

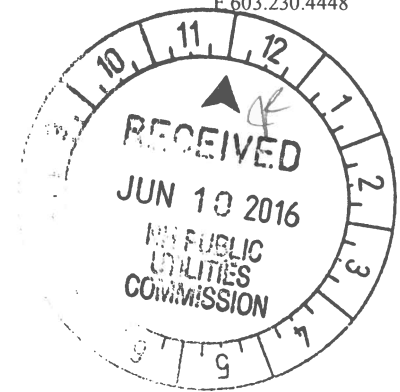
MCLANE MIDDLETON

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June 10, 2016

Via Email/Hand Delivery

Ms. Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301



Re: DE 15-459: Northern Pass Transmission LLC Petition to Commence Business as a Public Utility—Settlement Agreement

Dear Ms. Howland:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned docket please find, pursuant to Puc 203.02, an original and six copies of a fully-executed Settlement Agreement. An electronic copy has also been filed with the Consumer Advocate.

On October 19, 2015, Northern Pass Transmission LLC (“NPT”) filed an application with the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee seeking a Certificate of Site and Facility to construct, operate and maintain a 192-mile high voltage electric transmission line with a 1,090 MW capacity including a 320kV direct current line from the international border in Pittsburg, New Hampshire to a converter station in Franklin, New Hampshire, a 345kV alternating current line from Franklin to Deerfield, New Hampshire and related infrastructure which includes a converter terminal and six transition stations (“Facility”). In the above-captioned docket, NPT seeks permission to commence business as a utility within the state of New Hampshire for the purpose of operating the Facility, once permitting is complete.

Allowing NPT to commence business as a public utility in the state of New Hampshire would be for the public good for several key reasons. Primarily, in accordance with historical interpretation of the “public good” standard found at RSA 374:26 and as indicated in the supporting testimony of Michael J. Ausere and Jerry Fortier, NPT has the “technical, managerial and financial expertise” necessary to operate as a public utility. Correspondingly, the scope of jurisdiction provided for in the enclosed Settlement Agreement promotes the public good with respect to important safety, operational and reporting matters, consistent with how other transmission owners operate in New Hampshire. Finally, NPT commits to contributing \$2 million per year over the first ten years of operation for “programs that advance clean energy innovation, community betterment and economic development in the state of New Hampshire, including without limitation the Core Energy Efficiency Programs or successor programs or as

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part of funds used to finance programs that are part of an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, as approved by the Commission.” NPT intends to provide these funds through the Forward New Hampshire Fund.

For all these reasons, as well as the substantial benefits identified in the SEC Application, approval of the Settlement Agreement and granting the Petition allowing NPT to commence business as a public utility would be for the public good.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas B. Getz". The signature is stylized with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas B. Getz

TBG:slb

cc: Service List

Enclosure