



August 16, 2017

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

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 behalf of Consumer Energy Alliance (“CEA”), our 250 plus member organizations, and nearly 450,000 individual members, 2,220 of which live throughout New England, we offer our support for a timely approval of a Certificate of Site and Facility for the Northern Pass Project. CEA is dedicated to advocating for access to affordable, reliable energy for American families and businesses – including residents of New Hampshire and all of New England.

The high cost of electricity to New Hampshire’s families and businesses has been well-documented. Given the recent and future retirements of thousands of mega-watts of baseload power plants, CEA has serious concerns that baseload plants like Pilgrim Nuclear Plant in Massachusetts and (increasingly likely) Dominion Millstone will not be replaced—especially without adequate natural gas pipeline capacity to fuel natural gas generators.

Northern Pass will provide over a thousand mega-watts of reliable, baseload power—contributing to the replacement of baseload retirements to the region’s electricity grid. As state policies continue to promote intermittent power sources, adequate baseload power, like large-scale hydropower, is going to be vital to powering New Hampshire’s homes and businesses.

This docket has been delayed several times despite numerous public hearing before both federal and state agencies –allowing plenty of opportunities for both supporters and opponents to voice their opinions. CEA feels that it is in the public interest for the SEC to avoid further delay(s) and approve a Certificate of Site and Facility to the Northern Pass as expeditiously as possible.

Approving this Certificate will move New Hampshire one step closer to ensuring that its families and businesses have the affordable, reliable energy needed to power their daily lives.

Thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,

James R. Voyles
Policy Counsel
Consumer Energy Alliance