THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE


Docket No. 2015-06

TOWN OF BRISTOL’S PETITION TO INTERVENE

The Town of Bristol, by and through its attorneys, Gardner, Fulton & Waugh, PLLC, 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 Bristol.

2. The Town of Bristol has an interest in the proposed facility because it is projected to cross through scenic portions of the Town, including in the view at Inspiration Point. 2.5 miles of overhead lines of the proposed project would pass through the Town, impacting 32 wetlands, and crossing or affecting 18 rivers and streams, including Ten Mile Brook, Abel Brook, and the Pemigewasset River. The project is projected to impact almost 25,000 square feet of wetlands/shoreland in Bristol. More than 29,000 square feet of trees are proposed to be cleared in the right of way. The project raises concerns regarding safety to travelers and the public, as well as municipal expenses resulting from construction, maintenance and operation of the project. In addition to new overhead lines throughout that 2.5 mile area, there are estimated to be 18 new structures and the majority of those new structures are proposed to be between 85’ and 125’ in height. The Town is concerned about the impact that the project will have on the
Town’s economy, community character, and property values as a result of the overhead lines and supporting structures. The visual and audio impacts of tree cutting, transmission lines and large structures are also of particular worry. The Town is concerned that this project, as proposed, (a) will interfere with the orderly development of the region, (b) is in conflict with the Town’s zoning, planning, Master Plan and other land use policies, including but not limited to its Wetlands Conservation Overlay District, (c) will have an adverse effect on aesthetics, historic site, air and water quality, the natural environment, and/or public health and safety, and (d) will not be in the public interest. In order to reduce the project’s impacts, the complete burial of the lines within the Town of Bristol needs to be thoroughly explored.

3. On January 21, 2016, the Town’s Board of Selectmen voted to file for intervenor status with the Site Evaluation Committee. See attached Minutes of Selectmen’s Meeting, dated January 21, 2016.

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. As discussed herein, the proposed facility will impact the rights, duties, privileges, immunities and other substantial interests of the Town of Bristol. The interests of justice and orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings will not be impaired by allowing the intervention.
WHEREFORE, the Town of Bristol respectfully requests that the Site Evaluation Committee:

A. Grant the Town of Bristol's Petition to Intervene; and

B. Grant such other and further relief as may be just.

Respectfully submitted,
Town of Bristol, NH, Petitioner

TOWN OF BRISTOL
By and through its attorneys,
GARDNER, FULTON & WAUGH, PLLC

Dated: February 2, 2016

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 2nd day of February, 2016, a copy of the foregoing was sent by electronic mail to persons named on the Service List of this docket.

Dated: February 2, 2016

By:  C. Christine Fillmore
Minutes
Bristol Select Board
January 21, 2016

Present: Select Board members: Janet Cote, Shaun Lagueux (at 5:11PM), Betsy Schneider, Rick Alpers, Paul Manganiello, and Town Administrator Nik Coates.

The meeting was called to order at 5:03PM.

At 5:04PM Mr. Alpers made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 I(d) and RSA 91-A:3 II(a), seconded by Ms. Schneider. A roll call vote was held. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Mr. Lagueux joined at 5:11PM. At 5:59PM, Mr. Lagueux made a motion to come out of non-public session, seconded by Mr. Alpers. The Board vote 5-0 in favor of the motion. Mr. Lagueux made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session, seconded by Mr. Manganiello. The Board voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Mr. Alpers made a motion to approve the public and non-public minutes from January 7, 2016, seconded by Ms. Schneider. Mr. Manganiello amended a sentence regarding the wage study funding. The Board voted 5-0 in favor of approving the minutes as amended.

Consent agenda: Mr. Lagueux made a motion to approve the consent agenda dated January 21, 2016 to include the items named therein, seconded by Ms. Schneider. Mr. Manganiello commented that the first quarter payment to the TTCC reflects the new budgetary number before the budget has been approved. Mr. Alpers replied that if the budget does not make it the amount can be taken off the back end of things. Mrs. Cote commented that the tendency is to hold off on making payments before Town Meeting but it's not an actual policy. It is possible to hold the check. The Board voted 5-0 to approve the consent agenda.

