

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

**PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF PHILIP H. BILODEAU AND JOAN C. BILODEAU**

**(SEE PHOTOS ATTACHED)**

We are New Hampshire natives born and raised in Manchester. We have lived in Deerfield for 47 years. We were high school sweethearts and after college married in 1969. Phil was headed to graduate school at UNH and Joan to a job teaching at Moore School in Candia. Deerfield was the perfect spot to locate and we fell in love with the historical homes, old stone walls and rural character. Nottingham road had few homes beyond Cate Road, was not paved all the way through to Nottingham Square and even lacked a utility line all along the road. Phil was drafted into the Army in 1970 but we kept our apartment on Nottingham Road and Joan continued teaching in Candia. Phil returned from the Army and began Graduate School at UNH. After Graduate School Phil starts work in Concord with the State of New Hampshire. We make plans to start our family.

We had walked by our property many times. We loved the old foundation, stone walls and woodland meadow. We were fortunate to discover that a four acre parcel was for sale so we borrowed the money and bought the property in 1974. Happily the same year that Aimee was born, our dream beginning to emerge!

In 1977 borrow the money to build a house, Phil and Joan design the house, and as a Professional Engineer Phil designs the septic system and contracts the house construction, manages the construction and schedules all the trades. The extended families work on the house to make it our home, sweat equity to build it within our means. Our second child Ben was born in August 1977. We move into the house in time to celebrate Thanksgiving 1977. With plywood floors and only two doors hung, bathroom and cellar door, fearful that the children might fall down the cellar stairs.

We have made a substantial investment in time and money bolstering the decision to stay in Deerfield and work to make it the Community we are proud to call our home. The Town is bequeathed Douse Cate Town Forest, 100+ acres behind our house, and PSNH owns 65 acres also behind and adjacent to our house. We are confident we have provided our family quiet solitude in a budding rural community.

Kids are growing up with the house is still partially finished, Joan takes a job at the Deerfield Elementary School to be closer to our growing family. Aimee joins the local Pony Club so Dad builds a barn and a paddock for her pony, then her horse, all the hay, feed and tack necessary in the barn. We clear more to enjoy the property. We build a wood shed, build a garden shed and plant produce gardens and fruit trees. Build rock walls and develop flower beds all to enrich our family home and nurturing environment. Our home is the center for extended family to celebrate holidays, birthdays, graduations, births and deaths. The neighborhood is maturing with four houses built across the street and the road finally paved completely through to Nottingham Square.

Aimee and Ben finish Deerfield Elementary School and off to high school. Many a night is spent at the kitchen table with homework to complete. Joan and Phil are engaged in the local town Government, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Forestry Committee, PTO, Old Home Day, Deerfield Fair, too many to remember and list here.

The screen porch is completed and Phil and Joan enjoy the peacefulness, serenity, tranquility, quietude, of our four country acres, away from the road and overlooking the rearmost of our property. PSNH improves the substation in the early 2000's with a giant transformer. Quite an event as the entire neighborhood turns out to see the giant fixture crawl its way along our rural road on giant trucks to make its way up Cate Road to the substation. PSNH, Eversource, Northern Pass announce a line from Canada through New Hampshire to end in Deerfield at the upgraded substation. Our innocent understanding is such that the upgraded station would receive the added power. In October 2015 Phil and Joan are noticed as abutters of a Wetland Permit Application from Northern Pass to the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. We discover that the 750 page wetlands permit application with a fee of \$1,234,000+ is not only for the whole route but a new substation in Deerfield. In the permit documents we discover that the new substation will be built 500 feet of our property and that it will be necessary to clear cut 16+ acres of forest and level the site for this new station. 24 to 30 months of disruptive construction could take place affecting our quality of life and enjoyment of our home and property.

Phil and Joan begin the engagement with the NH Site Evaluation Committee process and are concerned at the effect on our quality of life and potential effect on the value of our property should this Northern Pass be built. Attempting to find an attorney to represent us we made 15 inquiries, 14 were unavailable due to conflict associated with Northern Pass/Eversource. We engage an attorney and begin. Night meetings, day meetings, letters, attorneys, Phil and Joan are granted "Intervener Status". Phil and Joan versus Northern Pass/Eversource a true David vs Goliath! Construction of a facility encompassing 16+ acres, 24 to 30 months under construction and multi millions of dollars will turn the quiet rural character of our neighborhood into an industrial zone.

In granting Phil and Joan Intervener Status the Site Evaluation Committee clearly states in their order "that it is clear that the project will affect the Bilodeau property". The Site Evaluation Committee process is totally Overwhelming, Unwieldy, Emotionally Shattering, All Consuming, Financially Burdensome and Totally Favoring the Applicant.

As with any tragedy some friends and neighbors are sympathetic and share your grief, others are silent and avoid contact. In the many years, months, days spent building and growing our home

and with our investment of time and money and security as we mature, it is demoralizing to imagine that we will be faced with this interference of our quality of life. Joan is now retired and Phil is approaching retirement we imagined, believed, and anticipated a serene, tranquil, peaceful life enjoying our home after 40+ years of labor. We cannot describe the emotional, mental, financial, and physical burden it has placed on Phil and Joan at this juncture and we are yet to be faced with the construction. We cannot describe in words the home and life we have built here.

How do you summarize 50 years of your life in a brief readable format?

*Phil & Joan Bilodeau*

Respectfully submitted by their attorney,

DATE: November 15, 2016

*Scott E. Hogan, /s/*

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Scott E. Hogan, Esq.

THE LAW OFFICE OF SCOTT E. HOGAN

P.O. Box 33

Durham, NH 03824

603-969-1183

[Hoganlaw@comcast.net](mailto:Hoganlaw@comcast.net)

NH Bar ID#: 10542

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this day, November 15, 2016, a copy of the foregoing Pre-Filed Testimony was sent by electronic mail to persons named on the Service List of this docket.

\_\_\_\_ *Scott E. Hogan, /s/* \_\_\_\_\_

Scott E. Hogan, Esq.















