> STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
> SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

February 1, 2018 - 1:50 p.m.
49 Donovan Street
Concord, New Hampshire
DAY 3 Afternoon Session Only
\{Electronically filed with SEC on 02-02-18\}

IN RE: SEC 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. (Deliberations)

PRESENT FOR SUBCOMMITTEE/SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:
Chrmn. Martin P. Honigberg Public Utilities Comm. (Presiding as Presiding Officer)

Cmsr. Kathryn M. Bailey Public Utilities Comm. Dir. Craig Wright, Designee Dept. of Environ. Serv. Christopher Way, Designee Dept. of Business \& Economic Affairs
William Oldenburg, Designee Dept. of Transportation Patricia Weathersby Public Member Rachel Dandeneau Alternate Public Member

ALSO PRESENT FOR THE SEC:
Michael J. Iacopino, Esq., Counsel for SEC
Iryna Dore, Esq., Counsel for SEC (Brennan, Lenehan, Iacopino \& Hickey)

Pamela G. Monroe, SEC Administrator
(No Appearances Taken)
COURT REPORTER: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 052
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(Before commencement of the

Afternoon Session the committee
members met in a non-meeting
with SEC Counsel at $1: 50$ p.m.)
(Deliberations resumed at 2:29 p.m.)
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Sorry for the delay, folks. We needed some help from our lawyer.

Am I recognizing you, Commissioner Bailey?

CMSR. BAILEY: Yes. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, $I$ move at this time that we deny the Application for a Certificate of Site and Facility, because the Applicant has failed to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the site and facility, the Project, will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region, with due consideration having been given to the views of municipal and regional planning commissions and municipal governing bodies.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Is there a second for Commissioner Bailey's motion?
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MS. DANDENEAU: I'll second that. CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Commissioner Bailey, are you interested in speaking to your motion?

CMSR. BAILEY: Yes. By statute, we have to make findings, we have to make four findings in order to grant the Certificate. I think the conversation that we had earlier this morning, it was clear that we can't make one of those findings. And $I$ know that there are pros and cons of proceeding with our deliberations on the rest of the considerations that we have to make. But, at this point, I don't think we are able to grant the Certificate. And I think that there are some -- some risks in continuing the deliberations, and -- well, let me say it this way. I think, let's keep it simple. We've reached a point where we know we can't grant the certificate, if everybody votes the way that we articulated on orderly development. So, for a number of reasons, and we know that this is going to be appealed, it may be better for us just to stop now. And I just want to have an open conversation about that,
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and we have not discussed this amongst ourselves back in the room. You know, we talked about -- I asked about what the procedure could be.

And, so, I'd like to hear everybody's thoughts on this.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Anyone like to offer some additional thoughts? Ms. Dandeneau, you seconded the motion. What is your thinking on this?

MS. DANDENEAU: I will say that I agree with Commissioner Bailey, in that, at this point, based on our conversations earlier today, that it would seem to me that we can't grant a Certificate.

I do have a concern about doing diligence to the rest of the information that we've had presented before us over the course of 70 days of hearings. But, on the other hand, like you said, Commissioner Bailey, is that beyond the point right now, if we know that we can't grant the Certificate?

So, I'll say that for now.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Other thoughts?
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Anyone? Mr. Way.
MR. WAY: This morning's straw vote was revealing to me. In that $I$ was sort of somewhat surprised of the amount of agreement that we had amongst each other. I was also a little surprised that each time $I$ heard from Our different disciplines, $I$ found that $I$ agreed more and more on certain things that even I wish I had said. And, so, I guess my point is, on orderly development, it's not even close, doesn't seem close to me. That it's not something where we're going to be able to come back and walk out of it. It seems like that -that today was sort of a decision point, and it would be hard to go somewhere from here. And it would be hard -- I agree, I don't see how you could issue a Certificate, given our decision, even though it was a straw decision, of this morning.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Weathersby.
MS. WEATHERSBY: I'd love to be done.
I think everyone here would love to have this -- a final decision on this. But the lawyer in me says we should be sure to dot all
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our i's and cross all our t's -- dot our t's and cross our i's.

