

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE
DOCKET NO. 2015-06

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 DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DONALD BILODEAU, DIANE BILODEAU, DAWN
BILODEAU SCRIBNER, AND DANA BILODEAU REGARDING THEIR PROPERTY AT
317 ROUTE 145, CLARKSVILLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

ON BEHALF OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS

NOVEMBER 15, 2016

TESTIMONY OF DONALD AND DIANE BILODEAU

Q. Please state your name and address.

A: We are Donald and Diane Bilodeau. We reside at 7 Goodwin Road, Gilford, New Hampshire. We have owned our “camp” on 25 acres at 317 Route 145 in Clarksville since February 1986. The “camp” is a winterized home. (Exhibit 1.)

Q: Please describe the history of your Clarksville home.

A: We, along with our daughters Dawn and Dana and their husbands Ralph and Pete, built our home in Clarksville in June 1986 (30 years) ago. We did the complete construction except for excavation and foundation. We all put our hearts and souls into its construction. We now have four grandchildren ages 18 to 22. The “home” has been a big part of all our lives these past 30 years. We average four months a year there.

Q: Presently, do you see the existing Eversource right-of-way?

A: We do. It’s not very visible, but the existing lines appear the same as ordinary power lines. (Exhibit 2.)

Q: From an aesthetics perspective, how would the proposed Northern Pass project affect you and your property?

A: As presently proposed there will be 23 towers between the two buried portions. Two of these towers, 90’+- in height at the transition station, are 350’+- from our property line on the south side of Wiswell Road. The next tower is 100’ and the next tower is 120’, next is 95’. These five towers run north. The route now turns west for the remaining 18 towers. We may see eight or more of these monstrosities, I’m not sure at this point. Many people park across from the

1 cemetery on Route 145 to take pictures of the same view we have, some even walk down our
2 driveway.

3 As for the proposed transition station, it would be located within a few hundred feet of
4 our property line, which is visible in Exhibit 3 as the stone wall on the left of the photograph.

5 **Q: What is your opinion of the proposed Northern Pass project?**

6 A: Should N.P. even be built? If it is not needed for system reliability the answer is
7 no. The S.E.C. will have to make that decision. New Hampshire should not be used as an
8 extension cord for southern New England. Our opinion is very strongly opposed to this project as
9 presently proposed. We donated a conservation easement to the Forest Society for the purpose
10 of trying to prevent the Northern Pass project. We have attended many meetings concerning
11 N.P. from Colebrook to Concord and towns in between. We gave written and verbal testimony at
12 some of them. We all now have this huge cloud over our heads. Why N.P. can't bury more of
13 this route is beyond me. The billions of dollars in profit they will make in the next 40 years will
14 far out way the burial cost I'm sure. We first heard about N.P. in October 2010. They called us in
15 early 2011 to sell and again in the fall. Six years after the first call our family is still enjoying the
16 hiking, snowmobiling and beautiful North Country.

17 **TESTIMONY OF DAWN SCRIBNER BILODEAU**

18 **Q. Please state your name and address.**

19 A: My name is Dawn Bilodeau Scribner. I live at 36 Glidden Road, Gilford, NH
20 03249. My parents are Donald and Diane Bilodeau.

21 **Q: Please describe your experience with the Clarksville property.**

1 A: Our Camp located on Route 145 in Clarksville, New Hampshire is a very special
2 place for our entire family. We all came together and built Camp ourselves from the ground up.
3 Though portions of it were made in Gilford and transported by trailer, you would find us up at
4 Camp most weekends either insulating or painting of whatever needed to be done. Our very
5 hearts and souls are here. We are all very proud of this beautiful place. Lots of memories were
6 made here and continue to be made.

7 Memories of planting 7 acres of Christmas trees from tiny seedlings with our children in
8 backpacks and strollers and then watching my children and niece and nephew help cut down
9 those trees to take back to our homes in Gilford, New Hampshire. Playing games around the
10 table as we either watch the beautiful sunsets or the snow blow across the field all thinking to
11 ourselves how lucky we are to have not only our beautiful family all around us but the beautiful
12 scenery that has not changed since we first set our eyes on it those many years ago.

13 In the words of my 21 year old son, "it is a place to escape reality." He also says "perhaps
14 one of the best things about it is that it hasn't changed in the past 21 years." Still today my
15 children always ask me when we are going to Camp next. Others have come to "escape" reality.

16 Before our children were born there was a group of 12 of us consisting of our family and
17 2 couples who would come up almost every weekend in the winter to snowmobile. We called
18 ourselves "The Clarksville Gang." We would snowmobile during the day and in the evening
19 have dart tournaments, play games or just sit around and enjoy each other's company. Again
20 enjoying the beauty of this place. During my son's middle school years, he would come up to
21 celebrate his July birthday with friends and their fathers here at camp. While they have all grown

1 and gone their separate ways, whenever we see them they always bring up the times they spent at
2 Camp.

3 This Camp and all its splendor has kept this family together. It is our little “slice of
4 heaven.” I want my grandchildren to be able to grow up to know the beauty of this place. To see
5 the beautiful sunsets, to see the tip of Jay Peak on a clear day, slide down the hills and hike like
6 my own children did. To be able to enjoy all this without the interruption of power lines and
7 towers.

8 **Q: What is your opinion of the proposed Northern Pass project?**

9 A: I believe the Northern Pass Project is not needed for system reliability. Many
10 projects already have their permits and are ready to start. I believe that this project will destroy
11 the beauty of New Hampshire and we should not be used as an extension cord. The North
12 Country relies on its beauty for tourism. Who will want to come to visit New
13 Hampshire anticipating spectacular views only to be faced with ugly towers and power lines
14 running through them? People come here to escape the landscapes littered with these ugly
15 towers. The beauty of New Hampshire should not be compromised!

