February 3, 2016

Petition to Intervene

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 Northern Pass

Dear Ms. Monroe:

I am writing to respectfully request to intervene in the SEC’s proceedings under Docket No. 2015-06 Northern Pass.

As a resident and homeowner in Franconia and an abutter to the proposed route along NH Rte. 116 in Franconia that the Northern Pass project has determined to take, I am deeply concerned about the vulnerability and damage to the local vegetation, the impact it will have on the environment, the effect on my health, as well as the negative impact it will have on my property’s value. After having attended town meetings and listening to the various interest groups, it is my belief that laying the proposed high voltage cable is a bad idea.

I walk my dog along Rte. 116 in Franconia virtually every day. I am concerned about the impact the high voltage cable will have on the health of both my dog and me. I am aware of the historic health hazards caused by high voltage overhead wires in other parts of the country and my belief is that putting such a strong electric cable 4’ under the ground that I walk along daily will not be good for my health. In addition, where I live, on the property of the Dow Academy, there are several elderly people and a person with a heart pacemaker. I am concerned for their well-being and do not believe they will be unaffected.

If the proposed cable generates heat sufficient enough to melt the snow on top of the road it travels under, I cannot believe that when the cable is “jack-bored” under the streambed the multitude of times it passes under the Gale River and the Ham branch that the rivers will not be affected. I have been told that the flowing water will dissipate the heat. However, since the heat would be continuous, the effect will be to raise the temperature of the water, which will not be good for anything living in or near the river.

My concerns about this project also, I believe, will have a negative impact on my property’s value. There is no information that I’ve seen that substantiates an appreciation of property value as a result of the high voltage cable being installed. And, since there is no benefit to the local area, aside from a proposed
tax reduction, that will enhance the livability, my belief is that the negative impact on my property will more than outweigh any lowering of taxes.

My understanding is that an alternative plan would include running the cable along Rte. 93. This route is farther away from residences and streams such that the negative consequences can be reduced. However, my understanding regarding the Northern Pass’ lack of enthusiasm for this alternative is based purely on profits, not regard for the community. It seems to me if any financial benefit were to derive from this project, the benefits should accrue to the state, not to the local public utility.

As a result of the above concerns, I am opposed to the Northern Pass.

Sincerely,

Frank Pinter

32 Academy St. Unit 14
PO Box 498
Franconia, NH 03580
781-439-3849
flpinter@gmail.com