## For a thriving New England

CLF New Hampshire 27 North Main Street

27 North Main Street Concord, NH 03301 P: 603.225.3060 F: 603.225.3059 www.clf.org



#### Via Hand-Delivery and Email

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

November 15, 2017

#### Re: 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, <u>NH Site</u> Evaluation Committee Docket No. 2015-06

Dear Ms. Monroe:

Please find enclosed for filing in the above-referenced matter an original and eight (8) copies of NGO Intervenors' Motion for Declaratory Ruling.

Copies of this letter and the attached have this day been forwarded via email to all parties on the Distribution List.

Thank you for your attention. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,

- 2.2.

Melissa E. Birchard

cc: Distribution List

## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Docket No. 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

#### MOTION FOR DECLARATORY RULING

Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust ("ACT"), Appalachian Mountain Club ("AMC"), and Conservation Law Foundation ("CLF") (collectively, "NGO Intervenors"), pursuant to Site 202.14 and 203.01, hereby seek a declaratory ruling that the only application before the Committee in Docket No. 2015-06 is an application for certification pertaining to the transmission of an all-hydroelectricity resource mix, and that the application pending in Docket No. 2015-06 does not pertain to any potential proposal to transmit a combined resource mix of wind power and hydroelectricity. The NGO Intervenors seek this declaratory ruling due to representations Northern Pass Transmission has made in another venue, stating it is on the verge of obtaining approvals for a project that would transmit a blend of hydroelectricity and wind energy.

1. Pursuant to Site 202.14, motions may be submitted at any time, and normally shall be submitted in writing.

2. Under Site 203.01, any person may submit a petition for declaratory ruling from the Committee. Such a petition shall set forth the exact ruling requested and the basis for such ruling.

3. The application before the Committee in Docket No. 2015-06 specifies that the proposed transmission line will transmit hydroelectric power. 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 (Oct. 19, 2015) ("Application") at 40 ("Northern Pass is a 192-mile, high-voltage electric transmission line, with associated facilities, proposed to carry 1,090 MW of renewable hydroelectric power from Canada into New Hampshire, where it will enter the New England electric grid."). *See also id.* at ES-3, ES-13, 14, 60, 95, 97. The Application indicates that the maximum capacity of the proposed line is 1,090 MW (*id.* at ES-1) and that the amount of hydroelectric power to be transmitted is 1,090 MW. *Id.* at ES-3, 40, 66. The Application states that Northern Pass Transmission has partnered with Hydro-Quebec. *Id.* at e.g. ES-1-2. The Testimony of William J. Quinlan (at 2) indicates that the full 1,090 MW of electricity will be provided by Hydro-Quebec.

4. Not only is the Application far from silent as to the relevant generation resource mix, it asserts that the type of electricity to be transmitted—hydroelectricity—is central to the Committee's review. In seeking to satisfy the public interest test for certification, the Applicants assert that "the provision of 1,090 MW of clean, competitively priced, renewable hydropower to customers in New Hampshire and the rest of New England is the most direct benefit of the Project…" Application at ES-3. The Application asserts that, primarily due to alleged projected capacity market impacts of 1,090 MW of hydroelectricity, the proposed project will "lower energy costs for the region as a whole and New Hampshire in particular." *Id.* at ES-3. The Application furthermore cites estimates for economic growth and reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that it alleges will result from bringing to the region what it characterizes as 1,090 MW of clean, low-cost hydroelectric power. *Id.* at ES-5.

5. The oral and written testimony provided by Applicants' witnesses in this proceeding, including Ms. Julia Frayer and Mr. Robert Varney, rely heavily on the premise that the proposed transmission line will transmit exclusively (or nearly exclusively) hydroelectric power.