16 **TESTIMONY OF DANA BILODEAU**

17 **Q. Please state your name and address.**

18 A: My name is Dana Bilodeau. I live at 22 Glidden Road, Gilford, NH 03249. My
19 parents are Donald and Diane Bilodeau.

20 **Q: Please describe your experience with the Clarksville property.**

21 A: These towers will be littering the landscape of our family camp. Camp is a place
22 we go to spend quality time with family and get away from the stress of everyday life. A place to

1 spend time surrounded by the beauty and serenity of a place that has remained in its natural state,
2 virtually untouched by what some may call “progress”.

3 Camp is the glue that holds our family together. If not for this beautiful place to go and
4 take a breather in nature and just spend time with one another with no other distractions, we may
5 not have remained as close. We have shared many evenings watching the sunset where these
6 towers may go. We built this camp together as a family. We all helped to grow the Christmas
7 tree farm. We would go on hikes and snowmobile rides, stopping at beautiful spots along the
8 way for cookouts.

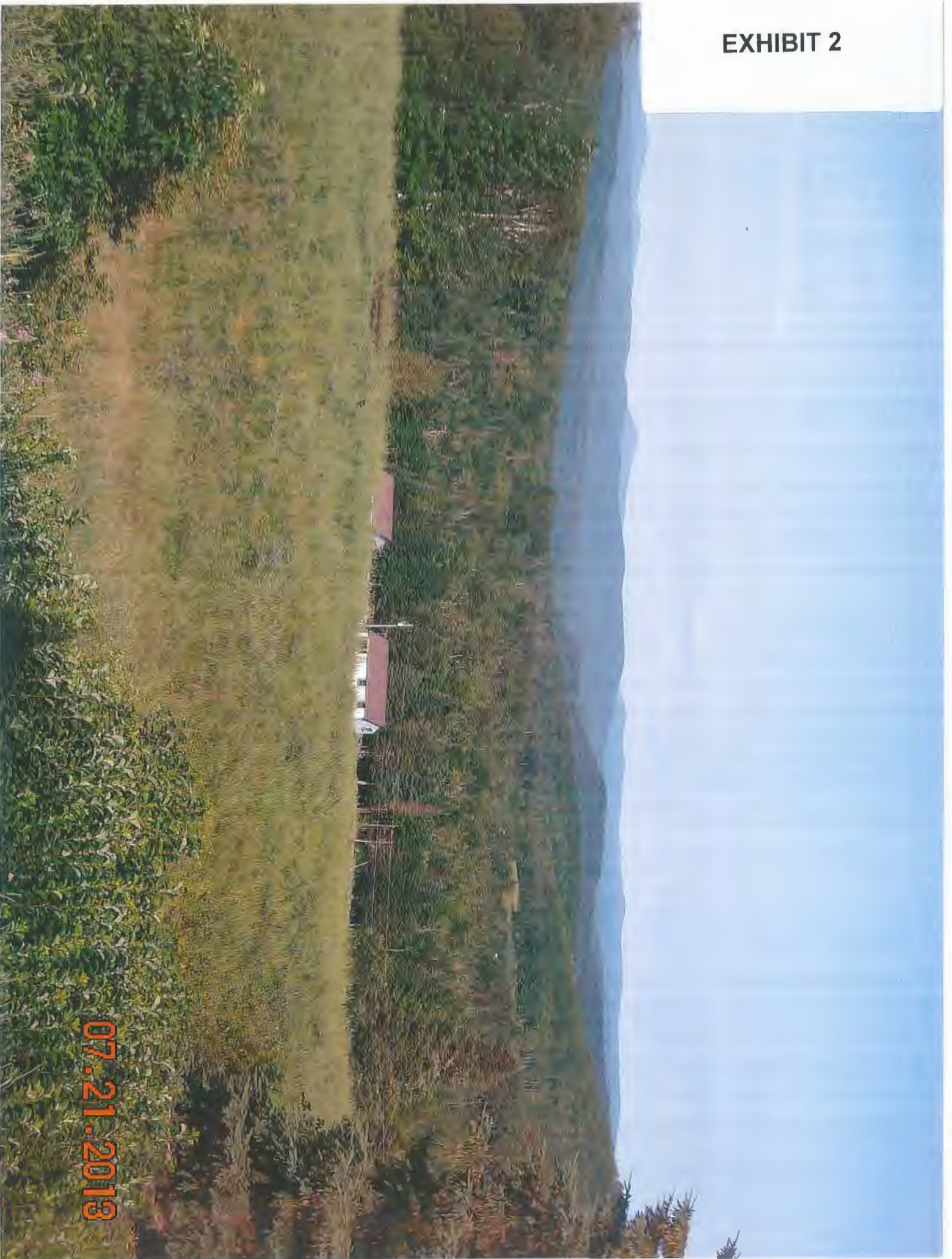
9 My children would count the days until they could return to camp and play darts and go
10 sliding with their cousins down the very hills where the wires may cross. My children have been
11 going to their grandparent’s camp since they were babies and are now adults. They have a close
12 relationship to this day with their grandparents in part because of the times they spent with them
13 in this beautiful place.

14 **Q: Why are you concerned about the proposed Northern Pass project?**

15 A: I fear that my own grandchildren may never get to experience what my children
16 have. It will not be the same place anymore with these towers littering the landscape. Every time
17 I look out and see the towers I will be reminded of cooperate greed with no care of how it may
18 impact the little guy.

EXHIBIT 1





07.21.2013



10.10.2010