

Date: February 5, 2016

From: F. Maureen Quinn
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To: Pamela.Monroe@sec.nh.gov

Subject: Petition to Intervene, SEC Docket No. 2015-06

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

Dear Ms. Monroe:

I, F. Maureen Quinn of 47A Nottingham Road, Deerfield, NH, respectfully request 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, I am sending this request to you, with copies to the SEC's distribution list for this proceeding as noted in the "cc" below.

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

Property Value Impact

The boundary lines of my property at 47A Nottingham Road are less than 1 mile of the new transmission lines that are proposed to run from Deerfield Center to the substation on Cate Road in Deerfield. My house has a southerly orientation, facing the path of the current power lines with very beautiful views of woods and fields also facing south. It was this view that amazed me when I first looked at the property and influenced my decision to move here. It has brought me enormous pleasure every day of my seven years here. This view is very likely to be completely marred by the replacement of the current 74.5 foot transmission structures with the proposed 105 foot structures, bringing the height of the transmission structures above the treeline. What is now a very bucolic rural landscape will become quite unsightly.

I believe this change will significantly impact the value of my property, which as it exists now is a beautiful rural New Hampshire property. The potential sale of this property plays a substantial role in my financial strategy for covering future health

care and living expenses for my family and myself in the future, when I am too old to work and manage the care of the property. This was part of my retirement plan when I bought this piece of land seven years ago. If the value of the property declines significantly, I will suffer significant hardship through no action of my own. I am quite certain that this is the exact same situation facing many, many New Hampshire families who have worked very hard, as I have, to secure what should have been a sound investment for the future.

In addition, this project will have severely detrimental impact to wetlands and a myriad of wildlife therein that exist on land abutting my property. This wetland is currently of high quality and provides extensive habitat for endangered species, such as the Blanding's Turtle and the American Marten. This land adjacent to my property has provided many hours of enjoyment hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing, knowing these natural resources are able to co-exist and thrive. I believe having these natural resources so close by contributes to the value of my property and if they are damaged, so will that property value be damaged.

Aesthetic Impact

The rural and culturally valuable historic nature of the town of Deerfield is what drew me to settle in this community when I was looking for a home for my family and myself seven years ago. Many of the nine roads in Deerfield that are acknowledged in the SEC application as scenic byways are those I travel every day, deriving much pleasure in the relatively undisturbed natural beauty that currently exists for long stretches on many of these roads. The Upper Lamprey River Scenic Byway will be particularly impacted by the NPT project, affecting views around the very beautiful Saddleback Mountain area. The scenic nature of these roads will be ruined and the aesthetic pleasure of traveling around Deerfield will be substantially reduced, if not eliminated.

Additionally, I feel that Eversource/NPT has been disingenuous in its portrayal of the visibility of the new transmission structures if one is located in the historic Deerfield Town Center. As one proceeds down Center Road into this historic district, these structures will most certainly be visible and the aesthetic beauty and charm of the cultural and civic center of our town will have been ruined. It seems that NPT has chosen one very particular spot on Center Road to demonstrate how visible the structures will be, which favors their interests. If one were to move a short distance one direction or another along that same street the impact is likely to be very different, given the additional 30 feet in height these towers will possess.

This year Deerfield celebrates its 250th anniversary and many of the celebratory events planned for the town take place in Deerfield Town Center. Every year, in fact, Deerfield hosts many town events that bring the people of Deerfield together in the same area. The reason for this is the historic grounding this gives the residents, the pleasure derived by all in sharing the atmosphere created by the beautiful and historically significant buildings in this part of town, and the fostering of community connection in this context. The NPT project threatens the historic ambience of our

Deerfield Town Center and, given the scale of this project, this will be a permanent devastation.

Public Health Concerns

As stated previously, the boundary of my property at 47A Nottingham Road is less than 1 mile from current 115kV and proposed 345kV transmission lines that run from Deerfield Center to the substation on Cate Road in Deerfield. As a nurse and a public health professional (I hold Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Masters of Public Health degrees), I have significant concerns about the unknown effects of chronic, daily exposure to the electromagnetic fields that will be created with the more than 100% increase in the amount of electrical current carried by this project and the lines in close proximity to my property, myself, my partner, as well as my children and grandchildren.

While more recent studies have had mixed findings, a study conducted in 1979 and reported in the American Journal of Epidemiology pointed to a possible association between living near electric power lines and childhood leukemia. As a former pediatric oncology nurse and mother/grandmother, the lack of conclusive evidence with regard to risks of chronic exposure to elevated levels of electromagnetic radiation is very concerning. The lack of consistent findings of an increasing risk of leukemia, brain tumors, or female breast cancer with increasing exposure to magnetic fields at work does not afford much comfort- a lack of information does not mean that the association does not exist. Virtually all scientific research into this issue states that additional study is required to be able to draw conclusions one way or the other.

The situation regarding the scientific evidence as described above is exactly why the concept of the precautionary principle is appropriate in this situation. The precautionary principle encourages policies that protect human health and the environment in the face of uncertain risks. I believe this concept pertains very relevantly to the lack of knowledge regarding prolonged human exposure to elevated electromagnetic (EM) radiation such as what will occur with the construction of the Northern Pass transmission lines.

Environmental scientists worldwide have proposed that this precautionary principle concept be adopted as the standard guideline in environmental decision-making with regard to policymaking and scientific inquiry. The concept has four central components:

1. Taking preventive action in the face of uncertainty;
2. Shifting the burden of proof to the proponents of an activity;
3. Exploring a wide range of alternatives to possibly harmful actions; and
4. Increasing public participation in decision-making.

I am exceedingly grateful for the intervenor process provided by the SEC as an embodiment of the fourth component of the precautionary principle. I strongly

advocate for the other three components to be applied in any consideration of SEC Docket 2015-06, Northern Pass Transmission project.

In particular, taking preventive action in the face of uncertainty should lead the SEC to a decision to reject the application for this project given the serious consequences to the large numbers of New Hampshire residents in the many communities (including Deerfield) all along the path of this project who would be exposed to potentially lethal EM radiation. I do not feel that Eversource/NPT has met the threshold for achieving the burden of proof that there is no danger to those living adjacent to the power lines proposed in this project. Additionally, the current claim by Eversource/NPT that the expense is too great to fully explore and adopt alternative methods for implementation of this project, i.e., full burial of all power lines associated with the project, stands directly in conflict with the precautionary principle and demonstrates a lack of concern for the health and wellbeing of current and future residents of the affected communities.

I respectfully request that this project not be approved as submitted. No other entity can articulate my specific interests and concerns in the proceedings for this docket as well as I can. Allowing this intervention will not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings, and would help serve the interests of justice.

I respectfully request that the SEC grant this Petition for Intervention and granting such other and further relief as it deems appropriate. I have served copies of this petition to the legally pertinent parties electronically.

Sincerely,
F. Maureen Quinn

Cc:

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