

**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 MARK AND SUSAN ORZECK
MEMBERS OF Non-Abutting Property Owners: Clarksville through Bethlehem**

November 15, 2016

What are your names?

Mark and Susan Orzeck

What is your contact information?

Lot 7, Percy Road, Stark NH

(508) 636-3716

What is your status as Interveners?

We own property on Percy Road, in Stark NH. We are members of Non-Abutting Property Owners: Clarksville through Bethlehem

What are your concerns about the Northern Pass project as it's currently proposed?

We have several concerns. The following list should not be regarded as all-inclusive: negative impact to the value of the property, negative impact to the enjoyment of the property, negative impact to the peaceful rural character of the property, security concerns including the potential for terrorism, safety concerns, noise concerns, health and wellbeing concerns, disregard for our interests as property owners, etc.

Given the list of concerns above, which ones concern you the most?

One of the greatest concerns we have is our proximity to the Coos Loop. Northern Pass proposes to co-locate HVAC and HVDC lines above and across the existing 24" PSNGT Natural Gas Pipeline. We believe this use of the existing ROW is unduly burdensome and outside the scope of the original ROW. Our family is definitely within the "incineration zone", and this fact not only reduces our enjoyment of the property, but also causes a great deal of stress and anxiety in regards to the safety of our family.

The next concern we have is the proximity to the HV power lines, along with the EMF produced by them. The Applicant asserts there are no definite correlations between power line EMF and childhood leukemia, but there are just as many studies that show there is an effect.

What does your land mean to you?

Refer to Exhibit A for a letter we had sent to the DOE when we first learned our dream was about to be shattered.

What suggestions do you have for the Northern Pass team if they expect to move forward?

We have two suggestions:

1. The oft-suggested (and oft-denied) suggestion to explore full burial along existing pre-softened rights of way.
2. Explore the use of the New England Clean Power Link. This is a FAR more environmentally friendly project that compared to Northern Pass, virtually sailed through the permitting process. They achieved their goal of a Vermont Certificate of Public Good (essentially the equivalent of the NH SEC Certificate of Site and Facility) in less than one year. Proof that if Northern Pass had truly listened they would already be under construction, rather than disrupting lives and wasting tax dollars. The Applicant suggests they are far along in the permitting process, yet in reality they've just been at it for a long time, yet still far behind the NECPL option.

Dear Mr. Mills,

My wife and I recently become property owners along the PSNH ROW in Stark, NH. Our goal was to have a place in the NH woods for family recreation. After 30 years of marriage this was to be the fulfillment of that life-long dream. Now this dream is rapidly turning into a nightmare for us.

One of our greatest concerns in deciding to purchase this land was to receive input regarding the potential use of this ROW by Northern Pass. I contacted Northern Pass via their website on August 22, 2011.

On August 23 I received a response to my query stating “the proposed Northern Pass route does not run through the town of Stark. For more information on where it's currently routed, please see the project website at www.northernpass.us and go to the "Communities" page.”

We purchased this land based on this response, and now I find out by going back through the Project Journal that this proposed route was withdrawn prior to my inquiry. According to an April 12, 2011 document the public had a chance to give their input through an extended scoping period.

How come we were NOT made aware of these developments at the time of my inquiry? Why was I directed to a four months out-of-date map? We would NOT have purchased the land if I was given up-to-date feedback, and I would not be in the situation I am in right now.

Northern Pass had the opportunity to inform us that the route had changed, but chose not to. Is this an indication of how they will do business across the state?

I'm sure you've heard all the environmental, public safety, and land value concerns. As an engineer, I understand it's easy to find research to support a particular conclusion. In this case I feel that Northern Pass will have a huge negative impact on property values and tourism income, despite their “research” supposedly proving otherwise.

We agree with and support all the objections to Northern Pass. We urge you to consider denying Northern Pass the permit required to make this nightmare a reality.

Sincerely,

Mark and Susan Orzeck