

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE  
Docket No. 2015-06

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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 James and Judy Ramsdell

Q: Please state your names.

A: James and Judy Ramsdell

Q: What is your interest in the proposed Northern Pass project?

A: Our personal residence, which is located at 1049 Whitefield Road, Dalton, NH, abuts the existing power line right of way. This right of way is the proposed path for the new transmission lines, which will be directly next to our house. The new towers will be on the side of the existing right of way, closest to our home, with a 120' tower next to our house. Our house is approximately 100' from the existing power lines. Should a storm ever blow this proposed tower over, it could potentially hit our house. This tower will definitely be an eyesore to look at, and would impact our home's value.

Q: Do you have any evidence that the Northern Pass has had an impact on the value or marketability of your home?

A: Yes. We tried to sell our house from 2010 to 2012, and were required to have a disclosure statement in our real estate listing, stating that the proposed Northern Pass route would be next to our property. We had many interested buyers, but all were scared off by the possibility of the proposed power line. We listed our house \$25,000 below our realtor's evaluation, and they showed it more than any other listing, but all prospective buyers walked away without a single offer. Dalton did a reevaluation of the town for tax purposes in August 2013 and our home's value dropped \$45,200 as a result.

Q: Have you ever been contacted by a representative of Northern Pass to discuss the potential impacts to you and your property?

A: Yes. Jim Wagner came to our house. He said the buffer of trees between us and the ROW would block our view of the towers. My response was, the pine trees next to us are not more than 60' tall. We told him our story, and asked if NP would buy our property. He said that the project would not affect us, and they did not need to buy our property.

Q: Has this had any effect on your plans for the future?

A: Yes. We are close to retirement age, and would like to sell and move to a warmer climate, but our house is not marketable because of the proposed power line project. As most people do, we work all our lives to own our home, which is our largest asset for retirement. We have lived under the threat of Northern Pass for

several years now, and have watched our home's value continue to depreciate.

Q: Do you think you would have moved away from Dalton by now if the Northern Pass project had not come along?

A: Yes. In fact, we moved to North Carolina in order to live in a warmer climate and be near our son and daughter and their families. Jim found work in that area, and we rented a home. We planned to buy a place once our home in Dalton sold. After some time our realtor, Peabody & Smith, suggested that we take the property off the market because it was not attracting a buyer. We agreed that until the Northern Pass was resolved, there would be little hope of selling the property. We were unable to maintain the home to our satisfaction from North Carolina, and reluctantly decided to move back to Dalton.

Q: Do you have grandchildren in North Carolina?

A: Yes.

Q: Is it fair to say the Northern Pass project is preventing you from moving to be with your grandchildren?

A: Yes

Q: Is this the only adverse impact you anticipate from Northern Pass?

A: No. Another concern we have regarding the transmission line towers next to our property is the potential health and safety hazards we will encounter. We realize that there are differing opinions regarding potential EMF's from the high tension power lines. But, there is enough agreement on the danger of being close to towers that most states will not allow them near schools, as there is evidence of causing cancer in adolescents. I have not met a single person that would want a 120' transmission tower 100' from their house. All the studies I read suggest a safe distance of 300' to 500' from transmission towers .

Q: Do you have any other concerns?

A: Yes. We believe that we will occasionally be subjected to disruptive noise from the power lines. We have experienced this first-hand by visiting other power lines of roughly the same size as those proposed by Northern Pass. In wet or foggy weather, they can be especially intrusive, with loud humming and sometimes popping.

Q: Is that all?

A: No. Another concern is that my wife suffers from multiple sclerosis, autonomic dysfunction, and dysautonomia. There are many studies which warn of the dangers of EMF's to the health of people with autoimmune diseases. As most people know, the worst thing for those who suffer from MS, is unnecessary stress. The multiple concerns that we have listed are a constant source of stress, and have caused severe hardship for our family.

Q: Are there any other health concerns?

A: Yes. One additional reason we need to sell our property is our daughter Holly's recent health problem. Holly fell on October 1, 2016, and broke C5 vertebrae in her neck. She has a "complete " spinal cord injury, resulting in paralysis from the chest down. Holly has been in Dartmouth ICU ever since, trying to get well enough to go to rehab where she will learn to live with this injury. Her prognosis is permanent paralysis and life in a wheel

chair. Holly is on a ventilator and feeding tube, which we hope rehab can wean her off of. We need to sell our house to get a one level, handicap accessible home. Our existing house is a tri-level, with a lot of stairs. Also, we would like to move near our children, so they can assist us with Holly's care. We are at a loss for words to describe our current situation, as this is the most difficult thing we have ever been through.

Q: Do you have anything to add?

A: Yes. In conclusion, we have been burdened to the point of discouragement from the ongoing threat of the potential transmission towers going next to our home. Year after year, and meeting after meeting the majority of residents come out and speak against this project. Somehow, the Northern Pass project keeps coming back as if no one was ever in opposition to it. We want to go on record to state that we do not want towers next to our house, and the only way we would accept this proposed project is if the power line is buried . It appears that the consensus of all the people that attend these meetings is "complete burial of the entire line. "