

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

Date: June 8, 2017

**TO:** Commissioners

**FROM:** F. Anne Ross, Hearing Examiner

NHPLC 8JUN17PM4:29

**RE:** DE 15-464 Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy  
Petition for Approval of Lease Agreement Between Eversource and Northern Pass  
Transmission LLC

**HEARING EXAMINER'S REPORT**

At your request, I presided over the June 8, 2017 scheduling conference in the above referenced case.

On April 6, 2017, the Commission issued Order No. 26,001 allowing this docket to proceed to consideration of the merits of the lease of transmission rights-of-ways proposed by Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource). In that Order the Commission stated its goal, of holding a final hearing and issuing an order before year end 2017.

On May 5, 2017, Eversouce filed a motion to establish a procedural schedule to which several parties objected. On May 25, 2017, the Commission issued a secretarial letter encouraging the parties to work out a mutually agreeable procedural schedule and setting June 8, 2017, for a scheduling conference to consider a procedural schedule for the balance of this docket.

**Appearances:** Matthew J. Fossum, Esq. for Eversource  
Wilbur Glahn, Esq. for Northern Pass Transmission LLC  
Brian D. Buckley, Esq. for the Office of Consumer Advocate  
Suzanne Amidon, Esq. for Staff  
Stephen J. Judge, Esq. for McKenna's Purchase Unit Owners Association  
Jo Anne Bradbury – pro se  
Jeanne M. Menard on behalf of Peter Menard and Anne Burnett – pro se  
Elizabeth Boepple, Esq. for Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests  
And City of Concord  
James Monahan for New England Power Generators Association  
Arthur B. Cunningham, Esq. for Karen Spencer and Mark Lagasse d/b/a  
Lagaspence Realty, LLC

**Positions:** Eversource repeated its position described in its motion and advocated for a single round of discovery on its petition. Northern Pass Transmission supported Eversource and argued that the issues to be considered are not complex and do not warrant a second round of discovery. Staff presented a proposed procedural schedule, a copy of which is attached to this

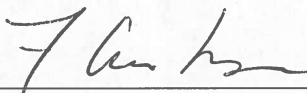
recommendation. Staff's proposed schedule includes two rounds of discovery on Eversource's petition and culminates with a hearing on the merits on November 28, 2017. All parties present supported Staff's proposed schedule, except Eversource, Northern Pass and Attorney Cunningham. Attorney Cunningham took the position that this docket should not proceed until real estate issues concerning the lease are decided by the State courts.

**Recommendations:**

I recommend that the Commission approve the procedural schedule proposed by Staff at the scheduling hearing and attached to this recommendation.

I also recommend that the Commission appoint a hearings examiner to handle discovery disputes in this docket, so that parties may obtain expedited determinations on discovery with recourse to the Commission in the event the hearings examiner's decisions are challenged.

All parties, except Attorney Cunningham, have agreed to the first four dates on the attached discovery schedule, and the parties have further agreed that any party wishing to respond to this recommendation will do so by close of business on Wednesday, June 15, 2017.

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
F. Anne Ross, Hearing Examiner

Discovery to PSNH	June 19
Responses Due	July 7
Technical Session	July 24
Responses to Technical Session	July 31
Second Set of Discovery to PSNH	August 11
Responses Due	August 25
Profile Testimony of Staff & Intervenors	September 8
Discovery to Intervenors and Staff	September 20
Responses Due	October 4
Technical Session Intervenors & Staff	October 11
Responses to Technical Sessions	October 18
PSNH Rebuttal	November 3
Settlement	November 8 and 9
Merits	November 28 (reserve one additional day)
Post Hearing Memo/Briefs	To be determined by the Commission

**SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED**

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**Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.**

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Docket #: 15-464-1      Printed: June 08, 2017

**FILING INSTRUCTIONS:**

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:
- DEBRA A HOWLAND  
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NHPUC  
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10  
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

**RECEIVE ORDERS, NOTICES OF HEARINGS ONLY**

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