New Business:

LCHIP grant/ Old Town Hall: Sandra Heaney informed the Board that there were some housekeeping items that needed to be reviewed by the Board. The stewardship agreement is for five years and the drafted language supplied by LCHIP needs to be reviewed and then it can be signed. Mr. Manganiello commented that there is a records retention policy done. Ms. Heaney replied that the town did get some standards adopted. Mr. Alpers suggested sending the draft of the insurance language to Primex for review. Ms. Heaney commented that there is $16,000 left to spend from the grant. There is an estimated cost of $9,000-$10,000 to refinish the floors and $6,200 to paint the tin ceiling. This would be the best place to spend the money. In addition there are estimates for $2,400 to paint the walls and trim, $2,400 to paint the windows, and $1,200 to paint the side rooms. Ms. Heaney asked if there needs to be three quotes or just stay with the one. Mr. Alpers asked Ms. Heaney to try getting another quote. Mrs. Cote commented that the Board can make a decision to waive that requirement.
Jeffers Road: Mr. Coates reviewed the survey with the Board. Mr. Lagueux commented that the town can’t do anything this winter but the Board can have Mark Bucklin in at a future meeting to discuss this. Mr. Lagueux suggested that the Board members travel up to see the situation with the road.

Public Hearing: Mrs. Cote opened the public hearing at 6:30 to discuss the financing of projects in excess of $100,000. The Water/Sewer meter replacement project was discussed. Mr. Coates informed the Board that the hearing was noticed at $104,000 but the actual cost is $104,500. Town Council was asked if the hearing had to be canceled. The RSA states that as long as the Board does not change the subject matter of the hearing the hearing can proceed forward. Jeff Chartier informed the Board and the public that the meter project combines the purchases into one year. There will be an upfront savings of $1,791 by doing this. There is also a 5% principal forgiveness which totals $5,225. The five year loan has an interest rate of 0.99% and the total interest after five years is $3,100. The goal is to pay the loan off in two years which reduces the interest to $1,500. The town is receiving $104,500 worth of meters and only costing the town $100,836. This is being paid out of the capital reserve account. Ms. Schneider asked how long the 0.99% is fixed for. Mr. Chartier replied that this is last year’s rate and that it may change. Paul Simard asked if they are smart meters and if the Town needs to get property owners’ permission. Mr. Chartier replied that they are regular frequency meters and that notices are sent out to property owners and they can choose to opt out. Half the town has been done and only 4 or 5 people have opted out. John Sellers asked what savings there are. Mr. Chartier replied that it took two weeks to read the meters and now it takes less than four hours. The accuracy has increased too. It is safer for the employees walking the properties reading the meters also. Mrs. Cote informed the Board and public that the hearing will be kept open for one hour and then the Board will decide. The Public Hearing closed at 7:31pm.

Northern Pass: Mr. Coates informed the Board that he asked attorney Fillmore to help draft a petition to intervene as the town has to apply for intervenors status. The Board needs to review the application for accuracy and make edits by January 25th. There are two ways the application can be presented one is with the attorney’s signature on behalf of the Board or with the Board’s signatures. Mrs. Cote commented that the Board has until February 5th to get the application in. Mr. Lagueux commented that the application asks to have the date the Board voted filled in and to attach the minutes.

Shaun Lagueux made a motion to authorize Christine Fillmore of Gardner, Fulton, and Waugh to sign on the town’s behalf for the petition to intervene for the Northern Pass project, seconded by Ms. Schneider. There was some discussion regarding the size of the structures. The Board voted 5-0 to approve the motion.