6. The NGO Intervenors submit this motion because Northern Pass Transmission appears to have made statements in another venue that suggest it may view the Committee's decision in Docket No. 2015-06 as applicable to an alternate project proposal that would transmit 300 MW of wind and 790 MW of hydroelectricity. Northern Pass submitted two bids in response to the Massachusetts Request for Proposals ("RFP). One bid appears to describe the project at issue in Docket No. 2015-06. However, in its other bid, Northern Pass Transmission advances a proposal to transmit 300 MW of wind power and 790 MW of hydroelectricity over the Northern Pass transmission line. See Attachment A. In that bid, Northern Pass Transmission describes a constellation of relationships among not only Northern Pass Transmission and Hydro-Quebec, as has been described in Docket No. 2015-06, but also Gaz Metro Limited Partnership, and Boralex, Inc. Also in that bid package, Northern Pass Transmission claims that the mixed wind-hydroelectricity project is "[s]hovel-ready, with a 2020 inservice date," and that "all state and federal permits [are] expected in 2017." See Attachment A, Northern Pass Transmission: Hydro + Wind Overview document at 3, 9.

7. The NGO Intervenors are perplexed by these claims, which are wholly unsupported by the Application and testimony in this docket. The NGO Intervenors have based their participation in this proceeding on the facts and assertions provided in the Application, including that the electricity to be transmitted will be exclusively, or almost

exclusively, hydroelectricity provided by Hydro-Quebec.<sup>1</sup> We are unaware of any proceeding before the SEC to secure state permitting for a different Northern Pass Transmission proposal to transmit a blend of wind power and hydroelectricity.

8. Whether the proposed Northern Pass transmission line will transmit hydroelectric power and/or wind power is relevant to the SEC's review not only because the Applicants have made affirmative statements as to the type of generation resource, and as to the benefits that will accrue to New Hampshire due to that generation resource, but also because a different generation resource mix would have a range of different impacts. A wind-hydroelectricity combined resource mix could be preferable in some respects to the all-hydroelectricity generation mix proposed in the Application. However, it would have different capacity market and environmental impacts, and it would entail different corporate partners, different costs, and different contractual agreements, potentially including modified decommissioning arrangements. To our knowledge, however, there is little or no meaningful evidence on these subjects in the docket. The Applicants have repeatedly stated that the electricity to be transmitted will be hydroelectricity and have denied the relevance of other information.

9. For these reasons, the NGO Intervenors request that the Committee issue a declaratory order making clear that the only project at issue in Docket No. 2015-06 is "a 192-mile, high-voltage electric transmission line, with associated facilities, proposed to carry 1,090 MW of renewable hydroelectric power from Canada into New Hampshire, where it will enter the New England electric grid," Application at 40, and that any order

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The NGO Intervenors sought information on the Northern Pass Massachusetts RFP bids, but their Motion to Compel was denied.

resulting from Docket No. 2015-06 will pertain only to the all-hydroelectricity proposal described in the Application dated October 19, 2015 and amended February 26, 2016.

The following parties assent, oppose, or take no position on this filing.
 Any party not listed did not respond by the time of filing.

## Assent

- Abutting Property Owners (overhead portion), Deerfield
- Abutting Property Owners (overhead portion), Dummer, Stark, and Northumberland
- Abutting Property Owners (overhead portion), Whitefield, Dalton, and Bethlehem
- Municipal Group 1 South
- Municipal Group 2
- Municipal Group 3 North
- Municipal Group 3 South
- Non-Abutting Property Owners (overhead portion), Ashland to Deerfield
- Non-Abutting Property Owners (overhead portion), Stark, Lancaster,

Whitefield, Dalton, and Bethlehem

• Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee

#### <u>Oppose</u>

• Applicants

## No Position

• Counsel for the Public

WHEREFORE, the NGO Intervenors respectfully request that the Committee:

A. Issue a declaratory ruling that the only Application before the Committee in Docket No. 2015-06 pertains to a transmission line proposed to transmit 1,090 MW of hydroelectricity;

B. That any final order in this proceeding applies only to the hydropower project described in the application submitted on October 19, 2015 and updated on February 26, 2016; and/or

C. Grant such other relief as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

-2.2.

