



March 18, 2016

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

Re: GMCC Comment on SEC Process for Docket No. 2015-06

Dear Ms. Monroe,

I write today to offer comments on behalf of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) in regard to the SEC procedural conference set for next week. I am unable to attend these proceedings in person but appreciate the opportunity to submit written comments on behalf of the GMCC that can be considered during this proceeding.

As part of the procedural conference, it is our understanding the SEC will consider the timeline in which the SEC must render a decision on this application. The GMCC strongly believes the statutory timeline requiring the SEC to rule within 12 months of the acceptance of the application is appropriate, fair, and should remain in place as this process moves forward.

A fair, efficient, and timely schedule that follows the intended SEC process is in the best interests of all parties, regardless of whether they support or oppose this application. Since the acceptance of this application in December, there have been 10 public hearings allowing for ample opportunity for public comment. I recently had the opportunity to participate in the SEC hearing in Deerfield and believe the proceeding was well managed and fair to all parties and stakeholders.

It was also our observation that the issues raised by supporters and opponents at that hearing were generally well known and understood by all and have been raised multiple times in the more than five years this project has been discussed in New Hampshire. With the positions of supporters and opponents well established and understood at this point, it's important the process move forward expeditiously. The GMCC is concerned that abandoning the statutory deadline now at the start of the process will unnecessarily lead to further delays later on in the process.

Finally, the GMCC is concerned with the message that will be sent to future applicants and others looking to do business in New Hampshire if the statutory deadline is abandoned at the outset of the process. A stable and fair regulatory process is important to encouraging companies to do business in

New Hampshire. It is our belief that departures from what is intended by statute could reinforce the notion that our state's regulatory processes are not business-friendly.

The GMCC encourages the SEC to establish the schedule for this application using the statutory deadline and consider any issues to keeping the schedule on a case by case basis as they arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Skelton", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Skelton
President and CEO
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cc: NHSEC Distribution List for Docket No. 2015-06