Mr. Lagueux made a motion to reaffirm the decision to file for intervenors status on the town’s behalf for the Northern Pass project, seconded by Mr. Alpers. The Board voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

2016 Budget: Mr. Coates updated that debt service and interest lines with the most current information. Mr. Coates informed the Board that through the Budget Committee process there has been discussion around the description of two lines in the Police Department budget. After consulting
with Police Chief Lewis. Line 4210-112 will be changed to Lieutenant Prosecutor/Detective and Line 4210-125 will be changed to Part-time Detective.

Mr. Alpers made a motion to approve the memo as presented, seconded by Mr. Laguex. Mr. Manganiello commented that with the change to Line 112 there will be two lieutenants when one is still a detective sergeant. Mr. Laguex replied that no one is getting a promotion it is just a name change. Mr. Alpers commented that there is no detective sergeant in that line and that there is a 32 hour lieutenant prosecutor and detective work for 8 hours. Mrs. Cote commented that the clarification needs to come from Chief Lewis in regards to this. Mr. Alpers rescinded his motion and Mr. Laguex rescinded his second.

Mr. Alpers made a motion to approve the budget numbers as presented, seconded by Mr. Laguex. The Board voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Town Clerk Raymah Simpson presented a poster depicting the 100th anniversary of the primary with Bristol included on the poster. The posters will be displayed in town. Ms. Simpson informed the Board that a new deputy has been hired and will start on February 1st. The Board signed the necessary paperwork. Ms. Simpson informed the Board that the Marion Center is booked for February 9th for the primary and set up will occur after 1:00pm the Monday before.

Warrant Articles: Mr. Coates reviewed a draft of the warrant with the Board. Mr. Coates informed the Board that Bill Dowey is rescinding article 18 and Chief Lewis is rescinding article 19.

Warrant articles were read into the record.

Article #6: Shaun Laguex made a motion to recommend article #6 to raise $7,500 for the town clock, seconded by Rick Alpers. Mr. Manganiello asked if there money was just for painting. Mr. Lagueux replied that it covered repair work as well. Mr. Alpers commented that the work will go back out to bid to get three quotes if the article passes at Town Meeting. The Board voted 5-0 to recommend the article.

Article #8: Shaun Laguex made a motion to recommend article #8 to raise $45,000 to purchase and outfit a police cruiser. Ms. Schneider commented that the Board should find out what vehicle is being replaced and that the trade in value should be used to come up with the $45,000. Mr. Alpers commented that language stating that the Board intends to utilize the trade in value to offset the cost should be included. The Board voted 5-0 to recommend the article as amended.

Article #9: Shaun Laguex made a motion to recommend article #9 to raise $90,000 for engineering services and design for the Central Street project and the Water Street Recreation Trail. There will be an offset of the cost with a withdrawal of $32,500 from the Water Capital Reserve and $35,500 from the Sewer Capital Reserve. The remainder will be raised from taxation. Jeff Chartier commented that a portion of the money coming from the capital reserve accounts is for the sidewalks and road reconstruction and that the water/sewer users should not subsidize that work. Mr. Alpers suggested that the article be written as not to exceed $90,000 and that the numbers for the capital reserve
withdrawals be backed out. Mrs. Cote commented that the actual numbers can be presented at Town Meeting. Mr. Lagueux made a motion to recommend article #9 as amended, seconded by Mr. Alpers. The Board voted 4-0-1 to recommend that article.

Article #10: Mr. Coates informed the Board that the $15,000 is the number received by MRI for the cost of a comprehensive wage study. The Board discussed the language of the article. Mr. Alpers made a motion to recommend article #10 to raise $15,000 for the cost of a comprehensive wage study as amended, seconded by Ms. Schneider. Ms. Schneider commented that she is not in favor of the article since a study was done in 2006. There are 8 employees not on the bar and those employees could be moved onto the bar with this money. Mr. Manganiello commented that the $15,000 should be used to get those employees on the band. Mrs. Cote commented that she is in favor of the article as the job descriptions are not the same as 2006 and new classifications need to be done. The Board voted 3-2 to recommend that article.