By:

Melissa E. Birchard Designated Spokesperson for the NGO Intervenors

Conservation Law Foundation 27 N. Main Street Concord, NH 03301 (603) 225-3060 x3016 Fax (603) 225-3059 mbirchard@clf.org

Dated: November 15, 2017

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing has on this 15th day of November 2017 been sent by email to the service list in Docket No. 2015-06.

1. Z. Z.

Melissa E. Birchard

## ATTACHMENT A



THE NORTHERN PASS





July 27, 2017

Department of Energy Resources c/o Judith Judson Commissioner Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020 Boston, MA 02114

**Eversource Energy** c/o Jeffery S. Waltman Manager, Planning & Power Supply 247 Station Drive, NE220 Westwood, MA 02090

National Grid c/o Corinne DiDomenico Manager Environmental Transactions 100 East Old Country Road, Energy Procurement, 2nd Floor Hicksville, NY 11801

Unitil c/o Lisa Glover **Energy Analyst** Unitil Service Corp. 6 Liberty Lane Hampton, NH 03842-1720

Independent Evaluator c/o Paul Gromer Peregrine Energy Group 2 Oliver Street, 8th Floor Boston, MA 02109

Re. **PUBLIC VERSION** of Proposal in response to Request for Proposals for Long-Term Contracts for Clean Energy Projects dated March 31, 2017 (hereinafter, the RFP)

To Each of the Recipients identified in Appendix H of the RFP.

Hydro Renewable Energy Inc. ("HRE"), an affiliate of Hydro-Québec, Gaz Métro Limited Partnership ("Gaz Métro"), Boralex Inc. ("Boralex"), (collectively Gaz Métro and Boralex are referred to as the "Wind Developer") and Northern Pass Transmission LLC ("NPT") (collectively the "Joint Bidders") hereby submit a joint Proposal, as described in more detail below, for Clean Energy Generation from Incremental Hydropower Generation and New Class I RPS Eligible Resources with Class I RECs and Environmental Attributes via Long Term Contract with a Transmission Project under a FERC Tariff under RFP Section 2.2.1.3(iv) (the "Proposal").

This <u>redacted</u>, <u>public and non-confidential version</u> of the Joint Bidders' Proposal redacts confidential information and may be publicly disclosed.

This integrated Proposal describes a wind-and-hydro combination that has been designed to help the Commonwealth of Massachusetts achieve its renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

REDACTED

As specified by RFP Appendix H, we are hand delivering our response on appropriately labeled CD-ROMs, with three copies to National Grid and one copy to each of the other recipients.

Pursuant to Section 1.10 of the RFP, the non-refundable bid fee for the Proposal is \$100,000. On behalf of the Joint Bidders, NPT has paid that sum by wire transfer in accordance with your instructions as follows:

Electric Distribution Company	Remittance Percentage	Bid Fee Due
Unitil	1.13%	\$13,000
National Grid	45.72%	\$45,712
Eversource	53.15%	\$53,315
Total	100%	\$100,000

As part of the Proposal, and pursuant to Section 1.8 and Appendix D of the RFP, the Joint Bidders have each provided a Certification and Authorization certifying their respective knowledge or lack thereof pertaining to the matters set forth in the Certification and Authorization.

On the behalf of each HRE, the Wind Developer and NPT, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to the RFP. Please forward any questions you may have to the appropriate Respondent at the contact information listed in Section 1 of the Proposal.

Sincerely,

Hydro Renewable Energy Inc.

