



ecology and environment, inc.

Global Environmental Specialists

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January 30, 2012

Ms. Sara Cairns
NH Department of Resources and Economic Development -
Forest and Lands
PO Box 1856
Concord, NH 03302-1856

**RE: United States Department of Energy, Northern Pass Transmission Line Project
NEPA Review-Data Request**

Dear Ms. Cairns:

Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E & E) has been subcontracted by the SE Group, Inc. in support of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) review of the proposed Northern Pass Transmission Line Project (Project) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Northern Pass Transmission, LLC (Applicant) has submitted a Presidential Permit Application to the DOE. Pursuant to NEPA, DOE has taken the role of lead regulatory agency with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the US Forest Service (USFS), and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as cooperating agencies. DOE, along with cooperating agencies, are preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Project. The Project consists of approximately 180-mile transmission line to deliver electricity from Quebec through northern New Hampshire to an existing substation in Deerfield, New Hampshire. Approximately 140 miles of the proposed transmission line will be located within an existing right-of-way (ROW) located in Coos, Grafton, Belknap, Merrimack, and Rockingham counties (see attached map for details). The remaining 40 miles will be located in Coos county in northern New Hampshire and should consist of new ROW of approximately 200 feet in width. The Applicant has not determined the exact route for its proposed ROW for this portion of the Project at this time, which DOE will be further evaluating in the DEIS.

The DEIS will analyze potential human and natural environmental consequences resulting from the construction and operation of the Project. In an effort to obtain the most current and accurate information to be used in the DOE's NEPA analysis of the Project, we are requesting any information from your office that identifies sensitive and protected biological and natural resources such as rare or threatened and endangered species, critical habitat, high quality aquatic resources and exceptional ecological communities that may occur in the vicinity of the preliminary route and existing ROW as shown on the attached map.

E & E will also be conducting biological field surveys for the Project as a data gathering effort for the DOE's impact analysis in 2012. As such, any recommendations for field survey protocols for any sensitive and protected species and natural resources identified as occurring within or in the vicinity of the proposed Project would be appreciated, along with any special considerations for construction and operations of the proposed transmission line. E & E's

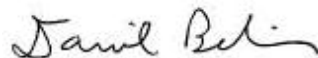
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specialists will also consult further with your designated specialists as appropriate to develop the more detailed survey work plan.

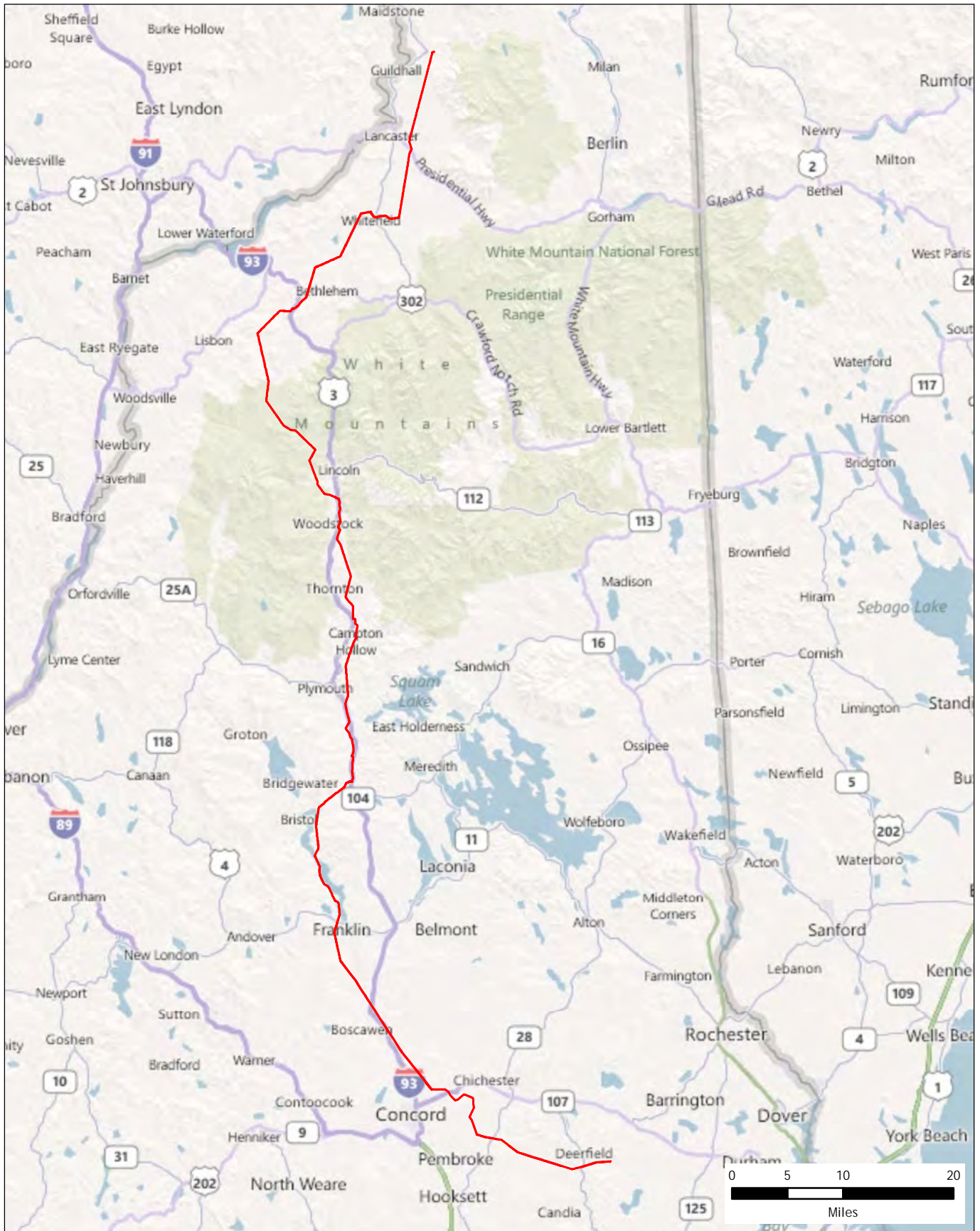
Please note that the SE Group and E & E are acting as representatives of and under the direction of the DOE for preparation of the DEIS, as opposed to representing the Applicant. This collection and subsequent field survey efforts will support the DOE's analysis as the designated lead federal agency under NEPA (and recognizes other state level review and approval processes).

We respectfully request and would appreciate a timely response to this request in order to provide adequate time to prepare for seasonal surveys, the first of which are planned to occur in late winter 2012. If you have any questions regarding this data request, or require additional project information, please do not hesitate to call or email me at dbelin@ene.com or at (703) 522-6065. E & E appreciates your assistance and thanks you for your attention to this request, and looks forward to working in cooperation with the NHDRED.

Sincerely,
ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, INC.



Cc: Brian Mills, DOE
Kent Sharp, SE Group
Travis Beck, SE group
Courtney Dohoney, E & E



Source: ESRI 2010, Northern Pass Transmission, LLC 2012



 Existing Right-Of-Way

Note: Route for the northern portion of the Project has not yet been determined

Project Area

Northern Pass Transmission Project
New Hampshire