STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

May 29, 2018 - 9:00 a.m. 49 Donovan Street Concord, New Hampshire

{Electronically filed with SEC 06-11-18}

SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-04 IN RE:

Application of Public Service of New Hampshire

d/b/a Eversource

Energy for Certificate of Site and Facility

(Hearing and Deliberations)

PRESENT FOR SUBCOMMITTEE/SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:

Patricia Weathersby Public Member

(Presiding Officer)

Dir. David Shulock

Christopher Way Susan Duprey

Public Utilities Comm. Dir. Elizabeth Muzzey
Charles Schmidt, Admin.

Div. of Hist. Resources
Dept. of Transportation
Div. of Footomic Dev. Div. of Economic Dev.

Public Member

ALSO PRESENT FOR THE SEC:

Michael J. Iacopino, Esq. Counsel for SEC (Brennan, Caron, Lenehan & Iacopino)

Pamela G. Monroe, SEC Administrator

(No appearances taken)

COURT REPORTER: Cynthia Foster, LCR No. 14

APPEARANCES:

Reptg. Counsel for the Applicant:

Barry Needleman, Esq. (McLane Middleton)

Reptg. Counsel for the Public:

Christopher G. Aslin Asst. Atty. General N.H. Department of Justice

Reptg. Town of Durham:

Douglas Patch, Esq. (Orr & Reno)

Reptg. University of New Hampshire and Town of Durham:

Douglas L. Patch, Esq. (Orr & Reno)

Reptg. Conservation Law Foundation:

Tom Irwin, Esq.

Reptg. Durham Historic Assocation:

Nancy Sandberg

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1 PROCEEDINGS

[Upon arrival of all Subcommittee members, at 9:00 a.m. the Subcommittee members held a conference with SEC Counsel.]

(Deliberations commenced at 9:20 a.m.)

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Good morning. Welcome to this public meeting of the Subcommittee of the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee. This Subcommittee presides over the Application of Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility. It's Docket 2015-04.

Our primary purpose for meeting today is to discuss two pending requests. One from the Town of Durham and the University of New Hampshire to hire a horizontal directional drilling expert, and the other from the Conservation Law Foundation to address the Department of Environmental Services' recommendations as part of the adjudicatory process.

I'm Patricia Weathersby. I'm the public

member on the Subcommittee and the Chairman for 1 at least today, and I'd ask the other 2 Subcommittee members to introduce themselves, 3 4 please. Starting with Ms. Duprey. 5 MS. DUPREY: Susan Duprey. Public member. 6 MR. WAY: I'm Christopher Way from the 7 Department of Business and Economic Affairs. MR. SCHMIDT: I'm Chuck Schmidt from New 8 9 Hampshire Department of Transportation. 10 MR. SHULOCK: David Shulock from the Public Utilities Commission. 11 12 DIR. MUZZEY: Elizabeth Muzzey from the 13 Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. 14 PRESIDING OFFICE WEATHERSBY: And sitting 15 to my right. 16 MR. IACOPINO: Mike Iacopino, counsel to 17 the Committee. 18 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Another 19 critical person to know is Pam Monroe. She's our Administrator for the Site Evaluation 20 21 Committee. 22 For the convenience of everyone present, 23 I'm going to review some of the relevant history 24 of this docket.

On April 12th, 2016, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy applied to the Site Evaluation Committee to construct a new 115 kV electric transmission line, approximately 12.9 miles in length between existing substations in Madbury and in Portsmouth.

On February 28th, 2018, New Hampshire

Department of Environmental Services issued a

final decision on parts of the Application

related to the Wetlands Permit, Alteration of

Terrain Permit 41, Water Quality Certificate and

Shoreland Permit.

In addition to the conditions applicable to these permits DES recommended the Subcommittee to consider having the Applicant conduct a more thorough evaluation of the horizontal directional drilling, HDD method for installing cable under Little Bay and a trial jet plow run without cable in Little Bay.

DES further recommended the Subcommittee to require the Applicant to submit the HDD evaluation to the DES Watershed Management

Bureau and the Committee at least 90 days prior

to construction of the project in Little Bay.

As to a trial jet plow, DES recommended the Subcommittee to require the Applicant to submit a jet plow trial plan for DES approval at least 90 dates prior to conducting the trial and also a report summarizing the jet plow trial to DES and the Committee at least 90 days prior to the proposed cable installation.

