

**By Electronic Mail**

March 7, 2011

Mr. Anthony J. Como  
Director, Permitting and Siting  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: Northern Pass Transmission, LLC  
Docket No. PP-371

Dear Mr. Como:

Northern Pass Transmission LLC appreciates the cooperation of the Department of Energy (“DOE”) in negotiating the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) among DOE, Northern Pass and Normandeau Associates Inc. for the conduct of the environmental analysis of the Northern Pass project. We believed – and we continue to believe – that the MOU represents an appropriate and effective means to support all of the federal and state environmental permits the project requires. However, the strong expressions of concern by certain members of the public about the arrangement lead us to believe that continuing with this arrangement may cause the public to lack confidence in the objectivity and rigor of the ultimate environmental analysis of the project. That outcome obviously does not serve the interests of the project, any of the permitting agencies or the public.

While we do not believe that the concerns that have been expressed are well-founded, we nevertheless have concluded that it is desirable to terminate the MOU and the role of Normandeau Associates in the environmental impact statement (“EIS”) process so that the EIS can be prepared free of the public concerns that have been voiced. We therefore request DOE’s agreement to terminate the MOU and the role of Normandeau Associates as DOE’s EIS contractor at this early stage of the process so that the EIS can be prepared free of the public concerns that have been raised. In addition to termination of the MOU, we request DOE’s assistance in the prompt transition to a new EIS contractor to be identified by DOE.

We underscore that we continue to believe that the objective that prompted us to propose the arrangement reflected in the MOU – that a single body of environmental data support both the federal and state environmental permitting processes – is important. We look forward to working with you to identify mechanisms by which the data developed for the EIS can also be

used in support of the state permitting processes. We also hope that there can be a prompt transition to a new EIS contractor so that we can proceed without loss of time.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Anne Sullivan".

Mary Anne Sullivan

Partner

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cc: Service List, Docket No. PP-371