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To: Monroe, Pamela
Subject: Comments on Docket No. 2015-06

September 6, 2016

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee

Pamela Monroe, Administrator

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, NH03301

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

My name is Danuta Lempert and I live in Dalton, NH. I am a member of Dalton Conservation Commission. In March of this year, we had a town meeting with Northern Pass representatives, “representatives or applicants” for Q&A session. One of our concerns was for the wellbeing of a community of 45 homes that includes number of families with young children who would be living within 75 feet of the proposed high voltage transmission line. The representatives’ answer to our concern was that Exponent, Inc. was retained to model electric and magnetic field (EMF) levels associated with the transmission line project. Based on their findings the project will not have an unreasonable adverse effect on public health. As it states in their application,

“Exponent concluded that the Project will not have an unreasonable adverse effect on public health and safety as a result of electric and magnetic fields. Exponent’s summary of the scientific research further supports the conclusion of scientific and public health agencies that there are no established effects of EMF on public health and safety at the levels associated with the Project.

Exponent’s conclusion is fully consistent with the DOE’s conclusions from the July 21, 2015 DEIS that electric and magnetic fields generated by underground portions of the Project would be below accepted limits.”

Since the applicants are so sure that scientific findings are reliable and will stand the test of time then they should put their money where their mouth is. If they are so sure that their findings will never be disputed and overturned by new evidence then they should set up a fund for those people and their children that will live near the proposed high voltage transmission line. If they are indeed so sure about their findings they wouldn't lose a penny. But I doubt that they would bet money on their findings. It's all talk.

Big companies are notorious for getting their way. We all remember the fight to ban the asbestos usage in the U.S. Other countries completely banned asbestos, but not U.S. The asbestos producing companies in the U.S. would rather expose human life to cancer causing chemicals than abandon their sordid business. They don't mind exposing others to asbestos as long as their lives are safe. To them only money matters, people's lives don't matter. Why do we listen to big companies and their experts?

We've listen to them before with disastrous results. Perhaps you remember the sleeping pill thalidomide that was advertised as a "completely safe" for everyone including pregnant women in the 60's. Sadly the pregnant women that took thalidomide thinking that it's safe gave birth to babies with deformed limbs or no limbs. Surely pharmaceutical companies tested the drug before releasing it on the market, but unfortunately science failed them.

We are all familiar with lawsuits of car companies that released cars after proclaiming them safe, but deaths occurred because cars malfunctioned. Surely they tested their cars over and over again, but science failed them.

We're all familiar with drugs that pharmaceutical companies tested and found them safe, but patients died as a result of taking those drugs. The more drugs that pharmaceutical companies advertise as safe the more lawsuits are filed for bad drugs. Why do we trust science and experts that act as if they know all? It's not like they all agree on every theory. There are always scientists that support new findings and those who oppose them. Since we all know that, why do we support them? Because it's easier this way. We don't have to be responsible for the choices we make. We can blame it on experts.

Not every scientist agrees with Exponent's conclusion on EMF. Exponent did not create this earth and they don't know everything about EMF. Mind can be easily fooled. Can Exponent be totally impartial when they work for the applicant? Would they have many clients if they were totally impartial? Would the applicants even hire Exponent if Exponent concluded that EMF

poses threat to human health? We all know they wouldn't. So how reliable are their EMF findings? How objective is Exponent when they are being paid by the applicant?

The truth is that you can stretch any findings either way you want. Any lawyer knows that. You can test and retest your product and gather all kinds of supporting evidence for your findings, but only time will tell the truth. We did not create this earth and we don't know how things work. All we know is how to make a mess out of our environment in frenzy for profit.

We dump our responsibility for the environment on scientists and follow their dictates. It's easier this way. We don't have to be responsible for our decisions. Who cares that people whose lives will be affected by the applicants' project are against the project? Who cares that well-being of many families are at stake? Who cares that our environment will be trampled all over? Who cares that the animals' habitats will be overturned? Only money counts, people, environment, and animals don't count. Is it any wonder that our environment is in the shape that it is. For business sake, we put more and more demands on the environment and at the same time we pay lip service to it. It's all talk. Only money talks.

We all know that nature is taking care of us. Trees and wind are cleansing the air for us, stones are cleansing the water for us, and rivers, lakes and oceans support us in many ways. We all know that nature is also healing, spending a little time in nature can relax your mind, de-stress your body and uplift your spirit. Nature is taking care of us in many ways, but who is taking care of nature?

