

September 12, 2013

Electronic filing

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**Re: Petition by The Weeks Lancaster Trust to intervene in the matter of the
Northern Pass Transmission LLC Application for a Presidential Permit (OE Docket
No. PP-371)**

Dear Mr. Lawrence,

Following is the petition by The Weeks Lancaster Trust LLC to intervene and comment in the matter of Northern Pass Transmission LLC's Application for a Presidential Permit (PP-371). In accordance with the Notice of Application for this proceeding (75FR 69990), we are also sending a hard copy to the address above. Please contact us by telephone or email (below) if you have any questions or would like additional information or copies.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Respectfully submitted,



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Sent by US Mail: One (1) original cover letter and motion

cc:

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ELECTRICITY DELIVERY AND ENERGY RELIABILITY

Northern Pass Transmission, LCC : OE Docket No. PP-371
Application for Presidential Permit

**MOTION TO INTERVENE IN OPPOSITION TO THE APPLICATION AS
SUBMITTED AND COMMENTS
BY THE WEEKS LANCASTER TRUST**

Northern Pass Transmission, LLC (the Applicant), a jointly owned venture of Northeast Utilities and NSTAR, both public utility companies, seeks Presidential Permit approval to construct an above-ground, 140 mile long 350 kV HVDC power transmission line to transmit up to 1200 MW of hydro-electric power generated by Hydro-Quebec, located in Canada, to a power converter station located in Franklin, NH. The HVDC will then be converted to AC and connected to a network power distribution grid in Deerfield, NH for further distribution. Pursuant to Rules 212 and 214 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (18 C.F.R. § 385.212 and 214) the Weeks Lancaster Trust respectfully files this motion to intervene in opposition to the Application as submitted in the above-captioned proceeding with amendments of July 2013.

The Applicant's proposed action here will have significant negative environmental and economic impacts on the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF), Weeks State Park in Lancaster NH, and the vitally important recreation and tourist industry in New Hampshire. Both the White Mountain National Forest and Weeks State Park honor the legacy of Lancaster native, Congressman and Secretary of War John Wingate Weeks who sponsored the 1911 Weeks Act which established federal guidelines for conserving our national Forest Reserves and our national water supply. The White Mountain National Forest owes its existence to the Weeks Act. The Weeks Lancaster Trust was founded by the Hon. Sinclair Weeks, son of John Wingate Weeks and Secretary of Commerce in the Eisenhower administration. Following his retirement from government service, Sinclair Weeks worked to insure that the proposal to run Interstate 93 through Franconia Notch State Park was respectful of its sensitive environment and tourist value to the State of New Hampshire. The I-93/Franconia Notch Parkway is the result of those efforts.

MOVANT INTERESTS

The Weeks Lancaster Trust, with a physical address of 130 Weeks Rd., Lancaster, NH 03584-3240, owns approximately 800 acres and seven houses on Weeks Road. The principal residence on the property is listed by the State of New Hampshire as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Applicants' proposed new towers would be visible from the Trust property and would negatively affect the views of the White

Mountains from the Trust property. As a result, the value of the Trust property would decrease.

The proposed Northern Pass Transmission, LLC H-V power lines and towers would, on a net basis, materially lower the property values in the township of Lancaster and thereby increase the taxes on the Trust property.

The proposed project endangers the scenic, recreational, economic and environmental qualities of the entire region. The beneficiaries of the Trust and their families as members of the Lancaster community will suffer this degradation along with their fellow citizens.

The Weeks Lancaster Trust has close ties to both the White Mountain National Forest and Weeks State Park, Route 3, Lancaster, NH, by physical proximity, long-term support, and as descendants of its creator, the Hon. John Wingate Weeks. John Wingate Weeks as a US Congressman was instrumental in the passage of the Weeks Act of 1913 that led to the creation of the White Mountains National Forest. Mr. Weeks acquired the land and built the buildings that now comprise the Weeks State Park. Weeks State Park houses a museum of the US Forest Reserves and Timber Industry, as well as a working 1913 Fire Tower. Weeks State Park also includes recreational facilities: a public Ski Area and walking Trails. Visitors to the Park with its educational and recreational resources would be affected negatively by the Northern Pass Transmission LLC proposal. John Wingate Weeks' son, the Hon. Sinclair Weeks, Secretary of Commerce in the Eisenhower administration, was co-donor with his sister Katherine Weeks Davidge of the park for the benefit of the public to the State of NH in 1941.

John Wingate and Sinclair Weeks devoted their lives of public service to proving that Conservation could be Good Business. Both the Weeks Act and the final version of the I-93/Parkway section through Franconia Notch State Park demonstrate the economic and environmental benefits of sensitive development of projects in a region of national and international significance. They also demonstrate the role of the Federal government in providing crucial support for sensitive development. The White Mountain National Forest and Franconia State Park attract millions of visitors from around the world to the area each year. The Department of Energy has the opportunity to hold the Northern Pass Transmission, LLC to the same high standards as the efforts by both John and Sinclair Weeks in the past century.

