

**TALKING NORTHERN PASS**

10 hours ago

**Stark Campground, Lodge  
Developers Fight Northern  
Pass**

By Karen Spencer, Stark



Photos of Percy Lodge in Stark, which is still in the process of being completed. The photo shows the Long Mountain view. Northern Pass towers would be seen in this same shot if it is built.

*Talking Northern Pass offers people in favor of and opposed to the proposed Northern Pass project an opportunity for civil discourse at InDepthNH.org. Find page and guidelines here.*

*(<http://indepthnh.org/series/talking-northern-pass/>)*

*Find details [about Northern Pass](#)*

*(<http://www.northernpass.us/index.htm>), including its page talking to [supporters, here](#)*

*(<http://www.northernpass.us/show-your-support.htm>).*

*InDepthNH.org takes no position on Northern*

*Pass. Please send your email and photos to [talkingnorthernpass@gmail.com](mailto:talkingnorthernpass@gmail.com)*



Karen Spencer

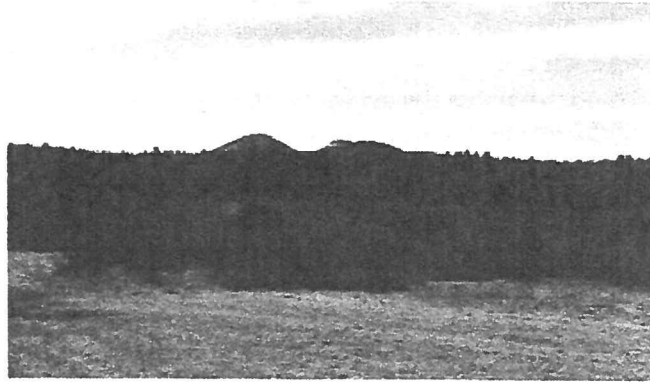
**By KAREN SPENCER**

In May of 2012, my husband Kevin and his business partner purchased a 26-acre property in Stark with future plans to re-develop an existing house that was built in the late 1900s into a lodge and campground for tenting and RV's. We never expected this purchase would be negatively affected by the proposed Northern Pass project.

In June of 2013, we received the first of the mailings from the Northern Pass Transmission, LLC, in Manchester. Surprise, surprise, when The Berlin Reporter's, issue, dated July 13, 2013, ran a front-page article NORTHERN

We are now being represented by legal counsel, spending money on defending our property rights, money that we should be spending on the development of Percy Lodge, which will bring in much needed commerce in tourism, with the OHRV & ATV Trail from Groveton to Milan, canoeing along the Upper Ammonoosuc River, with the 72 acres for tenting and RV parking, boarders and snowmobiling in the winter, which the Great Northern Woods has and should be forever protected.

The picture at right is taken from the 72 acres, with Percy Peaks and Long Mountain in the



background. If you look at this picture you can see a darker area just below the mountain scene, this darker line across this picture is where the existing PSNH easement is. If Northern Pass is allowed, this whole scenic view will have the steel towers, instead of the beautiful landscape we in Coos County now enjoy.

PASS ANNOUNCES NEW 40-MILE NORTHERN ROUTE. This article by Edith Tucker said, "The proposed new route does not go through the towns of Colebrook, Columbia, or Stratford, as did the original proposal.

"The new route is designed to take into account the public's desire to keep transmission towers out of sight as much as possible, explained Long, who pointed out that New Hampshire is noted for its active citizens who eagerly debate issues in an effort to find common ground."

Reading this article was a complete surprise, and I can't express enough how very uninformed we were of this besides what we read or heard. The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests sent the first information regarding the Northern Pass 180-mile power line with towers 90 to 135 feet high to be erected through the heart of New Hampshire.

In September of 2013, Kevin and I attended one of the many public meetings, this one was at the Stark Fire Station. At this meeting we filled out a comment form, which generated an email from Sarah Demers of Burns & McDonnell, Community Relations Specialist. In this email, she informed us that a meeting can be agreed to, to review the project in more detail and perform a site visit and walk the existing easement on our property.

Not until September of 2014 did we receive another letter, this time from Jerry P. Fortier, Project Director, Northern Pass Project, informing us that a member of his team would be contacting us soon for a one-on-one meeting, for any specific questions or concerns with our "right of way."

