

From: [Richard Bielefield](#)
To: [Monroe, Pamela](#)
Subject: Northern Pass Rt. 18
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 10:47:14 AM

Dear Ms. Monroe,

It is my understanding that the Northern Pass route down Route 18 (north to south) will pass on the westerly side of that route as it crosses from Sugar Hill into Franconia. That places it less than 15 feet from the front of my house located at 5 Route 18 on the Sugar Hill/Franconia town line which I have owned since 1956. The house is “the oldest in the village” if what I was told by a representative of the local historical society about 1975 was true. If it is, it was constructed somewhere about 1770 or so seemingly making it eligible for historical status. Additionally, the house essentially occupies the entire space between the edge of Rt. 18 and the Gale River which flows south to north just behind it, except for a small lawn primarily on the southerly portion of the property. Following Rt. 18 south into Franconia, the route on which construction will apparently take place is lined on the east by residences and the west by the Gale River. In several places, there can be less than fifty feet between the road and the river’s edge, and experience gained during other construction projects that have taken place in that area, any digging will reach water between four and six feet down. Additionally, no survey exists that will delineate properties and identify the DOT’s Right of Way parameters. If I understand properly, unless DOT or the state has a deed from a landowner, that portion adjacent to that owners property is bounded by a line at the midpoint of the highway with the property that abuts it owned by whomever owns the property on the far side of the highway. My deed also shows my westerly boundary as being the “thread of the stream”. I have owned this parcel since 1956, and have never been aware of, or informed, that DOT had any legal interest beyond the exact area occupied by Route 18’s paved portion.

I am greatly concerned that the extent of what is planned will result in considerable damage to my home which has survived for over 200 years, and may be getting somewhat “creaky” with age. If it is damaged, who will be responsible for repairs? At 89, I am beyond being able to do much of the work which I have previously done in replacing old “horsehair” plaster with sheetrock, painting, papering etc. to keep the old place looking presentable as well as livable. Maintenance over the years has probably cost better than \$50,000 and will cost much more in today’s prices. It is of concern where we will be able to live if construction damages were to result in necessitating major repairs as well as where we will find the necessary financing for any such effort. I am also dismayed by the apparent cavalier attitude exhibited by those who seem to feel that any public need- real or imagined- trumps whatever effects may result to an individual landowner who has been unfortunate enough to be effected by damages resulting from meeting that need. Since I am unaware of any demonstrable public need that requires Northern Pass to be constructed where it appears to now be planned, I am unalterably opposed. It is totally obvious that there are other routes which will make possible power being routed down through the state to Massachusetts, and it is difficult to understand reasoning that suggests we should pay an enormous price financially as well as physically and/or mentally or emotionally when other routes are available that will not require such an expense.

Sincerely,

Richard Bielefield