

WHITEFIELD PLANNING BOARD
56 LITTLETON ROAD
WHITEFIELD, NH 03598

HPIC 11SEP15 11:45

September 8, 2015

Martin Honigberg, Chairman
Site Evaluation Committee
c/o Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

RE: Proposed Northern Pass Transmission Project

Mr. Honigberg:

The Whitefield Planning Board has great concern regarding the effect that the proposed Northern Pass Transmission Project would have on our town. We respectfully request that if Northern Pass is to move forward, the Site Evaluation Committee require the transmission lines to be buried in Whitefield, where Whitefield would be adversely affected – just as they are proposed to be buried in other towns in our region.

Whitefield has the most overhead mileage of any town on Northern Pass' proposed route, crossing 10.4 miles of the town's views and village. The transmission towers as proposed would range up to 100 feet high, well above both the tree canopy and the wooden poles on the existing transmission right-of-way. This major power line would cross directly over three main roadways and cut across scenic views from Routes 3 and 116. The visual impact would be severe, as one will not be able to enter Whitefield without seeing the lines. As such, the project would adversely affect large swathes of the town's visual landscape, the central historic and business district, and significant natural and preserved areas.

This transmission project does not fit with Whitefield's Master Plan, and there is no doubt that new transmission lines of this scope and scale will negatively affect the orderly development of Whitefield and the region, private property values, business prospects, and economic development.

The Whitefield Planning Board believes the adverse impacts of Northern Pass can be largely avoided if the transmission lines are buried in Whitefield. We respectfully request equal treatment – that is, line burial – with other towns where burial has been proposed.

Sincerely,

Scott Burns

The Whitefield Planning Board

Frank Santoro
Mark H. Thayer
Everett W. Kennedy