

December 5, 2017

Pamela Monroe
Northern Pass Site Evaluation Committee

Ms Monroe,

I am writing to provide public comment concerning the proposed project by Northern Pass to construct an electric transmission line from the Canadian border to Deerfield, New Hampshire.

My name is Christopher Allard and I reside in Anchorage, Alaska, where I practice Civil Engineering. Most of my professional career has involved the planning, design, and construction of utility systems. I grew up in Massachusetts and was a frequent visitor to New Hampshire, primarily for hiking and skiing. I still have friends and relatives in New Hampshire and Maine and continue to visit every year or two.

The Northern Pass project should not be approved as currently proposed.

Well planned and executed infrastructure projects improve the lives of people. Often, they also have negative impacts on people and the environment. Alternatives should be considered, negative impacts minimized and mitigated.

The transmission line should be buried along the entire route. The manager of the White Mountains National Forest has the authority to require Northern Pass to bury the line where it crosses the National Forest. The Record of Decision details the reasons why the manager is placing that condition on the project.

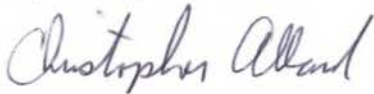
New Hampshire is a special place with priceless scenic values and vast natural ecosystems. It should not be defaced by an overhead power line when there are other alternatives. The New Hampshire landscape should not be sacrificed, and the people who live there and the visitors who come to enjoy the environment should not be subjected to the impact of the cheapest alternative for constructing the transmission line.

Burying the line is the right thing to do to mitigate the impact on the adjacent landowners, the residents who live or travel in the vicinity of the alignment, and the thousands of visitors who come to New Hampshire for the enjoyment of the natural beauty.

A buried line is also more secure than an overhead line. Power poles, lattice structures, and the conductors themselves are relatively easy targets for potential terrorists who might wish to disrupt the power transmission system in the Northeast.

Major utility projects have a long life and have major, long-term impacts on people and on the environment. If the owners cannot afford to do it right, the Site Evaluation Committee should not allow the project to be built.

Respectfully,



Christopher Allard, P.E.