



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

December 3, 2015

The Honorable Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor of New Hampshire
Office of the Governor
107 North Main Street
State House – Room 208
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Governor Hassan:

Thank you for your November 19, 2015, letter requesting that the Department of Energy (DOE) re-schedule the public hearings on the draft *Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0463). As you know, Northern Pass Transmission LLC (Northern Pass) applied to the DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a new electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border in northern New Hampshire.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action, the no action alternative, and the range of reasonable alternatives. The Supplement to the draft EIS analyzes Northern Pass' August 2015 amendment to its Presidential permit application and compares the new proposed route and configuration with the alternatives in the current draft EIS.

In response to your request, DOE is cancelling the public hearings that were to be held in December 2015 and will re-schedule those hearings to a later date. In addition, the public comment period on the draft EIS and the Supplement to the draft EIS will be extended to April 4, 2016. When we re-schedule the public hearings, we will also plan to hold an additional hearing in Colebrook, New Hampshire as you requested.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Francisco Carrillo, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental and External Affairs, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, (202) 586-3600.

Sincerely,

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

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

