

From: Linda Lauer [<mailto:llauer@co.grafton.nh.us>]

Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 1:19 PM

To: Monroe, Pamela; Iacopino, Michael J; peter.roth@doj.nh.gov; Honigberg, Martin

Cc: sueford06@gmail.com; brad.bailey.mibf@statefarm.com; balloontraveler@yahoo.com; erin.hennessey@leg.state.nh.us; Kenney, Joseph

Subject: Request for Delay of Northern Pass SEC Hearings

I am the County Commissioner for Grafton County District 2, which encompasses the northern half of Grafton County. I am writing today at the request of a number of my constituents to express my concerns about the SEC and/or joint SEC/DOE hearings to be held between March 1 and March 16, and to strongly encourage you to reschedule the SEC hearings to a later date.

A unique set of circumstances has resulted in a unique problem. As you know, the Northern Pass application was initially accepted as complete in early December 2015. Later that month, SEC rules were changed and Northern Pass officials requested and were granted additional time to revise their application and bring it into compliance with the new rules. Northern Pass was given until March 15, 2016 to file its revisions. At this point, the public has no way to estimate the extent and magnitude of the changes to the application. If significant changes are involved, it is inconceivable to me that a public hearing would be held on an obsolete application. If the changes are expected to be very minimal, it is disappointing to me that the transparency of the process would be purposely jeopardized.

The Northern Pass project has already cemented distrust of both the project and the approval process among the majority of residents in my district. The proposed public hearing schedule simply reinforces the belief that is held by many that the concerns of the public are being ignored in this process or are receiving token acknowledgement. I very strongly urge you to restore transparency to this stage of the process by allowing the public time to review the final application prior to holding the next set of hearings.

I would also like to express my concern about combining the SEC and DOE hearings into a single meeting in both Coos and Merrimack counties. SEC and DOE two hearings are, to the best of my knowledge, designed to look at different aspects of the Northern Pass project. I predict a great deal of confusion on the part of the public attendees, and also predict that many voices will not be heard because of the probable length of the hearing. Rescheduling the SEC hearings while keeping the original dates for a dedicated DOE hearing in the two affected counties eliminates that issue.

I recognize that this is a complicated and unpopular project (at least in Grafton County), and I suspect that you also recognize that fact. Maintaining the transparency and the integrity of the approval process is therefore critical, and the proposed SEC/DOE hearings prior to March 15 are in direct opposition to that transparency. I therefore urge you once again to reschedule the SEC hearings until after the final application is released.

Respectfully,

Linda D. Lauer

Grafton County Commissioner, District 2

603-747-4001