



THE COHOS TRAIL



A 165-MILE TRAIL THROUGH RUGGED COOS COUNTY NH

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September 23, 2015

Martin Honigberg, Chairman
 New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
 New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
 29 Hazen Drive
 P.O. Box 95
 Concord, NH 03302-0095

Re: Northern Pass Transmission - Eversource SEC Docket No. 2015-06

Dear Mr. Honigberg,

After careful review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Northern Pass Transmission Project, The Cohos Trail Association finds it deficient in its failure to focus on environmental and aesthetic impacts on New Hampshire's Cohos Trail. The Cohos Trail is a relatively new and important hiking trail in N.H. that runs some 165 miles (south to north) from U.S. Route 302 in Crawford Notch to the U.S./Canada border in Pittsburg. At the Pittsburg port of entry the Cohos Trail meets its neighboring trail system, Sentiers Frontaliers, making it an international hiking trail.

There are no visual simulations in the EIS of the multiple above-ground transmission line crossings of this trail proposed by Northern Pass. The visual impact and visual simulations of these crossings in Stewartstown and Stark need to be provided in the final EIS in a far more robust documentation of the environmental impact that the project will have on this important hiking trail.

The U.S. Dept. of Energy draft EIS states in its 'Recreation' section: "Construction and operation of an overhead transmission line (including periodic vegetation management) would result in long-term visual impacts. These impacts detract from the experience of users by affecting their sense of primitiveness and remoteness. There would be no long-term visual impacts resulting from underground cable." Therefore, The Cohos Trail Association's Board of Directors asks for the EIS to address and document the impact of the hydro-transmission line/towers and corridor, on the Cohos Trail. The Cohos Trail Association also wishes to go on record as opposing the Northern Pass project.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad E. Pepau, President