

STATE PERMITTING UPDATE

The New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) will host a public hearing on Thursday, June 23 at 6 p.m. at Plymouth Regional High School, located at 86 Old Ward Bridge Road. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the additional information submitted by Northern Pass to comply with newly adopted SEC rules. You can view the additional information on the Siting Application page of the Northern Pass website.

The SEC has hosted a number of public hearings this year, including a hearing on May 19 in Whitefield, which also focused on hearing public comment on the additional information submitted by Northern Pass. Before the public hearing began, the SEC also heard arguments and ruled on a variety of outstanding motions, including the timeframe for reviewing the project (see next page) and a Northern Pass request for partial waivers under the new SEC rules, which was granted that day.



You can find the order about the upcoming hearing on the SEC's website www.nhsec.nh.gov, or on the Northern Pass website, www.northernpass.us.

Powering Up at Roger's Campground



Crosby Peck, owner and operator of Roger's Campground

Electric vehicle drivers now have a place to charge-up quickly north of the Notches. A state-of-the-art electric vehicle (EV) "Fast Charger" station was installed in May at Roger's Campground in Lancaster, and is now available for public use.

The station offers the first fast charger located in the North Country, and was purchased and installed with a grant from

the Northern Pass Transmission project as part of its Forward NH plan.

"EVs are here and more are on the way," said Crosby Peck, owner and operator of Roger's Campground. "I am already seeing some campers with electric cars attached to their RVs. This fast charger will attract a segment of our tourist population that I expect will continue to grow each year. I appreciate the support of Northern Pass in providing the necessary funding."

By using the fast charger, new and future generations of electric cars will be almost fully charged in about 20 minutes. The station helps fill a coverage gap for the important technology. It is the only such fast charger station in New Hampshire north of Nashua and Salem.

"This is one of a limited number of advanced economic commitments by Northern Pass and exactly the type of initiative we envisioned as we developed the Forward New Hampshire plan," noted Paul Ramsey of Eversource. "It will support tourism, which is so important to the state, and it's an innovative clean energy solution."



Recent Rise in Greenhouse Gas Emissions is Due to Increased Reliance on Fossil Fuels

New England has invested considerable effort and resources in energy efficiency and developing clean energy over the past decade. These policies are meant to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stall the effects of climate change. Since 2010, the efforts have showed results with year-over-year reductions in carbon emissions. Canadian hydropower, which makes up about 10 percent of the energy New England uses, has played a major role in lowering emissions. In 2015, Canadian hydropower helped the region offset 7.4 million metric tons of greenhouse gases.

Unfortunately, New England's carbon reduction efforts have stalled, according to ISO New England, the independent operator of the electric grid. The region's CO² emissions rose five percent in 2015, largely due to the loss of Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, a major source of carbon-free electricity for New England. Since Vermont Yankee ceased operations at the end of 2014, power plants that run on natural gas have been used to make up for the loss. Although natural gas has lower emissions than coal or oil, it is a fossil fuel that releases CO² into the atmosphere.

The news of the increase is causing alarm among those involved in the fight against climate change, who say the increase will make it difficult for the region to meet clean energy goals. Vermont state law calls for reducing emissions 50 percent by 2028, but in 2015 its CO² emissions rose seven percent. Massachusetts law requires that the state reduce emissions 25 percent by 2020, a target energy officials say the state will miss unless large amounts of clean, renewable energy are added to the grid soon.

Adding to the urgency is news that Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station will close in 2019. Losing another large, constant source of carbon-free electricity will make clean energy efforts even more challenging, especially since 60 percent of the new energy projects proposed in New England are natural gas plants.

Canadian hydropower producers have excess energy New England can use to further reduce CO² emissions and supply a constant back-up source of energy when solar and wind-powered sources are not generating electricity. Northern Pass will bring additional hydropower to the region, which will lower CO² emissions up to 3.3 million tons per year—the equivalent of the annual emissions of 690,000 cars. It represents a significant game-changing opportunity to ensure increased greenhouse gas emissions do not become a new trend in New England.



Northern Pass Submits Schedule Recommendations to SEC

At its May 19 hearing on outstanding motions, the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) ruled to extend the project's review period by nine months, pushing the final date for a decision back to September 2017. Northern Pass has submitted a motion to the SEC requesting a procedural schedule that would lead to a written decision on its application by June 30, 2017. The proposed schedule seeks to strike a balance between the statutory requirement to complete the evaluation within 12 months, and the need for adequate time to evaluate a project the size and scope of Northern Pass.

Northern Pass believes the schedule it is proposing achieves the SEC's objectives and offers the SEC flexibility to address unexpected developments that may arise during the extended time frame, while respecting the Legislature's finding that it is in the public interest that "undue delay in the construction of new energy facilities be avoided."

Several groups representing business, consumers and labor agree, and have sent letters to the SEC regarding the implications of extending the schedule.

The SEC is expected to issue a written decision regarding the extended time frame in the near future.

ABOUT NORTHERN PASS

Northern Pass is a 192-mile electric transmission line project that will provide New Hampshire and New England up to 1,090 megawatts of clean hydropower. This reliable and competitively-priced power will also bring a range of benefits to New Hampshire, including hundreds of millions of dollars in energy cost savings, additional tax revenue, and thousands of jobs during construction and beyond. To learn more about Northern Pass, go to www.northernpass.us. You can also email questions to info@northernpass.us or call **1-800-286-7305**.