Article #7: Mr. Alpers made a motion to recommend article #7 to raise up to $104,500 for the Water/Sewer meter upgrade project as amended, seconded by Ms. Schneider. The Board voted 5-0 to recommend the article.

Article #11: Mr. Coates informed the Board that he called Lakes Region Services. Lakes Region feels that there was an opportunity to use this as a potential cell tower and that the rotting problem is at the top of the current pole. The new pole will be 80 feet high which is above the tree tops. Mr. Alpers commented that Lakes Region is driving the project and that the town is a payee. Mrs. Cote commented that the article was originally written as a total of $50,000 and $25,000 would come from taxation. Mr. Manganiello commented that was how CIP presented it. Mr. Alpers commented that this could always be a petitioned warrant article. Ms. Schneider commented that the article needs to be more specific. Mr. Lagueux commented that he has reservations as there is a conservation easement on that property. The Forest Society owns the fall zone easement. Mr. Alpers commented that these are all valid questions and there needs to be answers but the concept of the article makes sense. The article will be researched further.

Article #12: Mr. Lagueux made a motion to recommend article #12 to raise $10,000 to purchase a commercial grade metal fence for the town property in Central Square, seconded by Ms. Schneider. Ms. Schneider asked if 5 feet is big enough. Mr. Alpers replied that the fence is to keep little kids form the embankment and the river and that the height could be looked at when pricing it out. The Board agreed to take out the language regarding the height. The Board voted 5-0 to recommend article #12 as amended.

Article #13: Mr. Lagueux read the article to raise $25,000 to be placed in the Contingency Fund. Mr. Alpers commented that the money should come out of the unreserved balance. Mr. Lagueux commented that this was amended at Town Meeting last year. Mr. Manganiello asked the Town Administrator to get language from DRA. Mr. Alpers made a motion to recommend article #13 as amended, seconded by Ms. Schneider. The Board voted 5-0 to recommend the article.
Article #14: Mr. Lagueux made a motion to recommend article #14 to raise $40,000 for a professional firm to prepare plans and review space needs for the Police Department and the town offices. Mr. Manganiello read from the July 13th minutes and suggested that a needs assessment should be done to help better define the space needs. Mrs. Cote asked if he was asking for an operation assessment versus a space needs study. Mr. Lagueux commented that the Board did not discuss operational needs. Ms. Schneider commented that it should be done though as it has been discussed before. Mr. Alpers commented that this type of study was voted down at the 2013 Town Meeting. The Board further discussed the article. Mr. Lagueux commented that he is concerned that this is a last minute addition. Ms. Schneider commented that she spoke to MRI and the cost of the operational study is between $10,000 and $12,000. Mr. Alpers commented that the article should be for $52,000 instead of $40,000. Mrs. Cote asked what the Board wanted for language. Ms. Schneider replied that the language should be $52,000 which would include $12,000 for the operational assessment. Mrs. Cote asked the Town Administrator to draft language for the article. Mr. Coates expressed concern with not being notified and asked to be kept in the loop and to be notified ahead of time of any changes. The additional language was reviewed. The Board voted 3-2 to recommend the article as amended.

Article #15: Mr. Alpers made a motion to recommend article #15 to raise $15,000 for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), seconded by Ms. Schneider. The Board voted 5-0 to recommend article #15.

Article #16: Mr. Alpers made a motion to recommend article #16 to raise $18,000 to replace Fire Department pagers, seconded by Mr. Lagueux. The Board voted 5-0 to recommend article #16.

Article #17: Mr. Lagueux made a motion to recommend article #17 to raise $50,000 for Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund. The Board voted 5-0 to recommend article #17.

Mr. Alpers asked to go back to article #14. Mr. Alpers thought there were two separate purposes contained in the article and should be broken out. Ms. Schneider and Mrs. Cote did not think the article needed to be changed.

Article #18: Mr. Alpers made a motion to recommend article #18 to raise $67,500 to but the adjacent property for future municipal needs, seconded by Mr. Lagueux. The Board voted 5-0 to recommend the article.

