

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

DOCKET NO. 2015-06

APPLICATION OF NORTHERN PASS TRANSMISSION LLC
AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY

PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JOHN CONKLING REGARDING HIS PROPERTY
AT 221 BLAKE HILL ROAD, NEW HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

ON BEHALF OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS

NOVEMBER 15, 2016

1 **Q. Please state your name and address.**

2 A. I am John Conkling and my address is 221 Blake Hill Road, New Hampton,
3 New Hampshire.

4 **Q: Have you been involved in learning about the proposed Northern Pass**
5 **project?**

6 Yes. My wife, Nancy, and I attended a very early meeting in Concord and have been to a
7 couple other informational meetings held by Eversource. I was on my way to a meeting in
8 Meredith on March 1 when I ended up in Catholic Medical Center that night and had 5-way
9 bypass surgery.

10 **Q: Please describe how you came to own your property.**

11 A: We love our beautiful state of New Hampshire. We both grew up in Western
12 New York. We both came to New England for college. I spent four years in Maine and Nancy
13 spent four years in New Hampshire. We have grown to love the lakes and mountains of New
14 Hampshire and are so proud to call it home! After our marriage in 1960 we bought an old farm
15 with our house and 200 acres looking at Cardigan Mountain. All of our picture windows and
16 deck face the mountains. Within a few years we accumulated approximately 450 contiguous
17 acres including fields, ledges, a beaver pond and of course our magnificent views.

18 **Q: Please describe the use of your property.**

19 A: We gave some of our acreage to our three sons, and two of our boys have built
20 their own homes on this land and are raising their children on it. I mowed the fields yearly until
21 our son, Rob, fenced 35 acres and presently has 10 Scottish Highlander cattle living off the
22 land. Each summer Rob cuts and stacks about 1200 bales of hay on a neighbor's land and feeds

1 5 bales of hay daily through the snowy winter months. We love to see his cattle in the pasture
2 below our house.

3 A few years ago we donated a Conservation Easement to The New England Forestry
4 Foundation. This easement includes approximately 90 acres of land that we wish to have
5 conserved forever. An old Army chaplain and our local minister reminded me, years ago, that
6 we are just caretakers of this beautiful land that we call home.

7 **Q: How would the Northern Pass project affect you?**

8 A: Public Service has an old right-of-way through our land and two of our sons'
9 land. The lines, on old wooden poles, are presently not visible. (Exhibit 1.) However, 120 foot
10 tall steel towers would certainly interfere with our magnificent views. We do not want to look at
11 120 foot steel towers on our rolling hills. We also hope not to see these towers in the White
12 Mountains. We use the mountains to hike and ski. At one time, I was the 1,000th member to
13 join the AMC. We have climbed and then slept at all the AMC huts in the Whites! Love this
14 land of ours!

EXHIBIT 1