By: cereta Name: Richard Cacchione

Title: Chairman of the Board and President Northern Pass Transmission LLC

By: Name: Leon J

Title: Chairman and President

Gaz Métro Limited Partnership

By: the

Name: Martin Imbleau Title: Senior Vice President, Operations, Transport and Development of New Energies

Boralex Inc. By: Name: Patrick Lemaire

Title: President and Chief Executive Officer



## **NORTHERN PASS:**

The most Advanced and Comprehensive Energy Solution for New England

## NORTHERN PASS AT A GLANCE



## Shovel-ready; power to flow in 2020

- 2020 in-service date
- Construction contracts in place and U.S. and Canadian permits expected in 2017
- Approval secured to interconnect to ISO-NE system

# A

## Project support in New Hampshire

- 80% of transmission lines co-located along existing transmission rights-of-way or underground in public roads
- Positive community outreach plan with significant support from New Hampshire Governor, labor, and business organizations



## **Employment and economic benefits**

- Hundreds of jobs during construction
- Priority hiring of New Hampshire and Massachusetts workers through a labor agreement with IBEW Locals 104 and 490
- \$10 million committed over 20 years to support Massachusetts low-income energy programs and services
- \$200 million Forward NH Fund supporting investments in clean energy innovation, economic development and community betterment

## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The Northern Pass project will bring clean energy and a much-needed new source of electric power to New England.

By providing a new interconnection path between Québec's vast hydroelectric and onshore wind resources and New England, Northern Pass will help Massachusetts achieve the clean energy goals required by its Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). It will also create jobs, lower wholesale energy costs, and provide a host of other unique economic benefits to energy consumers in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

The Northern Pass will fill its new, dedicated transmission line with 1,090 megawatts of firm clean energy year-round, including during winter and summer days when demand for energy is greatest. The generation would combine firm hydropower from Hydro-Québec with new on-shore wind generation located in Québec, provided by a wind developers' partnership between Gaz Métro and Boralex. The wind power will be backed by hydro and includes Class I Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).

This proposal will ensure cleaner air, energy security, and price stability in the region for decades to come. Shovel-ready, with a 2020 in-service date, Northern Pass is the most advanced and comprehensive energy solution for Massachusetts.



## Massachusetts Clean Energy RFP

In August 2016, Governor Charlie Baker of Massachusetts signed into law *An Act Relative to Energy Diversity* (H. 4568). Its aims are to reduce energy costs, enhance reliability, and contribute to the state's greenhouse gas reduction (GHG) requirements.

The Act requires utilities to competitively solicit proposals for up to 9.45 TWhs of clean energy generation from diverse sources, including firm hydropower and onshore wind supported by firm hydropower.

This historic act recognizes the important role of clean energy sources in the supply mix and helps meet the state's GHG emissions reduction targets under the *Global Warming Solutions Act*. It also lays a foundation for the New England region to transition to a costeffective clean energy future.

In accordance with the Act, a request for proposals was issued in March 2017. The deadline for bids was July 27, 2017, and selection is scheduled for early 2018.



## **Powerful Partners**

The project is a joint proposal of four leading energy companies with extensive experience in the energy markets: local provider Eversource Energy, and Canadian's Hydro-Québec, Gaz Metro and Boralex.

Hydro-Québec has been providing power into New England for decades. With a fleet of 62 hydroelectric generating stations, the company has enough power to supply Massachusetts with even more clean hydropower today, but additional transmission infrastructure is required to deliver this ready supply to the region.

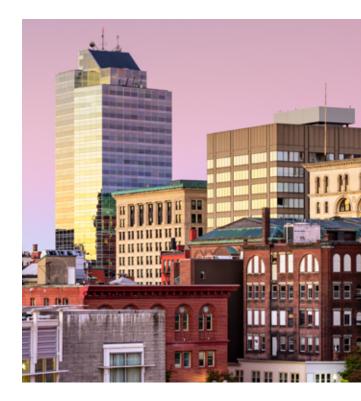
That's where Eversource comes in. Operating New England's largest energy delivery system, Eversource Energy serves 3.7 million customers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. It has extensive experience building and operating the transmission grid in the region, and a proven track record of bringing large and complex transmission projects into service, from concept through construction, on time and under budget.

Gaz Métro and Boralex are leaders in the Canadian energy market. They are experienced partners who have been working together for more than 10 years to develop wind power projects in Québec. In addition to their expertise in the wind industry, Boralex and Gaz Métro have gained over the past years a good understanding of North American energy markets through Gaz Métro's Green Mountain Power subsidiary in Vermont and Boralex's hydroelectric power stations in the northeastern U.S.