And we have heard a lot of
information over the past 70 days, we've read a ton of reports, we've got everybody's briefs. There's been a lot of work. And I think it's worth considering all of the different arguments on all of the different factors.

I think that this Committee can do a good and thorough job. And we've made good progress in deliberations. It's gone quicker than $I$ think, $I$ know, more quickly than $I$ thought it would go. And that, if -- I don't know what -- if expediency is at all a rationale for stopping now, I think that without too many more days we can be done and have addressed all of the topics.

I think there is some risk in not addressing them that we should consider, if, for some reason, $I$ can't imagine how, but if we ever got reversed on an appeal, that we would then need to consider everything. And with the passage of time, our memories perhaps would fade, or we may have different members of the
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Committee. And I think that that's a pretty big risk.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Commissioner

Bailey.
CMSR. BAILEY: Just by way of conversation, $I$ think $I^{\prime} m$ coming at it from an engineering perspective, you're coming at it from a legal perspective. And I appreciate the difference, $I$ really do.

But, as an engineer, $I$ look at things from a more practical matter than from a legal matter. And I'm worried that, if we continue with our deliberations, we will really need to figure out what conditions we would impose on a lot of things. And that's not -- that's not going to be simple and it's not going to be fast. And there's going to be a lot more things to appeal. And $I$ think we have a pretty good record right now.

So, because I'm not a lawyer, I lean
a little bit more toward let's just keep it simple and stop here.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Wright.
DIR. WRIGHT: Thank you. I'm really,
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really conflicted on this, to be honest with you. On one hand, $I$ can hear Bill Belichick telling me to "do my job and finish what you started".

But, also, I'm an engineer, too. I'm a realist. We essentially have a four-legged stool, instead of the proverbial three-legged stool, and we know, as of this morning, $I$ think we all know how we feel on at least one of those legs. And you need four legs to stand up in this case.

And I guess I'm really conflicted right now by the two of those things. But I would love to hear further discussion.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Dandeneau.

MS. DANDENEAU: So, I guess I have a question. Because $I^{\prime} m$ thinking about the amount of time that we've all put into this, and over the length of time that we've all been involved so far. And I'm not a lawyer, so I don't fully comprehend the different steps that would be taken after today, should we choose not to grant the Certificate.

I understand some of them. But, on a
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longer time scale, is there a chance that the Subcommittee for this could change, if the same body of information had to be heard again. And if that happens, would they have the same length of time that we've had?

I guess that's my question.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I guess I'm going to ask Mr. Iacopino to try to address that, if you can.

MR. IACOPINO: It's really a very
difficult question to answer, so many variables in terms of what might happen in the future.

Traditionally, once the Site
Evaluation Committee makes a decision, they issue a written decision. Within 30 days, the parties have 30 days to file a motion for rehearing, trying to point out to the site Evaluation Committee what they overlooked or misapprehended.

One, if the motion for rehearing is denied, there is then a $30-d a y$ window to appeal to the New Hampshire Supreme Court, where the Appellant has to demonstrate that the action of the Committee was unreasonable or unlawful.
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And from there, it's the supreme Court's decision and it's the supreme Court's timeframe.

MS. DANDENEAU: Okay.
MR. IACOPINO: And it could be short, it could be long. There are certain cases that are supposed to take precedence on the court's docket. I don't believe that ours is the type of case that does, you know, fits in that category.

MS. DANDENEAU: Okay.
MR. IACOPINO: But $I$ can't tell how long it would be. And $I$ certainly can't tell you what the make-up of the Site Evaluation Committee would be at any point after 2:40 today.

