson Revocable Trust.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Alan Robert Baker Alan Robert Baker

Enclosure

cc: Distribution List via email or first class mail

## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

#### SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

#### **Docket No. SEC 2015-06**

Application of Northern Pass Transmission LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire dba Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility

## <u>APPEARANCE</u>

Pursuant to NH Admin Rule Site 202.04, please take notice that the undersigned appears as counsel for proposed intervenors Elaine V. Olson and Eric M. Olson, individually and as co-trustees of the Eric M. Olson Revocable Trust, and Joshua Olson and Elaine V. Olson, individually and as co-trustees of the Elaine V. Olson Revocable Trust. The undersigned is an attorney admitted to practice in the State of New Hampshire.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Alan Robert Baker

Alan Robert Baker 481 Meriden Hill Road North Stratford NH 03590 Telephone: (603) 922-5571

Email: abobbaker@aol.com

Dated: January 26, 2016

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 26th day of January, 2016, a copy of the foregoing has been sent via electronic mail or first class mail to the parties named in the Distribution List for this Docket.

/s/ Alan Robert Baker
Alan Robert Baker

#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

#### SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

#### Docket No. SEC 2015-06

Application of Northern Pass Transmission LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire dba Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility

# PETITION FOR INTERVENTION BY ELAINE V. OLSON AND ERIC M. OLSON, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS CO-TRUSTEES OF THE ERIC M. OLSON REVOCABLE TRUST, AND JOSHUA OLSON AND ELAINE V. OLSON, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS CO-TRUSTEES OF THE ELAINE V. OLSON REVOCABLE TRUST

Elaine V. Olson and Eric M. Olson, individually and as co-trustees of the Eric M. Olson Revocable Trust, and Joshua Olson and Elaine V. Olson, individually and as co-trustees of the Elaine V. Olson Revocable Trust, by their undersigned representative, seek to intervene in the captioned proceeding pursuant to RSA 541-A:32 and Site 202.11 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure adopted by the Site Evaluation Committee ("SEC"). The Petitioners seek Intervenor status based on the following:

- 1. Elaine V. Olson and Eric M. Olson are co-trustees of the Eric M. Olson Revocable Trust. Joshua Olson and Elaine V. Olson are co-trustees of the Elaine V. Olson Revocable Trust. The Elaine V. Olson Revocable Trust and the Eric M. Olson Revocable Trust (together the "Olson Trusts") own 16 separately surveyed and abutting parcels of land in the Town of Dummer, New Hampshire containing in excess of 1000 acres (hereinafter referred to as the "Olson Property"). The Town of Dummer is in the heart of the New Hampshire Tourist Region known as the Great North Woods.
- 2. Elaine V. Olson, Joshua Olson and Eric M. Olson are residents of Rindge, New Hampshire. Individually, they each hold equitable interests in the Olson Property.
- 3. The Olson Property includes a residence built near the summit of Cummings Mountain, as well as other buildings and improvements. The residence and

other buildings and improvements are maintained entirely "off the grid" with no electric power distribution lines sited on the Olson Property.

- 4. Numerous vantage points on the Olson Property have unique and stunning views of the White Mountains to the south, Percy Peaks and Sugarloaf Mountain to the west, and vast stretches of the Great North Woods to the north and east. The Olson Property is currently used by the Petitioners as an all-season second home for vacation and recreation for themselves, their families and their quests who enjoy and value the pristine rural, scenic, and pastoral environmental attributes of the Olson Property and its surrounding environs in Dummer, Millsfield, Stark and the rest of the Great North Woods Tourism Region. The Olson Property has also been carefully developed by the Petitioners as a wildlife and hunting preserve. With the exception of the private residence, private roads, private trails and a permitted snowmobile trail, the Olson Property consists of forestland, water courses, ponds and vernal pools, other wetlands and carefully maintained grass meadows used for wildlife observation and wildlife propagation. The Olson Property is also enjoyed for selective hunting as permitted by New Hampshire law. The Petitioners intended over time to carefully develop the Olson Property in Dummer with several log or post and beam homes with expansive views all constructed on large lots in keeping with the current wildlife and hunting preserve use.
- 5. The Olson Property is accessed by a private road known as Kelly Brook Road, formerly known as Dummer Hill Road. The Olson Trusts own the entire roadbed of Kelly Brook Road as it passes through the Olson Property; and the Applicants have no right, privilege or license to use Kelly Brook Road for any purpose whatsoever, including as access to their intended Northern Pass Transmission line corridor.
- 6. The sole exception to this peaceful and tranquil setting on the Olson Property is a PSNH distribution line that runs east to west for more than one mile on a

150 foot wide right of way held by PSNH. That PSNH transmission line is a 115 kV line built in the center of the right or way on wooden poles approximately 45 feet high. Also built and co-located within the PSNH right of way is a buried 24 inch diameter natural gas pipeline in a 50 foot wide easement area. That buried natural gas pipeline is owned by Portland Natural Gas Transmission System ("PNGTS").

- 7. In this proceeding, the Applicants seek permission to site a new high voltage transmission line facility (the "Northern Pass") running approximately 190 miles through New Hampshire from Pittsburg to Deerfield.
- 8. The Northern Pass transmission line facility, if permitted and built as proposed, would run through the Town of Dummer for 8.9 miles being strung from seventy-eight new transmission towers up to 135 feet high. Six miles of new transmission corridor would be cleared through Dummer and another 2.9 miles of new HVDC transmission infrastructure would be erected in the existing PSNH 115 kV right of way. However, the easement held by PSNH over the Olson Property does not permit use by the huge international HVDC private merchant project contemplated by the Applicants. Not only do the underlying easement agreements not provide for such a project, it would also be an unreasonable use of the easement area since it is already overcrowded and potentially dangerous with the co-located transmission infrastructure of PSNH and PNGTS.
- 9. In order to shoehorn the new Northern Pass HVDC line into this crowded energy transmission corridor, all of the existing 115 kV line on wooden poles running through Dummer would have to be removed and replaced with new metal towers more than twice as high as the existing wooden structures. If we include the proposed new 115kV transmission towers and the proposed new HVDC Northern Pass transmission towers, the Town of Dummer would see over 100 new transmission towers built rising high above the tree line. The majority of those towers would be visible from various

vantage points on the Olson Property. The face, feel and scenic value of vast stretches of wilderness in Dummer and on the Olson Property would be permanently scarred and damaged.

