

**U.S. Department of Energy
The Northern Pass Transmission Line Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

**Notice of Public Hearings
Conducted in Conjunction with the
State of New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee,
Docket No. 2015-06**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces public hearings to receive comments on the Draft EIS (DOE/EIS-0463). The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of DOE's proposed Federal action of issuing a Presidential permit to Northern Pass LLC (the Applicant) to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a new electric transmission line across the U.S./Canada border in northern New Hampshire.

The public comment period on the Draft EIS started on July 31, 2015, with the publication in the Federal Register by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of its Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS. The public review period to receive comments on the Draft EIS closes on April 4, 2016.

The U.S. Forest Service – White Mountain National Forest (USFS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New England District (USACE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 1 (EPA), and the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (NHOEP) are cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS.

On October 19, 2015, Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (collectively Applicant), filed an Application for a Certificate of Site and Facility (Application) seeking the issuance of a Certificate of Site and Facility approving the siting, construction, and operation of a 192-mile transmission line and associated facilities with a capacity rating of up to 1,090 MW from the Canadian border in Pittsburg in Coos County to Deerfield in Rockingham County (Project). New Hampshire law, R.S.A.162-H:10(I-c), requires that within 90 days after acceptance of an application for a certificate, that the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee shall hold at least one public hearing in each county where the proposed facility will be located.

For the convenience of the public, DOE and the cooperating agencies in conjunction with the New Hampshire SEC will conduct public hearings to provide the public with information on the proposed project and an opportunity for the public to provide oral and written comments and to ask questions concerning the project on March 7 and March 10, 2016 at the following locations:

Colebrook: Monday March 7, 2016, 5:00 p.m.
Colebrook Elementary School
27 Dumont Street
Colebrook, NH

Concord: Thursday March 10, 2016, 5:00 p.m.
Grappone Conference Center, Granite Ballroom
70 Constitution Avenue
Concord, NH

Additional public hearings will be conducted by the DOE and the cooperating agencies to receive oral and written comments on the Draft EIS at the following locations commencing at the times identified:

Waterville Wednesday March 9, 2016, 5:00 p.m.
Waterville Valley Conference and Event Center, Waterville Room
56 Packards Road
Waterville Valley, NH

Whitefield: Friday March 11, 2016, 5:00 p.m.
Mountain View Grand Resort and Spa, Presidential Room
101 Mountain View Road
Whitefield, NH

The New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee will also publish a public notice not less than 14 days before the hearings to be held on March 7 and March 10, 2016, in one or more newspapers having a regular circulation in Coos and Merrimack County. Additional public hearings will be conducted by the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee in Grafton, Belknap, and Rockingham County and notices of those hearings will be published in the same manner

DOE invites interested Members of Congress, state and local governments, other Federal agencies, American Indian tribal governments, organizations, and members of the public to provide comments on the Draft EIS.

Requests to pre-register to provide oral comments at a public hearing should be addressed to the Northern Pass EIS Team at this email address: info@northernpasseis.us. When requesting to pre-register to provide oral comments at a public hearing, please include your full name and email address, and specify the location you request to speak at. Please state in the subject line, "NP Draft EIS Public Hearing Speaker Request." Please submit your request by February 25, 2016; requests received by that date will be given priority in the speaking order. However, requests to speak may also be made at the hearing. The speaking order will be as follows: (1) Elected Officials; (2) Pre-registered speakers (order determined on a first-come, first-served basis); (3) Speakers registering at the meeting. Pre-registered speakers who have requested to speak at a specific time will be accommodated as possible.

If assistance is needed to participate in any of the DOE hearings (e.g., qualified interpreter, computer-aided real-time transcription), please submit a request for auxiliary

aids and services to DOE by February 25, 2016 by contacting Brian Mills as described below or e-mailing info@northernpasseis.us.

In addition to comments on the Draft EIS, DOE is seeking public input with respect to the cultural and historic property information presented in this Draft EIS in accordance with its cultural and historic property review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Comments on the Draft EIS and Section 106 can be submitted verbally during public hearings; on the project website (<http://www.northernpasseis.us/comment/>); in writing to Mr. Brian Mills at: Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585; via e-mail to draftEIScomments@northernpasseis.us or Section106comments@northernpasseis.us; or by facsimile to (202) 586-8008. Please mark envelopes and electronic mail subject lines as “NP Draft EIS Comments” or “NP Section 106 Comments.” Written comments should be submitted by April 4, 2016. Written and oral comments will be given equal weight and all comments received or postmarked by that date will be considered by DOE in preparing the Final EIS. Comments submitted (e.g., postmarked) after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

The documents are available online at <http://www.northernpasseis.us/>. Copies of the Draft EIS are also available at a number of public libraries and town halls (a list of locations is found here: http://media.northernpasseis.us/media/DraftEIS_Hard_Copy_Locations.pdf).

Printed copies of the documents may be obtained by contacting Mr. Mills at the above address. For further information contact Mr. Brian Mills at the addresses above, or at (202) 586-8267.

The Application and all other filings in Docket No. 2015-06 are located on the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee’s website www.nhsec.nh.gov or by contacting Pamela Monroe, Administrator, Site Evaluation Committee, Pamela.monroe@sec.nh.gov or (603) 271-2435.