



**January 27, 2016**

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

RE: New Hampshire 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 for Construction of a New High Voltage Transmission Line in New Hampshire

Dear Ms. Monroe:

As authorized by the Town of Pembroke, Board of Selectmen, at their meeting on January 19, 2016, I am hereby submitting the Town's Petition to Intervene in the above-captioned matter. Copies of this letter and its enclosure have been forwarded via electronic mail to all parties on the Service List for this docket. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (603) 568-0021.

Sincerely,

**Ammy Heiser, Chairman**

**Pembroke Conservation Commission**

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

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 for the  
Construction of a New High Voltage Transmission Line in New Hampshire

Docket No. 2015-06

**TOWN OF PEMBROKE'S PETITION TO INTERVENE**

The Town of Pembroke, by and through its Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission, petitions the Site Evaluation Committee to allow it to intervene in the above-captioned matter in accordance with RSA 541-A:32 and NH Admin. Rule Site 202.11, stating as follows:

1. On October 19, 2015, Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (the "Applicants") filed an application for a Certificate of Site and Facility with the Site Evaluation Committee. A portion of the proposed facility will be located in the Town of Pembroke.

2. On March 15, 2014 at the Town of Pembroke's Annual Town Meeting, Article 15 was passed by an overwhelming majority, requiring the Town of Pembroke to state its opposition to any new overhead high voltage transmission lines within its borders and to manifest the Town's strong preference for the burial of such lines.

3. On January 19, 2016, the Pembroke Board of Selectmen authorized the Chairman of the Pembroke Conservation Commission to file for intervenor status with the Site Evaluation Committee.

4. RSA 541-A:32 and NH Admin. Rule Site 202.11 provide that the Site Evaluation Committee, or its presiding officer, shall grant a petition for intervention if:

- (1) The petition is submitted in writing to the presiding officer, with copies mailed to all parties named in the presiding officer's order of notice of the hearing, at least 3 days before the hearing;
- (2) The petition states facts demonstrating that the petitioner's rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests might be affected by the proceeding or that the petitioner qualifies as an intervenor under any provision of law; and
- (3) The presiding officer determines that the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings would not be impaired by allowing the intervention.

5. The Town of Pembroke has substantial interests that would be affected by the proposed facility:

(1) The Town of Pembroke's Master Plan (adopted on July 13, 2004), established goals to protect surface and ground-water resources, mitigate pollution sources and other threats to these resources, protect wetland and riparian areas, provide long-term protection to the Town's core rural areas, and to protect prime wildlife habitat and scenic resources.

(2) There are 6.2 miles of 345 kV AC transmission line in the proposed project that passes through the Town of Pembroke. In addition to new overhead lines throughout that 6.2 mile area, there are estimated to be 54 new towers with a majority of those new structures proposed to be 130 feet in height, but ranging up to 145 feet in height. Additionally, approximately 31 115 kV towers are proposed to be relocated. Placement of these very high voltage lines will require site excavation, expansion of the existing right-of-way, and additional deforestation of the existing right-of-way.

(3) Permanent and temporary environmental disturbance, associated with construction and the long-term maintenance of the project corridor, will affect the Town's watersheds, water supplies, river corridors, wetlands, and other natural areas and the flora and fauna dependent on them. The project will cross more than 50 wetland units, including several high-value wetland complexes for which the Town may seek Prime Wetland designation in the near future. The major wetland function, support of wetland-dependent wildlife, will be adversely impacted by the new power-line towers and the corridor expansion. The project will also cross the Suncook and Soucook Rivers as well as the two most significant tributaries in Pembroke, Ames Brook and Pettingill Brook. Pembroke derives its public-water supply from stream-side wells in the stratified-drift aquifers adjacent to these rivers. We are concerned that maintenance of an expanded right-of-way to accommodate the project will result in an increase in the application of herbicides, soil erosion, and changes in the thermal regime of wetlands and stream environments to the detriment of aquatic organisms and existing and potential future water supplies. The Town is also concerned about the impact that the project will have on the Town's character and property values as a result of the overhead lines and supporting structures. The visual, audio, and possible electromagnetic-field impacts of 345 kV AC transmission lines and large supporting structures are also of particular worry. Mitigation for these impacts should be required as a condition for any Site Evaluation Committee approvals. The burial of the lines within the Town of Pembroke, as a mitigation measure, should be thoroughly explored.

5. As discussed herein, the proposed facility will impact the rights, duties, privileges, immunities and other substantial interests of the Town of Pembroke. The interests of justice and orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings will not be impaired by allowing the intervention.

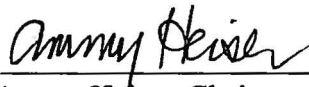
WHEREFORE, the Town of Pembroke respectfully requests that the Site Evaluation Committee:

- A. Grant the Town of Pembroke's Petition to Intervene; and
- B. Grant such other and further relief as may be just.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWN OF PEMBROKE


January 27, 2016

By:   
Ammy Heiser, Chairman  
Pembroke Conservation Commission  
311 Pembroke St.  
Pembroke, NH 03275  
Telephone: (603) 568-0021

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 27th day of January, 2016, a copy of the foregoing was sent by electronic mail to persons named on the Service List of this docket.

January 27, 2016

By:   
Ammy Heiser, Chairman  
Pembroke Conservation Commission