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**File Code:** 1950; 2720  
**Date:** January 5, 2018

Dear Interested Party,

I'm writing to let you know that I have issued the final Record of Decision (ROD) for the Northern Pass Transmission Line Project. My Selected Alternatives would authorize the use and occupancy of National Forest System lands by Northern Pass Transmission, LLC (Northern Pass) to construct, operate, and maintain an electric power transmission line crossing portions of the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) in Grafton County, New Hampshire.

In August 2017 the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) – Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability completed a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzing the potential environmental effects of issuing a Presidential permit for the Northern Pass Transmission Line Project. The USDA Forest Service – White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) is a cooperating agency in the preparation of this EIS and reviewed the application for a special use permit.

Analyzed in the *Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement*, the final decision authorizes construction of the powerline across the WMNF. The powerline will be buried within the roadway and shoulder areas along NH Routes 112 and 116. The WMNF will work with Northern Pass to issue the necessary special use authorizations with appropriate mitigations to allow the installation, operation, and maintenance of the project on National Forest System lands.

This decision only approves this project on NFS lands, while the decision to approve the remaining portions of the project on state and private lands is the responsibility of the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee. The decision to cross the international border rests with the Assistant Secretary of Energy.

*Note:* the USFS *draft* ROD was published on September 1, 2017, initiating the USFS pre-decisional objection period during which eligible individuals could file objections to the proposed decision. More than 60 individuals and organizations filed objections. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 218, the Objection Reviewing Officer convened an independent team of specialists to conduct a thorough review of the objection issues. Based on this review, the Reviewing Officer determined the analysis was sufficient and addressed the concerns identified by all objectors as appropriate for the USFS decision.

A detailed description of the proposed project and potential environmental effects are in the final EIS and ROD, which are available on the Northern Pass EIS project website (<http://www.northernpasseis.us>). Hardcopies of the project documents may be reviewed at the Forest Supervisor's office in Campton, NH and in public libraries throughout New Hampshire. Hard copies of the ROD and CDs of the final EIS are available upon request from [info@northernpasseis.us](mailto:info@northernpasseis.us).



Thank you for your interest and participation in this important project. For additional information concerning this decision, contact: Stacy Lemieux, Project Leader, [slemieux@fs.fed.us](mailto:slemieux@fs.fed.us), (603) 536-6222.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clare R. Mendelsohn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clare R. Mendelsohn  
Forest Supervisor  
White Mountain National Forest