

**From:** Eric Jones [<mailto:legacyforest@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2017 2:01 PM  
**To:** Monroe, Pamela  
**Subject:** Public Comment via Eric Jones

Dear Eric,

Thank you for contacting my office about the Northern Pass Transmission Project proposed by Eversource Energy. This project requires a Presidential Permit from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in order to connect an electric transmission line between the U.S. and Canada.

Throughout the permitting process I have worked to ensure that DOE hears and addresses the concerns of New Hampshire citizens and conducts an objective and transparent application process. It is critical that all stakeholders, especially private citizens, be afforded meaningful opportunity to participate in the permitting process of major infrastructure projects.

To that end, I have led congressional delegation efforts to extend DOE's public comment period from 45 days to eight months, allowing ample time for Granite Staters to review, understand and provide comments on the environmental impact report for the project. Furthermore, at my request, DOE held an additional public hearing in northern Coos County to better accommodate citizens in the North Country most impacted by the project.

Furthermore, I believe that major energy infrastructure projects, such as Northern Pass, deserve a robust and comprehensive environmental and safety review. That is why, after Eversource proposed burying an additional 52 miles of the proposed route, I led a congressional delegation letter to DOE requesting a Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), fully analyzing the project's new "preferred route." In response to our letter, DOE released the Supplement to the Draft EIS to reflect the revised route and provided additional time for public review.

As you may know, DOE completed its public comment period after conducting public hearings throughout New Hampshire to receive both written and verbal comments on the draft EIS and the Supplement to the Draft EIS. DOE and the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC), the state entity responsible for evaluating and permitting proposed energy facilities, also conducted joint hearings to allow Granite Staters to express their opinions about Northern Pass to local officials. To learn more about these federal and state permitting processes, please visit DOE's website at <http://www.northernpasseis.us/> and the SEC's website at <http://www.nhsec.nh.gov/>.

**The comments expressed during the scoping period and through constituent correspondence with my office have shown that residents across New Hampshire have deep concerns about this project. What**

**they have said is clear: the lines should be buried. Northern Pass' proposal to bury some of the line is a step in the right direction, but should be the starting point for a new dialogue.**

Please be assured that I will continue to advocate for a fair and open federal review process that ensures New Hampshire citizens and stakeholders have the opportunity to comment and participate on these infrastructure projects. Thank you again for sharing your thoughts with me, and I hope you will contact my office again with any future questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

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Eric Jones