



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 28, 2015

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

Dear Senator Ayotte:

Thank you for your April 8, 2015, letter regarding the draft *Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0463).

The Department is conducting a thorough environmental review of Northern Pass' amended application in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the Department's NEPA implementing regulations. As part of this environmental review, the Department will continue to take appropriate steps to encourage meaningful public involvement. DOE plans to provide at least 60 days for public review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which exceeds the minimum required comment period of 45 days for a draft EIS.

When the draft EIS is released, DOE's website for the EIS (www.northernpasseis.us) will post the complete draft EIS, including the EIS summary; detailed maps of the proposed route and all alternatives; and documents referenced in the EIS. DOE also will distribute printed copies of the draft EIS, as well as compact discs, to all those who request a copy. Furthermore, DOE will conduct public hearings in New Hampshire to solicit public comments and will accept comments via the website and by mail.

I appreciate your continued interest in the proposed Northern Pass Transmission Line Project, and your thoughts regarding the public comment period. I will ensure your office is contacted prior to issuing the draft EIS.

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 cursive script that reads "Patricia A. Hoffman".

Patricia A. Hoffman
Assistant Secretary
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