No to Northern Pass was also emailing regarding the ongoing events of Northern Pass. Through these emails, I have been able to write many of my letters first to Clean Energy RFP, stating the negative effects of Northern Pass. On Aug. 11, 2015, I wrote my first letter in regards to the negative impact on our development of Percy Lodge and Camp Ground to the Northern Pass EIS website.

In September 2015, I wrote my letter to Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. Over the next months and into 2016, letters have been written and sent expressing our concerns over the negative impact these towers will have on our Percy Lodge property. Across from the 26 acres, where the lodge is being built, we have 72 acres, which is being developed into tenting areas and RV parking.

The 72 acres now has a scenic view of Percy Peaks and Long Mountain. The present PSNH easement power lines are below the tree line. If PSNH (Eversource) is given the required Presidential Permit to start this project, these steel towers will be seen completely across this beautiful scenic view. In January, Kevin and his business partner had their one-on-one meeting with the SEC at the Percy Lodge property. At this meeting we were given more articles on the Northern Pass Project along with a map showing the placement of the new power lines.

This map shows that not one new power line is being installed, but two, one being the steel towers at 85-155 feet. At this meeting, both Kevin and his partner were really told what the SEC wanted them to hear, not really addressing any of the issues they were concerned with about the negative impact on the property value and view in the town of Stark.



# Karen J J Spencer

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June 4, 2016

Governor Hassan  
Office of the Governor  
State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Hassan:

This is my second contact to your office, Governor Hassan, my first was an email sent on the New Hampshire Governor Website, but there still has been no response to that.

I am sure, you are up to date on the public meetings for the PUC and the SEC. But I am not so sure you are aware of the true battle us 'EASEMENT PROPERTY OWENER'S', we are addressed as "Abutters", which seems rather a play on words, as I have witness over and over again, at these public meetings, but back to my concerns, on February 19, 2016, by husband Kevin and his business partner, Marc Lagasse, of LAGASPENCE REALTY, LLC., with the representation of our Attorney, Mr. Cunningham, attended the PUC meeting. There we presented our Motion on Docket 15-464. To make a long Motion, shorter, "Interveners move the Commission for an Order dismissing the PSNH Petition because a court of competent jurisdiction must first adjudicate the parties respective rights". The Public Service Company of NH, d/b/a Eversource Energy's, Senior Counsel, Matthew J. Fossum, filed his objection, on February 19<sup>th</sup>, his objection of the PUC on our February 10<sup>th</sup> reply, to dismiss us. First, "As an initial matter, the Motion is procedurally improper....." In that the Movants have sought to intervene to raise arguments about the rights relating to the easements underlying the petition, a matter beyond the Commission's jurisdiction....." This is a six (6) page objection, sent to Debra Howland, Executive Director, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, which ends:

"WHEREFORE, PSNH respectfully requests that the Commission:

- (1) Deny the Movant's reply;
- (2) Deny the motion to dismiss this proceeding;
- (3) Issue an order appropriately limiting the scope of the docket and the scope of the Movant's intervention, if granted; and
- (4) Order such further relief as may be just and equitable.

The same goes for our Order to Intervene for the Site Evaluation Committee, Docket No. 2015-06. But now we are being addressed here as "Abutters". Here we are talked to, by Mr. Honigberg, in a very abusive, irritability, impatience, arrogant, shall I go on, it is unacceptable.

Eversource (PSNH), over the course of this, has not notified the seven hundred (700) landowners, especially, the landowners of the OLD PSNH Easements, of their intention to place 140-foot towers scarring our countryside to carry cheap power to southern New England. Not until the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting in Concord, did us, as EASEMENT PROPERTY OWNERS, **come with our fight, that you cannot lease property you do not own.** There is no proof that the so called \$200 million for the North Country, will come. There is no need for this energy. Coo's County has new wind power in Dummer and in Berlin, which is supplying CLEAN energy to the Grid. Talk about commerce coming to local Contractors, what for two (2) years, at the most, then what after the mass of these giant towers scarring the complete landscape of our Great Northern Wood. Property value has already started to be effective by



this Northern Pass Project. Coos County, which depends on Tourism, these towers will affect our View Shed and Scenery, Land Use, have an impact on Recreation, Historic, Cultural Issue, Wet Lands, Wild Life, Water Shed.

