



Lost River Gorge & Boulder Caves
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July 22, 2017

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New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
c/o Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Site Evaluation Committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of Lost River Gorge & Boulder Caves, a natural attraction open to the public and located on Route 112 in Kinsman Notch. The construction phase of the Northern Pass transmission line, proposed to run directly beneath Route 112 in front of this business, will have a profound negative impact on this business if it is constructed during the short season of this summer attraction – May through October.

Lost River Gorge, known as one of New Hampshire's most scenic natural wonders, has been in business for over 100 years and currently employs sixteen people. We are a seasonal operation running May through October, attracting 65,000 paying visitors to Route 112 from across the country and around the world. Proposed road closures and traffic delays along Route 112 will leave little to no access to Lost River Gorge during the construction period. Employees and their families will be negatively impacted by the delays and closures, having to reschedule their daily lives around construction, if they can access the property at all. Vendors, who keep the business functioning by supplying us with food, fuel, gift inventory, office supplies, lumber, and other essentials for day to day operations, will experience similar difficulties.

It is a fact that 100% of Lost River's income is generated from May through October. We experienced a negative impact when NH DOT conducted road construction in previous years. Potential visitors became frustrated while sitting in their cars during lengthy delays, turning around to return to town, or evening avoiding Route 112 through Kinsman Notch all together. Traffic delays and disruption to business decreased visitation and gift shop sales each time they occurred. These construction periods were much shorter than the proposed Northern Pass construction periods. Please consider alternative time frames for construction on Route 112 other than during the short, very important tourism season.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns for the construction impact of this project.

Kate Wetherell

Kate Wetherell
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