

FINAL HEARINGS UPDATE

The New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) continues its final hearings on the Northern Pass project, including discussions with construction experts. This month's hearings began on May 1 with the project's panel of witnesses answering questions and providing details about underground and overhead construction, traffic management, and outreach to local communities and businesses. The panel also discussed jobs and the project's commitment to hire local workers.

"Transporting heavy equipment is very expensive, so excavators, bulldozers, dump trucks, all that will be locally sourced as much as possible to contain costs," said Samuel Johnson, lead project manager for Northern Pass, according to reports in the *New Hampshire Union Leader*.

The construction panel will resume on May 31, followed by testimony from Julia Frayer, who will speak about her analysis of the economic and environmental impacts of Northern Pass. Following Frayer, a panel of environmental witnesses will discuss the numerous environmental studies conducted along the route, as well as the steps Northern Pass will take to avoid or mitigate impacts.

The final hearings, which began in April, are the last phase of the state permitting process before the SEC returns its decision on the project. Thus far, the SEC has heard from witnesses about the technical, managerial, and financial capabilities of the project, the Forward NH Plan, and how the project relates to public health and safety and system reliability.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR NORTHERN PASS

- **The U.S. Department of Energy has announced it expects to release its final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** on the Northern Pass project in August
- **SEC final hearings will continue in June** with panel discussions on the Forward NH Plan, aesthetics, and how the project relates to the orderly development of New Hampshire
- **The SEC announced it will hold three half-day public hearings** to gather oral and written comments from the public. They will be held on June 15, June 22 and July 20 from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Marissa Schuetz, Program Manager at marissa.schuetz@sec.nh.gov
- **Site visits of the Northern Pass route have been scheduled** for July 27 and 28 and will include a tour of both the underground and overhead portions of the route



Forward NH Fund Officially Formed

Earlier this year, Northern Pass took steps to formally create the Forward NH Fund as an independent, nonprofit entity. The Fund will manage and allocate \$200 million, in the form of loans and grants, to targeted programs that support the areas of community betterment, clean energy innovation, tourism, and economic development. Funding will occur over 20 years, with \$10 million contributed to the Fund each year.

The Forward NH Fund will be governed by a Board of Directors and Advisory Boards, made up of municipal, community and business leaders, representatives of clean energy and environmental organizations, and North Country leaders. It will be the task of the Advisory Boards to review funding requests and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval of those projects that align with the funding priorities. The Advisory Boards will consider proposals from a wide range of organizations, including municipalities, non-profit groups, businesses, and residents.

The Forward NH Fund was announced in 2015 as part of the Forward NH Plan, which included a number of economic and environmental benefits specific to New Hampshire. The Fund will begin operations once Northern Pass has received all necessary permits and the line is in service. Questions about the Fund can be directed to Northern Pass at [1-800-286-7305](tel:1-800-286-7305) or at info@northernpass.us.

\$200M
LOANS AND GRANTS

for community betterment, clean energy innovation, economic development, and tourism projects throughout NH, with an emphasis on projects in the North Country

Northern Pass Reaches Out to Businesses Along Underground Route



Northern Pass has proposed its transmission line be buried for a total of 60 miles under public roadways in parts of Coös and Grafton counties. Although construction will not begin until Northern Pass has received all necessary federal and state approvals, we understand that owners may have questions about how the project could affect their businesses. Last month, the project sent letters to more than 250 businesses located along the underground portion of the route to begin a conversation about how Northern Pass can address any concerns they might have about the underground construction phase of the project.

The letters also offered business owners information about the work Northern Pass representatives are doing now to proactively address concerns, including developing plans to ensure businesses and property owners have continued access during construction, taking into consideration other activity and events in the community, and ensuring roads that are disturbed during construction are restored to the same or better conditions. The project is dedicated to taking a personalized approach to protect the interests of businesses and property owners, and will meet and continually communicate with them before, during and after construction to respond to their concerns.

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](tel:1-800-286-7305).