## Lowering Energy Prices and Improving Reliability

Because Hydro-Québec's power comes from its entire system of hydroelectric generating stations, its hydropower is a constant, permanently available, and flexible energy source that can respond instantly to changes in demand. It is a renewable option that can firm up intermittent renewables such as solar and wind power and support their development. Transported over Northern Pass' dedicated HVDC line, this combined power source will act as baseload generation.

Thanks to this new energy supply, electric consumers will see a reduction in wholesale energy costs. Further, the Northern Pass project will diversify the region's energy mix, helping to fill the gap created by the retirement of older generating plants, and reducing reliance on natural gas-fueled resources, particularly during the winter months when the gas pipeline system into New England is constrained.





## Helping Massachusetts Meet its Clean Air Goals

Northern Pass will be capable of providing up to 9.4 TWhs of clean energy that the Massachusetts legislation requires. < 6 >

## New Jobs and Economic Growth for New Hampshire and Massachusetts

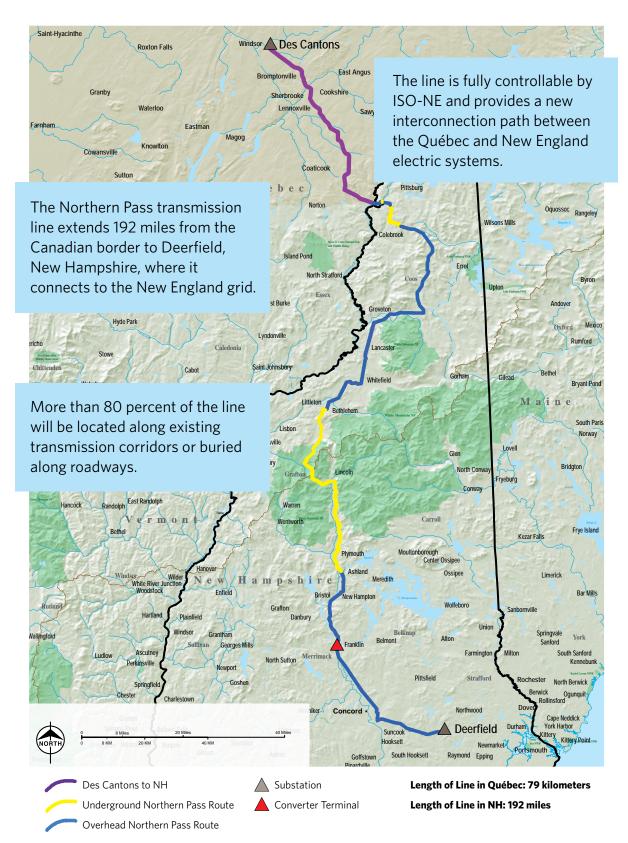
The construction of Northern Pass will bring jobs and other economic advantages to host-state New Hampshire and neighboring Massachusetts. These benefits include:

- Priority to New Hampshire and Massachusetts workers through a project labor agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Locals 104 and 490.
- Northern Pass has finalized an agreement with Massachusetts low income advocacy organizations Action, Inc., Action for Boston Community Development, and the National Consumer Law Center that commits a total of \$10 million in funding to support low-income energy programs and services for Massachusetts low-income customers over 20 years.
- As the host state, New Hampshire will receive millions of dollars in benefits, including
  increased tax revenue and support for clean energy innovation, economic development,
  and investment in local communities through the \$200 million Forward NH Fund. These
  benefits, as well as lower wholesale energy costs, are the reason the project has strong
  support from many of New Hampshire's business leaders, labor organizations, and
  elected officials including Governor Chris Sununu.