So, that's -- there's just too many variables to give you a solid answer on what would happen.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: But can you put up a bound on one of those variables or at least an educated guess as to the length of time, just assume a shortest case and a longest case in the supreme court for this type of
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appeal?
I mean, I have opinions on that, but I'm not sitting here as a lawyer right now.

MR. IACOPINO: We have pending before the Supreme Court right now the Antrim Wind appeal, which was just argued last week.

There's not been a decision on that. And --
ADMIN. MONROE: It was in July, I believe, when the case was accepted.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: When was the decision made in Antrim Wind?

ADMIN. MONROE: The final written decision of the Committee was issued, I believe, on Saint Patrick's Day, March 17th.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Of 2017?
ADMIN. MONROE: Correct. And the appeal was accepted the end of July.

MR. IACOPINO: And there was a motion, if my recollection is correct, there was a Motion for Expedited Treatment of that. So, expedited treatment meant they had their oral arguments last week, --

ADMIN. MONROE: Correct.
MR. IACOPINO: -- from March. And
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when the Supreme Court will issue a decision in that case, I don't know. But I would tell you, Mr. Chairman, that, in my opinion, that's the short end of the range. And the long -- and the more common, at least in my experience, and some of my experience comes from my criminal defense practice, is that a typical appeal takes about a year from the time that it's accepted by the Supreme Court.

But that's -- and quite frankly, I think a lot of the criminal cases that $I$ have are of a different nature and different level of complication than these types of issues.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thank you, Mr. Iacopino.

I'll offer up that $I$ am of two minds on this. As a lawyer, $I$ understand and fully agree with Ms. Weathersby's view that the best time to do something is when it's freshest in your mind to go through all of the issues.

There's another part, another part of the lawyer in me, however, that recognizes the simplicity or complexity of this appeal is affected by how long the decision is and how
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many decisions have been made. I'm fairly confident that there will be litigants who are happy with some aspects of whatever decision will be made and are unhappy with others. So, there will be cross appeals on top of the appeal, the main appeal, on every issue. And that will increase the complexity, increase the length of time, increase the briefs, the briefing lengths, the consideration of the issues that the Supreme Court will have to engage in.

Just dealing with the issue as it stands right now, that's a much simpler case to bring to the Supreme Court. But it does -- it does run the risk of, if there's a reversal, having to do a lot of things when it's not -when they're not fresh in our minds.

I mean, that said, $I$ have a lot of confidence in the work that the Subcommittee has done, the care with which it reviewed the record, considered the submissions of all the Parties, the evidence, and the record we have. But $I$ don't get a vote at the supreme court. Other thoughts on this?
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                [No indication given.]
    CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Are you ready to
    vote on Commissioner Bailey's motion?
                            [Multiple members nodding in the
                            affirmative.]
                            CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. If
        you are in favor of Commissioner Bailey's
        motion to deny the Application for the reasons
        she stated, you'll vote "aye". If you're
        opposed, you'll vote "no".
            Is everybody ready for the vote?
                        [Multiple members nodding in the
                        affirmative.]
            CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All in favor say
        "aye"?
            [Multiple members indicating
            "aye".]
            CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Can I see hands
        please?
                        [Indication given.]
            CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
        That's five.
            All opposed?
                                [Indication given.]
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CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: That's two. The motion carries five to two.

Before $I$ entertain a motion to adjourn, there's a number of people $I$ want to thank for all the hard work they have done on this.

I want to thank our Administrator, Pam Monroe, for all the work she put into this, and all the time she spent with the Parties, the Applicant, Counsel for the Public, all the intervenors, all the members of the public, everyone she interacted with, and the professional manner in which she did that.

I want to thank our lawyers, Mike Iacopino, Iryna Dore, and all the people at their office, who provided tremendous support to us in facilitating our work, making sure that it went as smoothly as possible. When things didn't go smoothly in hearing, it was usually my fault, not the fault of those who prepared us or helped get all this put in place.

