



Bethlehem Conservation Commission
Bethlehem, New Hampshire

May 12, 2016

Mr. Ridgely Mauck
Mr. Craig Rennie
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Re: SEC Docket No. 2015-06 Northern Pass

Dear Mr. Mauck and Mr. Rennie:

I'm writing before the Department of Environmental Services submits its progress report on this project to the Site Evaluation Committee on May 15.

I have a question about the application based upon Minutes I just found of a meeting that was held on September 4, 2013 with the Applicant. It is part of the meeting notes described as "Natural Resource Agency Pre-application meeting." These are toward the end of the document, Vol XXI Vol 31 Wildlife Report and Impact Assessment Redacted.

This is the paragraph: Ridge Mauck and Craig Rennie (NH DES AoT) requested larger scale plans with proposed grading and E&S controls for the AoT application package. The entire project, including structure locations, access road improvements, laydown areas, helicopter pads, etc. will need to be addressed in the application. Ridge indicated that one application is needed. Soil survey for the converter terminal site will be needed, but a soil survey waiver for the rest of the line can be requested.

My question is: How could DES have declared the application complete, when that information about access roads, laydown areas, staging areas, etc. is not part of the application?

We know from Counsel for the Public, Peter Roth's letter of December 2, 2015, to the SEC, and in pre-filed testimony of Mr. John Kayser, Construction Project Manager on October 16, 2015, which starts on page 125, that information is not addressed in the application.

Here is an excerpt from Mr. Roth's letter: "The pre-filed testimony of Mr. Kayser indicates laydown areas can be up to fifty acres....Yet the testimony does not describe how many laydown areas are needed or where they will be located. The pre-filed testimony ..states the information is not known at this time...Thus, for an unknown portion of the land that will be impacted by construction, which could be significant given the potential size of each laydown site, the Applicant is silent."

I would appreciate an answer to my question in writing. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Jensen, Co-Chair, Bethlehem Conservation Commission

cc: Thomas Burack, Commissioner