



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585
July 2015

Dear Sir/Madam:

The *Draft Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0463) prepared by the Department of Energy (DOE) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and its implementing regulations, is available for review.

The U.S. Forest Service – White Mountain National Forest (USFS), the Army Corps of Engineers – New England District (USACE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 1 (EPA), and the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (NHOEP) are cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS.

The proposed DOE action in the draft EIS is to issue a Presidential permit to the Applicant, Northern Pass LLC, to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a new electric transmission line across the U.S./Canada border in northern New Hampshire (NH).

DOE has prepared this draft EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts in the United States of the Proposed Action and the range of reasonable alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, the Presidential permit would not be granted, and the proposed transmission line would not cross the U.S./Canada border.

DOE will use the EIS to ensure that it has the information it needs for informed decision-making.

You are invited to comment on this draft EIS during the 90-day comment period that will begin when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes a notice of its availability in the *Federal Register*.

DOE will conduct public hearings on the dates identified below to receive comments on the draft EIS in the following locations: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 in Concord, NH; Wednesday, October 07, 2015 in Whitefield, NH; and Thursday, October 08, 2015 in Plymouth, NH.

Hearing information will be announced in the *Federal Register* and in local media, and will be posted on the project website, <http://www.northernpasseis.us/>. The draft EIS is available on this website and DOE's NEPA website at http://nepa.energy.gov/draft_environmental_impact_statements.htm.

Printed hard copies and CD copies of the draft EIS will be sent to those who have requested to receive the documents in those formats. Printed hard copies and CD copies are also available for public review at locations specified here: http://media.northernpasseis.us/media/DraftEIS_Hard_Copy_Locations.pdf.

Comments on the draft EIS can be submitted verbally during public hearings or in writing to Mr. Brian Mills at: Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585; via e-mail to draftEIScomments@northernpasseis.us; or on the project website at <http://www.northernpasseis.us/>. Please mark envelopes and electronic mail subject lines as "Northern Pass Draft EIS Comments." Written comments must be received by October 29, 2015. Comments submitted after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Mills".

Brian Mills
National Electricity Delivery Division,
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy