

Northern Pass EIS Website Comment Receipt

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Kwai, N'deliweze Solly Gould. N'diee Monadnock. N'wigiak Massasecum. Hello, my name is Sherry Gould, I was born in Peterborough, NH and I live in Warner, NH. I am the Chairman of the New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs (NHCNAA). The Commission was formed in 2010 under NH RSA 21-K:24, in part to review and study local, state, and federal issues common to Native Americans and persons of Native American descent who are residing in this state. I am here to speak regarding the cultural (archeological, historical, etc.) resources impacted by this project. The July 2013 amended application states that initial siting considerations were based in part on GIS data on historic and archeological resources (p. 28). "To date, evaluation of the new portions of the proposed route has been based primarily on a desktop analysis of existing natural and cultural resource data." (p. 31). The route for this project goes through the heart of Abenaki country. The NHCNAA has requested to be joined as an interested stakeholder. Our request has never been acknowledged. The NHCNAA works with four State Recognized Abenaki tribes (the Abenaki Alliance) and two Federally Recognized Abenaki tribes (the Waban-aki Nation). None of these tribes have been enjoined as interested stakeholders. It is a mistake to believe that use of archeological GIS data can replace the knowledge and participation of Abenaki people in a project of this magnitude that is likely to disrupt village sites and burial locations of our people. I urge you to bring Abenaki voices to the table.