

GHORAPANI FARM

**1437 Easton Road
Franconia, NH 03580**

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VIA IN HAND DELIVERY and email

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

February 5, 2016

**Re: SEC Docket No. 2015-06
Northern Pass Transmission LLC and Public Service Company of New
Hampshire dba Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility**

Dear Ms. Monroe:

We, G. Peter and Mary S. Grote, have lived on NH Route 116 (aka "Easton Road") at an address known as 1437 Easton Road, Franconia, NH on land and property ("Historic Farmhouse") we have owned for thirty five years. We also own land and property (the "Cottage") at 1375 Easton Road. These properties are situated on some 31 acres.

We respectfully request to intervene in the captioned proceedings. Intervenor status is sought based on the following:

1. Route 116 is a designated "Scenic Road" with a history of connecting the towns of Franconia, Sugar Hill and Easton through the Easton Valley to towns in the Connecticut River Valley.

2. The Easton Valley today is a popular region for out-door recreation in a mostly rural community consisting of primary residences and second homes. NH Route 116, the Valley's main transportation corridor, has experienced a growing volume of commercial, vehicular, motorcycle, bicycle, hiker and pedestrian traffic over the years.

3. From the corner of our southerly property line to the intersection of DeLage Road, Route 116 makes a sharp turn with a restricted sight line. This curve, with its line of vision obscured by a steep esker ("Dangerous Curve"), has contributed to a large number of vehicular accidents. Over a period of thirty five years we have heard many of collision impacts in the middle of the night, notified authorities and witnessed consequences, including life-changing injuries.

4. We understand that the Applicant's burial of the proposed 1.090 million direct current electric line will produce heat. The Applicant has indicated that excess, underground heat produced by the proposed line would be dissipated from the cable facility directly into surrounding earth.

5. We are concerned that the Applicant's method of underground heat dissipation could create unusual and unexpected hazards on the paved road surfaces above and roadside shoulders beside the cable facility, adding risk to vehicles traveling on Route 116 during times of inclement or winter weather and at the Dangerous Curve. We request a qualified and independent engineering firm study the proposed technology and determine if its application would be appropriate for NH Route 116.

6. Clearing for staging areas, feeder roads, heavy equipment parking and storage along the Easton Valley will need to be supervised and monitored by an independent agent selected by Mr. Peter Roth, Counsel for the Public. In Franconia along Route 116, we have just witnessed a Public Service/Eversource Agent clear-cutting dozens of healthy trees as well as vegetation extending far beyond right-of-way tree trimming operations undertaken in the past by the Utility.

7. Situated just North of the Franconia Inn at the edge of Route 116 is a scenic, historic cemetery. We are concerned that the landscape, character and appearance of this local landmark will not be fully respected, protected and preserved.

8. The Applicant's HVDC Transmission Line ("Line"), if permitted and constructed as proposed, would pass some 35 feet from the center line of Route 116 to the foundation of the Cottage located at 1375 Easton Road. The proposed Line would pass some 30 feet from the center line of Route 116 to the edge of the septic system connected to our historic farmhouse, with a stone foundation, located at 1437 Easton Road. We are concerned about maintaining free access to our buildings and mitigating damage to the surrounding landscape and structures caused by the Applicants heavy construction activities.

9. At the intersection of Route 116 and DeLage Road, we own property on both sides of Route 116 and directly underneath Route 116 where a year-round brook crosses and allows passage for native trout through a large culvert. Installation of and heat generated by the Line could disrupt this sensitive eco-system.

10. We have not given the Applicant permission to dig, excavate or tunnel under any portion of our property nor has the Applicant contacted us for permission.

11. By virtue of the foregoing impacts and concerns about the Applicant's project, Mrs. Grote and I believe our rights, privileges, immunities, and other substantial interests may be affected by this proceeding, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Loss or diminution of rental income
- b. Loss of value and use of a portion of our property
- c. Loss from damage to structures, trees and landscapes
- d. Loss of property rights under NH Route 116
- e. Damage to the year-round native trout brook crossing under Route 116 at the DeLage Road intersection
- f. Temporary loss of use of our property by our tenants due to the

Applicant's excavations, dust, noise, vibrations and movement of heavy equipment passing within 50 feet from our rental properties.

12. Mrs. Grote and I therefore wish to intervene to make our claims and interest known and to prevent the Applicant from using or contending in any court proceedings that this SEC administrative law proceeding in any way deprives us of our rights to have our property dispute with the Applicant resolved in a court of law by a jury of our peers.

WHEREFORE, G. Peter Grote and Mary S. Grote respectfully request that the SEC issue an order granting our petition for intervention and granting such other and further relief as it deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary S. Grote
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G. Peter Grote
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Enclosures

cc: Distribution List; Copies sent by email

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