

COMMENTS
ON THE *DRAFT* ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PREPARED BY THE US DEPT. OF ENERGY ON THE
NORTHERN PASS TRANSMISSION LLC

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To: Brian Mills, PhD

Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)
U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20585

Mr. Mills and Colleagues, I am Rebecca W. S. More, speaking on behalf of the Weeks Lancaster Trust. I speak regarding to the Draft EIS prepared on the proposal of the Northern Pass Transmission LLC to lay TWO new Above-Ground Power lines through over 150 miles of New Hampshire's historic and beautiful Landscape.

We know this is a protracted process, at both the Federal and State level. I would like to thank your team for its Review work on the Project to date.

Many of us here in NH remember the significance of the Weeks Act of 1911. We remember that the state was degraded by the actions of profit-making Timber Companies. The New England Homestead, the most widely read magazine in New England referred to them as "The Boa Constrictor of the Mountains", crushing the well-being of the state's for the profits of a few. We remember the painstaking, incremental process which led to the reclamation of forest lands and habitats from the Canadian Border to the shores of the Lakes Region. People from around the world come to enjoy what our ancestors worked so hard to conserve and in some measure restore. This was a collaborative, grass-roots efforts, supported by many people - just as today. For many here tonight, there is a new serpent in our Eden - this time bearing the face of the Northern Pass.

The Draft EIS lays out clearly that Alternative Route 4A is the only one which would represent a genuine Investment by Northern Pass in the long-term well being of the state's assets: its environment, habitats, human activities and historic and cultural landscapes from pre-history to the present.

Sadly, Weeks State Park, given to the State in 1941 by my grandfather Sinclair Weeks and his sister, overlooks this proposed transmission line. The property was given to the State for recreation and enjoyment by all, but also as a reminder of the purpose and benefits of the Weeks Act. Thousands of visitors from around the globe come to enjoy its extraordinary panoramic views from Monadnock near Colebrook to Moosilauke near Benton. From Mt. Washington, itself, Weeks State Park and Israel's River are easily visible.

I will submit to you detailed Comments on the Draft EIS^{in writing}. However, I wish to point out tonight that all of the documents submitted regarding the Impact of this proposal on the viewshed from Weeks Sate Park are inaccurate, inconsistent and misleading. Just one example will suffice: the submitted materials claim that 8 towers will be visible from the Park, when in fact the number is approximately 219. I trust that your team will subject these materials to meticulous analysis and review. If these Weeks State Park materials are inaccurate, inconsistent and misleading, then undoubtedly others are as well. We are counting on your team to hold the Applicant accountable and to the highest possible standards.

Thank you.