

February 4, 2016

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

Petition to Intervene, SEC Docket No. 2015-06

Dear Ms. Monroe:

The North Country Scenic Byways Council respectfully requests to intervene in the SEC's proceedings under Docket No. 2015-06 relating to the proposed Northern Pass transmission line. Per the SEC's regulations, we are sending this request to you, with copies to the SEC's distribution list for this proceeding as noted in the "cc" below.

Our particular rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests that may be affected by the SEC's Northern Pass proceedings include the following:

- NH has designated most of the major roads in Coos County and Northern Grafton County as scenic byways.
- The NCSBC is a volunteer body that was formed in 2014 to develop and implement management plans for these byways. Its members include representatives of each of the towns that the byways pass through, as well as representatives of public and private agencies involved in transportation, recreation, and tourism.
- As chair of the NCSBC, I have submitted comments to the Site Evaluation Committee as well as the US Department of Energy documenting the adverse impact of the proposed Northern Pass Project on our byways. The overhead portion of the project will cross scenic byways in eight location in Coos and Northern Grafton County, and they will cross access roads to many of the region's scenic, cultural and recreational attractions. At each of the more than 40 locations where the overhead lines cross the roads, travelers will have close views of massive towers, a view that they will likely consider to be adverse or even unreasonably adverse. Repeated views of industrial towers in an otherwise wild or rural area will have an increasingly negative and cumulative impact on visitors to Forest Lake State Park, Coleman State Park, the Weeks Estate, the Rocks, and the many other well-known attractions along the byways. Hikers, fishermen, canoeists and other users of the back country will have their wilderness experience interrupted and perhaps shattered by views of towers. Massive industrial towers will frame the approaches to the historic town centers of Whitefield, Lancaster, and Stark, all of which are highlights of one or more of our scenic byways.

Since tourism is the largest industry in the North Country, since the region's primary road network is almost entirely made up of state and federal scenic byways, and since the NCSBC has great interest in and responsibility for promoting the scenic byways and the attractions along the byways, we therefore petition the Site Evaluation Committee for intervenor status as the SEC proceeds with its investigation of the proposed Northern Pass Project.

We believe that we are uniquely qualified to represent the interests of the North Country Scenic Byways and that no other agency or organization could articulate or represent our concerns as well as we can.

Sincerely,

/s/

Carl D. Martland, Chair  
North Country Scenic Byways Council  
Home address: 16 Post Road, Sugar Hill, NH, 03586

cc: SEC distribution list (as of the date of this email) for Docket No. 2015-06. Copies sent by email.