

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 KELLY O'BRIEN NORMANDEAU REGARDING
HER PROPERTY AT 56 SANBORN ROAD, CONCORD, 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: My name is Kelly O'Brien Normandeau, and I live and make my livelihood at 56
3 Sanborn Road, Concord, New Hampshire. I am the owner of Concord Equestrian Center, which
4 is a full-service equestrian facility. (Exhibit 1.) The property is my home, my livelihood, and
5 my whole life.

6 **Q: Please describe the property and your business.**

7 A: I acquired this 8-acre property with my sister, Mary-Lee O'Brien, in a rundown
8 state under foreclosure in 2011. My home is a horse property that houses 20+ horses has an
9 indoor arena, and is quiet and picturesque. (Exhibits 2 and 3.) As avid horsewomen, it was our
10 life-long dream to have our own family facility. The very first time I heard about Northern Pass
11 was on the radio one week before closing on the property.

12 Since then we have worked diligently to grow our business, Concord Equestrian Center.
13 We provide safe, affordable, friendly professional riding instruction to students of all ages
14 ranging from 4-71 years old as I write this. Currently, the ROW serves as horse pasture. An
15 important part of our business. It allows the horses to roam and graze in a natural setting in fresh
16 air, not in the confines of their stall. It is vital to their health and behavior.

17 My sister passed away on April 19, 2013. I have been putting my heart and soul and
18 finances to continue in our venture to be a wonderful welcoming resource to the community.
19 Allowing people of all backgrounds and financial means to connect with the majestic horse.

20 **Q: Why did you purchase your property knowing that the Northern Pass**
21 **project was to be proposed?**

22 A: Although we found out about the existence of the NP proposal only 1 week prior
23 to closing on the property, we had no choice but to take the leap of Faith in pursuit of our dream

1 and not let the threat of a hypothetical project crush it. We purchased the property at 56 Sanborn
2 Road to pursue our dream. The risks and ramifications of the existing line and electrical current
3 are acceptable to our life. We purchased the property as it was, run down and on the ROW. We
4 did not purchase a property with 120+ foot steel towers.

5 We purchased a property that has seen an increase in value due to our investment into it.
6 We purchased a property that would become an asset to the community as a small business
7 providing job opportunities. A breath of fresh air and peace, an escape from the stresses of life
8 for our clients, who have become an extension of family for me.

9 **Q: What have you learned about the proposed Northern Pass project and how**
10 **have you done so?**

11 **A:** The proposal of Northern Pass and the ENORMITY of destruction of places of
12 value as it is constructed is beyond my understanding. I have been to numerous scoping
13 meetings, I have sponsored the radio show BullDog Live, formerly on FM 107.7, when they
14 ventured to the meetings to record and broadcast for the public what was happening in our
15 beautiful state. Brian Tilton, the host, was the lone outlet for the citizens of NH to be educated on
16 both sides of this polarizing project. His voice was silenced from the radio. I have been filmed in
17 a documentary project about the NP and its implications. I have found courage to have a voice
18 and speak at meetings, ask questions and LISTEN.

19 What I have heard disturbs me. The bottom line is to fill the pockets of Hydro-Quebec,
20 Eversource (formerly PSNH) and NE Utilities. The benefit of this project benefits them. The
21 people of NH and our beautiful state are being manipulated to believe that it will lower our bills
22 and create local jobs, and that is NECESSARY.

1 At the meeting last Spring at the Grappone Conference Center, I LISTENED as local jobs
2 were promised, "to the extent that we can." A clear out. Allowing for that all important wiggle
3 room as to why imported workers will be getting the jobs, and not our neighbors. People (the
4 Union workers) hear what they want, then stop listening. I also LISTENED to the question and
5 answer of why the route 93 corridor isn't a consideration for the route. The answer varied, but
6 included "that it would be UNSIGHTLY." REALLY??? However, scarring OUR forests,
7 mountains and OUR backyards is something that "we will get used to."

