

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES
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Commissioner

February 2, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Eversource
247 Station Drive
Westwood, MA 02090

National Grid
40 Sylvan Road
Waltham, MA 02451

Unitil
6 Liberty Lane W
Hampton, NH 03482

Re: Northern Pass Project Bid

Dear Electric Distribution Companies:

As you know, yesterday the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (“NHSEC”) voted unanimously to deny the Northern Pass project a Certificate of Site and Facility. One of the key factors supporting a selection of the Northern Pass 100% Hydro Proposal (Northern Pass Project), among other things, was its ability to deliver clean energy generation to the Commonwealth’s electric distribution customers by a proposed project in-service date before the end of 2020. This recent NHSEC vote has the potential to significantly impact or render infeasible the project’s ability to deliver clean energy within the timeframe proposed by the bidder, as well as other material aspects of the Northern Pass Project bid considered during the bid evaluation and selection process.

As a next step, in order to fully assess the potential impacts of the NHSEC vote, the Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”) requests that the Electric Distributions Companies (“EDCs”) send a communication to the Northern Pass Project seeking an update on the status of the project in light of this vote. At a minimum, the EDCs should require the Northern Pass Project to provide the following information in writing:

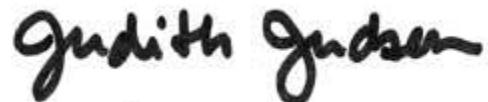
- Explain whether the NHSEC vote changes the status of or any aspect of the Northern Pass bid, including without limitation pricing, commercial operation date, and project delivery date;
- Explain what steps the project will take in response to this vote including appeals, reconsiderations, and any other regulatory or legal remedy, along with its assessment of likelihood of success;
- Provide a timeline with respect to any action the project plans to take in response to the NHSEC’s vote, including an estimate of a final determination that correlates to any impact to the commercial operation date identified by the Northern Pass Project.

As time is of the essence in this process, the EDCs should request that a response from the project be returned within 2-3 business days.

It is incumbent upon the EDCs to review the project’s response, assess it against the original bid to evaluate its impacts, and quickly come to a joint decision on appropriate next steps, which could include moving forward with contract negotiations or, alternatively, terminating negotiations and returning to bid selection. After such assessment, DOER requests that the EDCs meet with the DOER and the Independent Evaluator not later than February 9th to discuss the matter.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Regards,



Judith Judson,
Commissioner