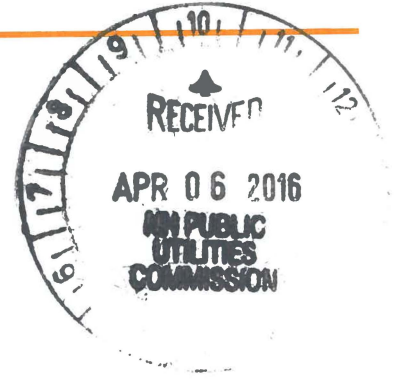




**Business and Industry Association**  
New Hampshire's Statewide Chamber of Commerce

122 North Main Street, Concord, NH 03301  
Tel: 603.224.5388 • Fax: 603.224.2872 • Web: www.BIAofNH.com

April 6, 2016



Martin Honigberg  
Chairman  
NH Public Utilities Commission  
21 S Fruit St. #10  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Honigberg:

I am writing regarding the Site Evaluation Committee's (SEC) scheduling and timing for review of energy infrastructure projects, including those currently in the review process.

For the record, BIA neither supports or opposes any specific project. However, we believe that New Hampshire and New England are in an electrical energy crisis, the root cause of which is insufficient energy infrastructure. It is our strong position that projects pending before the SEC should proceed for review without undue delay, and according to statutory guidelines.

As you know, when the legislature updated the SEC statute, there was strong support for changing the previous nine month review period to the present 12 month period to assure adequate time for consideration. The BIA is very concerned that the SEC is being pressured by opponents of energy infrastructure projects to extend the 12 month review period at the very outset of the process. This seems unwarranted and exceptionally premature. Such a decision should be made at or near the end of the opening 12 month review process, should it be necessary, not at the beginning.

The SEC should not succumb to the strategy of opponents of energy infrastructure projects who hope continued delay will reduce the chances of project success. Doing so is poor public policy and sets a bad precedent for future development projects. Without additional infrastructure, New Hampshire and New England face significant, adverse economic consequences.

New Hampshire's electrical energy prices are consistently more than 50% higher than the national average, and electricity prices in New England are highest in the contiguous U.S. Up to now, BIA worried about slowing job growth and economic activity as employers, particularly advanced manufacturers—New Hampshire's most important economic sector—expanded operations elsewhere. Going forward, New Hampshire faces a more dire scenario: employers moving existing jobs to other locations around the country or world with lower-cost electrical energy.

As the only statewide, broad-based business advocate in New Hampshire, BIA not only has a strong interest in overcoming our state's energy challenges, we also care deeply about the integrity of state's regulatory processes. When a statute calls for a one year regulatory review, we believe it's appropriate for the regulatory body to do everything within its power to meet that timeline.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Jim Roche  
President