

**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**

August 25, 2017

**ORDER ON MUNICIPAL GROUPS 1 SOUTH, 2, 3 SOUTH AND 3 NORTH'S
MOTION FOR ADDITIONAL SITE INSPECTIONS**

This Order grants in part and denies in part the Motion for Additional Site Inspections filed by Municipal Groups 1 South, 2, 3 South and 3 North and requires the Municipal Groups to submit a list of proposed sites than can be visited during a single day.

I. Background

The Subcommittee conducted site visits on March 7, 8, 14, and 16, 2016.

On January 31, 2017, Counsel for the Public moved for additional site inspections. On March 1, 2017, an Order was issued providing for two additional days of site visits and directing the parties to develop and submit a reasonable two-day schedule within 10 days. On March 15, Counsel for the Public submitted a list of proposed stops over two days and requested that the Subcommittee consider a third day of site visits to view the 7.5 miles of proposed underground burial route in Clarksville and Stewartstown where the roads are closed until May 1, and also proposed additional aboveground sites in northern New Hampshire that are more easily accessed after May 1.

On March 30, a Notice and Order of Site Visits was issued, scheduling site visits on April 6 and 7. The notice included a list of locations to be viewed during the two-day period. Inclement weather, however, required the postponement of those visits.

On July 12, 2017, a Notice and Order of Site Visits was issued, that adopted a majority of the underground and aboveground sites proposed by Counsel for the Public in the northern part of the State that are only accessible after May 1, as well as a portion of the sites that were planned, but postponed, in April 2017. The site visits took place on July 27 and 28, 2017.

The order also provided that motions for any additional site visits shall be submitted in writing in accordance with N.H. CODE OF ADMIN. RULES Site 202.14.

On July 25, 2017, Municipal Groups 1 South, 2, 3 South and 3 North (Municipalities) filed a Motion for Additional Site Inspections. The Applicant objected.

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. Analysis and Findings

The Municipalities request two additional days of site visits. The Municipalities assert that the Subcommittee should spend one day visiting sites from Plymouth south to Deerfield, and an additional day to visit sites just in the City of Concord

The Municipalities acknowledge that site visits have already been conducted at some of the locations that it proposes. They argue, however, that it will be beneficial for the Subcommittee to view these locations again in different weather conditions after hearing the testimony of the Project’s impact at these locations. The Municipalities also argue that the Subcommittee should visit additional locations that it has not visited yet to ascertain the impact of the proposed Project at those locations.

Finally, the Municipalities assert that the Subcommittee should schedule one additional day of site visits just for the City of Concord.

The Applicant does not object to one additional day of site visits but believes it is unnecessary to schedule two days. The Applicant further asserts that it is not beneficial for the Subcommittee to re-visit sites. The Applicant requests that the additional day of site visits not interfere with scheduled adjudicative hearing days.

The Subcommittee has already conducted extensive site visits. While it may be beneficial for the Subcommittee to view additional sites or revisit some sites, the request by the Municipalities is too broad. The Municipalities' request is granted in part and denied in part.

The Municipalities shall submit a revised list of proposed sites that encompasses no more than one eight-hour day. The Administrator shall review the revised list and coordinate the site visit with the Applicant and the Municipalities. A separate Notice of Site Inspections incorporating the revised list will then be issued.

SO ORDERED this 25th day of August, 2017.



Martin P. Honigberg, Presiding Officer
Site Evaluation Committee