## DELIVERING CLEAN ENERGY TO NEW ENGLAND



## Positioned Years Ahead of Competing Projects





Northern Pass is advanced in its development. It is an engineered project with all state and federal permits expected in 2017, and with all major construction and supplier contracts fully executed. Northern Pass stands alone as the project best positioned to meet the Massachusetts GWSA goals and the region's critical energy challenges.







## **NORTHERN PASS: HYDRO + WIND PROPOSAL**

## SUMMARY AND GUIDE

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

This Proposal – "Northern Pass: Hydro + Wind", is made jointly by Eversource Energy, through its subsidiary Northern Pass Transmission LLC (NPT), Hydro-Québec (HQ), through its subsidiary Hydro Renewable Energy (HRE), and Gaz Métro Limited Partnership (Gaz Métro) and Boralex Inc. (Boralex). Submitted in response to the Massachusetts 83D RFP, the "Northern Pass: Hydro + Wind" would deliver Clean Energy Generation from Incremental Hydroelectric Generation (Incremental Hydropower) and New Class I RPS Eligible Resources (Wind Firmed by Incremental Hydropower, the SBx Firmed Project), into the New England region seven days a week, 24 hours a day, over new transmission lines to be constructed in Québec and New Hampshire.

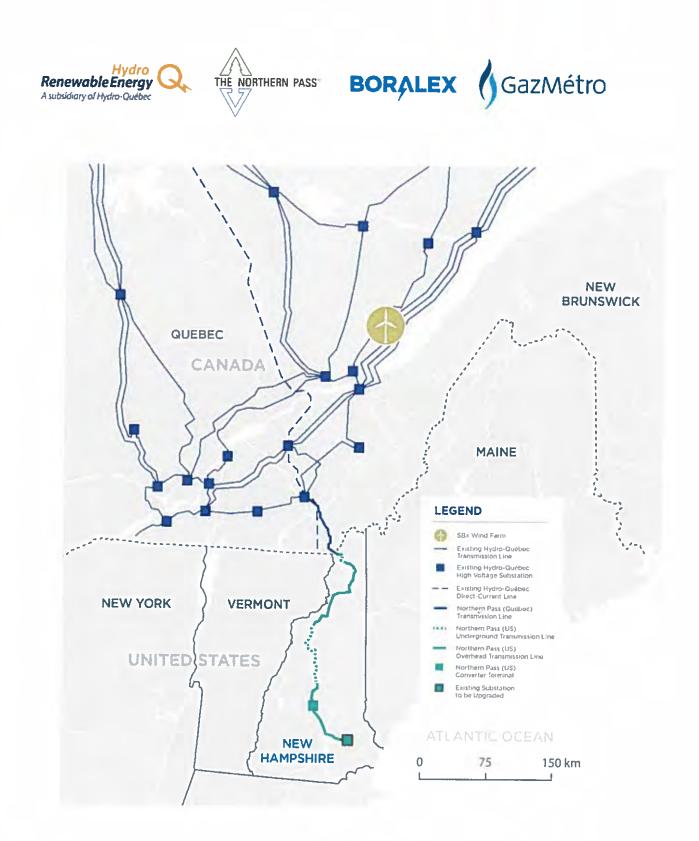
The bidders offer a packaged Proposal for the delivery of a minimum REDACTED of Clean Energy Generation produced by existing HQ Hydropower Resources and New Class I RPS Eligible Resources. The New Class RPS I Eligible Resources and RECs will be provided by Gaz Métro and Boralex (Wind Developer) from a new wind facility (SBx Wind Farm) located in Québec; and both the firming hydropower and the Incremental Hydropower will be provided by Hydro-Québec's existing generating fleet.

NPT proposes to construct a new, HVDC transmission line that will interconnect with the HQ TransÉnergie transmission system. The NPT Line will transmit 1,090 MW of Clean Energy Generation to Deerfield, New Hampshire, and REDACTED



Below is a map representing complete path from the SBx Wind Farm and Incremental Hydroelectric Resources to the Delivery Point in New Hampshire.

