

**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**

March 1, 2017

**ORDER ON COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC'S MOTION
FOR ADDITIONAL SITE INSPECTIONS**

This order provides for two additional days of site visits to be conducted in this docket.

I. Background

The Subcommittee conducted site visits in this docket on March 7, 8, 14, and 16, 2016. On January 31, 2017, Counsel for the Public filed a Motion for Additional Site Inspections. On February 6, 2017, Grafton County Commissioners filed a Joinder to that request.

As explained below, this Order grants in part and denies in part Counsel for the Public's Motion.

II. Standard of Review

Pursuant to N.H. CODE OF ADMIN. RULES, Site 202.13 (a), the Subcommittee "shall conduct a site visit of any property which is the subject of a proceeding if requested by a party, or on its own motion, if the subcommittee determines that the site visit will assist the subcommittee in reaching a determination in the proceeding."

III. Discussion and Analysis

Counsel for the Public states that considering the size and extent of the Project, the site visits conducted by the Subcommittee during March of 2016 were limited in scope, and also notes that the site inspections did not include the 60 miles of underground sections of the Project.


Counsel for the Public argues that in order for the Subcommittee to fully understand the effect of the Project on the orderly development of the region, aesthetics, historic sites, air and water quality, and the natural environment, that the Subcommittee should conduct additional site inspections including key observation points, historic properties along the above-ground and the underground portions of the Project and requests that the Subcommittee set aside up to four days for additional site visits during fair weather non-winter conditions.

Counsel for the Public is generally correct. Although the Subcommittee spent many hours viewing the proposed route from Pittsburg to Deerfield, due to the size and scope of the Project, additional site visits will assist the Subcommittee in assessing the Application and determining whether to issue a Certificate of Site and Facility. Four additional days, however, is more than should be necessary. Conducting two additional days of site visits is reasonable.

Counsel for the Public's proposal that, if the parties cannot agree on where the Subcommittee should conduct the additional site visits, each intervenor group be allowed to designate 15 locations, is excessive and unreasonable. The parties are directed to come up with a reasonable two-day schedule. If they cannot reach an agreement, then Counsel for the Public shall submit a proposed schedule within 10 days of this Order.

The site visits are tentatively scheduled for April 6 and 7, 2017, and a separate Notice will be issued when the specific locations have been decided.

SO ORDERED this first day of March, 2017.



Martin P. Honigberg, Presiding Officer
Site Evaluation Committee