

## Comment on Northern Pass Transmission Project, Docket 2015-06

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The New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee has enormous power.

The SEC has the power to compel individual landowners, whole towns, and even whole regions to accept a private, for-profit, non-reliability energy transmission line over their strenuous and well-founded objections.

The SEC has the power to allow the Northern Pass Transmission project to be built on old easements that were granted for an entirely different energy installation, on land where owners do not want it because of the damage it will do to their land and their property,

No individual property rights, no local zoning or planning ordinances, no regional planning policies – none of these can stand if the SEC decides to override them by permitting this project as proposed.

In short, this state regulatory body has the power to preempt any and all local preferences in this matter.

The RSA governing the SEC states that the committee shall make the following findings in order to grant a certificate:

*(b) The site and facility will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the **views of municipal and regional planning commissions and municipal governing bodies.***

*(c) The site and facility will not have an unreasonable adverse effect on **aesthetics, historic sites, air and water quality, the natural environment, and public health and safety.***

*(e) Issuance of a certificate will **serve the public interest.***

So, I am taking this opportunity to call upon the SEC to use its enormous, some would say overreaching, power wisely. I urge the SEC to take these requirements very seriously, to apply them stringently, and insist that Northern Pass be fully buried. Please uphold the trust the public has placed in you.

Respect the voices of those affected by this project.

Respect the views of municipalities and regional planning groups that advise against the present plan because it will interfere with the orderly development of their areas.

Respect the majestic scenery that New Hampshire is famous for, that draws our visitors and inspires our citizens, and will be harmed irreparably by overhead lines.

Respect the timeless value of our historic and cultural landscapes, the landscapes that have been tended for generations and that constitute the essence of New Hampshire, which will be compromised by the intrusion of industrial structures.

Please do not choose to accept the faulty plan that is offered here, a plan that spares some towns with buried lines and afflicts other towns with overhead towers, and whose service of the public interest is questionable at best.

Please do not ignore the fact that the newer technology selected by Northern Pass, as announced in August and filed in their current application, allows for expanded burial that would drastically reduce the impact on towns presently scheduled for overhead lines. If

Northern Pass can bury some of this line they can bury all of it with the cable technology they plan to use.

Please do not allow a private, for-profit, international conglomerate to damage New Hampshire because it would rather not accept a lower profit by doing the right thing. The people and land of New Hampshire should not bear the cost of Eversource's and Hydro Quebec's high profit margin for this project.

Please insist on a Northern Pass plan that is fair to everyone along its route or, failing that, do not issue a certificate.

Please do not fail us in this. It is your responsibility to wield your power in an evenhanded way. You work for us, the people of New Hampshire, and I call on you to do your work in a way that will bring credit to you and deliver a fair resolution to the people of this state.