

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

CONFERENCE REPORT

PROJECT: Northern Pass Transmission

DATE OF CONFERENCE: July 18, 2017

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: 7 Hazen B34 203 Piscataqua River Conference Room

ATTENDED BY: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bill Cass – Assistant Commissioner
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
Alan Hanscom – District 3 Maintenance Engineer
James McMahon – District 1 Assistant District Engineer

NORTHERN PASS TRANSMISSION

Jerry Fortier – NPT Project Manager, Eversource Energy
Lynn Farrington – Louis Berger
Mark Hodgdon – Hodgdon Law
Sam Johnson – Burns & McDonnell Engineering
Lance Clute – PAR Electric
Tom Henaghan - SGC
Tom Doyle – SGC
Nick Strater – Brierley Associates
Brian Henebry – Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP
Matthew Mahon – PAR Electric
Oscar – PAR Electric

SUBJECT: Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) Application Process and Review of NHDOT Comments to Exception Requests

NOTES ON CONFERENCE:

See attached Agenda.

The NPT testimony at the SEC Judiciary Hearings is expected to be completed in the next 30 days with the Hearings ending in September 2017. The Construction and Environmental panels are complete.

NPT requested to meet weekly to review Department comments to Exception Requests as the goal is to be under construction by the first quarter of 2018. Mr. Rodrigue replied that the Department cannot commit to weekly meetings due to the Department's busy season for Operations and Project Development. NHDOT personnel have multiple responsibilities for directing Operations and Project Development staff, reviewing development requests to access NHDOT right-of-way and preparing construction documents for Project Development projects.

Mr. Henebry noted that NPT had questions regarding the limits of NHDOT maintenance jurisdiction on Bear Rock Road and Beecher Falls Road/Old Canaan Road (in 7/19 Exception Request submittal). The Department's [GIS Interactive Maps - NH Roads](#) available through the NHDOT website correctly shows the limits of jurisdiction. *(Follow-up by the Department confirmed that the NHDOT maintains the pavement of Bear Rock Road.)*

Ms. Esterberg presented the Department's process in reviewing the project plans and Exception Request, which includes a plan review of existing conditions, a review of proposed facility's conformance to the NHDOT Utility Accommodation Manual, a field review and review of written documentation provided as justification for an exception.

During the plan review, Department personnel electronically view the site through Google Earth and previous DOT project plans for existing conditions and right-of-way layout. The right-of-way layout in Exception Request #42 does not match that shown on the previous DOT project plans. Mr. Henebry asked about the ability of NPT to obtain previous DOT project plans to perform QC/QA. The Department showed NPT how to find the [GIS Interactive Maps - Project Viewer](#) which shows archived projects along roadway segment which can be viewed by selecting the project and how to find the project plans in [Project Record Plans \(by Project Number\)](#) or [Project Record Plans \(by Town\)](#) which contain scanned project plans on the NHDOT website.

During a field review, Department personnel confirm the existing conditions and review individual sites where an exception is requested. It was identified that several Exception Request locations, had existing facilities that were incorrectly shown/described or not shown on the plans.

Ms. Esterberg noted that these errors make Department personnel wonder about the accuracy of existing facilities and the right-of-way throughout the entire route. Mr. Rodrigue stressed that Highway Maintenance and Design Services personnel have been told to make NPT review a priority but errors and inaccuracies are making the review take longer and diverting resources from personnel's normal job responsibilities hinders highway maintenance and project development activities.

NPT acknowledge that existing facilities information had been received from the Town of Plymouth and they were working through the design issues with the Town. Exception requests within the Town of Plymouth will be resubmitted with updated information and design.

The Department's comments to those Group 1 and Group 2 Exception Requests that were rejected and are to be resubmitted to address comments were reviewed.

NPT submitted a typical section showing that a cover of 8.2' or greater over a pipe or structure provides the necessary clearances to construct the conduit system under the roadway structural section and above the pipe or structure. Design Services will review the typical for conformance with the Department's requirements.

Several rejections were related to incorrect right-of-way shown on the plans with the NHDOT understanding that additional right-of-way exists which provides additional area to construct the conduit system outside the pavement. NPT will obtain updated information from the NHDOT project plans and

review the right-of-way and resubmit with updated right-of-way, revised design or additional written justification for an exception.

At several locations, the plans showed conflicts with existing facilities without resolution to the conflict. NPT will resubmit updated plans showing the proposed work without a conflict or a proposed resolution to the conflict.

At a couple locations, NPT noted they can incorporate the Department's suggested revisions and will resubmit.

A draft of the Transportation Management Plan (TMP) was submitted, but was address to the wrong individual at the Department. The TMP will be resubmitted addressed to Keith Cota, Chief Project Manager through Ms. Esterberg. Ms. Esterberg will be meeting with the Transportation Management Committee to discuss the process for submittal of the TMP for the Northern Pass Transmission project on Thursday (7/20).

Future meetings will be scheduled as needed.

Submitted by:

Lennart Suther
Utilities Engineer

LDS/lds

NOTED BY: MAE, MAP

cc: Attendees, Christopher Waszczuk, Douglas King, Richard Radwanski, Brian Schutt, James McMahon, Charles Schmidt, Shelley Winters