



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Extension of Scoping Period for the Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is reopening the public scoping period for the Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (DOE/EIS-0463), in anticipation of alternative route information being provided by Northern Pass. DOE will determine the close of the scoping period once the additional routing information is received. DOE will provide at least 45 days for public review and scoping comments on any such routing information. The reopened public scoping period started with publication of such notice in the Federal Register on June 15, 2011 and will remain open until DOE provides further notice of its closing.

Comments on the scope of the EIS and requests to be added to the document mailing list should be addressed to: Brian Mills, Senior Planning Advisor, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20585; by electronic mail to Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov; or by facsimile to (202) 586-8008.

For further information on DOE's proposed action, contact Brian Mills by one of the methods listed above, or at (202) 586-8267. For general information on the DOE NEPA process contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC-54), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585; by electronic mail to askNEPA@hq.doe.gov; or by facsimile to (202) 586-7031; by phone at (202) 586-4600 or leave a message at 800-472-2756.

For information on the Forest Service's role as a cooperating agency, contact Tiffany Benna by electronic mail at tbenna@fs.fed.us; by phone at (603) 536-6241; by facsimile at (603) 536-3695; or by mail at 71 White Mountain Drive, Campton, NH, 03223. For information on the Army Corps of Engineers' permit process, contact Erika Mark by electronic mail at Erika.L.Mark@usace.army.mil; by phone at (978) 318-8250; or by mail at 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA, 01742. For information on the EPA role in the EIS, contact Timothy Timmermann by electronic mail at Timmermann.timothy@epa.gov; by phone at (617) 918-1025; or by mail at 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, Boston, MA 02109-3912. Information on the EIS also is available at DOE's website for the proposed action at <http://www.northernpasseis.us>.

Supplemental Information: On February 11, 2011, DOE announced in the Federal Register (76 FR 7828) its intention to prepare an EIS to assess the potential environmental impacts from its proposed action of granting a Presidential Permit to Northern Pass Transmission, LLC, to construct, operate, maintain and connect a new electric transmission line across the US-Canada border in northern New Hampshire. The EIS will address the potential environmental impacts from the proposed action, no action and the range of reasonable alternatives. The U.S. Forest Service, White Mountain National Forest, The Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1, are cooperating agencies. DOE held seven public scoping meetings from March 14 to 20, 2011, in New Hampshire. The public scoping period closed on April 12, 2011. On April 15, 2011, DOE reopened the public scoping period until June 14, 2011 in response to public requests and to ensure that the public had ample opportunity to provide comments (76 FR 21338). On April 12, 2011, Northern Pass submitted scoping comments stating that it was working to identify additional routing alternatives in the northern portion of the proposed route (the area within approximately 40 miles of the U.S.-Canada border). Northern Pass has not yet provided additional routing alternatives to DOE, but in anticipation of this information, DOE is reopening the public scoping period for an indefinite period. DOE will determine the close of the scoping period once any additional routing information is received from Northern Pass. DOE will announce in the Federal Register any additional proposed routing alternatives submitted by Northern Pass, the locations, dates, and times of any additional scoping meetings, as well as the end of the scoping period. The scoping period will close no sooner than 45 days after DOE publishes the above notice in the Federal Register.