

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy

DE 15-464

**PETITION TO INTERVENE OF THE
SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS**

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (the “Forest Society”), by and through its attorneys, BCM Environmental & Land Law, PLLC, respectfully petitions the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) for late intervention in the above-captioned proceedings pursuant to RSA 541-A:32 and PUC Rule 202.17 because the proposed facility will impact the rights, duties, privileges, immunities, and other substantial interests of the Forest Society and the interests of justice and orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings will not be impaired by allowing the intervention. In support of its request, the Forest Society states as follows:

1. On or about October 19, 2015, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (“PSNH”) d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a petition for approval of a lease agreement (Lease Petition) between Eversource and Northern Pass Transmission LLC (“Northern Pass”) pertaining to certain real estate interests of Eversource. Contemporaneously, Northern Pass filed an application with the Site Evaluation Committee (“SEC”) to construct, operate, and maintain a 192-mile, high voltage electric transmission line from the international border between New Hampshire and Canada to a substation in Deerfield, New Hampshire. According to the petition, the line would pass through the following towns: Clarksville, Stewartstown, Dixville, Millsfield, Dummer, Stark, Northumberland, Lancaster, Whitefield, Dalton, Bethlehem, Sugar Hill, Franconia, Easton, Woodstock, Thornton, Campton, Plymouth,

Ashland, Bridgewater, New Hampton, Bristol, Hill, Franklin, Northfield, Canterbury, Concord, Pembroke, Allenstown, Deerfield, Raymond, Candia, Chester, Auburn and Londonderry, over lands some of which the Forest Society owns in fee and/or holds conservation easements over.

2. On January 29, 2016, the Commission issued an Order of Notice requiring interested parties to intervene by February 17, 2016. Since that time, various filings have been submitted but the underlying substance of the petition has not yet been adjudicated by the Commission.

3. The following properties are some of those in which the Forest Society owns the fee interest and are directly affected by the proposed Northern Pass Project route:

From Northern Pass Application:			
Sheet Number	Property Owner Identification Number	Property Name	Town
2 of 180	401.01, 400.01	Washburn Forest	Clarksville
43 of 180	12519, 12527	Kauffmann Forest	Stark
44 of 180	12528, 12541		
45 of 180	12547, 12548		
77 of 180	3215	The Rocks Estate	Bethlehem
78 of 180	3159, 3220		

4. The following properties are some of those in which the Forest Society owns a Conservation Easement interest and are directly affected by the proposed Northern Pass Project route:

From Northern Pass Application:			
Sheet Number	Property Owner Identification Number	Fee Owner Name	Town
9 of 180	10649	McAllaster	Stewartstown
7 of 180	10644	Green Acre Woodlands	Stewartstown
11 of 180	10673	Lynne Placey	Stewartstown
11 of 180	10676	Brad & Daryl Thompson	Stewartstown
44 of 180	12535	Percy Summer Club	Stark
56 of 180	2293	Bartow & Baker, J. & Baker, L.	Lancaster
78 of 180	3160.01, 3221	Russell	Bethlehem
56 of 180	2294	Campan, E. & E.	Lancaster
79 of 180	3416	Hannah	Sugar Hill
88 of 180	3825, 3828	Daarvid	Easton
157 of 180	7995	Spear	Concord
179 of 180	9712	Menard	Deerfield
179 of 180	9714	Geddes Trust, Melinda L.	Deerfield

5. The Forest Society petitions to intervene in this matter because the lease agreement includes properties owned by the Forest Society and specific to the Lease Petition, the Kaufmann Forest listed above. The Forest Society is concerned that the proposed lease may substantially affect its property.

Granting of the Forest Society’s petition will not undermine the orderly conduct of the proceedings but rather will ensure the ongoing protection of the public good and participation of the Forest Society’s rights. This matter has not progressed substantially such that permitting the late intervention would prejudice the applicant.

6. RSA 541-A:32 provides that “[p]ersons seeking to intervene in a proceeding shall file petitions with the committee” and further provides as follows:

The presiding officer shall grant a petition to intervene if:

(1) The petition is submitted in writing to the presiding officer ...;

(2) The petition states facts demonstrating that the petitioner’s rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests might be affected by the proceeding or that the petitioner qualifies as an intervenor under any provision of law; and

(3) The presiding officer determines that the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings would not be impaired by allowing the intervention.

7. The Forest Society filed to intervene, and was granted full intervenor status, at the Site Evaluation Committee based on its concerns about the various impacts that the project will have on the Forest Society's properties.

8. In short, the proposed Lease Petition will impact the rights, duties, privileges, immunities and other substantial interests of the Forest Society. The interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings will not be impaired by allowing the intervention.

9. The Forest Society has contacted Counsel for Northern Pass to determine whether it will object to the late filing of this petition to intervene, and is currently awaiting a response.

WHEREFORE, the Forest Society respectfully requests that the Public Utilities Commission:

- A. Grant the Forest Society's Petition to Intervene; and
- B. Grant such other and further relief as may be just.

Respectfully Submitted,


SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS

By its Attorneys,

April 12, 2016

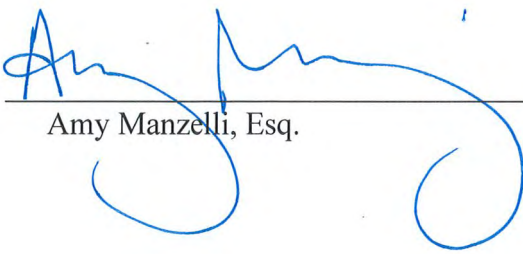
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this day, April 12, 2016, a copy of the foregoing petition was sent by electronic mail or U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, to persons named on the Service List of this docket.

By: 
Amy Manzelli, Esq.