DES further indicated that upon receipt and review of the reports, it would provide a recommendation to the Applicant and to the Committee.

On March 16th, 2018, the Town of Durham and the University of New Hampshire filed a partially assented to motion requesting the Subcommittee hire an HDD expert. The Applicant filed a partial objection to the Town of Durham and UNH's request on March 26th, 2018.

On March 21, 2018, the Conservation Law Foundation filed a partially assented to motion requesting the Subcommittee to address DES's recommendations as part of the adjudicatory process. The Applicant objected to this request on March 29, 2018.

On March 26th, 2018, Counsel for the Public responded to the Conservation Law Foundation's Town of Durham and University of New Hampshire's request. By order and notice dated April 26th, 2018, a hearing on pending motions was scheduled in this docket. Subject to the Subcommittee's review today, the following requests are: partially assented to motion requesting the Subcommittee to hire an HDD expert that was filed by the Town of Durham and UNH, and the partially assented to motion requesting the Subcommittee to address DES's recommendations as part of the adjudicatory process that was filed by CLF.

We received and reviewed the pleadings filed by the parties. It would be fair to allow the parties to make statements addressing their positions. I would ask the parties, however, in the interest of judicial economy to limit their statements to the arguments that have not already been raised in their pleadings.

Do the Town of Durham and UNH wish to add anything that they believe the SEC should consider?

MR. PATCH: Yes. Good morning. My name is Doug Patch. I'm with the law firm of Orr & Reno, and I represent Durham and UNH. With me at the table is Todd Selig who is the town administrator in Durham, Matt O'Keefe who is with UNH and Matt Dacey from GeoInsight. So would you like me to do that now?

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Yes, please.

MR. PATCH: Thank you. There are just a couple of points that we would like to make in addition to what we put in our motion.

In its recommendation to the Committee, in February DES had recommended a much more thorough evaluation of the HDD alternative than what Eversource has done, characterizing their effort as a relatively brief explanation as to why HDD was not selected, and DES went on to say that Eversource did not provide sufficient information to support their conclusion.

DES also provided some very specific direction on what should be a part of the HDD evaluation that they recommended. The reason DES made these recommendations is because they found that the jet plow technique will result in

hundreds of cubic yards of sediment being temporarily suspended in the water column and deposited elsewhere in Little Bay.

DES also noted that this technique, jet plowing, has never been done in New Hampshire. HDD is an alternative that has been done in at least two instances in the Seacoast area of the state, both pertaining to the Granite State Gas transmission line, one of which was reviewed by this Committee in Docket 2014-01, and that involved HDD under the Squamscott River between Exeter and Stratham. The other was reviewed by the PUC in Docket DG 16-471, and that involved HDD under Pomeroy Cove and the Piscataqua River in Dover.

As a result of the DES review and recommendation, Eversource is now trying to make up for what was a superficial review of the HDD alternative. What Eversource is asking you to approve is what they already have which is an opportunity to rebut the recommendation. They clearly do not want to do HDD. If you look at their response to our motion, particularly paragraph 16, what they are proposing to do in

response to the DES recommendation is to file Rebuttal Testimony. Let's be realistic about this. All they want is to rebut what DES and others have said in this docket. They want to beef up their arguments as to why this should not be done.

Public Counsel in their response to our motion says that they take no position on whether the Subcommittee should exercise its authority to hire an expert, but they do say that you have the clear authority to do so. Public Counsel says that they intend to have their expert witness provide, and I quote, "generalized information on the HDD alternative," end quote, but we think this falls short of what DES had recommended.

Public Counsel supports the development of a full and complete record on HDD alternatives, and the opportunity for discovery in a Technical Session on any new testimony.

We think it's critical for the SEC to exercise the authority you clearly have under the law RSA 162-H:10, V to hire your own independent expert to do an analysis of the

issue. We think this is the ideal situation for you to do this. We already know how Eversource feels about the option. What you need to know and the public has a right to know is what an independent expert would have to say about all of the issues DES raises. We believe that the legislature would not have given you this authority unless they intended for you to exercise it.

The Town has already investigated significant amounts of money in this proceeding. Unlike the Applicant, it does not have unlimited resources. Part of why it has had to invest so much in the proceeding is because it has taken a long time to get through the docket, in large part because the Applicant has had to supplement its Application and its studies because arguably at least they were not done thoroughly to begin with.

