

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Docket No. 2015-06

**Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC
and Public Service Company of New Hampshire
d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility**

**PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF R. ANDREW ROBERTSON ON BEHALF OF
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN FOR THE TOWN OF DEERFIELD**

November 15, 2016

Background and Qualifications

Q. Please state your name and address.

A. My name is R. Andrew Robertson. My address is 32 Haynes Rd. Deerfield, NH.

Q. Please describe your official capacity in the Board of Selectmen?

A. I have been a member of the Board of Selectmen since 2000.

Q. What is your professional background and experience?

A. I am self-employed as the owner of the Robertson Agency, an insurance agency.

I hold a bachelor's degree in Journalism from Keene State College, I am a licensed insurance agent. I also serve on Deerfield Municipal Budget Committee, The Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Board and the NH Public Water Access Advisory Board.

Purpose of Testimony

Q. What is the purpose of this prefiled direct testimony?

A. My testimony is being presented on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of Deerfield.

Q. Is the Board of Selectmen concerned that the Northern Pass Project will create an undue influence of the economy of the town and region?

A. The Board of Selectmen do not feel there would be any significant, detrimental economic impact on the host community.

Q. Is the Board of Selectmen concerned that the Northern Pass Project will create an undue influence on the community services and infrastructure for the town?

1 A. The Board of Selectmen is concerned that heavy equipment on our town roads in
2 Deerfield would potentially damage road surfaces and increase costs to maintain the roads as
3 well as cause significant disruption of travel for residents.

4 **Q. Is the Board of Selectmen concerned that the Northern Pass Project will**
5 **create an undue influence on tax revenues and property values in the town?**

6 The Board of Selectmen feel that given the history of continual abatement challenges filed by
7 utilities including PSNH/Eversource, and given the uncertainty with regard to depreciation
8 schedule and ultimate “salvage value” there is indeed concern that the project has the potential to
9 create negative economic impact for the town of Deerfield.

10 **Q. Is the Board of Selectmen concerned about whether the Northern Pass**
11 **Project would serve the public interest due to its impact on historic sites within the town?**

12 The Board of Selectmen feels there is potential for a negative visual impact on historic sites,
13 particularly with regard to Deerfield’s historic town center located on Church Street.

14 **Q. Is the Board of Selectmen concerned that the Northern Pass Project will**
15 **unduly interfere with the orderly development of the town?**

16 A. Yes. The Board has concerns about this project’s impact on the rural character of
17 areas in town, as well as its impacts to the residential and commercial properties that are adjacent
18 to the proposed project. As currently proposed, the project will have an undue interference with
19 orderly development of the Town of Deerfield, and any public benefits are outweighed by the
20 negative impacts that the project will have on the town. I also enclose the results of a 2013

1 Town Meeting vote whereby the residents of town voiced their opposition to new overhead lines
2 within town and indicated their support for burial.

3 **Other Impacts**

4 **Q. Are there other concerns that the Board of Selectmen has about the impacts**
5 **of the Northern Pass Project?**

6 A. Yes. The Board has concerns about other issues, which includes impacts to
7 natural resources, historic sites, aesthetics and market economics. It is anticipated that further
8 testimony on these additional issues will be provided by the deadline of December 30, 2016.

9 **Q. Does this end your testimony?**

10 A. Yes.

TOWN OF DEERFIELD - DELIBERATIVE SESSION TWO

MARCH 12, 2013

Moderator, Jonathan Hutchinson opened with the following remarks:

With the permission of the gatekeeper, approach the ballot clerks and state your name.

The clerk will repeat your name to confirm that it has been heard correctly.

The clerk will locate your name on the checklist and read your name and registered address to you. If it is not correct, you should advise the clerk of the address of your current Deerfield domicile. The clerk will correct the address on the checklist.

The clerk will hand you a ballot

Enter the voting area to mark your ballots.

Please do not fold the ballots.

Place your machine – readable ballots into the ballot counting machine one at a time and gently insert each into the slot. The machine will read a ballot presented in any orientation. If there are lines at the machines, voters may insert their ballots in the box to be counted later.

The ballot clerks have privacy envelopes available for any voter who requests one to cover his or her ballots as they are inserted in the machine.

If a voter marks an erroneous vote or makes any stray marks on a ballot, he should either correct it and request that it be hand counted or return it to the Moderator as a spoiled ballot and request a new one. However a voter who spoils three ballots will not be issued a fourth.

At any time after a voter declares his or her name to a ballot clerk and receives a ballot and before he or she inserts that ballot into the ballot counting machine, any Deerfield voter or a qualified challenger appointed by the Attorney General has the right to challenge the voter. All challenges are based on either the voter not being legally qualified to vote in Deerfield (not yet 18 years of age, not a U.S. Citizen, not domiciled in Deerfield) or other legal grounds such as the voter is not the person he claims to be, has already voted in this election, has had his voting rights suspended or is an incarcerated felon. The challenge must be for a specific reason and must be submitted to the Moderator in writing on a Voter Challenge Form. If the challenge is found to be well grounded, then the voter may vote only if he or she completes and swears a challenged voter affidavit.

Any questions, concerns or complaints about the voting process should be directed to the Moderator or his assistant.

upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. This fund will be established and be effective beginning on April 1, 2013.

YES 578 NO 626

Article # 14

Shall the town adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5 V-b which states: "Any town may vote to require that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the governing body, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article. The determination of the estimated tax impact shall be subject to approval by the governing body."?

YES 892 NO 313

Article # 15

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey whatever interest the Town of Deerfield may have held in the real property known as the Wheeler lots, identified in the Town of Deerfield tax records as Map 414, Lots 154 and 155, to Charles R. Sanborn and Cherie A. Sanborn, the current owners of Map 419, Lot 69; the Sanborn family having paid the taxes on Lots 154 and 155 since those lots were merged with Lot 69 and assessed and taxed to the Sanborn family since the 1950's.

YES 905 NO 262

Article # 16

Do the voters of the Town of Deerfield wish to allow the use of canoes and kayaks by residents at an area of Veasey Park segregated from swimmers? (This is advisory in nature only.)

YES 952 NO 272

Article #17

To see if the Town of Deerfield shall state its opposition to any new overhead development of alternating current and direct current high voltage transmission lines within its borders; and in turn manifest the Town's strong preference for the burial of such lines, in a manner consistent with state and federal requirements, under rights of way and power line corridors now existing or to be established. Although burial in all instances is preferred, this statement of opposition shall not apply to distribution lines carrying electrical power and other utility lines, such as

telephone and cable television, for Town residential or commercial use. (Petitioned warrant article)

YES 799 NO 427

Article #18

To see if the Town of Deerfield shall state its opposition to the Northern Pass Transmission project as currently proposed, which, as currently proposed, will cause the significant expansion of existing power line rights-of-way; the installation of steel towers of heights up to 135 feet, well above the tree height, resulting in the further impairment of Deerfield's rural, small town character and the further degradation of Deerfield's scenic vistas and natural scenic beauty; the development of the Town in a manner inconsistent with the Deerfield Master Plan; the diminishment of the value of private property and assets for residents in proximity to the towers; the corresponding loss of property tax revenue for the Town; and the strong possibility of negative health impacts. (Petitioned warrant article)

YES 796 NO 443

Article #19

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-b to delegate the determination of the default town budget to the municipal budget committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14? (Petitioned warrant article, 3/5 ballot vote required)

YES 439 NO 707