



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 16, 2015

The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman McLane Kuster:

Thank you for your September 17, 2015, letter regarding the Draft *Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0463). The Draft EIS addresses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action, the no action alternative, and the range of reasonable alternatives. The comment period on the Draft EIS began on July 31, 2015, with the publication of the EPA Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*.

On August 31, 2015, DOE received an amendment to the July 2013 Presidential permit amended application. The August 2015 amendment changed the proposed route by proposing three miles of buried transmission line adjacent to a road not previously analyzed, added two new transition stations, and increased the total amount of proposed buried transmission line from approximately eight miles to approximately 60 miles. In addition, the amendment proposed a minor shift in the international border crossing location and identified some other project changes. The proposed transmission line in the amended application is the new "Applicant's Preferred Alternative." On September 24, the Department announced its intention to prepare a Supplement to the Draft EIS that will present an analysis of the new "Applicant's Preferred Alternative."

As indicated in the Department's Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on September 30, 2015 (80 FR 58725), to accommodate public review and comment on both the Draft EIS and the Supplement to the Draft EIS, DOE is extending the public comment period until December 31, 2015. DOE has cancelled the public hearings that were to be held in October 2015 and will reschedule those hearings after the Supplement to the Draft EIS is issued, which is expected to be in November 2015. The Draft EIS is available online at <http://www.northernpasseis.us/>. The Supplement to the Draft EIS, when issued, will be posted on the EIS website and distributed to the mailing list.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Ms. Jaime Shimek, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Senate Affairs, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia A. Hoffman".

Patricia A. Hoffman
Assistant Secretary
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy





Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 16, 2015

The Honorable Frank Guinta
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Guinta:

Thank you for your September 17, 2015, letter regarding the Draft *Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0463). The Draft EIS addresses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action, the no action alternative, and the range of reasonable alternatives. The comment period on the Draft EIS began on July 31, 2015, with the publication of the EPA Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*.

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Assistant Secretary
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy





Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 16, 2015

The Honorable Kelly A. Ayotte
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ayotte:

Thank you for your September 17, 2015, letter regarding the Draft *Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0463). The Draft EIS addresses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action, the no action alternative, and the range of reasonable alternatives. The comment period on the Draft EIS began on July 31, 2015, with the publication of the EPA Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*.

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Patricia A. Hoffman
Assistant Secretary
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy





Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 16, 2015

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for your September 17, 2015, letter regarding the Draft *Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0463). The Draft EIS addresses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action, the no action alternative, and the range of reasonable alternatives. The comment period on the Draft EIS began on July 31, 2015, with the publication of the EPA Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*.

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