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## A Powerful Clean Energy Partnership

Hydro-Québec, Gaz Métro, Boralex, and Eversource are ideal partners to ensure that Massachusetts can achieve its energy diversity goals by providing a source of clean, reliable, firm, baseload power. Together, these companies offer a unique combination of assets and experience.

## GAZ MÉTRO AND BORALEX – EXPERIENCED WIND DEVELOPER

Gaz Métro and Boralex are experienced partners who have been working together for more than 10 years to develop the wind power potential of the Seigneurie de Beaupré territory. The Wind Developer has developed, built and still efficiently operates the Seigneurie de Beaupré Wind Farms.

In addition to its expertise in the wind industry, the Wind Developer has significant experience in developing and operating large scale energy projects. The Wind Developer has gained over the past years a strong understanding of North American Energy Markets through Gaz Métro's Green Mountain Power (GMP) subsidiary in Vermont and Boralex's hydroelectric power stations in the northeastern US.

## GAZ MÉTRO EXPERIENCE

With more than US\$5.8 billion in assets, Gaz Métro is a leading energy player. Gaz Métro is actively involved in developing and operating innovative, promising energy projects, including the production of wind and solar power, as well as the development of biomethane, natural gas as fuel, and liquefied natural gas as a replacement for higher emission-producing energies. It is the largest natural gas distribution company in Québec, with a network of over 10,000 km of underground pipelines serving more than 300 municipalities and more than 205,000 customers. Gaz Métro is also present in Vermont, where it has more than 315,000 customers. Through its GMP subsidiary, it operates in the electricity generation market and in the electricity and natural gas distribution market.

#### BORALEX EXPERIENCE

Boralex develops, builds and operates renewable energy facilities in Canada, in France and in the United States. Boralex is a leader in the Canadian market and France's largest independent producer of onshore wind power. It is recognized for its solid experience in wind, hydroelectric, thermal and solar power generation. Boralex ensures sustained growth by leveraging the expertise and diversification developed over the past 25 years. Boralex has an installed capacity of 1,365 MW of renewable energy and is a public company whose shares and convertible debentures are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the ticker symbols BLX and BLX.DB.A, respectively.



#### HYDRO-QUÉBEC EXPERIENCE

Hydro-Québec is the ideal regional partner to ensure that Massachusetts can achieve its energy diversity goals by providing a source of clean, reliable, firm, baseload power. REDACTED

#### EVERSOURCE ENERGY

Eversource Energy is New England's largest energy company, serving 3.7 million retail electric and gas customers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut with a dedicated workforce of 8,000 employees. In 2016, the company posted \$7.6 billion in revenues, and had assets totaling \$32 billion. Further, Eversource has earned an "A" rating and "Positive" outlook from Standard & Poor's—the highest S&P rating of any U.S. electric utility system.

Eversource is a catalyst for clean energy in the region. The company is ranked as the #1 utility in the country for its energy efficiency and conservation programs, and is focused on ensuring that the future energy supply for New England increasingly comes from renewable energy resources. Toward this end, Eversource recently announced a partnership to develop off-shore wind off of the Commonwealth's coast, and is constructing 62 megawatts of solar energy facilities in locations around the Commonwealth. Further, Eversource's electric distribution subsidiary, NSTAR, has filed a petition with the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities to advance electric vehicles and battery storage to further reduce the Commonwealth's carbon footprint.

With an unwavering commitment to deliver energy to its customers reliably and safely, Eversource invested \$5.8 billion in capital between 2014 and 2016, with \$2.4 billion spent on electric



transmission. Eversource has extensive experience building and operating New England's electric system. Over the past 11 years, the company has built numerous large and complex transmission projects on time and under budget. These included the Middletown to Norwalk, CT 345 kV transmission project, which featured the installation of underground cables along a 24-mile route—the longest continuous section of cross-linked polyethylene (XLPE) underground conductor cable used anywhere in the U.S. Eversource's financial stability, technical experience and capability, and proven track record building major infrastructure projects efficiently and cost-effectively, positions it very well for the Northern Pass project.







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