



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Note to Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Scoping Participants for Northern Pass Transmission Line Project

Northern Pass Transmission LLC (Northern Pass) filed an application with the Department of Energy seeking issuance of a Presidential Permit in order to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a new electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border in northern New Hampshire. Amongst other regulatory requirements, Northern Pass must obtain a Presidential Permit in order for the project to cross the international border. **DOE does not have approval authority for electric transmission lines in the State of New Hampshire. In order for Northern Pass to develop its proposed project it must obtain approval from New Hampshire's Site Evaluation Committee to site the line within the state."**

On February 11, 2011, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced its intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to assess the environmental impacts related to the potential granting of a Presidential Permit for the project.

The beginning of the EIS process identifies the scope of actions, alternatives, and potential impacts to be examined in the EIS. This is called "Scoping."

The Scoping process is used to focus the analysis in the EIS. This includes identifying the significant environmental issues that will be analyzed in depth in the EIS. Scoping also includes the identification of reasonable alternatives to the proposed Federal action.

The Scoping process includes the opportunity for interested persons to provide written as well as oral comments and suggestions on the scope of the EIS. Comments would be particularly useful to DOE if those comments identify issues and alternatives as specifically as possible. For example, if suggesting an alternative route to the proposed route, please identify the alternative route with enough specificity to be identified on a map.

Scoping meetings are not formal hearings. The scoping meetings will be structured in two parts: first, an informal discussion "workshop" period that will not be recorded; and second, a formal commenting session, which will be transcribed by a stenographer. Persons wishing to speak at a public scoping meeting should register by March 11th by contacting Brian Mills at 202-586-8267 or Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov. Requests to speak may also be made at the Scoping meeting, but requests received by March 11th will be given priority in the speaking order. A representative from DOE's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability Office will



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attend each scoping meeting, and DOE will designate a facilitator to preside at the Scoping meeting. DOE reserves the right to schedule the order of speakers and to establish the procedures governing the conduct of the meetings. For example, to ensure that all persons wishing to make comments are heard, comments may be limited to 5 minutes per speaker.

NEPA Regulations require at least one public scoping meeting for a DOE EIS. In this matter, DOE intends to hold several scoping meetings in different locations in New Hampshire. Information about the times and locations of the meetings and how to participate can be found on DOE's website, <http://northernpasseis.us>. Individuals who require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation should contact Brian Mills at 202-586-8267 or Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov by March 7th.

Scoping meetings are not the only opportunity for the public to participate in the EIS process. As set forth in the Notice of Intent (76 FR 7828), DOE will consider all written comments emailed or postmarked by April 12, 2011, in defining the scope of this EIS. Comments emailed or postmarked after the close of the comment period will be considered to the extent practicable. Both oral and written comments will be given equal weight and become part of the EIS record. Following the evaluation of scoping information, the DOE will start preparing the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS will be available for public review and comment, and DOE will hold public hearings to receive oral comments on the Draft EIS.