With all this said and done, we the Property Owners have to bare the burden of our property rights, NOT Eversource (PSNH), to prove they have the exclusive rights to use and build these towers. These PSNH Easements were granted to PSNH to bring energy to farmers and industries back in the 1940's. The Northern Pass is a transmission only electric project with no distribution capability, not subject to ISO-NE dispatch, and not necessary to bring electricity to New Hampshire homes, farms and business.

Meeting after meeting, we hear how the Applicant (Eversource/PSNH) repeatedly misleads the SEC during questioning, while the intervenors, who could answer the SEC's questions, are cowed into silence by Mr. Honigberg's rudeness. This last meeting in Whitefield, on May 19<sup>th</sup>, having the time extended to September 2017, giving us, the intervenors more time to finish and file the required documents. You do know that the Applicant, (Eversource/PSNH) did not gather their data in six (6) months, they announced their project in Easton in 2010, and had been working on the plan before then. It took NPT more than five (5) years. Yet, with all this time, we the Easement Property Owners were not notified of their intent to build these towers, except at beginning of the Town Meetings, and with the information sent to us via email and/or mail from NO TO NORTHERN PASS organization, New Hampshire Sierra Club, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, we would not have been informed of the on-going effort to build these towers.

I understand that you have stated your concerns for the "Good of the Public". There is nothing, what so ever, that this NPT project is for the "Good of the Public"

Yours very truly,

Karen J J Spencer

CC: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy, Washington, DC  
Public Utilities Commission  
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee  
Attorney Arthur B Cunningham  
Kris Pastoriza  
Nancy West, INDEPTHNH.ORG



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3/17/2016

President Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

This letter is in response to the Northern Pass Proposed Route. I have written letters and emails to the NHSC, the DOE, the DEIS, the NHPR and Burns Involvement Specialist, of Burns & McDonnell, regarding the impact of the Northern Pass Project and its' negative effect on us.

Stark, New Hampshire is our home base. We also own 26 acres of land that has the electric lines easement running along the northern property lines, along with 72 acres which is across the road, which borders along the Upper Ammonoosuc River. Route 110 travels through the landscape of Stark. These electric lines today are low enough to not be seen while driving on Route 110, for the lines are below the tree landscape. With the Northern Pass Project, these lines will be seen all through the Town of Stark's landscape. Both of these parcels of land are being developed into recreational areas, for Lodging, RV's, Snowmobiling and Tenting. This Northern Pass Project, if allowed to start will not only effect the View Shed and Scenery, of this private property and land use, it will also have an impact on recreation, historic, cultural issues, and most important tourism. Now, both these parcels have the views of Percy Peaks and Long Mountain, this beautiful landscape will be scared with the new height of these transmission towers. If this Northern Pass Project is allowed to start.

On February 19, 2016, a hiring was held with the PUC (Public Utilities Commission) in Concord, NH. This hiring was the start of the fight, for PSNH (Public Utilities of New Hampshire), (now known as Eversource Energy), which was given the above mentioned easement, to the present owner of the 25 acres in May of 1946, is going to LEASE this easement to the Northern Pass Transmission, LLC. Our legal argument is that PSNH (Eversource) does not own this land easement, we the property owners own this land, which the easement crosses. PSNH (Evesource) has filed papers requesting the Commission to dismiss our motion and order such further relief as may be just and equitable.

On March 11, 2016, a Public Information Session was attended in Whitefield, NH. This was just one of many being held in the State of New Hampshire. These public sessions are to open up discussions from residents, land owners, business owners, State Representatives to the Project representatives, on the updates on the latest developments with the Northern Pass Project. Over and over again, during these sessions, you see and hear of the negative impact this NPP (Northern Pass Project) will have on the whole State of New Hampshire. The power line that will be replacing the existing power lines, will then be over the tree line, and not just one tower but another steel tower, this steel tower will be seen along the whole Coos County landscape.



You are probably wondering why I have reached out to you, Mr. President, but I have followed your decisions to stop the KeyStone LX Pipeline Project, that was to go down the middle of our great country. This is another project that is coming from our Northern neighbors in Canada. Hydro Quebec along with PSNH (Eversource) is behind this power take over. I understand that before this project can even cross the borders of Canada and United States, that a Presidential Permit must be granted from the DOE (Department of Energy) in Washington, DC.

Is there anyone that can shine a light on our rights to stop, legally, this Northern Pass Project?

Yours truly,

Karen J J Spencer

CC: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy, Washington, DC  
Public Utilities Commission  
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Attorney Arthur B Cunningham

