

Andrew D. Dodge
2 Central Green
Winchester, MA 01890
andrew-dodge@verizon.net

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 28, 2016

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

Re: New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (“SEC”) 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 (the “Project”)

Dear Ms. Monroe,

As an intervener in the above-mentioned matter I am writing to request that the SEC adopt the procedural schedule proposed by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests that was submitted to the SEC by Amy Manzelli on March 21, 2016 (the “Proposed Schedule”). Given the size of the Project and the number of parties and interests involved, I believe the Proposed Schedule includes an orderly and realistic timetable for processing the application in a manner that is consistent with both the Applicants’ and the public’s interests under the law. After following this Project for the past five and a half years or so (and certainly after witnessing the chaos at the recent March 21 prehearing conference), quite frankly I don’t believe it would be possible to effectively process the application any faster.

I am aware that the Proposed Schedule contemplates a decision by the SEC in approximately two years and that certain other parties, such as the Applicants, believe the entire process should take 365 days as set forth in RSA 162-H:7. I have read the Applicants’ proposed one-year schedule and the accompanying cover letter dated March 21, 2016 (the “Cover Letter”). According to the Cover Letter one of the reasons the Applicants believe twelve months should be ample time to review the application is because the Project has already been reviewed by other governmental agencies and members of the public at numerous previously held open houses, information sessions and meetings. Also according to the Cover Letter it appears the applicants are under the impression that even opponents of the Project believe an expeditious ruling by the SEC is in the best interest of all stakeholders.¹ I disagree that 365 days is adequate or that an expeditious ruling is in the best interests of all stakeholders.

¹ The last paragraph of the Applicants’ Cover Letter reads as follows: “Based on comments at the Joint USDOE and SEC Hearings, it is clear that from the perspective of . . . opponents of this Project that an expeditious ruling on the Application . . . is in the best interest of all stakeholders.”

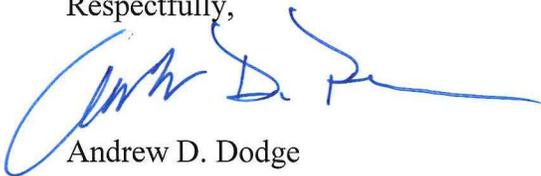
365 days may be sufficient time to review many of the applications submitted to the SEC, but it is not necessarily sufficient time for every application. There may be some projects that are so large and that impact so many towns, properties and people that additional time may be necessary. This was contemplated by the New Hampshire legislature and it is exactly why the SEC was given the authority and responsibility under RSA 162-H:14 to take longer than 365 days if doing so is in the public interest. The Applicants' Project is one of the largest to ever be reviewed by the SEC and the public interest is commensurately enormous. The Applicants themselves admit in the Cover Letter that this Project "has been subjected to more intense pre- and post-filing public scrutiny than any project to ever come before the Committee" (see the bottom of page 1). I agree—the interest of the public in this Project has been and remains historically immense. I can't imagine a project more worthy of RSA 162-H:14.

While I understand the construction of the Applicants' argument in pointing out why previous reviews and discussions should pave the way for a more streamlined SEC process, I am not persuaded. To the contrary, in light of the precedents already set by other governmental agencies for a comprehensive and thorough review of the Project I am at a loss as to why the SEC, the other parties to the current proceeding and the public citizens of New Hampshire should not be afforded the same ability to fully understand all of the relevant implications of the Project before making a decision that will have such a long-lasting effect on such a large portion and population of the state.

As to the Applicants' statement in the Cover Letter that the opponents' perspective is that it is in their best interest to have an expeditious ruling, I have to believe this was a drafting error. I have not met a single opponent of the Project that believes a quick SEC ruling is in their best interest. I certainly do not.

I sincerely hope the SEC will give due consideration to the unprecedented size of this Project, the wide-spread and long-lasting effect this Project will have on New Hampshire and the true extent of what is going to be required to adequately review this Project when contemplating its responsibility to the public under RSA 162-H:14 to approve a realistic procedural schedule. I sincerely hope the SEC will adopt the schedule proposed by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

Respectfully,



Andrew D. Dodge

cc: Distribution List