



# The Northern Pass EIS

## PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

If you would like to provide Comment on the Northern Pass Project to the Department of Energy (DOE), you can write your comment in the space below and return the sheet to a DOE representative at one of the sign-in tables at this meeting. You can also fill this Comment Sheet out at home and return it to Brian Mills, DOE, via mail or fax to the address posted below. Comments must be received before April 12, 2011 to be considered in the scoping process; comments received after this date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Name: Rob DAY  
Address: 39 Morris Rd  
City: Orford State: NH Zip: 03777

Comment: Attached Statement of Orford  
Conservation Commission

Note: By Providing your name and address, it becomes public information and may be provided to individuals and organizations upon request under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1974. Except for proprietary information, DOE will make all submissions from organizations or individuals available to the public in their entirety.

[www.northernpasseis.us](http://www.northernpasseis.us)

Brian Mills, Senior Planning Advisor  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20585  
FAX: 202-586-8008



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Orford Conservation Commission  
Town of Orford, 2529 Rte. 25A  
Orford, NH 03777  
March 20, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Mills,

I am writing to outline the basis for the Town of Orford Conservation Commission's opposition to the Northern Pass alternate route (Central Section, Option 1 route, skirting the White Mountain National Forest) which includes a 2-mile section through the northeast corner of Orford, NH, and to request studies of the following impacts of the route through Orford:

- 1. Wildlife Habitat and Water Resources:** The proposed line cuts through land with high natural resource value as indicated in the Orford Conservation Commission's Natural Resource Inventory. Four natural resources overlap (co-occur) in this location, one of the highest levels of co-occurrence in Orford. The resources that co-occur in the impacted area include unfragmented forest land, "Tier 1" wildlife habitat from the NH Wildlife Action Plan, FEMA floodplain, and aquifer as mapped by the USGS. We are concerned that this may impact threatened and endangered species, special status species, and related sensitive resources, and the water resources of the area. Accordingly, we request a study of the impact on these resources.
- 2. Water Quality:** The line passes between and near (within 2000 feet of) two pristine water bodies, Upper Baker Pond and Lower Baker Pond. Results of the Orford Conservation Commission's water testing show that the water quality in these ponds is excellent. The route also passes through wetlands that form part of the watershed of the Baker River. We are concerned about adverse impact on these important water resources, and request that these impacts be studied.
- 3. Economic, Recreational and Public Health and Safety:** The proposed alternate route through Orford also passes directly through the property of three children's summer camps, Camp Moosilauke, Camp Merriwood, and Camp Pemigewasset. This raises concerns about adverse impacts to recreational resources, public health and safety (with children potentially living directly under the lines) as well as potential economic impact to our community should the camps see reduced numbers of campers or even have to close as a result of the line bisecting the properties. For these reasons, we ask that the

adverse impacts to recreational resources, public health and safety, and economy of the route through Orford be studied.

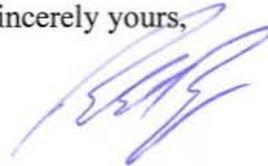
**4. Visual and Recreational Resources:** The impact of the proposed line on the visual and recreational resources of this beautiful area that is the focus of many recreational activities is potentially very significant. The line would become a prominent feature in the scenic view from the North Peak of Mt Cube, an outlook just a quarter mile off the Appalachian Trail. The route would also cross the Appalachian Trail between Upper and Lower Baker Ponds, an area very popular for fishing, swimming, boating and hiking. The route would also impact other viewsheds in Orford looking to Piermont Mountain and Mount Moosilauke to the east. We therefore request a study on the impact of the lines on the visual resources of the area.

In order to show the proximity of the lines to these very valuable natural areas in Orford, we have prepared, and attach, a map depicting the co-occurrence areas and other natural features described above. We hope that this map will help demonstrate why the Conservation Commission is opposed to the routing of the proposed line through this particular area in Orford.

The Conservation Commission would be willing to work to help with any questions that might arise during the study of any of the above issues, and to provide any further information to clarify any of the above points.

