

From: STEVE UPTON [<mailto:uptonrs@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 4:29 PM
To: Monroe, Pamela
Subject: Northern Pass project at Concord NH

Dear Ms. Monroe: I am Steve Upton, resident of Concord NH, (mailing address PO Box 177 in zip code 03302), telephone number 603-226-4854 or 603-226-2312. Please add these comments from me to the SEC docket regarding the Northern Pass project in Concord, NH.

1. The approximately 8-mile route of proposed Northern Pass transmission lines through Concord is significantly longer than in many other New Hampshire communities. Concord is one of New Hampshire's major population centers and major business centers. Tall and unsightly Northern Pass towers are likely to have a significantly greater negative aesthetic impact (in terms of total number of people seeing the proposed towers and transmission lines, and also in terms of the amount of time that the proposed towers and transmission lines would be seen from large numbers of residences and businesses) at Concord than anywhere else in the state. The towers would also have significant negative aesthetic impact for thousands of acres of conservation land and recreation land within Concord. The above statements are amply supported by credible information that is already in the docket, including but not limited to the August 14, 2017 letter to the NHSEC from the members of the Concord City Council.

2. For the reasons stated above, Concord should not be bearing more of the burden of tall unsightly towers and transmission lines than other New Hampshire communities-- instead, it should be bearing less of that burden. To impose an undue burden on Concord is fundamentally unfair. Yet the Northern Pass Project continues to propose that there be absolutely no burial of any of its transmission lines through Concord, and continues to seek approval for extremely high towers and transmission lines within the city.

3. The NHSEC should give very little or no weight to the US Department of Energy's vague and general discussion of "scenic impact" in its final Environmental Impact Statement for the Northern Pass Project. It is evident, from the contents of that document, that USDOE decisionmakers care far more about increasing power transmission to the greater Boston area as soon as possible than about carefully and thoroughly assessing the necessity of very negative aesthetic consequences which people in Concord (and other New Hampshire communities) will have to live with every day for decades.

4. My personal background has included working in the past as a lawyer representing some of the electric utility providers in New Hampshire. I strongly support the Concord City Council's August 14, 2017 request that the NHSEC either reject the present Northern Pass proposal or approve it subject to the condition that Northern Pass transmission lines be buried on the entire route through Concord. If the NHSEC is absolutely unwilling to do either of these things, then I respectfully ask that the NHSEC condition any approval of the project upon burial of at least the southern half (the more heavily developed and populated half, as can be seen from Northern Pass route charts which are in the docket) of the route through Concord, and that the NHSEC also condition any approval of the project upon a height limitation of 75 feet or less for towers and transmission lines along the rest of the route through Concord.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Upton