



TOWN OF BRISTOL

230 Lake Street, Bristol, NH 03222

October 3, 2013

Mr. Brian Mills
Senior Planning Advisor
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Mills,

We are writing to you today on behalf of the community of Bristol, New Hampshire which is one of the Towns located on the proposed route of the Northern Pass Project. As currently proposed there will be 2.4 miles of new transmission line along the existing right of way in Bristol.

The purpose of this correspondence is to express our concern with the potential visual, environmental and economic impacts with regard to the project. The current and proposed transmission lines pass through some sensitive environmental areas including hilly terrain, wetlands and the Pemigewasset River. A review of the plans indicates that the existing 115kV line will be relocated within the existing right of way in addition to the construction of the new transmission line. This will result in the disturbance of twice the soil during construction of the towers. In addition, a visual inspection of the project maps indicates that additional removal of trees within the right of way will be necessary to accommodate the relocation of existing towers and the construction of new towers. This will create additional visual and environmental impacts as well.

A review of the plans also indicates that that the new transmission towers will average ninety feet in height which is more than twice the average height of the existing towers. Some of the new towers will be more than one hundred and ten feet high. Towers of this height will create economic impacts to property values along the transmission route as they are the most visible reminder of the project. Recent information indicates that proximity of a property to the project area can have a negative economic impact on its value. This may create a hardship for property owners who may need or want to sell their land and homes by discouraging those who might otherwise consider purchasing property in this beautiful and scenic part of New Hampshire.

As stewards of our Town we have a responsibility to honor the objectives stated in our Towns' Master Plan which include, safeguarding the rural quality of Bristol, conserving and showcasing our natural assets, maintaining the economic viability of Bristol's lands and forests and maintaining the health of natural systems that support life in Bristol. The impacts of this proposed project run counter to those stated objectives and in fact, counter to the scenic beauty that many Towns in New Hampshire strive to protect.

"Gateway to Newfound Lake"

Phone: 603-744-3354 ~ Fax: 603-744-2521 ~ www.townofbristolnh.org

We would respectfully request that alternatives to the proposed plan and proposed route be considered. The environmental, visual and economic impacts to Bristol and other communities along the route need to be weighed equally when evaluating whether the purported benefits of the project are worth the cost.

We appreciate the opportunity to present our concerns and hope that you will give them the serious consideration they deserve. Please do not hesitate to contact the Town Administrator by phone 603-744-3354 X14 or by email townadmin@townofbristolnh.org if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Best Regards,

The Bristol Select Board



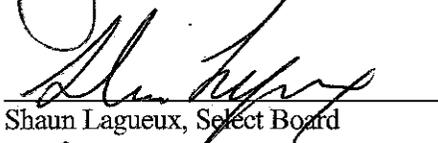
Don Milbrand, Chair



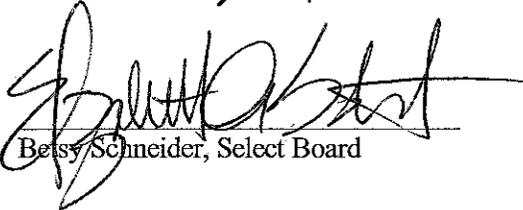
Joe Denning, Vice Chair



Janet Cote, Select Board



Shaun Lagueux, Select Board



Betsy Schneider, Select Board

cc: U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte
U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen
U.S. Congresswoman Anne McLane Kuster
U.S. Congresswoman Carole Shea Porter