

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

**CONFERENCE REPORT**

**PROJECT:** Northern Pass Transmission

**DATE OF CONFERENCE:** October 17, 2017

**LOCATION OF CONFERENCE:** 7 Hazen B34 211 Kancamagus Conference Room

**ATTENDED BY:** DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

David Rodrigue – Director of Operations  
Michael Servetas – Assistant Director of Operations  
Melodie Esterberg – Chief of Design Services  
Lennart Suther – Utilities Engineer, Design Services  
Matthew Powers – Utility Coordinator, Design Services  
Louis Barker – Railroad Planner, Bureau of Rail and Transit

NORTHERN PASS TRANSMISSION

Jerry Fortier – Eversource Energy  
Sam Johnson – Burns & McDonnell Engineering  
Don Cortez – PAR Electric  
Matthew Mahon – PAR Electric  
Tim Higginson - Louis Berger  
Tom Doyle – SGC  
Peter Clary – VHB

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

**NOTES ON CONFERENCE:**

See attached Agenda.

NPT's witnesses at the SEC Judiciary Hearings are finished. The Interveners and Counsel for the Public are beginning their testimony. An oral decision by the SEC is anticipated in February of 2018 with the written decision in March of 2018. The US Department of Energy has issued the final Environmental Impact Statement with the current alignment having the least impact and the Record of Decision is expected by the end of 2017 to be followed by the Presidential Permit. The US Forest Service has issued its Draft Decision with the final Decision expected by the end of 2017.

There were no changes to the September 19, 2017 meeting conference report.

There was discussion of the proposed segmental submittal and review schedule of the Right-of-Way Report Addendum, Updated Alignment and Exception Requests, Final Construction documents

(including Traffic Management Plans), and Construction Permits and Agreements (Excavation and Driveway Permits and Use & Occupancy Agreement). NPT has met with the Bureau of Right-of-Way earlier this month for clarifications and preliminary comments to the Right-of-Way Report Addendum. Field work to obtain survey monuments and utility information is ongoing with additional field review by SGC and PAR for quality control and constructability review. NPT also is performing internal quality control review prior to submittals to the Department. VHB has been hired to provide additional independent review and experience with Department procedures.

The proposed schedule implies that separate Use & Occupancy Agreements (U&O) would be issued for four individual segments. The Department indicated that the U&O will be the over-arching document for the entire project and as such will be issued as a single document. As this is a unique project the Department believes there would be a way to reference the final plans as part of the document. The Department may need to incorporate requirements from the SEC decision into the Agreement which would mean formal execution will need to occur after the SEC decision. It was also noted that the State's Attorney General will need to review the draft Agreement which will add time to the preparation process. Due to the size of this project and the Department's need to hire an outside firm for Construction Oversight, reimbursement of those costs by NPT will be a condition in the U&O.

Mr. Rodrigue provided clarifying statements of the Department's understanding that the previous submittals last year were preliminary (30%) alignments to obtain a design/build firm to complete the final design and perform the construction. Final design plans are now being submitted based on Department comments and PAR's experience. NPT acknowledged that the Department's understanding is correct.

There was discussion regarding tree clearing and NPT's intent to limit clearing, especially within Scenic Byways.

Mr. Rodrigue noted that the Department will need NPT to provide a Maintenance Plan including activities that support the State and Municipalities when working adjacent to the transmission facilities and an End of Life Plan. The Department requested a presentation of the Maintenance and End of Life Plans similar to the previous Construction process presentation. Of particular interest to the Department is the support during drainage, sewer and water facilities repairs, verification and relocation of transmission facilities for State and Municipal projects and emergency repairs.

Several general plan sheets of the future revised alignment (green line plans) and exception request submittals were reviewed to show what will be included on the plans. These plans show the proposed revised alignment (green line) and the original alignment on the plan view with changes at drainage and utility crossings shown on the profile view. The survey centerline is now included on the construction plan so Department can reference Survey plan and then Department plans during plan review and construction. Ms. Esterberg noted that the Bridge Number needs to be referenced on the general plan. NPT noted that the general plan profile will not contain the updated horizontal directional drill (HDD) profile but the HDD plan and profile will be updated.

NPT would like to video the project corridor with a drone for the project design review, NPT's internal quality control and to help with the Department's review. The proposed work plan needs to be submitted through Ms. Esterberg for the Bureau of Aeronautics' notification and receipt of authorization.

Mr. Rodrigue asked how NPT intends to handle the historic/archeological aspects of the project. NPT replied that the historic and archeological reviews are part of the Federal permit with conditions for monitoring and dealing with unanticipated discovery. NPT noted that there are several historic/archeological areas within the corridor, but by law cannot be shown on the plans. The Department requested to be notified of those locations so the Bureau of Environment can have the information for future NHDOT projects. NPT will check if the information can be provided to the Department.

NPT requested a list of Railroad operators along the corridor and any agreements between the operators and the State. NPT wants to avoid impacting the Railroad right-of-way but acknowledged that there will be a need for flagger agreements because of the close proximity of the tracks to the work areas. Mr. Barker noted that any Railroad Agreements between NPT and the State will require an additional 2 – 3 weeks for the Attorney General review.

Ms. Esterberg is on the October 19, 2017 agenda of the Traffic Control Committee (TCC) to present the project and obtain a decision from the TCC relative to significance. NPT attendance is not required at this time. NPT requested that their Traffic Engineering consultant be in attendance to hear the discussion first hand.

NPT asked if the 10 year plan was the appropriate document to review for Department projects concurrent during their proposed construction period. The Department acknowledged that it is the correct document with the addition of Department 2018 and 2019 pavement preservation program which is available on the Department website.

The next meeting on November 21, 2017 during the Thanksgiving week will remain as scheduled but can be shifted if necessary.

Submitted by:

Lennart Suther  
Utilities Engineer

LDS/lds

NOTED BY: MAE, MAP

cc: Attendees, Christopher Waszczuk, William Cass, Philip Beaulieu, James McMahon, Douglas King, Richard Radwanski, Brian Schutt, Alan Hanscom, Charles Schmidt, Shelley Winters