

What is the SEC?

The nine-member New Hampshire Site Evaluation Commission (SEC) is the state's official review board for large energy projects, such as wind farms, power plants, and transmission projects like Northern Pass. State law outlines the process the SEC must use to carry out this review, including what information it must gather, what studies must be conducted, and how public hearings should be conducted. The SEC examines many aspects of the project, including environmental and public safety impact; the financial, technical and managerial capabilities of the developers; consistency with orderly regional development; and whether the project serves the public interest.

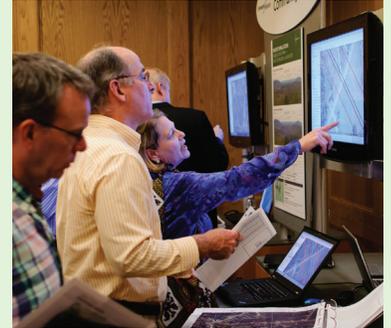
The SEC conducts its review through a formal adjudicative process, which is similar to a court hearing. Evidence is gathered and presented to the SEC and witnesses are called and cross-examined. A Counsel for the Public is appointed by the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office to represent the public "in seeking to protect the quality of the environment and in seeking to assure an adequate supply of energy" during the proceedings. Two members of the public also serve on the SEC.

The SEC uses the information gathered to determine whether a Certificate of Site and Facility should be issued, which is required before construction on Northern Pass can begin.



Northern Pass Team Continues COMMUNITY OUTREACH

After wrapping up the Open Houses and Public Information Sessions earlier this month, the Northern Pass Project team continues to meet with municipal officials in communities along the proposed route. The Project team has provided communities with information about the redesigned route and the Forward NH Plan, and will keep in touch with local officials in these communities to further answer questions and provide specific town data.



Early in September, the Northern Pass Project team met with residents from across the state and listened to their comments as part of meetings that are required by the NH Site Evaluation Committee (SEC). These five Public Information Sessions were run concurrently with Open Houses allowing the public to provide their comments for the official record while also interacting with Project staff one-on-one.

The meetings were held in each county that will host the Northern Pass route under the current plan. They are:

- Merrimack County
- Grafton County
- Belknap County
- Rockingham County
- Coös County

"The public meetings were a great opportunity for us to provide information about the Forward NH Plan and gather valuable feedback from residents across the state," says New Hampshire Operations President Bill Quinlan, "and we want to keep the dialog going, every step of the way."

Each session featured a presentation by Bill Quinlan, a video outlining the new route and the Forward NH Plan, a one-hour question-and-answer session, and a public comment session. The Public Information Sessions were documented by professional stenographers to maintain a thorough legal record for the SEC. Written comments were accepted at each of the sessions, as well.

If you did not have an opportunity to attend one of the Northern Pass Public Information Sessions and Open Houses, you can still submit a comment to the SEC by mail or online.

SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO: New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee, Administrator Pamela G. Monroe, 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, N.H. 03301, Tel. (603) 271-2435, Fax. (603) 271-3878, E-mail: Pamela.Monroe@nh.gov

Local officials and residents in towns along the route can also request to meet with a project representative, by emailing us at info@northernpass.us, or by calling **1-800-286-7305**.



What's Next for Northern Pass?

FILING WITH THE SEC

As mentioned, Northern Pass recently completed its first set of Public Information Sessions earlier this month. The SEC requires applicants hold two sets of Public Information Sessions in each county where the proposed project will be built: one before an application is filed, and another after the application is filed with and accepted for review by the SEC.

Northern Pass plans to file its application with the SEC this fall. Once that application is accepted by the SEC, Northern Pass will have 45 days to hold another round of Public Information Sessions. When available, we will provide dates and times for these sessions in this newsletter and on the northernpass.us website. You can also stay informed on the Northern Pass SEC application process by visiting the SEC website at <http://www.nhsec.nh.gov/projects/2015-06/index.htm>.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S PUBLIC MEETINGS

On the federal level, Northern Pass is seeking a federal Presidential Permit. This process is overseen by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), which released its draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the project in July. In the coming months, DOE will host a series of hearings that will allow residents to comment on the project and the DEIS.

The Benefits of Northern Pass in the North Country



Bing Judd of Pittsburg recently spoke to us about the many benefits Northern Pass will bring to his town, including much needed tax revenue, potential funds for organizations through the Forward NH Plan, as well as clean energy. "How much cleaner can you get than hydro?" Judd asks. "We need it and we should get it." To hear more of what Judd has to say, go to northernpass.us/multimedia.

Reactions to Forward NH Plan

"The changes announced today by Eversource represent a major improvement to the project and a great opportunity for our state, and I am pleased to be able to support the Northern Pass project as now revised."

- Chuck Morse, New Hampshire Senate President

"BAE Systems believes that we must take action now to lower electricity costs and bring more reliable, affordable supplies of power onto the regional grid for New Hampshire's economy to remain competitive and growing. The Forward NH Plan proposes to balance the energy deficit in New England by delivering clean, renewable, hydroelectric power to New Hampshire and the region while addressing environmental impact concerns. Equally important, the project promises to provide unmistakably clear benefits to New Hampshire by bringing low-cost electricity directly to the state's residents and businesses, creating hundreds of jobs, and providing millions in tax revenue to local communities. We look forward to a thorough, fact-based review of the updated project, and urge regulators at all levels of government to act in a fair and timely manner. New Hampshire citizens and businesses cannot afford to wait any longer for action."

- Paul Markwardt, Vice President and Deputy General Manager, BAE Systems

"Today's announcement by Northern Pass is a great step forward and I am pleased to offer my support for the project. In addition to the tremendous energy benefits this project provides to our state's economy, this project will provide a transformational opportunity for the city of Franklin, create hundreds of jobs in our region, and provide a great boost to our local economy."

- NH State Senator Andrew Hosmer

"We need thoughtful, balanced solutions — solutions that bring us the energy we need, diversify our sources of energy, deliver clean energy to replace older technologies, and provide real benefits for our state. As a businessman and New Hampshire native, I see this plan as the right solution at the right time. It's a plan I hope New Hampshire will rally to support."

- Don Welch, President, Globe Manufacturing

ABOUT NORTHERN PASS

The Northern Pass is a 192-mile electric transmission line project that will bring New Hampshire and the rest of New England 1,000 megawatts of clean hydropower. This reliable and affordable source of power will also bring a wide range of benefits exclusively to New Hampshire, including millions of dollars in energy cost savings, additional tax revenue, and jobs during construction. 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**.