

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
before the
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY

Petition for Approval of Lease Agreement Between Public Service Company of New Hampshire
d/b/a Eversource Energy and Northern Pass Transmission LLC

Docket No. DE 15-464

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY'S PARTIAL OBJECTION
TO PETITION TO INTERVENE OF
THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS**

Pursuant to New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 203.07 and RSA chapter 541-A, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy ("PSNH" or the "Company") hereby submits a partial objection to the petition to intervene filed by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests ("Forest Society") in the above-captioned docket.

In support of its objection, PSNH states the following:

1. On October 19, 2015, PSNH filed a petition for approval of a lease transaction between it and Northern Pass Transmission LLC ("NPT") whereby PSNH would lease to NPT certain real estate rights owned by PSNH. On April 12, 2016, the Forest Society filed a petition to intervene in the docket noting that it owned property that would be affected by the construction of the NPT project. It also noted that it had been granted intervenor status in the on-going proceeding at the Site Evaluation Committee ("SEC") relating to the NPT project.
2. PSNH does not object to the intervention of the Forest Society as landowner with property covered by the proposed lease. PSNH does, however, object to the scope of the potential intervention as described in the Forest Society's petition. In its petition, the

Forest Society identifies various lands or properties it owns or in which it has an interest, but many of the identified properties are not subject to the proposed lease at issue in this docket. Moreover, the petition references the Forest Society's intervention at the SEC as being justified by its concerns about impacts on properties it owns or in which it has an interest, but the Forest Society's intervention before a different agency should not provide the basis for any intervention in this case, particularly since, as noted, many of the allegedly affected properties are not part of the proposed lease. Additionally, as PSNH has repeatedly stated in this docket, the Commission is not the proper venue for discussions or decisions on the legal rights relating to the underlying property.

Accordingly, to the extent that the Forest Society is seeking to intervene to discuss or debate the underlying property rights, intervention before the Commission would be improper.

3. Pursuant to RSA 541-A:32, III, and Puc 203.17, the Commission may limit an intervention to, among other things, "designated issues in which the intervenor has a particular interest." In light of the above, PSNH hereby requests that if the Commission grants the Forest Society's intervention petition, it limit intervention to the issues in which the Forest Society may have a particular interest and over which the Commission has jurisdiction, which would exclude any considerations relating to properties not included in the lease, any rulings upon the scope of the underlying land rights, or any ruling on the legal ability of PSNH to transfer the rights it owns.

WHEREFORE, PSNH respectfully requests that the Commission:

- (1) Limit the Forest Society's participation as described if its petition to intervene is granted;
- and

(2) Order such further relief as may be just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,

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

April 15, 2016
Date

By: 
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on the date written below, I caused the attached Objection to be served pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.11.

April 15, 2016
Date


Matthew J. Fossum