STATEMENT OF POSITION ON PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT

As a result, the motion to intervene by the Weeks Lancaster Trust identifies and raises significant issues:

1. Conservation is Good Business: the entire Northern Pass H-V Transmission line should be buried along existing state and federal transportation corridors. Burial of these lines will conserve and preserve the environment, which the many sponsors of the Weeks Law worked so hard, to achieve 102 years ago and which the proponents of a sensitively engineered I-93 achieved in the 1970s with federal support. As has been proven by the Weeks Act and the revised I-93 highway through Franconia Notch, NH state revenues, views, property value, tourism, and local economies would all benefit from burial of the power line. Furthermore, a

- buried line will be less vulnerable to environmental factors such as weather and solar storms, which will benefit both consumers and the Northern Pass Transmission, LLC. This will prove to be a worthwhile investment for the long-term benefit of many.
2. Ethical Issue: Public Lands should not be used for Private Gain. Many groups worked hard over a more than twenty-year period leading up to the passage of the Weeks Law in 1911 to ensure the conservation of our national forest reserves and water supply. The White Mountain National Forest encompasses the headwaters of four (4) major rivers in New England: the Connecticut, the Merrimack, the Saco and the Androscoggin, as well as numerous tributaries. Not only does the Northern Pass LLC propose to use the *public* lands of the White Mountain National Forest for its *private* monetary gain, but it also endangers the headwaters of these critical watersheds. Burial of the lines along existing transportation corridors will resolve this ethical issue.
 3. Impact on the regional economy: Tourism and local hydropower. a) The White Mountains (WMNF) and its surroundings are the major recreational and tourist draw in the Northeastern US. Tourism and retirement/vacation homes are the dominant economic factors since the demise of the paper mills in the past decade. Studies conducted by non-profit organizations such as the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Conservation Law Foundation and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests have demonstrated that the proposal will affect the tourist economy which is vital to the ability of the region to sustain itself. The visual impact of H-V towers mostly double the size of those currently in place would have an adverse impact on the dominant factors of the local and regional economy. b) The North Country of New Hampshire is economically a severely distressed area. The proposal would jeopardize local hydro-power projects and fail to provide low cost power to the affected area. The recent proposal by Northern Pass Transmission, LLC to create a small jobs creation fund would not materially benefit a region and state which need the genuine economic benefits of its existing tourist and energy production activities. The project will result in billions of dollars of electricity sales, which will only benefit the private stockholders of the Northern Pass Transmission, LLC.
 4. Land Owner & Town Compensation. Property values are assessed on the basis of factors such as road access, building size, water frontage, and view. The proposed towers, as high as 140', clearing, wires and infrastructure, will adversely affect view and property values. In the slightly longer term, the tax base of affected towns, such as Lancaster, and the alleged tax benefit from the project will decline.
 5. Lack of Public Trust in the Northern Pass Transmission, LLC. In spite of expensive advertising campaigns and so-called "open" meetings in the affected areas of the State of New Hampshire, from Deerfield in the south to Colebrook in the north, the Northern Pass Transmission, LLC has failed to earn the trust of the public affected by its proposal. A *public* utility such as Public Service of New Hampshire and its owner Northeast Utilities should provide benefit to the citizens it serves. To date, the public hearings and "open houses" held by the Northern

Pass Transmission, LLC have been a source of dissembling and dismissive treatment of the efforts by local citizens and concerned non-profit organizations, such as the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Conservation Law Foundation and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, to determine the true nature of the proposal. There has been a constant change in the parameters of this proposal without any firm assurance that the Northern Pass Transmission, LLC will actually act on any of its stated promises. Recently, security personnel appear to have been hired to intimidate local citizens seeking reliable information at allegedly "open" meetings. Furthermore, the visual simulation photographs developed by the Northern Pass Transmission, LLC to allegedly represent the impact of the proposed towers on views from public places such as Weeks State Park have been manipulated to minimize the actual view-shed impact. Such actions have eroded public trust in Northern Pass Transmission, LLC. As in 1911 and the 1960s, the Weeks Lancaster Trust hopes that the Federal Government through the Department of Energy will again support the best interests of the public rather than the financial gain of a few stockholders.

NOTICES, CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

All notices, correspondence, communications and other information concerning this proceeding should be directed to:

Timothy T. More, Esq.
Trustee, Weeks Lancaster Trust
50 South Main St.
Providence RI 02903
401-277-9818
timmore@tmorelaw.com

Dated: September 12, 2013

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy T. More, Trustee". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Timothy T. More, Esq.
Stephen D. Weeks
Christian Hallowell, MD
Trustees, Weeks Lancaster Trust
Lancaster NH