I want to thank all the folks who worked in this facility, making it a good place
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to hold a hearing. The folks in the back, Mr. Wagner, and all the folks he worked with. The folks from Eversource, who put in a tremendous amount of time to get this all put in place. I want to thank again Sandie Merrigan, from Primmer, and Dawn Gagnon, from McLane, who kept all the records for all the Parties, cooperated with each other, and with everyone who needed help from them, with good humor.

I never questioned the competence or the diligence of any of the people who were advocating for their positions in this. The lawyers, the nonlawyers, some of whom could have gone to law school and done just fine. Some of the lawyers could take a lesson from the simplicity and the directness with which some of the nonlawyers pursued their cases.

I want to recognize the diligence and enthusiasm of the members of the public who came to public -- public hearings, public comment opportunities. This was a robust process by any standard.
(Chairman Honigberg conferring
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> with Atty. Iacopino, and then conferring with Ms. Weathersby as well.)

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: What we're talking about up here, and thanks to Mike, is to make sure that we have a correct set of decisions that have been made so that the decision of the subcommittee is clear.

I got so fixated on something I didn't expect to have to do today that I lost my train of thought.

MS. WEATHERSBY: So, when I voted "no", in my head I was voting on "no" to stop now. I'm in favor of denying the Application, which was not my vote, but $I$ was in favor of -my preference would be to deny it after a full analysis of all the issues.

So, I was confused, and I don't know what we do about that, as to what $I$ was voting on at that time.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I'm in the same situation.

Mr. Iacopino, can you offer us a route to an endpoint that will make the record
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clear?
MR. IACOPINO: Yes. If somebody who was in the majority, one of the majority five, makes a motion to reopen, you can then vote again -- to reconsider, I'm sorry, you can then vote on the motion to reconsider. If the vote is in favor of reconsideration, you can then take a vote on the motion again.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Can you read the motion again? Because maybe $I$ need to be -CMSR. BAILEY: No. I think we're right. The motion was "I move at this time that we deny the Application for a Certificate of Site and Facility, because the Applicant has failed to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the Site and Facility, the Project, will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region, with due consideration having been given to the views of municipal and regional planning commissions and municipal governing bodies."

So, as I understand it, the people who voted "no" were saying -- they voted "no, we don't think the Certificate should be
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denied."
And I'm willing to reconsider that motion, and --

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Unscripted reality television.

CMSR. BAILEY: -- and reopen the record, maybe take a vote on orderly development, and then I'll make the motion again.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: That's what I was thinking. That the first motion should be to find that the Applicant failed in the ways that you just said. Once that motion is voted on, assuming it comes out the way $I$ am fairly certain it will, there would then be a second motion, --

CMSR. BAILEY: Right. To deny --
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: -- to deny the Application, and then a third motion to adjourn.

CMSR. BAILEY: Right.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Iacopino, is
that -- would that get us from here to where we need to be?
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MR. IACOPINO: I think it would. CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.

MS. WEATHERSBY: Would it be helpful to have another, not to complicate things, but to have another motion on whether or not we should end the proceedings now and take this next vote? Or is that --

CMSR. BAILEY: I think the only way to end the proceedings is to deny the Certificate, isn't it?

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And then --
MS. WEATHERSBY: No, but to -- to end deliberations, excuse me.

CMSR. BAILEY: Oh. So, have a
motion --
MS. WEATHERSBY: You know, our conversation about whether we should stop now or keep going, do we want to have the positions of people outlined?

MR. IACOPINO: And I apologize. When Ms. Bailey asked me to help her with the motion, it probably -- the motion, probably the first one should have been to move to end deliberation at this point and then take a
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## vote.

So, that's probably on me.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. I'll
entertain a motion to reconsider the vote we just took?

MR. WAY: Second.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: No, somebody
needs to move.

MR. WAY: Okay.
CMSR. BAILEY: So moved.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
Commissioner Bailey moves.
MR. WAY: And I'll second.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And Mr. Way
seconds.

