

**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 JAN McCLURE AND KRISTINE TARDIFF ON  
BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**December 30, 2016**

**Supplemental Testimony of Kristine Tardiff and Jan McClure**

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

A. Our additional testimony is to provide further testimony on issues such as aesthetics and natural resources.

**Q. Have you had an opportunity to review the Viewshed Analysis provided by the Chesapeake Conservancy?**

A. Yes. The City of Concord Conservation Commission obtained a viewshed analysis from the Chesapeake Conservancy to determine the visual impacts resulting from the proposed Northern Pass Project.

**Q. Why did the City of Concord Conservation Commission determine that it was important to obtain its own viewshed analysis?**

A. The Conservation Commission was concerned about the validity of the Applicants' viewshed analysis. During our Conservation Commission meeting, it was noted during our review of the Applicants' viewshed analysis that their consultant Terrence J. DeWan & Associates did not use the most current and best available elevation data and did not assess the scenic impact of the transmission structures on the scenic view from our downtown and urban residential area. During our discussions, we determined that it would be most appropriate to assess the potential viewshed impacts from the proposed Northern Pass Transmission project using Lidar elevation data collected in 2011. In addition, the Commission requested the consultant assess the visual impact of the transmission corridor from downtown and its environs.

1 Our staff liaison from the City of Concord, Beth Fenstermacher, worked with the Cheasapeake  
2 Conservancy to obtain a viewshed analysis.

3 **Q. Please describe your concerns relative to aesthetics.**

4 A. The City of Concord Conservation Commission is concerned about the aesthetic  
5 impacts of the proposed Northern Pass project. A number of properties that are managed by the  
6 Conservation Commission and/or are protected with conservation easements will have visual  
7 impacts due to the proposed Northern Pass project. These properties include the Carter Hill  
8 Orchard, Dimond Hill Farm, the Blood Farm, Oak Hill Conservation Area, Broken  
9 Group/Whispering Heights Conservation Area, Spears Park and Turtle Pond. Although some of  
10 the properties are outside the three-mile study range performed by Terrence J. DeWan &  
11 Associates, they are important scenic landscapes in the City of Concord.

12 One of the goals of the Open Space Master Plan is to maintain and enhance scenic views  
13 and natural vistas from the City's roads and public properties where possible. The proposed  
14 Northern Pass project is inconsistent with those goals because it will adversely impact scenic  
15 views and natural vistas from the City's roads and public properties. One example is the view  
16 from Oak Hill Conservation Area and Turtle Pond. There are photosimulations that show the  
17 negative visual impact that the proposed project will have on those areas. Both Oak Hill  
18 Conservation Area and Turtle Pond are important scenic resources in Concord, and are enjoyed  
19 by a number of people.

20 Concord's Master Plan and zoning support the preservation of the rural areas of the City  
21 and the scenic views of our rural open space zone are an important City attribute. Our Urban

1 Growth boundary has intentionally concentrated development in the City core while protecting  
2 the scenic qualities and rural character of the less developed Open Space Residential District  
3 (“RO”) zone of the City. The ridgeline where the Northern Pass corridor is proposed is an iconic  
4 landmark in Concord and is a treasured view from the downtown core and many of the  
5 residential structures rising west of the downtown. Concord has recently invested several million  
6 dollars in upgrading its downtown and the views from this area to the west are ever more  
7 important to protect. The Conservation Commission is concerned about these scenic views from  
8 our urban center and many other areas where the project will be viewable. The Northern Pass  
9 structures on the eastern landscape of the City would be in direct conflict with established scenic,  
10 rural qualities City policy and conservation efforts have strived to maintain.

11 **Q. In addition to the concerns raised in your pre-filed testimony on November**  
12 **15, 2016, please describe any additional concerns relative to natural resources that you**  
13 **would like to address.**

14 A. As already discussed, we are concerned about the potential impact to the habitat  
15 of the Karner Blue butterflies and wetlands. The City of Concord has retained an expert to  
16 address issues relative to long term impacts of “temporary wetland impacts,” as well as to  
17 discuss the fragmentation of wildlife habitat. This testimony is being submitted on December  
18 30, 2016.

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

20 A. Yes.