



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

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June 29, 2017

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

Re: SEC Docket No. 2015-06, Northern Pass

Dear Ms. Monroe:

I am writing to express BIA's concern with the pace of the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee's review of major energy infrastructure projects. Announced timelines with predicted deadlines have been allowed to drift. This is very disconcerting.

As you and SEC members are well aware, large energy users—particularly manufacturers who drive our state's economy—have made, and continue to make plans for employment growth outside New Hampshire and New England. The inability of the SEC to adhere to timely review of energy projects, and the uncertainty it creates, is an undeniable contributing factor.

The proceedings related to Northern Pass are a good example. A final decision on Northern Pass was originally expected last year. Instead, the timeline was extended nine months through September of this year. It now appears that deadline is in jeopardy. Only a few hearings have been scheduled for July, August, and early September. Over forty business days in July and August are open for scheduling, yet regrettably, only a handful of dates have been scheduled, making the September deadline nearly impossible to meet. While BIA's position on this project, and all other energy infrastructure projects, is neutral, it is nevertheless alarming to witness the success of opposition groups in coopting the siting process by tactics intended to kill this project through delay.

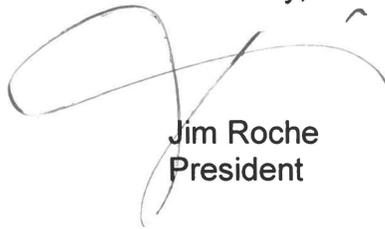
BIA devotes significant resources at the State House each legislative session to fight changes proposed by energy infrastructure opponents to the state's eminent domain and infrastructure siting statutes, changes that are aimed at adding unnecessary cost or delay. Our goal is to ensure the siting process — updated just three years ago—for each infrastructure project is fair, balanced and as expeditious as possible. Our concern is growing, however, over administrative and regulatory delays that increasingly appear unjustified and responsive not to businesses who create jobs and represent the engine

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of our economy, but to opponents who seem indifferent to New Hampshire's energy and economic future. September 30th was the agreed-upon date to finalize consideration of Northern Pass. That date should be honored, whatever it takes, including scheduling and completing all hearings in July, August and early September.

New Hampshire employers and residents alike struggle under electrical energy rates that are consistently 50-60% higher than the national average, year-round. BIA sincerely hopes it can depend on those entrusted to consider new sources of energy to do so in a timely and responsible manner. Our state's economic future depends on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Roche", with a large, stylized flourish that loops back under the name.

Jim Roche  
President