

**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 ROBERT THIBAUT ON
BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**

April 17, 2017

Supplemental Testimony

Q. Please state your name and title.

A. My name is Robert Thibault. I am on the Board of Selectmen in the Town of Easton. I am adopting the testimony of Deborah Stever.

Q. What is your professional background?

A. I was in Manufacturing Engineering and Management for over 30 years. I retired as a plant manager for Burndy Electrical in Littleton, New Hampshire. I have lived and owned property in Easton, New Hampshire for 21 years. During that time, I have been a Selectman for 6 years, the Town Clerk for almost 10 years, the Tax Collector for 2 or 3 years. I am currently in my 3rd term as Selectman and I am the Deputy Town Clerk. I also routinely attend Planning Board and Conservation Commission meetings.

Q. What are the Town's concerns about construction through town?

A. Through Easton, the Route 116 right-of-way varies from 66 feet to 40 feet. There are many buildings that are very close to the road. One of our concerns is damage to residents' foundations, especially those that are stone, caused by either blasting, if necessary, or by the prolonged vibration of heavy construction equipment in the close proximity to those foundations. There are also concerns as to the disruption of underground water channels being disturbed, or blocked, which could adversely affect residents well water supply.

Q. At the technical session, Ms. Stever was asked about Route 116 following the Ham Branch. What are the Town's concerns about that area?

1 A. There are only 20 feet in some areas between the houses and the slope drop to the
2 river, so there are concerns about borings near the water. There would not be enough room in
3 this area for a 30 foot ditch. One area in particular is near the Town Hall. The Town Hall
4 building is very close to the road—only a few feet from the front step to the pavement edge and
5 on the other side of the pavement, there is a little more than a car width before a twelve-foot drop
6 to the Ham Branch river.

7 **Q. Concerns were raised at the technical session about whether Best**
8 **Management Practices (“BMPs”) would help avoid environmental damage. What is the**
9 **Town’s position on whether environmental damage would be avoided?**

10 A. Constant vigilance is required to make sure that BMPs are actually followed. We
11 were not impressed with work and the utilization of BMPs when the geo boring was started. The
12 residents of Easton were vigilant which ultimately cause BMPs to be followed. Furthermore,
13 BMPs do not *eliminate* damage; they merely create a compromise that tries to minimize damage.

14 **Q. During the technical session, Counsel for the Public referred to some large**
15 **maps. The Easton maps were Maps 37, 38 and 39, and the drilling locations he pointed to**
16 **were HDD-16 through HDD-26. He asked Ms. Stever to describe what would happen if**
17 **Route 116 were completely closed during construction along one or more of those points.**
18 **What will happen to Easton if Route 116 is closed for a day, a week, two weeks?**

19 A. It would disrupt travel from Easton to Franconia (where residents of Easton goes
20 shopping). Only a few of the roads that branch off Rt. 116 are not dead end roads. Sugar Hill
21 Road, which meets Easton Road in Sugar Hill, is about a 7 mile detour. The road is narrow with

1 steep hills and is very bad for large trucks. The bus does not travel all the way through Sugar
2 Hill Road because of the condition of the road.

3 Easton is part of a community fire/EMS group and road closures would affect emergency
4 services. Sugar Hill and Franconia serve Easton as a backup. Closure of Rt. 116 on the
5 Franconia/Sugar Hill side would mean no backup service goes either direction.

6 Easton's fire department is an all-volunteer, 10-12 member department. The Town has one
7 tanker and one engine. Easton relies heavily on other towns for service.

8 If the road were closed beyond the fire department, the eastern part of Easton would be cut off
9 from fire/EMS until Woodsville, and this would also cut off Landaff from service because they
10 are served by Easton's fire/EMS.

11 If the road were closed at HDD-19, Paine Road is the possible detour but it is a one-lane, dirt
12 road open only in the summer, with a significant slope. It's not a viable route for EMS.

13 If the road were closed south of the south end Paine Road, a traveler would have to detour to go
14 anywhere in Easton north of that point. The only detour route available to them is to take

15 Rt. 116 South to Rt. 112 West through Landaff. From there, the detour would extend to Rt. 302
16 North through Lisbon, pick up Pearl Lake Rd in Lisbon into Sugar Hill, then onto the Easton
17 Road, back into the north end of Easton via Sugar Hill Rd, and then to the detour point. This is a
18 trip of at least 28 miles one way.

19 If the road were closed north of the north end of Paine Rd., a traveler would have a detour of
20 approximately 10 miles going through Franconia and Sugar Hill.

21 **Q. Does Easton have a noise ordinance?**

1 A. Yes. The noise ordinance limits the hours the construction could take place. *See*
2 Appendix D.

3 **Q. Do you have concerns about pipes that run across where the project is**
4 **planned?**

5 A. Yes. There are wells that are across the street from the homes and businesses they
6 service. *See* Appendix E.

7 **Q. Are there concerns about the Tamarack Tennis Camp during construction, if**
8 **the location of the project remains the same and the project is approved?**

9 A. Yes. The Tamarack Tennis Camp located In Easton runs 2 tennis training
10 sessions per summer. Each session is 4 to 5 weeks long. Each session hosts 40 to 50 children
11 plus 15 to 20 staff. They have tennis courts on both sides of Route 116—5 on one side and 7 on
12 the other side. The town has a major concern for the safety of the children crossing back and
13 forth from court to court while construction is going on. The tennis camp is concerned that
14 business will suffer because of the inconvenience and safety factor the construction will cause.
15 The tennis camp property also supplies water across the street to a current residence, a future
16 residence and a housing livestock. Any compromise of that underground line would create a
17 major problem for the property.

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

19 A. Yes.