

**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**

**TRACK 2 SUPPLEMENTAL PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY
of
Walter A. Palmer and M. Kathryn Ting**

April 17, 2017

Please state your names for the record

Walter A. Palmer and M. Kathryn Ting

Are you Intervenors in SEC Docket NO. 2015-06?

Yes, we are both intervenors in this docket

Please summarize your education background and work experience.

Walter Palmer holds a Bachelor of Science degree with a biology/chemistry dual major, and a Masters Degree in Environmental Management from Duke University in Durham, NC. Mr. Palmer has had a 30-year career as an environmental management professional, working in the USA and over 20 other countries. Much of Mr. Palmer's career has focused on the preparation or review of environmental impact assessments of large-scale infrastructure projects, including large reservoir and dam projects and a full range of linear development projects such as power line transmission, pipeline, railroad, and highway projects.

Kathryn Ting holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Duke University, and Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL. Ms. Ting has had a 35-year career in international agricultural economics, as a Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). She has served as an Agricultural Attaché or as the Agricultural Minister-Counselor at U.S. Embassies in Belgium, The Philippines, Mexico, South Korea, and Canada, and in the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong, China.

Have you testified previously before the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee or other regulatory bodies?

Mr. Palmer has testified in a Technical Session for the subject Docket on February 21, 2017, and has cross-examined witnesses during the Track 1 Adjudicative Hearings for this Docket.

What is the purpose of your testimony?

The purpose of our testimony is to raise our concerns in several topic areas related to the proposed underground portion of the Northern Pass project ("NP"). These concerns arise primarily from our review of new information that only became available after we submitted our initial pre-filed testimony on December 30, 2016. This new information is the letter from New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) to the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) dated April 3, 2017, and in particular the draft permit conditions ("Conditions") that NHDOT intends to impose on the design and construction of the underground portion of NP.

Please list your specific concerns.**1. Impacts on ground water and surface water quality**

The NHDOT Conditions require NPT to bury the proposed underground transmission cable and associated facilities to a deeper depth than NPT has previously proposed. This means that the lower portions of the installed cable will be 7 feet deep or more below the ground surface. The proposed Project route passes directly through several shallow aquifers, including one on my land, that are within two to three feet below the ground surface. The new requirements mean that the cable and associated Fluidized Thermal Backfill will be permanently submerged within these shallow aquifers. We are very much concerned about the contamination of these aquifers and of surface waters connected to these aquifers.

2. Impacts on Property Values and Character of the Neighborhood The NHDOT Conditions state that the underground portion of NP should be installed at the outer limits of highway ROWs wherever practicable. This would require the removal of extensive vegetation including mature trees, and would dramatically change the character of the neighborhoods along the subject highways. This new requirement of the NHDOT Conditions would result in significant visual impact. We are concerned that alteration of the character of our neighborhoods and visual impacts will result in significant reduction in the property values for abutting landowners. In addition, the avoidance of high-voltage electrical transmission installations by prospective homebuyers would make our properties less desirable, resulting in reduced property values.

Encroachment Threat The requirements in the NHDOT Conditions to install the cable at the outer edge of the ROW, coupled with a lack of defined ROW boundaries, increases the danger that NP will encroach on the private property of Abutters.

Restrictions on Quiet Enjoyment The requirement to install the transmission cable at the outer edge of the ROW increases the danger that abutting property owners will be restricted in the free use of their land near the installation site. This would include restrictions on activities such as construction, driveway installation, fence installation, tree planting, water line installation, or other activities due to the dangers associated with excavation and construction near a high-voltage electrical transmission line.