

# Northern Pass Files its Siting Application with the SEC

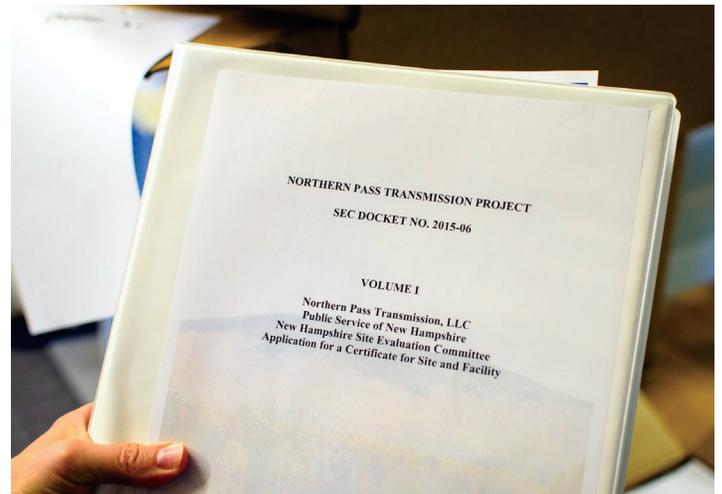
The Northern Pass project took a major step forward this month with its filing of an application for siting approval with the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC), the state agency responsible for siting significant energy projects. The SEC process is expected to last approximately 14 months and includes numerous opportunities for public comment.

In response to public comments received following the announcement of the Forward NH Plan and during the recently completed public information sessions, additional changes have been made to the project's design. These changes are reflected in the project's SEC application. The cost of the project is now estimated to be \$1.6 billion, up from \$1.4 billion. The increase reflects updated pricing to cover the costs of the redesigned route, including burying an additional 52 miles underground to eliminate potential view impacts in and around the White Mountain National Forest, the Appalachian Trail, Franconia Notch and surrounding areas. The project will use new cable and converter technology that will have the capability of delivering up to 1,090 megawatts of clean, reliable hydro power to New Hampshire. Once complete, Northern Pass will include the longest underground transmission line installment in North America.

Northern Pass has also modified more than 60 additional structures to address concerns about potential view impacts along scenic byways, as well as river and highway crossings. This is in addition to the engineering and design changes to the overhead portion of the line as part of the Forward NH Plan, including lowering structure heights, modifying structure designs, and working with property owners to address individual issues.

The application will now be reviewed by the SEC. The role of the nine-member committee is to examine energy projects through a process that includes an extensive adjudicative proceeding, similar to a court hearing. It also provides several opportunities for public comment. Additional public information sessions will take place in early 2016.

You can learn more about how to participate in the SEC process, or submit a comment, by going to [northernpass.us](http://northernpass.us).



“As we move forward in the state siting process and beyond into construction, we will continue our outreach efforts with landowners, communities, and others.”

**Bill Quinlan**

President of Eversource  
Operations in New Hampshire



## DOE Public Hearings and Comment Period Extended

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is expected to issue a supplement to its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Northern Pass project in the coming months to address the recently announced changes to the project as part of our Forward NH Plan.

A number of alternative routes studied by the DOE included portions of the same underground route Northern Pass has proposed. However, the DOE has agreed to supplement its draft EIS in response to a recent request from members of New Hampshire's Congressional delegation. The public will have additional time to consider the adjustments in our proposal.

### HOW TO SUBMIT A COMMENT TO THE DOE

The U.S. Department of Energy will accept comments on the Northern Pass project and its draft Environmental Impact Statement until December 31. This comment period is an opportunity for New Hampshire residents and other key stakeholders to

formally submit their thoughts on the project. You can either email your comment on the draft EIS to [draftEIScomments@northernpasseis.us](mailto:draftEIScomments@northernpasseis.us), or you can mail, call, fax or email comments to:

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## Forward NH Focus: Renewable Energy Opportunities in the North Country

### How the Coös Loop upgrades could lead to more long-term jobs in the North Country

For nearly a decade, state officials have been looking for ways to economically upgrade a portion of the region's electric grid known as the Coös Loop. This section serves areas like Berlin, Northumberland and Whitefield, and is the electrical connection that local renewable power generators use to get their energy to market. Unfortunately, the Coös Loop has limited capacity. In some instances, wind and biomass facilities are not able to deliver all the energy they can generate due to limitations on that portion of the electric system.



**Joel Dupuis**, who works in the logging industry, sees the potential that upgrading the Coös Loop could have on local jobs. He recently told us that in his town of Lancaster, "a lot of these guys have been looking for jobs a long time." When these upgrades are complete as part of the

overall Northern Pass project, more renewable energy generated in the North Country will be able to get to market. If plants like Burgess BioPower are able to run more often, it will require more wood-based fuel and could lead to more jobs in the logging industry.



**Allen Bouthillier**, the founder and owner of A.B. Excavating Inc., also told us that the Coös Loop upgrades were one of the more exciting aspects of the Forward NH announcement. He agreed that increasing capacity on the lines will mean more jobs for local workers and

job security for those already working in the wood and biomass industry. "My two sons ... will be able to stay here, live here, and be able to work here, have a life here," he says.

YOU CAN HEAR MORE OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH ALLEN AND JOEL AT [NORTHERNPASS.US/MULTIMEDIA](http://NORTHERNPASS.US/MULTIMEDIA).

### 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.