

**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**

July 20, 2017

**ORDER DENYING THE FOREST SOCIETY’S MOTION TO CLARIFY
(Department of Environmental Services’ Decision)**

This Order denies the Forest Society’s Motion to Clarify issues associated with DES’s decision to recommend approval of certain environmental permits sought by the Applicant.

I. Background

On March 1, 2017, an Order on Pending Motions (Procedural Order) was issued in this docket. Pursuant to the Procedural Order, all pre-hearing motions related to the Applicant’s Track 1 testimony should have been filed on or before March 29, 2017.

On March 31, 2017, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (Forest Society) filed a “Motion to Clarify the Issues Concerning March 1, 2017, DES Decision Preserved in Event of an Appeal of the Final SEC Decision.”

II. Discussion and Analysis

The Applicant filed applications for a Wetland Permit, an Alteration of Terrain Permit, a 401 Water Quality Certificate and Shoreland Permits along with its Application for a Certificate of Site and Facility in this docket. On March 1, 2017, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) submitted a letter to the SEC stating that it had completed its technical review of the applications and recommended approval with a list of conditions that were enclosed with the letter. The Forest Society asks that the Subcommittee issue a ruling

declaring that DES's recommendations are not "directly and immediately appealable pursuant to the normal appellate procedure for a DES decision and are, therefore, preserved and may be raised in an appeal of a final SEC decision granting a certificate of site approval."

The Subcommittee is not authorized to interpret and/or clarify statutory requirements as they apply to appeals from DES actions. The Forest Society's Motion to Clarify is denied.

SO ORDERED this twentieth day of July, 2017.



Martin P. Honigberg, Presiding Officer
Site Evaluation Committee