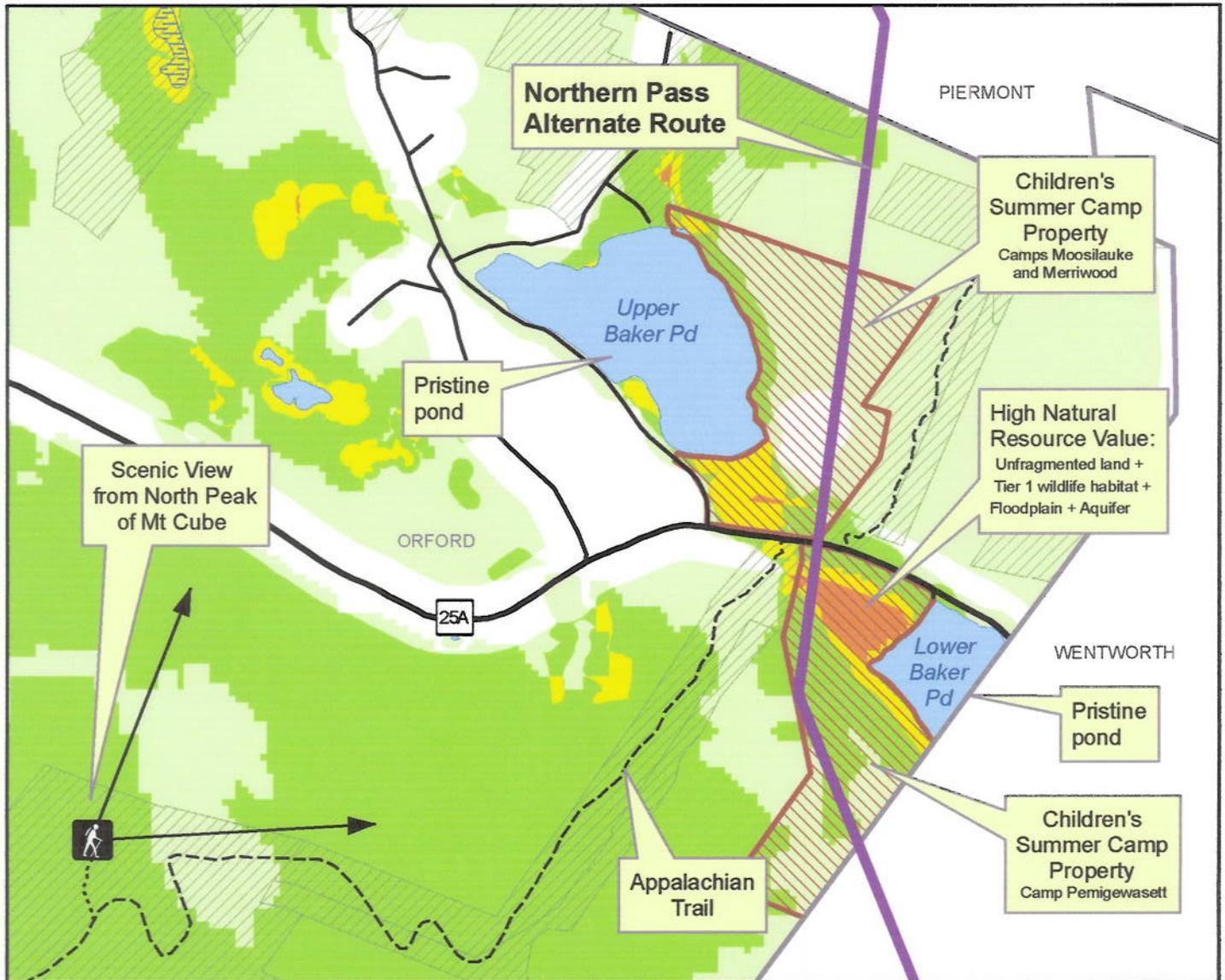
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Robb Day, Chair  
Orford Conservation Commission

# Impact of Northern Pass Alternate Route (Central Section, Option 1) on the Natural, Cultural, Recreational, and Scenic Resources of Orford, NH



- Northern Pass Alternate Route
- Appalachian Trail
- Camp Property
- Conserved or Public Land



## Natural Resource Inventory Co-occurrence Analysis

- 1 Feature
- 2 Features Overlap
- 3 Features Overlap
- 4 Features Overlap
- 5 Features Overlap

Map Data Sources:  
 Co-occurrence analysis: Completed by the Orford Conservation Commission with mapping and technical assistance from Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, 2010.  
 Roads, water features, conserved and public lands: NH GRANIT, www.granit.unh.edu.  
 Camp property boundaries: estimated by SMM from georeferenced Orford tax maps.  
 Northern Pass route: digitized by SMM from Northern Pass maps, downloaded from [http://www.northernpasseis.us/About/project\\_maps.asp](http://www.northernpasseis.us/About/project_maps.asp) and georeferenced.

**SMM**  
 Map compiled by  
 Stonehouse Mtn Mapping  
 Orford, NH  
[www.StonehouseMtnMapping.com](http://www.StonehouseMtnMapping.com)  
 March, 2011