

**WEEKS LANCASTER TRUST COMMENTS BEFORE THE
NH SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE
RE: NORTHERN PASS TRANSMISSION LLC PROPOSAL, DOCKET NO. 2015-06**

Rebecca Weeks Sherrill More, Ph.D.

March 14, 2016

Plymouth State University Welcome Center, Holderness, New Hampshire

I am Rebecca W. S. More, speaking on behalf of the Weeks Lancaster Trust in Lancaster NH, regarding the proposal of the Northern Pass Transmission LLC to lay TWO (2) *new* Above-Ground Power lines through over 150 miles of New Hampshire's historic and cultural Landscape.

Many here in NH know how devastated the White Mountains region looked before the Weeks Act of 1911. Timber Companies, protected by the State, destroyed property, industry and tourism. *The New England Homestead* depicted them as "The Boa Constrictor of the Mountains", crushing the long-term well being of people for the short-term profits of a few. The reclamation of forest lands and habitats has been slow and incremental. Neither the Northern nor Southern sections of the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) would exist today with the Weeks Act's goal to establish Federal Forest Reserves. The Weeks Act was a collaborative, grass-roots effort, based on comprehensive studies and supported by a wide consortium of people. For many here in NH, there is a new serpent in the White Mountains - this time bearing the face of the Northern Pass.

Sadly, Weeks State Park, given to the State in 1941 by my grandfather, Sinclair Weeks, and his sister Katherine Davidge, directly overlooks this proposed transmission line. They gave the Mt. Prospect site to the State as a reminder of the purpose and benefits of the Weeks Act, as well as for recreation for all. Thousands of visitors come from around the world to enjoy its extraordinary panoramic views from Mt. Monadnock near the Canadian Border to Mt. Moosilauke on the southwestern boundary of the White Mountain National Forest. From Mt. Washington, itself, Weeks State Park and Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge are easily visible. People come to enjoy the fragile historic and cultural landscape that so many worked so hard to restore and conserve for future generations - not to see a double line of 90 - 120' Power Transmission Lines.

Not least, the documents submitted by Northern Pass in their Application regarding the Visual Impact of this proposal on Weeks State Park are **inaccurate, inconsistent and misleading**. Just one example will suffice: the submitted materials state that only eight (**8**) towers would be visible from the Park, however, in fact, the number is approximately two-hundred and nineteen (**219**). Therefore, any assessment of Unreasonable Adverse Impact is based on false information. I hope that the SEC, acting on behalf of the people of NH, will subject these materials to critical review and assessment by independent experts. If the Weeks State Park materials are *inaccurate, inconsistent and misleading*, then undoubtedly those Filed by the Applicant are also erroneous for other areas.

The stakes for the long-term future of the State is very high. My extended family and the entire State and Nation are beneficiaries of the foresight of my great-grandfather John Wingate Weeks and his many colleagues in NH and the US. Congress. Your careful review and assessment will affect the long-term well being of the state's assets: its environment, inhabitants and historic and cultural landscapes from pre-history to the present.

Thank you.