

IR 14-196

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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August 7, 2013

Robert Bersak
Public Service Company of New Hampshire
P.O. Box 330
Manchester, NH 03105

Re: Complaint of Senator Forrester
Northern Pass, LLC Project

Mr. Bersak:

The Commission is in receipt of the attached letter from Senator Jeanne Forrester which the Commission is treating as a complaint filed pursuant to RSA 365:1. Accordingly, please answer the questions posed by Senator Forrester in her letter dated August 2, 2013 by August 16, 2013. See Puc 204.02.

Sincerely,

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

cc: Senator Forrester

Attachments



The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

107 North Main Street, Concord, N.H. 03301-4951

SENATOR JEANIE FORRESTER

August 2, 2013

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director
NH Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, #10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301



Dear Ms. Howland:

I recently received a letter from Donna Gamache, Director of Governmental Affairs for PSNH (see attached) inviting me to attend an informational luncheon to learn about the Northern Pass project. By using PSNH resources, it appears that PSNH ratepayers are subsidizing this project.

As the Senator for District 2, I am writing to ask the PUC to examine the relationship between Public Service of New Hampshire and the Northern Pass LLC project.

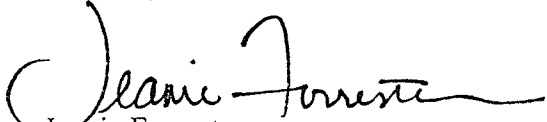
Specifically, can you address the following:

- 1) Are PSNH ratepayer funds being used to support Northern Pass project expenses, including project development, lobbying, real estate acquisitions and public relations costs? Northern Pass claims to have spent \$52 million through June 30, 2012; they claim they will have spent over \$70 million by the end of the calendar year. Ratepayers should have a right to know who is fronting these dollars, to assure that the money is not coming from their pockets. At the moment, ratepayers are easily confused as to who is paying for what services by the use of PSNH staff to manage and staff the Northern Pass project.
- 2) Is there some relationship between PSNH and Northern Pass Transmission LLC that is governed by a contract that spells out the terms by which PSNH is reimbursed for the time and expenses invested by PSNH and its employees in advancing the Northern Pass project? If so, who are the parties to these contracts, what are the terms and conditions of the contracts, and who is paying whom for which expenses incurred? And, is there a sufficient accounting that clearly documents that these contracts are in fact being closely monitored and adhered to?

- 3) If PSNH has the staff time to allocate significant resources to the non-regulated side of their business, and specifically to Northern Pass, how can ratepayers be assured that the regulated side of the business is not overpaying for resources allocated to the regulated side of the ledger? Does the Public Utilities Commission oversee this set of issues under current state law? If so, are there any documents or reports that explain how PSNH manages this that are available to the public?
- 4) Finally, who decides if and when the resources of the regulated part of PSNH are being improperly used for non-regulated activity? How is information gathered and assessed to document that ratepayer interests are being monitored and protected?

Thank you for your attention to this inquiry. Any PUC review of these issues should be transparent and prompt. It should also seek input from any and all stakeholders with an interest in these issues. I encourage you to call me directly if you would like to discuss in more detail or have questions. My cell is 380.2523.

Sincerely,



Jeanie Forrester
NH State Senate, District 2
107 North Main Street, Room 302
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-4951

Attachment



**Public Service
of New Hampshire**

A Northeast Utilities Company

PSNH Energy Park
780 North Commercial Street, Manchester, NH 03101

Public Service Company of New Hampshire
P.O. Box 330
Manchester, NH 03105-0330
(603) 669-4000
www.psnh.com

July 12, 2013

The Honorable Jeanie Forrester
78 Tracy Way
Meredith, NH 03283-3283

Dear Senator Forrester:

I would like to invite you to attend an informational luncheon to be held throughout the state during August and September. We will be providing information concerning our amended Northern Pass route in the north as well as an update for the entire right-of-way.

We are very pleased to have listened to the concerns associated with the first route and made some good changes. You may soon start to hear from your constituents with questions surrounding the new plans and it is our hope to provide you with all the information possible.

Luncheon sessions will be held at all locations from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please consider joining us.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Town</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>RSVP by</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Wed., Aug. 7 | Puritan Conference Ctr. | Manchester | 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | July 31 |
| Fri., Aug. 9 | Crowne Plaza | Nashua | 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | August 2 |
| Wed., Aug. 21 | Marriott Lane Hotel | Keene | 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | August 14 |
| Fri., Aug. 23 | Town & Country | Berlin | 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | August 16 |
| Wed., Aug. 28 | Opechee Inn & Conf. Ctr. | Laconia | 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | August 21 |
| Tues., Sept. 10 | Holiday Inn | Concord | 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Sept. 3 |
| Fri., Sept. 13 | Portsmouth Sheraton | Portsmouth | 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Sept. 6 |

To confirm your attendance, please contact Cindy Roy at cynthia.roy@psnh.com or 634-2835 on or before the RSVP date listed for the location of your choice.

We hope that you will be able to attend and learn more about how Northern Pass may impact you, your constituents and the State of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Donna Gamache
Director, Governmental Affairs