

Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Members of the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee,

We are the owners of the property discussed in the document entitled Northern Pass Transmission Project, RPR #4680, Results of Effect Evaluation for 47 Candia Road, Deerfield, NH (DEE0006) and have just had the opportunity to review this report. It concludes that the Northern Pass Transmission Project would not alter any of the characteristics that qualify our property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. We could not disagree more strongly with the report's conclusion. Rather than adding only "limited views" that would "not noticeably alter or diminish aspects of the historic setting and landscape that contribute to the significance of the property," as the report concludes (p.4), prominent views of multiple towers in the Project corridor will permanently and irreparably alter the historic setting and landscape of the property and its connection historic Deerfield Center. In addition to disputing the report's conclusion, we write to correct the record regarding a number of statements and characterizations contained in the report. We would like to correct the record as follows:

1. The report's findings regarding the visual impact of the Project from our property rely heavily on the foliage surrounding our field screening the view of the Project and include pictures of the field, both at ground level and satellite view, with the trees in full leaf (please see pages 8 and 9), without noting that for more than half the year there is no foliage to help shield the visual impact of the Project's proposed towers. During the majority of the year, when there are few or no leaves, we can clearly see the the historic Deerfield Community Church steeple from the barn and most of the barn field. The elevation of the Project corridor directly behind the Church is higher than the Church, and with the Project towers proposed to extend more than twice the height of the steeple that is visible from our property, the view from our historic farmstead setting to the historic Deerfield Center would be dominated by Project towers backdropping and dwarfing the Community Church.
2. The report misstates the distance of the Project views from the property in characterizing the views of the Project from our property as "distant," and concluding the visual impact will be limited. The report states the views of the project are over one mile away. In fact, the distance to the Project corridor from the barn field that has views of the Community Church is less than a mile, and well within the APE. Additionally, based on the current views to the historic Deerfield Center from our Property, and the fact that elevation of the project corridor from the town center to the rise where it crosses North Road steadily increases (from approximately 440' behind the church to approximately 475' where it crosses North Road), we are confident that multiple towers in that nearly half mile stretch of the Project corridor will be visible from the field and barn area referenced in the report.
3. Though the report's viewshed mapping on p.7 indicates potential Project visibility from the west side of Candia Road, the report fails to consider potential views of the Project from the west side of the road where the historic colonial farmhouse is located. Located at a higher elevation, and being a taller structure, we believe the farmhouse itself will have views of the Project towers located in the nearly half mile stretch of the Project corridor from the town center to North Road.
4. In concluding that there would be minimal impact on our historic property in part "Due to vegetation around the field there are no panoramic views," (p.4, Section 6) the report seems to assume that trees currently at the perimeter of the barn field will be there permanently to partially screen the view of the Project and preserve our historic setting and landscape. We do not own the property surrounding our field and have no control over how it will be used in the future. Removal of that single row of trees by a future neighbor would further increase the already significant impact the proposed Project would have on the historic setting and landscape of our property.
5. The ash trees lining the road in the direction of Deerfield Center currently block our view into the field from the house while they are in leaf, but the ash trees are not in good health and are being damaged by disease and threatened by the emerald ash borer. When they die off we will have a clear view from parts of the farmhouse across the field toward the historic center, in the direction of the towers. This is not taken into account in the report which

asserts: "Potential views of the proposed project may occur when looking northward toward Deerfield town center *only* from the fields north and east of the barn." (Emphasis added, p.4., Section 6). Relying on a thin row of trees in poor health to permanently screen and protect the viewshed of our historic property from the impact of the Project is incredibly shortsighted in evaluating a property of national historic significance, as defined in Section 800.16(1).

In conclusion, we vehemently disagree with the report's conclusion that "The limited views of the Project would not noticeably alter or diminish aspects of the historic setting and landscape that contribute to the significance of the property." (p.4, Section 6). The views of the project would be greater than the report acknowledges, will permanently alter the historic landscape and setting we have worked to preserve, and could be significantly expanded by a change of use in the property surrounding the barn field and/or by the loss of the trees lining the road due to disease progression. Regardless of the distance, be it to the Project corridor in the historic town center or where it crosses North Road, visibility of the towers would have an irreparable impact on the character of the setting of our historic property, and its visual connection the historic Community Church and Deerfield Center.

There are alternatives to the current Northern Pass plan which would mitigate these effects on our property and historic Deerfield Center without compromising the utility of the project. Burial of the line in this section through Deerfield Center would allow the historic character of our town, and our homestead, to be preserved should the Project be approved. We would urge the SEC to fully consider the permanent alteration of the historic character of multiple Deerfield properties, including our own, that the Project as proposed would have, and to fully consider the reasonable alternatives that could mitigate such impacts.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Barbara and Rob Mathews
47 Candia Road
Deerfield, NH 03037