

**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 30, 2017**

**ORDER ON AGENCY REQUEST TO SUSPEND AND EXTEND  
REPORTING DEADLINE  
(Department of Transportation)**

This order extends the deadline for the Department of Transportation to submit its final permits and conditions.

**I. Background**

Through a series of hearings and decisions in the Spring of 2016, the Subcommittee extended the deadline for issuing its final decision denying or granting the Applicant's request for a Certificate of Site and Facility to September 30, 2017. *See* Order on Motions to Suspend (June 15, 2016). In that Order, the Subcommittee noted that the state agencies with permitting or other regulatory authority had not yet requested suspending the deadlines for their preliminary reports and final decisions. *Id.* The Subcommittee authorized the Presiding Officer to issue rulings on requests to suspend the 150-day deadline (RSA 162-H:7, VI-b) and 240-day deadline (RSA 162-H:7, VI-c) if such requests were received from the agencies. *Id.*

On August 15, 2016, the Subcommittee received a request to suspend the statutory deadline from the Department of Transportation (DOT) to submit its draft permits and conditions until March 1, 2017. The request was granted on August 29, 2016.

On March 17, 2017, DOT submitted a request to suspend and extend the deadline and allow it to submit its decision, including draft permits and conditions, on or before April 3, 2017. In its request, DOT provided a number of good reasons as to why the request is warranted.

## **II. Analysis and Findings**

In establishing the Site Evaluation Committee, the legislature adopted the following findings and purpose:

... the legislature finds that it is in the public interest to maintain a balance among those potential significant impacts and benefits in decisions about the siting, construction, and operation of energy facilities in New Hampshire; that undue delay in the construction of new energy facilities be avoided; that full and timely consideration of environmental consequences be provided; that all entities planning to construct facilities in the state be required to provide full and complete disclosure to the public of such plans; and that the state ensure that the construction and operation of energy facilities is treated as a significant aspect of land-use planning in which all environmental, economic, and technical issues are resolved in an integrated fashion.

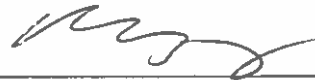
*See* RSA 162-H:1.

Full consideration and evaluation of the Project's technical issues and impacts is required to comply with the goals established by the Legislature, and to ascertain whether issuance of a Certificate is warranted. Granting the DOT's request to extend will not cause undue delay. Pursuant to the Order on Pending Motions (Procedural Order), adjudicative hearings in this docket will start on April 13, 2017. The Procedural Order bifurcates the issues to be addressed as follows: Track 1 issues, project route selection, Forward NH Plan, financial capability, system stability, and public health and safety (excluding construction related impacts), will be taken up first.; Track 2 issues, orderly development, aesthetics, air and water quality, natural environment, economic benefit, historic sites, and construction related impacts. To the extent that DOT's draft permits and conditions relate to Project route selection, they can be addressed during Track 1 of the proceeding. All other issues raised and addressed in DOT's draft permits and conditions are

construction-related impacts and can be addressed during Track 2 of the proceeding. The request submitted by DOT to suspend and extend the deadline is granted.

DOT shall submit its decision on the parts of the Application that relate to its permitting and other regulatory authority, including draft permits and conditions, on or before April 3, 2017.

SO ORDERED this thirtieth day of March, 2017.



---

Martin P. Honigberg, Presiding Officer  
Site Evaluation Committee