8 Make no mistake, I am COMPLETELY opposed to the Northern Pass project. If it is
9 allowed to go forward, then burying it is what I would support. Either way, the life as I have
10 worked so hard to realize, my family's legacy, and the setting my clients and horses have chosen
11 to enjoy their passion would be forever changed.

12 **Q: What are your primary concerns about the proposed Northern Pass project?**

13 A: Our horses pasture on the ROW below the existing lines. I am concerned about
14 the greater health risks to people and animals with the exposure to the massive current. It is yet
15 to be determined the effects on our well water, and the wildlife habitat that will be destroyed.

16 The proposed tower size and the subsequent fall out zone would affect and wipe out
17 integral parts of my property including, but not limited to my well, water lines, outdoor riding
18 arena, horse paddocks. The construction phase, with noise, heavy equipment, and unsecured
19 fencing would cause Concord Equestrian Center to cease. The liability for the safety of the
20 horses entrusted in my care, as well as the safety of my students would be completely
21 jeopardized.

1 Then, what am I left with when the equipment, noise and path of destruction fades away?

2 A disaster. A property that will take years to regenerate to bring back to usable and safe. My
3 business, my ability to earn and income, MY LIFE, destroyed.

4 I pray for relief from the impending threat of this project. It has stalled my business
5 growth. It has caused undue stress. I cannot invest in my property to increase its value and grow
6 my business when it can be all undone with the SEC's approval of the Northern Pass. There is
7 beauty in life, especially if we choose to see more than the bottom line or the bank account.
8 Progress is sometimes making the hard choice to take a stand and say no.

9 **Q: What additional health and safety concerns do you have?**

10 A: The monstrosity of what is proposed, the liability of safety for our business and
11 the unknown health effects to both animal and my family is of utmost concern. My daughter
12 Emma (technically step-daughter, as her birth mother lost her cancer battle 2 weeks after giving
13 g birth to Emma), is a medical miracle. She was an undiagnosed pregnancy and was exposed to
14 chemotherapy, and radiation in the first trimester with no precautions. Emma has had to
15 overcome amazing odds to survive. She is now 11 years old. (Exhibit 4.) She carries the cancer
16 gene of her deceased biological mother. As the only mother she has ever known, it is my duty to
17 protect her.

18 I will be faced with making a difficult life changing choice. Do I risk exposing my
19 daughter to currents that increase the risk of cancer and leukemia substantially and attempt to
20 rebuild my livelihood in our home, or do I move on from the place that is more precious to me
21 than you can ever imagine, knowing I will financially never be able to replace what I have here?
22 What I do for a living isn't a storefront that I can easily move location. PLEASE look at the very
23 real human element in this decision. The corporations behind the Northern Pass project only

- 1 have their own financial best interest in mind. Their fattened wallets will be the destruction of
- 2 real people's lives. I am the face and heart of one of those people.



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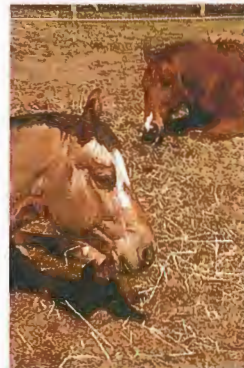
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Working with Kelly at Concord Equestrian Center has been a great experience for both my 9 year old son and myself. What struck me about Kelly on that first day was that she has a "from the ground, up" approach to learning to ride. It's not about jumping right into the saddle and bouncing around for an hour, it's about learning how to be safe around your horse, how to groom your horse, how to tack/untack your horse, and the list goes on. For as long as I have known Kelly, she has been a kind, patient instructor who never fails to let her great sense of humor shine through. She makes my son feel welcome at the barn and encourages him all the time, which in turn makes him love horses and riding. I would recommend Kelly and CEC to anyone and everyone every day of the week and twice on Sunday." Sabrina M., Boscowen

Concord Equestrian Center is powered by



EXHIBIT 2





EXHIBIT 4