Town Administrator’s Report: Mr. Coates informed the Board of the following:

The check from Kelley Park is in.

The Transportation Enhancement reimbursement is still under discussion.

Safe Routes to School is ready to go. The town is waiting for one owner to decide on the wall.

The family is still considering the options as pertains to Hemlock Brook Road.

The retaining wall at the intersection of Spring Street and Central Street is completed.
The Police Department had no heat yesterday.

Select Board Items:

Mrs. Cote distributed her draft of the Board’s submission for the Town Report. The Board members had no additional comments.

Mr. Lagueux informed the Board that the Budget Committee continues to deliberate and the Public Hearing is scheduled for February 2nd.

Mr. Manganiello gave an update on Planning Board business.

Mr. Alpers commented that the Board should get going on the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Coates was asked to put together some ideas for the Board’s consideration. Mr. Alpers suggested that the brochure should be printed and $600 needs to be allocated from the budget.

Public Comment:

John Sellers commented that the audit is a good idea and that he is not against the Police Department. The ambulance contract still needs to be looked at. Mr. Sellers commented that the voting rules for the Town Meeting need to be looked at as there is the potential for intimidation and room for corruption. Mr. Alpers replied that the Moderator controls all of that and suggested that Mr. Sellers contact Ned Gordon to discuss this.

Mr. Caldwell asked if the Board would consider sending out an informational package prior to the meetings.

Paul Simard asked when the warrant articles will be complete and on the web site. He asked if they will be done prior to February 2nd.

With no other business to come before the Board, at 8:54PM, Mr. Alpers made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schneider. The Board voted 5-0 in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Costigan

Janet Cote, Chair

Shaun Lagueux, Vice Chair

Paul Manganiello, Select Board

Betsy Schneider, Select Board

Rick Alpers, Select Board
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE


Docket No. 2015-06

APPEARANCE OF C. CHRISTINE FILLMORE

Pursuant to NH Admin Rule Site 202.04, please enter the appearance of C. Christine Fillmore as counsel for the Town of Bristol in the above-captioned matter.

The matter involves an application by Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility. The undersigned, C. Christine Fillmore, is an attorney admitted to practice in the State of New Hampshire.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWN OF BRISTOL

Dated: February 2, 2016

By: C. Christine Fillmore, Esq., Bar #13851
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 2nd day of February, 2016, a copy of the foregoing was sent by electronic mail to persons named as of today on the Service List of this docket.

Dated: February 2, 2016

By: C. Christine Fillmore
INTERVENTION PLATFORM

Platform Objective #1

The fundamental platform of the coalition is to promote underground construction of the newly, revised proposal for the Northern Pass HVDC transmission line ("Proposed Line"). The underground construction should be from the Canadian border to Franklin, NH in either PSNH/Eversource ("Utility") claimed rights-of-ways or the Interstate I-93 right-of-way corridor. This proposal is anticipated to be part of the SEC intervention.

Platform Objective #2

The second platform is intended to address the current proposal to construct the line above ground and underground in Utility owned rights-of-ways, land, and in municipal and state roadways in various towns. The objective is to present a streamlined group of municipal concerns and issues, and common municipal interests shared by all the towns along the Proposed Line. These concerns and interests generally include the following, which are anticipated to be part of the SEC Intervention:

