

## Northern Pass Application Accepted by NH Site Evaluation Committee:

# UNANIMOUS DECISION



On December 7, the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) unanimously voted that the Northern Pass application is complete and that the siting review process can continue to move forward. This is a big milestone for the project, and with the release of the written order on December 18, it kicks off a year-long approval process of hearings, meetings, and careful review. We appreciate the hard work that the SEC and other state agencies put into reviewing the contents of this lengthy application and we are eager to begin the next phase of the state permitting process.

For years, residential and business customers have been calling for relief from our region's high energy costs. New Hampshire consumers want to know that the region's energy supplies are stable and sufficient to meet their needs and that we're moving toward a cleaner energy future. We are confident that our SEC application will show that Northern Pass accomplishes these goals by lowering energy prices for New Hampshire consumers by \$80 million a year, dramatically reducing carbon emissions by more than 3.3 million tons a year, and adding a diverse, reliable, and clean energy source to the region.

The SEC's thorough review process continues with a series of Public Information Sessions and other hearings early in the year that will allow people from across the state to comment and directly participate. We look forward to continuing our conversations with New Hampshire residents and working together to secure our energy future.

### "We Need the Power"

**Cheryl Ulm** spoke to us about her thoughts on Northern Pass at an open house we hosted in Laconia. "The first thing I like is that it will bring some jobs into New Hampshire," she said. Other benefits like the clean, affordable power, and tax revenue for towns along the route caught her attention, too. "The electrical power plants are shutting down, getting old and our electric bills are skyrocketing," she said. "We need something new. We need to get the power."



**Cheryl Ulm**

You can hear more of what Ulm has to say at [northernpass.us/multimedia](http://northernpass.us/multimedia), or on our Northern Pass YouTube channel and Facebook.

## DOE Extends Northern Pass Comment Period

### PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BE SCHEDULED FOR EARLY 2016

In response to requests from a number of stakeholders, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) canceled three public hearings on the Northern Pass project previously scheduled for December 15, 16, and 17. It will reschedule these meetings for sometime in early 2016. The DOE also announced it is extending the public comment period until April 4, 2016, which gives New Hampshire residents additional time to submit their comments in writing.

The DOE public hearings will be held to gather input on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) it released on the Northern Pass project. These hearings provide an opportunity for people to submit their comments both verbally and in writing directly to DOE officials. According to the DOE, these comments will be considered in preparing the final EIS.

You can email your comments on the draft EIS to [draftEIScomments@northernpasseis.us](mailto:draftEIScomments@northernpasseis.us), or you can mail, call, or fax comments to:

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## Landowners are a Priority for the Northern Pass Outreach Team

Northern Pass (NP) will cover 192 miles — a substantial project that has prompted many landowners along the route to provide comments and ask questions in an effort to better understand the project. NP Project Outreach Specialists have traveled every one of those miles and have met with many of those landowners in their homes, barns, and backyards. It's all part of a concerted effort by the NP team to share information and gather feedback on the proposed route.

New Hampshire residents Jim Wagner and Sarah Hoodlet are the core of the NP outreach team and have a special passion for their work.

"I've been working on this project over five years now," Wagner explains. "I've met with a ton of landowners in that time and it's very rewarding to be able to help folks learn about the project and to get their perspective."

Wagner, a chemical engineer, worked for more than 30 years in the pulp and paper business and served as vice president and general manager of the Berlin-Gorham Mills for several years. He understands the challenges businesses face because of high electricity costs, the uncertainty of long-term employment for workers, as well as the skepticism of some North Country residents concerning new infrastructure projects.

"For people above the Notch, it can be a struggle to find work and to afford the cost of living, but some still fear change," said Wagner. "This project will do a lot of good for the economy, which is why I believe it's so important for landowners to have the facts and to keep the dialogue going between us."

Hoodlet, a native of New Hampshire, has worked on the project for about three years. She majored in Economics and Geography at Keene State College, and also earned a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies at Antioch University. Hoodlet shares Wagner's enthusiasm for the job.

"Meeting with landowners is rewarding work," explains Hoodlet. "We spend as much time as possible engaging with people so that we can fully understand their perspective and address their questions. For a typical site visit, we bring maps, diagrams, and other background information to help address any property- or town-specific questions."

During a recent trip to Whitefield, Wagner and Hoodlet met with a couple that owns land where electric transmission structures stand today. The landowners wanted to better understand where the new NP structures will be located, how the project will access the right-of-way during construction, and how the project will avoid or mitigate potential impacts on wetlands. The landowners also pointed out



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**Sarah Hoodlet**  
NP Outreach Team

important features on their property, like a water line from a well that ran under the right-of-way. Thanks to that leg work, project engineers can now consider the landowners' concerns and determine how best to proceed.

"Jim and I have driven or walked thousands of miles for this job," said Hoodlet. "We'll do whatever it takes to make sure people get answers to their questions and understand that they can always reach out to us. If we can't address their concerns at the site visit, we will follow up with them after speaking with the appropriate project specialists. The lines of communication are always open."

To schedule a site visit, call **1-800-286-7305**, or e-mail us at [info@northernpass.us](mailto:info@northernpass.us).

### 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](http://www.northernpass.us). You can also email questions to [info@northernpass.us](mailto:info@northernpass.us) or call **1-800-286-7305**.