

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 21, 2016

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

Re: NH Site Evaluation Committee Docket No. 2015-06: Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (collectively the “Applicants”) for a Certificate of Site and Facility for Construction of a New High Voltage Transmission Line in New Hampshire

Dear Ms. Monroe:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced docket, please find the Applicants’ Proposed Procedural Scheduling Order. The Applicants respectfully request that the Site Evaluation Committee (the “Committee”) adopt a procedural schedule that adheres to the statutory timeframes provided for in RSA 162-H:7.

RSA 162-H, which was recently amended and signed into law in July 2014, provides for up to 365 days for the Committee to render a decision as to whether to issue a Certificate of Site and Facility. That period was extended from the shorter time frames required under prior versions of the statute. On December 15, 2015, consistent with RSA 162-H, the Committee adopted new rules that provide for a decision to be made within 365 days of the acceptance of the Application. The Applicants’ Proposed Procedural Schedule sets out a timeframe for the Committee to comply with RSA 162-H:7, VI-d and Site 301.12(c).

While the Applicants are mindful of the due process rights of opposing parties, those parties must also recognize that the Applicants have due process rights which include ensuring that there is no undue delay in the timely processing of the application. The Applicants believe that as a threshold matter, the procedural schedule must respect the statutory time frames and all parties must make their best efforts to comply. At this point, there is no basis for abandoning those statutory time frames.

It is important to note that the Northern Pass Transmission Project has been subjected to more intense pre- and post-filing public scrutiny than any project ever to come before the Committee. For example, the United States Department of Energy (“USDOE”) has studied the Project and

Applicants' Proposed Procedural Scheduling Order

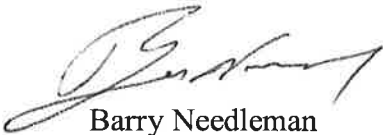
March 21, 2016

Page 2

issued a comprehensive report in the form of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS").¹ The DEIS thoroughly addresses all of the Project's benefits and impacts; it has been available to the public since July 2015 and was supplemented in November 2015 to incorporate USDOE's assessment of the new route design announced in August 2015. Moreover, in the past seven years, the proponents of Northern Pass have held approximately 30 open houses and public information sessions (15 open houses prior to the 2015 route announcement and 15 open houses, public information sessions and public hearings since the 2015 route announcement, some of which were combined with public hearings held by the Committee). The Applicants have also had over 4,000 meetings, contacts with public officials, municipalities, abutting property owners, and citizens of New Hampshire.

Based on comments at the Joint USDOE and SEC Hearings, it is clear that from the perspective of both proponents and opponents of this Project that an expeditious ruling on the Application for a Certificate of Site and Facility is not only required by the statute, but is in the best interest of all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Needleman", is written over a horizontal line.

Barry Needleman

Enclosures

cc: Distribution List

¹ The USDOE has also held numerous public information sessions on the Project including public scoping meetings in 2013. More recently, USDOE held a series of public hearings to receive comments on the DEIS.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06

**JOINT APPLICATION OF NORTHERN PASS TRANSMISSION LLC &
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY**

APPLICANTS' PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULING ORDER

Background

On October 19, 2015, the Applicants filed an application with the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (“SEC” or the “Committee”) for a Certificate of Site and Facility to construct and operate a new 192-mile transmission line with a capacity rating of up to 1,090 MW from the Canadian border in Pittsburg, New Hampshire to Deerfield, New Hampshire (the “Project”). The Committee accepted the application on December 18, 2015. The Applicants provided additional information on February 26, 2016, pursuant to the Revised SEC Rules effective December 16, 2015. On March 18, 2016, the Committee issued an Order on Petitions to Intervene.

Procedural Schedule

A pre-hearing conference will be held on March 22, 2016. At such time, the Applicants propose that the Committee adopt the following procedural schedule:

1. **March 22, 2016** – Prehearing Conference
2. **April 11, 2016** – Counsel for the Public Files Motions to Engage Consultants (Committee to rule within 10 days)
3. **April 11, 2016** – Counsel for the Public to propound discovery requests upon Applicants on all topics that do not require consultant input and Interveners to propound discovery requests upon Applicants on all topics

4. **May 13, 2016** – Applicants to respond to first round of discovery requests from Counsel for the Public and all discovery requests from Interveners
5. **May 16, 2016** – Counsel for the Public to propound all data requests upon Applicants that require assistance of an expert consultant
6. **May 16, 2016** – Agencies report on progress of permits 150 days after application is accepted
7. **May 23 to May 25, 2016** – Technical sessions of Applicants’ witnesses for which Counsel for the Public and Interveners have completed discovery
8. **June 13, 2016** – Applicants to respond to Counsel for the Public’s second round of discovery requests
9. **June 20 to July 1, 2016** – Technical sessions of Applicants’ remaining witnesses conducted
10. **July 15, 2016** – Counsel for the Public and interveners disclose their experts, if any, to the Applicants and provide pre-filed testimony
11. **August 8, 2016** – Applicants propound discovery requests upon Counsel for the Public and interveners
12. **August 15, 2016** – Agencies issue final permitting decisions 240 days after application is accepted
13. **September 9, 2016** – Counsel for the Public and interveners respond to discovery requests
14. **September 19 to September 23, 2016** – Technical sessions of Counsel for the Public witnesses and intervenor witnesses conducted
15. **October 3, 2016** – Parties file statement of stipulated facts, any other stipulations, and supplemental testimony
16. **October 10, 2016** – Structuring Conference
17. **October 17 to November 18, 2016** – Final Adjudicatory Hearings
18. **November and December 2016** – Deliberations
19. **December 19, 2016** – Decision Issued

Respectfully submitted,

Northern Pass Transmission LLC and
Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a
Eversource Energy

By Its Attorneys,

McLANE MIDDLETON,
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Dated: March 21, 2016

By: _____

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on the 21st of March, 2016, a copy of the Applicants' Proposed Procedural Scheduling Order was electronically served upon the SEC Distribution List.

Barry Needleman