1. Hazards on highway shoulders and paved surfaces caused by unique heating/cooling dynamics as well as related frost heaves.
2. Safety concerns expressed by municipal fire, police, highway, & EMT departments.
3. Construction issues impacting the installation of storm drainage, municipal water, municipal sewer, electric power, telecommunications, cable television, and any future utilities constructed in the municipal right-of-way.
4. Maintenance issues impacting the installation of storm drainage, municipal water, municipal sewer, electric power, telecommunications, cable television, and any future utilities constructed in the municipal right-of-way.
5. Addressing the remediation of any reluctance by developers to construct new residential, commercial, or industrial property adjacent to the underground HVDC line and the attendant extra cost of that construction.
6. Addressing the remediation for the existing residential, commercial, and industrial properties regarding the additional costs and interferences with the use and operation of their existing properties.
7. Addressing utility reimbursement for cost on municipal budgets related to both the construction and operation of the Proposed Line for:
   a. Management & administration
   b. Law enforcement
   c. Safety services
   d. Traffic Congestion
   e. Timely emergency & accident response
Municipalities' Platform for Intervention in Northern Pass Transmission Line Development

Docket #2015-06

8. Require a pre-construction ground survey and inventory of natural and man-made structures among the Proposed Line including streets, intersections, highways, bicycle lanes, traffic control devices, signs, bridges prospective staging & parking areas for Utility's construction vehicles, gravel pits, parks, playgrounds, open spaces driveways, cross country ski and hiking trails, horseback riding including access and parking areas as well as the natural landscape used by or impacted by the construction of the Proposed Line.

9. Require a pre-construction video taping of all the impacted areas and abutting land and buildings to the Proposed Line.

10. Require a Municipal Infrastructure Reimbursement Fund, indexed for inflation and contributed to annually, for the reimbursement of costs incurred by the municipalities to construct, operate, and maintain municipal infrastructure in and around the Proposed Line. This fund will include additional impacts of the HVDC line construction in and around any other municipal land, and or easements and rights-of-way in addition to highway rights of way. This fund shall be intact for as long as the line is in the ground.

11. Provide for and fund an inflation indexed Damages Mitigation Fund to reimburse the municipalities', their citizens', and their property owners' costs for:
   a. Unforeseen events and/or unintended circumstances, including highway accidents, related to the construction and operation of the line;
   b. From earthquakes, floods, fires, overloads, short circuits, explosions, or other catastrophic events that impact the line and the abutters' property; and
   c. To include the costs of post construction restorative landscaping for both sides of the proposed line.

12. Provide for and fund an inflation index Decommissioning Trust Fund to be held in escrow and used to remove the line, all of its appurtenances, and restore the right-of-way to a green field state.

13. Require Utility to annually report all ad valorem property tax information including annual historic original costs by FERC account. As part of this item, require Utility to agree to valuation methodology of replacement cost new less depreciation over an economic life of 100 years with a 20% to the good floor.

Platform Objective #3

The third platform objective relates to potential concerns & issues unique to each town that will be part of the SEC intervention. Some examples are listed below:

1. Bethlehem will require relocation of Utility's Proposed Line and/or transition station around wetlands and an area that abuts a prospective hotel development project.
2. Franconia will require special attention to local utility infrastructure that abuts both the Gale River and the Proposed Line.
3. Local planning board & master plans will need to be considered and consulted, as would safety services departments, schools, cemetery trustees, churches, eleemosynary institutions, and recreation & sports committees.

4. The SEC order that Utility negotiate with each community for which has buried lines in municipal rights of way both state and local, a Construction and Maintenance Agreement, that protects towns and cities by paying for movement of all interferences realignments and future maintenances as required by the towns and cities so as to keep the town and city financial whole as if the line had not been constructed.

5. Mitigation and payment for the construction impact on lost business for local businesses, contractors, inns, motels, B&Bs, farm stands, campgrounds & related visitor facilities impacted by the construction of the Proposed Line, maintenance of the Proposed Line, and any unforeseen emergency on the Proposed Line.

6. Address local conservation commissions, which have concerns about wetlands, beaver ponds, wild life & aquatic habitats, stream, brook, and river crossings, and any other impacts created by the Proposed Line.

7. Provide mitigation for access and parking for recreation and sports including but not limited to:
   a. Swimming, bicycle races, hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding, and road-side walking
   b. Hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and ATV activity
   c. Scenic views and picnic grounds

8. Address and mitigate any other environmental or operational impacts unique to each of the towns not yet identified.