

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

March 10, 2016

Dear Sirs:

The proposed high voltage transmission line, Northern Pass, will pass through a few thousand feet of Bear Brook State Park in Allenstown, New Hampshire. This proposed project will create an unreasonable adverse effect on the aesthetics and the natural environment of Bear Brook State Park. Furthermore, the proposed Northern Pass will violate the original transfer deed from the federal government. For these reasons, I am opposed to this project as currently presented.

Bear Brook State Park is the largest developed state park in New Hampshire. It is currently more than 10,000 acres and lies within both Merrimack and Rockingham Counties. The park contains: pond beaches, 40 miles of trails, a 101 site campground, group picnic areas and a museum complex. The Civilian Conservation Corps site within this state park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, this large state park lies within 15 miles of Manchester, New Hampshire—the state's largest city. It provides nearby recreational access to our large population centers and is a very busy place as families can easily access this state park.

The proposed towers will be significantly above the current tree line. They will be visible from numerous places in the state park including both Catamount and Hall Hills—popular day hikes. The view of these towers will undoubtedly disturb the visitor's experience to this natural environment. The proposed towers negatively impact the enjoyment of this state resource. Bear Brook State Park is of no less importance than the White Mountain National Forest. It provides much of the same amenities to our citizens and is much closer to our population centers.

In 1943, the State of New Hampshire accepted the Bear Brook lands from the federal government with the following conditions:

“Provided always, that this deed is made upon the express condition that the State of New Hampshire shall use this property exclusively for public park, recreational, and conservation purposes.”

The proposed Northern Pass project is not a recreational or conservation project. It is a project to benefit the shareholders of Eversource Energy. As such, it violates the original deed from which the State of New Hampshire accepted these lands. Thus, it should not proceed as currently proposed.

This Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 10 a.m. please meet me in the Snowmobile Parking lot, Bear Brook State Park, Deerfield Rd., Allenstown, New Hampshire and I will happily walk with you to show you the impacts of this proposed project on our state's treasured natural resource.

Sincerely,

Laura M. Bonk, MS, MBA

**P.O. Box 194
Suncook, NH 03275
(603) 340-3524
Bonk@alum.mit.edu**