

Walter Palmer and Kathryn Ting  
1900 Easton Rd., Apt 5  
Franconia, NH  
03580

February 5, 2016

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

***Re: New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee Docket Number 2015-06; Petition to Intervene***

Dear Ms. Monroe;

We, Walter A. Palmer and M. Kathryn Ting, residing at 1900 Easton Rd., Franconia, NH 03850, respectfully request to intervene in the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) proceedings under Docket No. 2015-06, which relates to the proposed Northern Pass transmission line. We make this request on the grounds that we have substantial interests that would be seriously affected by the Northern Pass proposal as currently filed with the SEC, which proposes burial of a high-voltage, direct current (HVDC), 320-kV transmission line along NH Route 116, otherwise known as Easton Rd.

Our direct and substantial interests in this Docket and proposal include but are not limited to the following:

1. Our farm consists of property on both sides of Rte. 116, approximately four miles south of the center of Franconia. As such, the transmission line as proposed would run directly through the middle of our farm. We have over 2,200 feet of frontage on the west side of Rte. 116, and over 1,00 feet of frontage on the east side. Due to this length of Rte. 116 within our farm, Northern Pass would have to locate a cable splice vault within our farm.
2. We have livestock in pastures adjacent to Rte. 116, and we travel across and along Rte. 116 within our farm, on foot, by tractor, or by farm truck, sometimes with pets and/or livestock, numerous times per day. Construction of the Northern Pass transmission line within our farm would significantly disrupt farm operations, and construction noise and activity would disturb livestock. In particular, the extensive construction activity required for installing a splice vault, and completing cable pulling and connection operations at the vault, would cause substantial disturbance. Construction activities along Rte. 116 would also hamper traffic on that road, affecting our ability to travel to and from our farm, and reducing access to our farm by emergency vehicles.

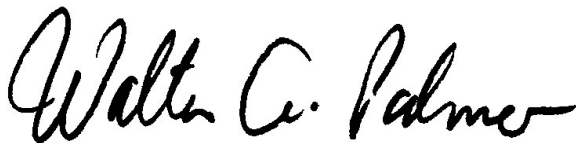
3. While Northern Pass proposes to construct the buried transmission line under the bed of Rte. 116, Northern Pass literature also indicates that they may have to excavate and carry out other construction activities outside of the boundaries of the highway. If this should be necessary within our farm, then our farm property, including improvements such as fences, and vegetation, would be directly disturbed or damaged, resulting in direct financial loss for us, and possible damage to the scenic quality of our farm. Northern Pass has not provided sufficient information to date to allow us to know whether they propose to enter directly onto our property. If so, this would constitute a direct and substantive disruption and loss to us, and we would not permit it.
4. During operation the Northern Pass HVDC 320-kV line would result in static electric and magnetic fields (EMF) surrounding and in the vicinity of the line. The health effects of frequent or constant exposure to EMF are unknown; current scientific data are insufficient to disprove deleterious health effects. Regardless of whether such health effects are proven, there exists a strong general perception that EMF exposure could lead to negative health effects. Presence of this HVDC line on our farm would lead to constant concern and anxiety about possible deleterious effects on our health, and on the health of our tenants, guests, pets, and livestock. This constant anxiety would very substantially and negatively impact the quality of our lives. The negative perception about EMF exposure would lead people to avoid our road, our farm, and our farm products, substantially affecting our business prospects.
5. During operation the Northern Pass HVDC line would release a substantial amount of heat. This thermal effect would result in elevated temperatures in the ground around the line, and at the road and ground surface. Such elevated temperatures could cause road surface icing, fog, and soft road shoulders, all of which could substantially reduce the safety of travel and increase the incidence of accidents, injuries, and fatalities on Rte. 116, including the section passing through our farm. This would negatively affect our safety and well-being.
6. We have a six-unit apartment building on our farm, located within feet of the boundary of Rte. 116. The rental income from this apartment building is crucial to the financial survival of our farm. Disruption of access during construction, perceptions of deleterious health effects of EMF, negative safety issues on Rte. 116, and any visual impacts of the transmission line installation, would discourage tenants and potential tenants from wanting to rent our apartments. This would very substantially affect our business prospects and financial well-being.
7. For the reasons listed above, the construction and presence of the Northern pass HVDC transmission line through the middle of our farm would significantly decrease the desirability of our property, and reduce its value. This would be a

real and substantive financial loss to us, and would constitute a taking of our assets by Northern Pass without our assent or compensation.

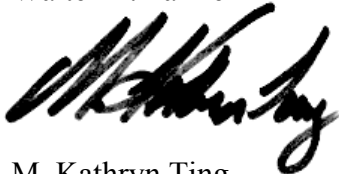
8. Our farm, residence, and apartment building rely on the groundwater and surface water resources on our property. The Northern Pass transmission line would transect the aquifer that supplies our drinking water well, upgradient from the well. The transmission line would also have to cross Coppermine Creek, an important, all-season, cold-water stream and trout fishery that flows through our farm. Installation of the Northern Pass HVDC line underground along Rte. 116 would potentially alter hydrogeologic conditions and introduce contaminants, and negatively affect both our drinking water aquifer, and Coppermine Creek. The Northern Pass line would also result in thermal impacts on these water resources. Impacts to our aquifer and Coppermine Creek could negatively affect our health, financial well-being, and our ability to farm on our property.
9. Northern Pass transmission line burial along Rte. 116 and on our farm would disrupt, alter, and potentially threaten the waterways, riparian zones, flora, fauna, and the aesthetic appearance along Rte. 116, both during construction and during the operation of the line. The project as proposed poses the risk of spreading invasive species along the roadways and on our farm property. Some of the long-term impacts are impossible to predict, since a transmission line of this type has not been previously constructed or operated in rural or residential neighborhoods. All negative impacts would result in a substantial reduction in the quality of our lives, and in the value of our property.

For the reasons enumerated above, we believe that we have substantive and direct interests in the SEC process related to Docket 2015-06. Thank you for your consideration of this petition.

Sincerely,



Walter A. Palmer



M. Kathryn Ting

Cc: SEC distribution list for Docket 2015-06. Copies sent by email.