Trees are overloaded with pollutants and many are sick or dying. As you well know, in the summer months there are days that air is harmful to breathe because of pollutants. It seems that our solution to pollution problem is to study it, warn people about it, but do nothing about it. We have monitoring stations all over the state and colorful maps galore to show us how pollutants travel, but we turn a deaf ear when it comes to cleaning up our environment. Our rivers are polluted and their inhabitants show signs of stress. We all know that, and yet we consider adding more stress to our environment. If the environment goes, so will we. We cannot survive on our own. We are intimately connected with nature. Once we destroy our environment, money and new drugs will not save us.

Why are we bent on stressing our environment and in the process ourselves even more? Because we closed our hearts and navigate through life with our minds. Mind doesn't feel, so it can hurt others and itself.

More and more people are becoming disillusioned because they are not in charge of their lives. We worship money, so we sell ourselves into slavery to big companies where a chosen few have all the power and make all the decision and our job is to follow their orders. And as a result, we've become disconnected from our work and view it as a grind, but we are caught in a rat race since we are addicted to acquiring more and more things that others tell us we need. We are trapped in a vicious cycle and cannot get out. We suffer and in turn inflict more pain on those around us.

We are all connected, so what we do to others we do to ourselves. It's not possible to have self-respect when we disrespect others. If we trample all over the environment, we will also allow others to trample all over us because we've accepted disrespectful behavior as normal.

It happens all the time. At work those who we answer to overstep their boundaries with us. Then we in turn overstep the boundaries of those who answer to us or depend on us. It is a vicious circle. Our employers or managers evaluate our performances as a part of their duty, yet we have no right to evaluate their performance. Are they all beyond reproach and never made a mistake once they climbed the corporate ladder to managerial position? We all know it's not true. The higher you climb the greater the temptations. We know that the more power people have, the more corruption follows. Perhaps if employees were evaluating performances of their managers, the managers wouldn't be so quick to judge employees, and would be more concerned with their own performance.

Why do we surrender our power to authority figures? Why do we think that those in charge are automatically trustworthy? Why do we abandon our innate wisdom and listen to others? Because we closed our hearts and navigate through life with our minds only. And mind can be easily fooled.

We may think that we are in charge of this earth. We may think that nature is here for our benefit only. But nothing could be further from the truth. We did not create this earth, and it is not ours to do with it as we please. It is here for all of us, for all earth inhabitants. We are all here for the same reason. Our purpose here is to learn how to love and respect one another and those who we share this earth with. Animals' habitats are being destroyed or trampled all over in frenzy for profit. Our nature is showing signs of stress because the environment is loaded with pollutants. Since we made a mess out of our environment in the name of progress it is our responsibility to clean it up. Yet we are considering adding more stress to the environment. We haven't learned anything from history yet. There were many who attempted to dominate this world, but it always ended in disaster. Hitler, Saddam Hussein, Osama bin Laden are most recent examples. Do we really want to go that way?

We take nature for granted. But nature is not defenseless. If we stress the environment we'll have to deal with the stressed nature. And stressed nature expresses itself as heat waves, floods, droughts, dust storms, tornadoes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and other natural disasters.

In 1930's farmers of the Great Plains thought that they can ignore nature, but they quickly found out that their greedy schemes turned into disasters. Not only that they had to deal with severe dust storms, but they also experience prolong drought period making their environment unlivable.

More recently in NH we experienced extreme temperatures, extreme weather and floods. Do we really want more of this? Do we really want to learn the hard way how to respect one another? Or do we want to heed the call now?

We like to study the effects of pollution on our environment and rely on science to solve the pollution problem. But relying only on science is a part of the problem. We don't want to be responsible for the mess we've made, so we turn a deaf ear to all the warnings and we keep on polluting, hoping that science will clean up the environment for us. Science can tell us what caused the problem, which we already know, and what will happen in the future if things don't change. Science can also help us to reduce the emissions, but that is not enough. We need to clean up the messes we've made.

Rivers and lakes are polluted with garbage, you name it and it's in there. Plastic bottles galore, Styrofoam cups, beer bottles, rusted cans, tires, and anything else that people don't want and some things that people do want, but don't belong in rivers or lakes or nature. We became desensitized to it because we closed our hearts and navigate with our minds and mind doesn't feel. We don't feel for nature anymore; we think we own nature and we can do with it as we please. We haven't learned anything from history yet. We don't own this earth and we don't own nature. We are here temporarily and our purpose is to learn how to love and respect one another. Disrespecting nature is heading for disaster. Living our purpose will bring us fulfillment and happiness. The choice is ours.

Why do we expect to get different results when we don't want to change our irresponsible behavior? Because mind can be easily fooled. As long as we pay lip service to the environment, we think we're helping the environment. But all words are empty unless they're followed by actions. Standing on the sidelines and watching as others trample all over nature and animals'

habitats is a far cry from helping the environment. Playing wait-and-see game and then jumping on the bandwagon is hurting the environment.

Nature is taking care of us in many ways, but who is taking care of nature?