

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Docket No. 2018-02

Re: Petition for Declaratory Ruling of New Hampshire Transmission, LLC

May 30, 2018

**ORDER AND NOTICE OF PETITIONS TO INTERVENE,
PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE AND PUBLIC HEARING**

I. Background

On May 8, 2018, New Hampshire Transmission, LLC, (NHT or Petitioner), filed a Petition with the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (Committee) relative to proposed transmission system upgrades. NHT is requesting that the Committee issue a declaratory ruling on an expedited basis stating that the Petitioner's proposed upgrade to portions of a transmission substation in Seabrook, New Hampshire, does not constitute a sizeable addition or change to an existing facility within the meaning of RSA 162-H:5, I. On May 17, 2018, an order was issued appointing a subcommittee in this docket. *See* RSA 162-H:4-a, III.

NHT is a public utility in the State of New Hampshire for the purpose of owning and operating a transmission substation in Seabrook, New Hampshire. The Petitioner, in conjunction with ISO New England, has concluded that replacement of existing and aging infrastructure and components at the substation is needed to ensure the efficient and reliable operation of the New England power grid. Specifically, NHT is proposing to make the following upgrades at the substation: replace four circuit breakers with newer, more compact and efficient breakers; replace the existing foundations and support structures for three transmission lines that will involve the construction of new concrete footings; replace relay protection systems; and enhance the Air Termination Yard. The estimated cost of the proposed upgrade is \$77 million dollars.

The Petition and any related filings can be reviewed at the Committee's website:
<https://www.nhsec.nh.gov/projects/2018-02/2018-02.html>, or during business hours at:

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301

II. Intervention and Public Comment

A person demonstrating that his or her rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests may be affected by this proceeding may file a motion to intervene in this matter on or before **June 11, 2018**. Motions to intervene shall comply with the requirements of RSA 541-A:32 and the N.H. CODE OF ADMIN RULES, Site 202.11. Objections to motions to intervene shall be filed by **June 18, 2018**.

Written public comments on the Petition will be accepted through the conclusion of the proceedings. Motions, objections and written comments may be sent via first-class mail or e-mail to:

Pamela Monroe, Administrator
New Hampshire Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord N.H. 03301
Pamela.Monroe@sec.nh.gov

III. Prehearing Conference

A prehearing conference will be held on **June 14, 2018, beginning at 1:30 p.m.** at the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, N.H. 03301. This prehearing conference is an informal proceeding at which the parties to the docket may discuss the issues including, but not limited to: the conduct of discovery and technical sessions; offers of settlement or agreement on any issue; methods to simplify the issues in dispute; stipulations or admissions as to issues of fact or proof by consent of the parties; changes

to standard procedures by consent of the parties; limitations on the number of witnesses or scope of discovery; consolidation of witnesses; the filing of the testimony of witnesses; and any other matter that may aid in the disposition of the proceeding. The Petitioner, Counsel for the Public, intervenors and all other parties shall attend the prehearing conference. To the extent that motions to intervene have not been ruled on, the parties seeking intervention shall attend the prehearing conference.

IV. Public Hearing

A public hearing will be conducted on **July 13, 2018, beginning at 9:00 a.m.** at the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, N.H. 03301. The public hearing shall be conducted as an adjudicative proceeding and may include deliberation on the merits of the Petition.

V. Publication

The Petitioner shall cause a copy of this order and Notice of Prehearing Conference and Public Hearing to be published no later than **June 1, 2018**, in the *New Hampshire Union Leader*, a newspaper of regular statewide circulation, and, as soon as publication schedules permit, in one or more additional newspapers having a regular circulation in Rockingham County. The Petitioner shall file an affidavit documenting such publication with the Administrator on or before **June 11, 2018**. The Petitioner shall bear the cost of said publication.

SO ORDERED this day thirtieth day of May, 2018.



Michael S. Giaimo, Presiding Officer
Site Evaluation Committee