

**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**

**SUPPLEMENTAL PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF EDWIN MELLETT ON
BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF NORTHUMBERLAND**

April 17, 2017

1 **Supplemental Testimony**

2 **Q. What are your concerns with the project in Northumberland as it is**
3 **planned?**

4 A. Our number one concern is the overhead transmission line. If the project were
5 buried, it would eliminate most of our concerns. We realize it would be more expensive, but if
6 this project proceeds, it is the only alternative that is acceptable to the Town.

7 **Q. If the project is approved, what are the issues that you believe should be**
8 **addressed in the final order?**

9 A. Two of the tallest towers are proposed for each side of Lost Nation Road. The
10 Applicants proposal is to clear the area between Lost Nation Road and the generating plant. This
11 will expose the generating plant that is now boarded by woods on all sides. This will change the
12 aesthetics of this area tremendously. The configuration of the crossing should be changed or
13 only a minimum of clearing be done leaving a buffer around the generating plant.

14 The town is concerned over the use of town roads, i.e. Page Hill Road, and possibly
15 Thompson Road. They are posted for 6 tons in the spring and should not be used at that point.
16 Also, there should be a written guaranty that the roads will be returned to their original condition.

17 Further, there should be an emergence response plan in the event of failure of the towers
18 in wind storms or ice storms and training provided to the emergency response personnel of the
19 town. Safety of the gas pipeline should be addressed in the construction schedule.

20 **Q. What is the Town's position on the impact to the wetlands?**

1 A. The Northumberland Conservation Commission hired Elise Lawson, a wetland
2 scientist, to review the DES decision to approve the project. Her concerns are outlined in
3 Appendix E.

4 **Q. Do you believe that the proposed mitigation package is adequate?**

5 A. No. The proposed mitigation package that has been approved by DES allows the
6 Applicant to mitigate wetlands impacts in the town by placing easements on parcels that are of
7 very little benefit to the town. We have proposed that the riverbank on the Connecticut River by
8 the town cemetery be stabilized by using mitigation funds. The proposal was rejected by
9 Northern Pass. Mitigation funds should be used for this project.

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

11 A. Yes.