All in favor say "aye"?
[Multiple members indicating
"aye".]
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. That
motion is now back up for debate. Commissioner
Bailey, it's my understanding that you would like to withdraw that motion at this time and substitute a motion to end deliberations, is that correct?
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[DELIBERATIONS]

CMSR. BAILEY: Do $I$ want to end deliberations before we take up a motion -- a vote on orderly development?
(Atty. Iacopino nodding in the affirmative.)

CMSR. BAILEY: Okay. Yes. So moved.
I move that we end deliberations.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Is there a second? There better be.

MR. WAY: Second.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Way seconds.
Do we need any further discussion?
[No verbal response.]
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Seeing none.

All in favor say "aye"?
[Multiple members indicating
"aye".]
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Are there any
opposed? No.
MS. WEATHERSBY: Opposed was to end
deliberations or --

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Yes.

MS. WEATHERSBY: I'm opposed to
ending deliberations.
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CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. As am I.

So, it's five to two on ending deliberations.

> (Whereupon the deliberations ended at $2: 53$ p.m.)

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Commissioner
Bailey, do you have a motion to make regarding the required finding on orderly development of the region?

CMSR. BAILEY: I do.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And that motion would be?

CMSR. BAILEY: I move at this time that we find that the Application -- that the Applicant has failed by a preponderance of the evidence to demonstrate that the Site and Facility, the Project, will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region, having given due consideration to municipal views and regional planning commissions and municipal governing bodies.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Commissioner Bailey has made that motion. Is there a
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second? Ms. Dandeneau?
MS. DANDENEAU: Yes. I second.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. Is
there any further discussion necessary on the motion?
[No verbal response.]
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Seeing none.
All in favor say "aye"?
[Multiple members indicating
"aye".]
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Are there any opposed?
[No indication given.]
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. The motion carries unanimously.

CMSR. BAILEY: All right. Now, I
move at this time that we deny the Application for a Certificate of Site and Facility, because the Applicant has failed to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the Site and Facility, the Project, will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region, with due consideration having been given to the views of municipal and regional
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planning commissions and municipal governing bodies.

This is to deny the Application. CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Is there a second?

MS. WEATHERSBY: Second.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Commissioner
Bailey has moved that we deny the Application; Ms. Weathersby has second.

Is there any further discussion
necessary on the motion?
[No indication given.]
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Seeing none.
All in favor say "aye"?
[Multiple members indicating
"aye".]
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Are there any opposed?
[No indication given.]

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: The "ayes" have it unanimously and the Application is denied.

Now, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn?

Oh, wait. There's another group of
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people I need to thank: Our stenographers. If the stenographers weren't here, it's as if it didn't happen. So, we want to thank Mr. Patnaude and his colleagues for all the work that they did.

Now, a motion to adjourn?
MR. WAY: I'll make a motion to adjourn.
[Indication given by Mr.
Oldenburg.J
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Way moves we adjourn; Mr. Oldenburg seconds.

All in favor say "aye"?
[Multiple members indicating
"aye".]
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: We are adjourned.
(Whereupon the proceedings were adjourned at 2:55 p.m.)
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| 12/7 12/11 12/15 | 06 [1] 1/7 | 5 |
| 12/22 | 1 | $52[1] 28 / 18$ |
| HONIGBERG: | 15[1] 2/7 |  |
| [54] | 17th [1] 12/14 | 7 |
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| [15] 3/11 4/4 8/4 | 1:50 [2] 1/3 3/5 | A |
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| [1] 8/23 | 23 [3] 2/11 2/11 | 18/5 18/19 21/17 |
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| MS. <br> WEATHERSBY: | 3 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 27/6 27/8 27/12 } \\ & \text { adjourned [2] } \end{aligned}$ |
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analysis [1] 18/17 another [5] 13/21 13/21 21/4 21/5 26/24
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