



New England Ratepayers Association

February 28, 2017

Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301
pamela.monroe@sec.nh.gov

Re: Docket No. 2015-06 Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire DBA Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility

Dear Ms. Monroe:

On January 29, 2016, The New England Ratepayers Association requested to intervene in the above-reference docket as an independent non-profit organization who advocates for policies that lower and stabilize electricity rates for New Hampshire's families and businesses.

A March 18, 2016 letter from SEC Chairman Martin P. Honigberg denied our petition along with those of some of the largest manufacturers and employers in New Hampshire because: ***"They are concerns that are shared by businesses and individuals across the state. These businesses do not demonstrate the type of substantial interests that warrant participation as an intervenor. Their concerns will be adequately addressed by the overall process."***

We have personally met with Counsel for the Public ("CFP") where we were assured that ratepayer and business interests would be addressed, but have yet to see substantial evidence supporting CFP's assertions in any of the sessions that we have attended or in the documents submitted. However, we have witnessed CFP's extensive, if not immaterial concern expressed about Northern Pass's potential (negative) impact on incumbent generators due to price suppression in the energy and capacity markets.

This argument is the prototypical red herring. Any additional energy project that enters the market (and has value to ratepayers) **should** have a price suppression effect. Furthermore, even if Northern Pass participates in a Clean Energy RFP in other states and subsequently is awarded a contract, that "price suppression" will lower costs to New Hampshire's families and businesses even if it has no impact on costs in other states.

It has been clear from the commencement of this proceeding that CFP's objective has been to unduly delay a ruling on this project and its impartiality is suspect as it appears that CFP is clearly representing Northern Pass's opponents without representing the interests of ratepayers—particularly those in the business community.

We do not feel that the concerns of businesses and individuals have been adequately addressed "by the overall process". We strongly urge the SEC to do everything in its power to make sure that these voices are being heard.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MB", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marc Brown
President
New England Ratepayers Association
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