

The State of New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee

Docket No. SEC 2015-06

Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility

BRUCE D. AHERN'S OBJECTION TO THE REQUEST FOR PARTIAL WAIVER OF SEC RULES

I, Bruce D. Ahern, object to the Applicant's Request for Partial Waiver of the Newly Adopted SEC Rules.

1. I agree with all the "Objections of the Counsel for the Public to the Applicants' Request for Partial Waivers Under the Newly Adopted SEC Rules" so I will not reiterate them here but wish to add to them.
2. The Applicants state in their "Waiver Request for Site 301.08©(2) – Decommissioning"; "requiring that a decommissioning plan be prepared by an independent person at the time an application is submitted is impracticable insofar as it were interpreted to require specific engineering details and **should be deemed inapplicable to the circumstances of electric transmission projects, which remain in service for many decades and are rarely decommissioned**". They do not take into account that technology is changing at a rapidly increasing pace. Items that use electricity are becoming much more efficient. Local means of producing electricity are becoming more economically viable. Numerous other means of producing abundant, inexpensive electricity are in the planning and testing stages. These changes and others that may come up in the not to distant future may rapidly make the transmission of electricity over long distances, as proposed by the Applicants, no longer necessary or economically viable. If this happens the proposed project will no longer be used and will no longer have any benefit to New Hampshire. New Hampshire should not have to rely on some vague alternative proposal that may or may not be enforceable in the future
3. If the project is abandon without decommissioning, the State of New Hampshire and the towns the project crosses will not have the resources to protect the public from the structures that have been built: Towers that will become challenges for people to climb resulting in deaths from falling or endangerment of Responders who have to rescue people who climb them but cannot get down. Underground chambers along rural roads, protected only by easily

removed manhole covers that will become dumping grounds for garbage or other unwanted items. Chambers that can be used for any number of illegal or unwanted activities. Chambers that can become a hazard for everyone if the manhole cover is removed and hole is left uncovered.

If the people of New Hampshire have to live with this huge blight on our environment, we should at least have the assurance that it will be removed if it is no longer in use.

I pray that the Sub-Committee deny the Waiver Request.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce D. Ahern