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May 18, 2016

Via Electronic Mail/Hand Delivery

Ms. Pamela Monroe, Administrator
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

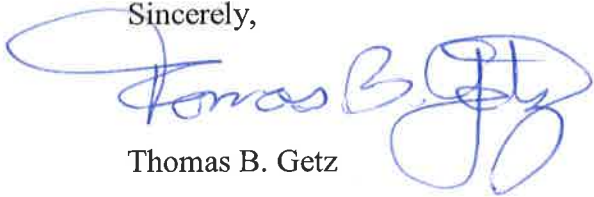
**Re: New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee Docket No. 2015-06
Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission LLC and Public Service Company
of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility for
Construction of a New High Voltage Transmission Line in New Hampshire**

Dear Ms. Monroe,

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned docket, please find an original and one copy of a Response to Motions of Counsel for the Public for Leave to Retain Consultants. By their response, Northern Pass Transmission LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy, ask, among other things, that the Site Evaluation Committee approve Counsel for the Public's motions at the Hearing on May 19, 2016.

Please contact me directly should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Getz

TBG:slb

cc: Distribution List

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06

**NORTHERN PASS TRANSMISSION LLC AND
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY

**RESPONSE TO MOTIONS OF COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC
FOR LEAVE TO RETAIN CONSULTANTS**

NOW COMES Northern Pass Transmission LLC (“NPT”) and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“PSNH”) (jointly, the “Applicants”) by and through their attorneys, McLane Middleton, Professional Association, and respectfully submit this response to various motions filed in the above-captioned docket.

1. On May 13, 2016, Counsel for the Public (“CFP”) filed six motions seeking leave to retain eight consulting firms pursuant to RSA 162-H:10, V. The motions include: T.J. Boyle Associates; Kavet, Rockler & Associates, LLC; the Brattle Group; Heritage Landscapes LLC; Arrowwood Environmental, LLC; Siemens Industry, Inc.; Electrical Consulting Engineers, P.C.; and Dewberry.

2. With respect to each of the motions, CFP indicated that the Applicants assent to the relief sought in the motion, but not to any characterizations about the case or the Application. The Applicants met with CFP regarding the retention of consultants and indicated in a previous pleading that they hoped to be in a position to support CFP’s motions. The Applicants do not object to the consultants identified by CFP but continue to be concerned about the timely conduct of the proceeding. As noted in their Objection to Various Motions to Reconsider or Clarify Temporary Procedural Schedule, filed May 12, 2016, the Applicants believe that CFP has

had sufficient time to retain its consultants and that the deadline for its second round of data requests should be no later than June 13, 2016.

3. As for the approximately \$2.1 million overall estimated budget for the eight consulting firms, the Applicants appreciate CFP's statement that it has sought to achieve prudent advice at a reasonable cost. Nevertheless, the Applicants ask that the Committee provide appropriate oversight to assure that consulting costs are managed effectively. Towards that end, the Applicants suggest that the prompt and orderly conduct of the proceeding will ultimately provide the greatest assurance that costs are reasonable.

4. The April 22, 2016 order setting a temporary procedural schedule was a significant step forward in achieving the goals of full and timely consideration of the issues, and meeting the statutory time frames under RSA 162-H:7. The Applicants ask that the Committee, consistent with that order, promptly approve CFP's motions and direct CFP to issue data requests by June 13, 2016. Additional time is not required for this next step in the discovery process, and any further delay in discovery will have compounded effects on the overall procedural schedule and timeframes.

WHEREFORE, the Applicants respectfully request that the Committee:

- A. Grant CFP's motions to retain consultants at its hearing on May 19, 2016;
- B. Direct CFP to file data requests by June 13, 2016 ; and
- C. Grant such other and further relief as may be just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,

Northern Pass Transmission LLC and Public
Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a
Eversource Energy

By Its Attorneys,

McLANE MIDDLETON,
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Dated: May 18, 2016

By: 

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on the 18th of May, 2016, an original and one copy of the foregoing Motion was hand-delivered to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee and an electronic copy was served upon the Distribution List.


Thomas B. Getz