



Northern Pass Transmission LLC
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March 28, 2017

Peter C.L. Roth
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Counsel for the Public
Department of Justice
33 Capitol Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-6397

Re: Inquiry

Dear Peter:

In answer to your inquiry dated March 20, 2017, the Transmission Service Agreement (“TSA”)¹ that is included with Northern Pass Transmission LLC’s (“NPT”) application before the Site Evaluation Committee (“SEC”) remains in full force and effect. In fact the fundamental financial structure of the Northern Pass Transmission Project (“Project”) has not changed since NPT filed its SEC application.²

The TSA has not changed substantively since it was approved by FERC in 2010. As is often the case with a contractual arrangement, the passage of time and evolution of circumstance sometimes call for a minor adjustment to one or more of its terms. That was the case recently as February 14, 2017, the TSA’s “Approval Deadline”, drew near, and, as specifically permitted by the terms of the TSA, the parties agreed to extend the Approval Deadline until December 31, 2020.³ A copy of the written agreement extending the date was provided to you by email on March 22, 2017, and is included as an exhibit to Michael Auseré’s Supplemental Testimony (filed March 24, 2017). The agreement to extend the Approval Deadline also confirms Hydro-Québec’s continued commitment to the Project.

As further noted in William Quinlan’s Supplemental Testimony (filed on March 24, 2017), NPT and Hydro-Québec have indicated an intent to participate in the upcoming Massachusetts clean energy solicitation. As was contemplated for last year’s Tri State Clean Energy RFP, the parties will amend or augment the TSA, as appropriate, based on the outcome of the Massachusetts solicitation.

¹ Included as Appendix 16 to the application for a Certificate of Site and Facility filed with the Site Evaluation Committee by Northern Pass Transmission LLC (“NPT”) and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy, is the Transmission Service Agreement by and between NPT and Hydro Renewable Energy dated October 4, 2010, as amended and as accepted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on January 13, 2014.

² See attached letter to Senator Jeanne Shaheen, dated March 17, 2017, from Leon J. Olivier, President of Northern Pass Transmission LLC, confirming the status of the TSA.

³ Until the parties agreed to extend the date, Section 1.1 of the TSA provided that the “Approval Deadline means February 14, 2017, or such other date to which the Parties shall mutually agree in writing.”

March 28, 2017

Page - 2 -

The additional questions you raise have been addressed in the Supplemental Testimony submitted by NPT on March 24, 2017. To the extent you have further questions about these issues, you will be free to inquire about them during cross examination when the hearings commence in April.

However, as noted above, the fundamental financial structure of the Project has not changed, and you, as Counsel for the Public, are in no different a position today vis-à-vis the TSA than you were at the time the application was filed. No doubt you will find all of the relevant information needed to address any concerns you may have in the testimony and other evidence filed with the SEC during this final phase of the siting process.

Sincerely,



Marvin P. Bellis
Senior Counsel

Enclosure: Letter to the Honorable Jeanne Shaheen