

November 11, 2015

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee  
Attention: Pamela Monroe  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH, 03301

Dear Ms Monroe,

The Pembroke Conservation Commission (PCC) received the Wetlands Permit Application for the Northern Pass on October 21st. The PCC held its regular monthly meeting on November 9th and so we are past the deadline to respond. The application was accompanied by thousands of pages of technical data. There isn't enough time to review the copious information as it relates to our Town in the allotted time and so we are requesting an extension to review this application and comment responsibly. 6 of the 7 members of the PCC were present at our meeting and all were very concerned about the environmental impact of this project.

Northern Pass will travel more than 6 miles through Pembroke and cross more than 50 wetland units, including several high-value wetland complexes for which the Commission will be seeking Prime Wetland designation in the near future. The major wetland function, support of wetland-dependent wildlife, will be adversely impacted by the new power-line poles and the right-of-way expansion. Direct and permanent impacts to the viability of habitat for certain wildlife species; notably fishers, raccoons, squirrels, neotropical migrant passerines, terrestrial and vernal-pool salamanders, and other species that are arboreal dependents; will occur. Mitigation for these impacts should be required as a condition for a wetland permit, and should include the permanent protection of forested-wetland habitat and associated buffers.

The transmission line will also cross the two most significant streams in Pembroke, Ames Brook and Pettingill Brook, as well as 2 major rivers, the Suncook and Soucook. Pembroke derives its public-water supply from stream-side wells adjacent to these rivers. We are concerned that maintenance of an expanded right-of-way to accommodate Northern Pass will result in an increase in the direct application of herbicides in wetland areas. These chemicals are likely to be transmitted downstream to the detriment of aquatic organisms and existing and potential future water supplies.

An expanded right-of-way, and associated permanent deforestation, will also change the thermal regime of wetlands and watercourses draining the impacted areas, adversely impacting aquatic organisms beyond the immediate area of the power lines. As is clearly evident from past experience, the permanent land clearing,

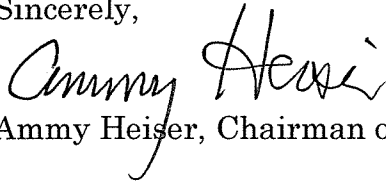
associated with the right-of-way and its expansion, invites abuse by off-road vehicles leading to soil erosion and the siltation of wetlands and streams, further degrading habitat and water quality.

We believe this project will have major environmental impacts on our State and in our Town and that the timeframes provided for town comment in the Administrative Rules are inappropriate for a project of this magnitude. We are requesting that someone from your staff attend a site visit to help answer our questions. This will be necessary if we are expected to give a thorough examination of this application.

You can reach me on my cell: 603-568-0021.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ammy Heiser". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Ammy Heiser, Chairman of Pembroke Conservation Commission

cc. Timothy Drew  
NH Department of Environmental Services