

From: Peter W. Powell  
Peter W. Powell Real Estate  
86 Main Street  
Lancaster, NH 03584

Re: Petition to Intervene, New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (“SEC”) Docket No. 2015-06 Northern Pass

Dear Ms. Monroe:

I hereby petition the State of New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee to grant me full intervention status (*pro se*) in the proceedings under Docket No. 2015-06 relating to the proposed Northern Pass transmission line. Per the SEC’s regulations, I am sending this request to you, with copies to the SEC’s distribution list for the proceeding as noted.

I hereby request that the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee grant me this intervention status for the following reasons, which demonstrate the rights, duties, privileges and other substantial interests that would be affected.

1. I live and own property at 311 Martin Meadow Pond Road in the Town of Lancaster, County of Coos, State of New Hampshire. I am also a business person, and own buildings at 86 Main Street in Lancaster, as well as other holdings of land in Lancaster, Dalton and Whitefield.

As well as being a landowner in an area that would be blemished by these lines, I have been actively engaged for 42 years as a REALTOR serving clients throughout Coos County, as well as portions of northern Grafton County, and have occasionally served interests in northern Carroll County as well. Most of my work, however, has been in Coos County, in areas where the new lines for Northern Pass (NP) may be constructed, and where existing rights of way would be further burdened by the new lines and towers of Northern Pass, if constructed.

Dozens if not hundreds of my clients and customers, families who have purchased property through my agency over the years, own properties that look out upon a view shed that would be obstructed and degraded by NP if the project were to be completed as proposed. Countless other businesses located throughout the area through which this line would pass, would also be affected by these lines as the quality of their locations are compromised by the loss of beauty and attraction due to the lines and towers as proposed. It is an absolute truth that they cannot be harmed without all of us being harmed, and a blight suffered by one member of this community would be a blight suffered by all.

It is clear that the proponents of this project do not fully understand or appreciate the impact which this project would have on this region. It is of great importance that the SEC hear from those of us who practice their professions on the ground here, and who daily face its challenges, in order to fully understand and evaluate the impact which such a project may have upon so many of us.

I am concerned that professional testimony offered by NP may be inadequate and incorrect in its assumptions and findings. It is my intent to review carefully whatever has or may be submitted, and to apply the rules of common sense and reality as experienced here, to help the committee evaluate those assumptions, and measure the true impact not only on personal and individual losses of value and peaceful enjoyment, but on the resulting economic, natural and community conditions we would have to live with if NP is constructed as proposed.

The impact is already being felt by the mere threat of it. Yet, there are many who do not understand the process, and simply believe that justice will prevail. Rather than seek direct involvement as so many activists have chosen to do, many quietly depend instead upon a sense of fairness to guide the process while watching silently at a distance. It is for them, and for the impact of all this upon my business as I work to serve them, that I request the opportunity to lend my voice and express my own beliefs and findings regarding this critically important subject.

2. In addition, soon after choosing to build my home and pursue my business here in 1973, I began what would be a decades long involvement in various economic development efforts by communities and organizations throughout the region. I often tell colleagues in southern NH that while they pursue economic development as a business, I do it as a volunteer. I have served on countless boards, committees and task forces engaged in the difficult and ongoing, sometimes overwhelming and seemingly impossible effort, to bring quality jobs, growth and opportunity to this treasured but so often struggling North Country of NH. I recognize we are not the only region in need, and that we have many strengths, but we also have weaknesses that must be accounted for by those who sit in judgment over projects that may affect us. We especially need those of you who take up responsibility for such issues to understand how projects like this could weaken our strengths and further discourage the growth of opportunity. There are fundamental, long term issues of economic development which run contrary to all of the short term gains that some may hold up, and we cannot make decisions today that will ruin opportunities for tomorrow. I want to share those issues with the Committee, and make them a part of the record you will consider as you assess this huge and consequential project.

I believe the perspective and experience I can bring to the discussion will be important and useful to the Committee's evaluation, and ask that you grant me the intervention status I have here requested.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Peter Powell

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

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