

October 24, 2012

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL (Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov)

Mr. Brian Mills  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

**Re: Northern Pass Transmission LLC, Presidential Permit Application,  
OE Docket No. PP-371  
Request to Terminate Current Third-Party Contractor Team**

Dear Mr. Mills:

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, write to express our deep concerns with U.S. Department of Energy's ("DOE") handling of the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") review of the proposed Northern Pass transmission project to date.

According to documents recently obtained by the Conservation Law Foundation ("CLF"), and referenced in CLF's submission to DOE dated October 9, 2012, DOE has abdicated its responsibility to lead a fair and objective environmental review of Northern Pass by allowing the permit applicant, Northern Pass Transmission LLC ("NPT"), to control key aspects of the process, including selection of the third-party contractor team that will prepare the Environmental Impact Statement, setting the terms of the agreements governing the contractor team's activities, and shaping important documents and decisions, such as the "purpose and need" statement, that will restrict the NEPA process in the future. As a result of NPT's influence over the contractor selection process, the current contractor team has a clear conflict of interest, in violation of NEPA regulations.

DOE's actions greatly undermine the public's confidence that DOE's review will be independent, impartial, comprehensive, and consistent with the law. We are also concerned that DOE's actions will discourage meaningful public involvement in the NEPA process, given the perception that the process has been unfairly structured in NPT's favor.

We therefore join CLF's requests that the current contractor team be terminated; that DOE select a new contractor or internal team free of any conflict of interest or potential bias, without assistance or input from NPT; and that DOE recommit to an open, fair, and impartial NEPA review of the Northern Pass project, including additional opportunities for meaningful public participation.

*Signatories on Following Page*

cc: Erika L. Mark, United States Army Corps of Engineers (Erika.L.Mark@usace.army.mil)  
Tiffany Benna, United States Forest Service (tbenna@fs.fed.gov)  
Timothy L. Timmermann, United States Environmental Protection Agency  
(timmermann.timothy@epa.gov)

## Organizations

**Alliance Against Northern Pass**

**Appalachian Mountain Club**

**Conservation New Hampshire**

**Environment New Hampshire**

**The Nature Conservancy  
New Hampshire Chapter**

**No Northern Pass Coalition**

**Responsible Energy Action LLC**

**Society for the Protection of  
New Hampshire Forests**

**The Wilderness Society**

## Individuals

Cindy Lou Amey, Pittsburg, NH  
John Amey, Pittsburg, NH  
Omer Ahern, Jr., Plymouth, NH  
James Allen, Versailles, KY  
Gail Beaulieu, Plymouth, NH  
Rusty Beaulieu, Plymouth, NH  
Fred Brownson, Wentworth, NH  
Linda Brownson, Wentworth, NH  
Peter Camaan, Lancaster, NH  
Deb Chase, Holderness, NH  
Pamela Charon, Plymouth, NH  
Lynn Chong, Sanbornton, NH  
Adam Cook  
Andrew Cook  
Trudy Cote, Campton, NH  
Michelle Cunha, Hill, NH  
Anne Drinon, Chichester, NH  
Joe Drinon, Chichester, NH  
David Dobbins, Gilford, NH  
Alexis Eynon, Thornton, NH  
Karen Fesler, Bath, NH  
Mel Fisk, Holderness, NH  
Harriet Forkey, Alexandria, NH  
John Foye, Hill, NH  
Elisha Gray, New Hampton, NH  
Nina Gray, New Hampton, NH  
Dick Hage, Plymouth, NH  
Dorothy Iano, Laconia, NH  
Peter Iano, Laconia, NH  
David Johnston, Jacksonville, FL  
Gardner Kellogg, Littleton, NH  
Pat Kellogg, Littleton, NH

Darlene King, Campton, NH  
Mary Lee, Northfield, NH  
Lee Marino, Holderness, NH  
Mike Marino, Holderness, NH  
Brian Martin, Jacksonville, FL  
Chris Martin, Arlington, MA  
Pamela Martin, Thornton, NH  
Peter Martin, Plymouth, NH  
Stacia Martin, Andover, NH  
Jan Marvel, Thornton, NH  
Heather McLean, Campton, NH  
Kelly Monahan, Haverhill, NH  
Thomas N.T. Mullen, Campton, NH  
Brigitte Newbert, Wentworth, NH  
Kris Olsen, Thornton, NH  
Ron Pearlman, Sanbornton, NH  
Wendi Pedersen, Lancaster, NH  
Belinda Phillips, Thornton, NH  
Rikki Ramsden, Thornton, NH  
John Richards, Holderness, NH  
Martha Richards, Holderness, NH  
Annie Schneider, Plymouth, NH  
Susan Shaver, Arlington, MA  
Elaine Shryock, Versailles, KY  
Rep. Suzanne Smith, Hebron, NH  
Elizabeth Terp, Thornton, NH  
Joey Tuveson, Holderness, NH  
Robert Tuveson, Holderness, NH  
David Van Houten, Bethlehem, NH  
Michelle Vaughan, Thornton, NH  
George Wright, Campton, NH