

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BUREAU OF HIGHWAY DESIGN**

CONFERENCE REPORT

PROJECT: Northern Pass

DATE OF CONFERENCE: May 24, 2016

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: 7 Hazen B34 211 Kancamagus Conf Rm

ATTENDED BY: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Alan Hanscom – Highway Maintenance District 3 Engineer

Melodie Esterberg – Chief of Design Services

Lennart Suther – Utilities Engineer, Design Services

Matthew Powers – Utility Coordinator, Design Services

Lou Barker - Railroad Planner, Rail & Transit (Partial)

EVERSOURCE ENERGY

Jerry Fortier – NPT Project Manager, Eversource Energy

Lance Clute – PAR Electric

Mike Pillsbury – Louis Berger Group

Mark Hodgdon – Hodgdon Law

Sam Johnson – Burns & McDonnell Engineering

SUBJECT: Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) Application Process and Design Update

NOTES ON CONFERENCE:

See attached Agenda.

The Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) process is continuing with an extension of 9 months. Eversource is continuing to focus on the underground design.

The public comment period for the Department of Energy (DOE) permit ended on 4/3/2016. The next step is Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) approval. It is anticipated that the EIS will be approved in either late 2016 or early 2017

There were no comments or changes to the previous April 26, 2016 meeting minutes.

The second set of permits for geotechnical work at the directional horizontal drill sites in District 1 and District 3 have been submitted with executed permits returned from District 3 and work started last week (5/16/16). Permits are being processed at District 1. Additional permit applications for District 3 will be submitted shortly as a few locations were missed.

Ms. Esterberg noted that the Department had received a question as to whether Eversource had permission to perform survey and geotechnical work and what are the limits of work area. The Department will reply that Eversource has obtained all necessary permits to perform work within the right-of-way. Eversource noted that as an intervener any comments and question should be submitted to the SEC per the formal SEC process.

In addition, Eversource has been advised by the Division of Historic Resource of the need to perform historic/archeological investigations along the route. Eversource asked for clarification on the form of the permit from the Department and how should the areas of investigation be shown. Mr. Hanscom replied that the permit will be the standard Excavation Permit as used for the geotechnical work. The limits can be described in general terms as length along the route with a distance from a cross street, beginning and ending pole or house numbers with limits marked on the edge of pavement. Highway Maintenance would like the areas defined as narrowly as possible. Eversource noted that archeological site are sensitive areas that are not to be shown or released to the public, therefore the areas of interest cannot be defined too narrowly. The number of sites are unknown at this time and further research will be needed along the route to define the additional areas requiring specialized excavation.

Eversource asked about the status of obtaining copies of easements, licenses, permits and other documents that define the railroad right-of-way from north of NH 175 to south of the skate park where the railroad right-of-way is adjacent to the US 3 right-of-way through downtown Plymouth. Mr. Barker has those documents at the Bureau of Rail and Transit and will provide copies to Eversource.

Eversource is continuing to investigate other alternative routes through downtown Plymouth other than US 3, to avoid the municipal and college infrastructure in the area. The rail corridor is encumbered with multiple facilities and does not appear to be feasible and discussions with the Town of Plymouth have begun to find a practical solution that benefits all interested parties.

Eversource is working with all impacted communities to understand and resolve their needs and concerns.

Mr. Pillsbury asked if the Department had received any formal requests for information relative to the Department's communications with Eversource regarding this project. Ms. Esterberg replied that Department had not. The Department is anticipating such a request and has established an electronic file containing communication and meeting minutes. Eversource has received a request regarding meeting minutes for all meetings and discussions of the use of the I-93 corridor.

With meetings now scheduled for 1:00 pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month, the next meeting is on June 28, 2016.

Submitted by:

Lennart Suther
Utilities Engineer

LDS/lfs

NOTED BY: MAE, MCP

cc: Attendees, Christopher Waszczuk, David Rodrigue, Douglas King, Richard Radwanski, Brian Schutt, Philip Beaulieu, Charles Schmidt, Shelley Winters