- 10. From many of the Olson Property's most scenic overlooks, including the site of their residence on Cummings Mountain, more than 45 new transmission tower structures would be visible according to studies done by federal authorities. The Applicants' project would also inflict widespread damage to the Olson Property by the need to construct and maintain over a mile of roadways with attendant lay down and equipment yards. The removal of the existing 45 foot high wooden poles for the 115 kV line would just be the beginning of the destruction. Twice as many towers would be erected with heights two to three times the height of the existing 115 kV wooden poles. These new metal structures would not simply be buried in the ground like the existing wooden poles. The new metal towers would require deep soil excavation and pouring of massive quantities of concrete for the footings needed to support the weight of the towers and the transmission cables, conductors, braces and arms. These activities would cause alteration of existing terrain, change in drainage patterns, excessive water runoff and wetlands damage and destruction and attendant visual pollution. They would also become pathways for importing invasive species and a host of new predators. In addition the doubling of the towers and transmission lines at two or three times the height would pose substantial and serious risk of harm to migrating birds and local raptors.
- 11. Among the nearby local scenic and cultural treasures that would be directly and adversely impacted by the above ground transmission towers proposed by the Applicants' Northern Pass project are the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, the Moose Path Trail Scenic and Cultural Highway, the Northern Forest Heritage Trail Scenic and

Cultural Highway, the White Mountain National Forest, the Nash Stream State Forest, Lake Christine and the Kauffmann Forest.

- 12. By virtue of the foregoing potential impacts threatened by the Applicants, the Petitioners' rights, duties, privileges, immunities and other substantial interests may be affected by this proceeding in numerous ways, including but not limited to the following:
  - a. Loss of the value and use of all or a portion of the Olson Property;
  - b. Violation of the Petitioners' rights as property owners opposed to any use or taking of their property for the Northern Pass Transmission line project in violation of the easement held by PSNH;
  - c. Excessive burdening and expansion of the PSNH easement area beyond that which was originally intended by the parties to the point of such use becoming unreasonable and in violation of the original easement agreement.
  - d. Infliction of potential health and safety hazards and fears imposed upon them and other users of their property by virtue of the new proposed transmission towers having fall zones outside the existing PSNH right of way.
  - e. Infliction of potential health and safety hazards and fears imposed upon them and other users of their property by virtue of the incineration zone of PNGTS natural gas pipeline that also occupies the right of way and which would be within the fall zone of the new proposed transmission towers.
  - f. Infliction of damage to the wetlands and wildlife on and near the Olson Property.
  - g. Temporary loss of use and enjoyment of the Olson Property due to the noise and movement of construction vehicles and equipment in the PSNH right of way to build roads, laydown areas and transmission line infrastructure.

- h. Loss of esthetic and scenic values of the Dummer local and regional environment that forms the highly valuable scenic and cultural backdrop for the Olson Property, including but not limited to loss of enjoyment and scenic and cultural value of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, the Moose Path Trail, the Woodlands Heritage Trail, the White Mountain National Forest, the Nash Stream State Forest, Lake Christine, and the Kauffman Forest.
- 13. The Olsons also believe and contend that the SEC does not have jurisdiction to take action or to grant the Applicants any relief that damages or impairs the Petitioners' private property interests or which purports to resolve or affect the private property disputes between them and the Applicants with respect to the construction and interpretation of the 70 year old easements held by PSNH which encumber their property and which also now contain the PNGTS natural gas transmission pipeline.
- 14. The Petitioners therefore wish to intervene and to prevent the Applicants from using or contending in any court proceedings that this SEC administrative law proceeding in any way deprives the Petitioners of their rights to have their property disputes with the Applicants resolved in a court of law by a jury of their peers pursuant to the provisions of Article 20 of the New Hampshire Constitution Bill of Rights, which provides as follows:

"In all controversies concerning property, and in all suits between two or more persons except those in which another practice is and has been customary and except those in which the value in controversy does not exceed \$1,500 and no title to real estate is involved, the parties have a right to a trial by jury. This method of procedure shall be held sacred, unless, in cases arising on the high seas and in cases relating to mariners' wages, the legislature shall think it necessary hereafter to alter it."

WHEREFORE, the Petitioners respectfully request that the SEC issue an order granting their petition for intervention and granting such other and further relief as it deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

**ELAINE V. OLSON AND** ERIC M. OLSON, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS CO-TRUSTEES OF THE ERIC M. OLSON REVOCABLE TRUST, AND JOSHUA OLSON AND ELAINE V. OLSON, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS CO-TRUSTEES OF THE ELAINE V. **OLSON REVOCABLE TRUST** 

/s/ Alan Robert Baker

By\_\_

Alan Robert Baker His Attorney 481 Meriden Hill Road North Stratford NH 03590 Email: abobbaker@aol.com

Tel. (603) 922-5571

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 26th day of January, 2016, a copy of the foregoing has been sent via electronic mail or first class mail to the parties named in the Distribution List for this Docket.

/s/ Alan Robert Baker

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