In terms of any delays in the schedule, we would point out that we're already three years past the time when Eversource first notified you in April of 2015 of the public information session required before filing the Application,

and this Committee in its April 6, 2018, order suspending the statutory time frame said that the time frame for issuing a written order has been suspended until April 1st of 2019. So there's really plenty of time to hire an expert and have the testimony submitted subject to discovery in a Technical Session. And as that order said, this Project, quote, "implicates important environmental concerns that will require additional time for investigation and discovery," end quote.

In their objection, Eversource tries to argue that our motion is an improper effort to appeal the DES ruling. We think that's just wrong. As soon as we saw what DES said about this issue, we filed the motion. We worked through the process like everyone else, and we waited patiently for the DES recommendation. The DES recommendation is before you for review as part of this process, and we are appealing to you to exercise an authority that you have under the law to ensure that a thorough evaluation of the HDD alternative is done.

Eversource tries to argue that they were

already in the process of conducting a further evaluation of the issues associated with HDD. They certainly never said that until after the DES recommendation came out, and as they freely admit in their objection to our motion, what they're conducting is no independent evaluation. It is putting together a rebuttal with all of the reasons why this should not be done. It has nothing to do with the kind of independent evaluation we think the Committee and everyone involved and particularly members of the public should have.

They try to argue that DES rejected the need for analysis of HDD when the language of the DES recommendation, we think, is very clear. This is an issue that needs more study and not more argument from Eversource. The DES analysis described in considerable detail the potential problems with the jet plow method for burying the cable. That is what Eversource is ignoring when they make their arguments against our motion.

So we implore you to use your authority that you have under the law to ensure that a

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thorough independent review of HDD is done. We urge to you remember that Little Bay is a priceless and fragile natural resource that should be protected against adverse impacts. We also urge you to remember that DES notes the impact that jet plowing is likely to have on this natural resource, and we urge you to remember that HDD could potentially eliminate many of the negative impacts to Little Bay that the project is likely to bring.

We're not asking you to hire someone who will say that HDD is the preferred alternative.

We are asking you to hire someone with expertise who will give you a thorough and independent review of HDD as an alternative. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Does the Conservation Law Foundation wish to add anything?

MR. IRVIN: Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the Committee, my name is Tom Irwin. I represent the Conservation Law Foundation.

We believe the recommendations of DES in its February 28th letter are significant. The recommendations related to HDD further

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evaluation related to a jet plow trial run underscore the importance of Little Bay and the need to protect it. They underscore the complexity of the project as it relates to Little Bay and the conditions there, and the recommendations are by no means offhand recommendations from the agency. They are detailed, thorough, and well-conceived, making note that, as Attorney Patch referenced, that the Applicant with respect to HDD has not provided sufficient information and that a further HDD analysis would require an assessment of crossing the entire Little Bay, a portion of Little Bay, those portions where only jet, hand jetting would take place, engaging in an detailed evaluation of water quality impacts, a detailed evaluation of costs and feasibility.

We similarly believe that the jet plow trial run is critical for ground truthing the dispersal of sediments that have been modeled so far to ensure that modeling is accurate and to prevent the adverse impacts that would result from the dispersement of sediment within the estuary.

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So we strongly support DES's recommendations and urge the Site Evaluation Committee to take them up, but we urge that you take them up with certain modifications. respect to horizontal directional drilling, the recommendation could be interpreted as requiring an HDD evaluation as a post-certificate condition. We urge that the Committee require this evaluation to take place up front as part of the adjudicatory process to enable all the parties to this docket and the public to have a clear understanding of feasibility and potential benefits or downsides of HDD in relation to jet plowing and to ensure that the Site Evaluation Committee has all the information that it needs to render a decision whether or not to grant a certificate and to render that decision based on a specific technology, jet plowing or HDD.

We agree that the Town of Durham's motion for the SEC to retain a consultant would be an important element of this, but, regardless, we think that what DES has laid out at the very least requiring the Applicant to develop a further analysis, not as part of a rebuttal

testimony, but to provide a further analysis for DES review is critical.

Similarly, we believe a jet plow trial run will provide crucial information to benefit the parties to this proceeding and ultimately the Committee in its decision making. You know, one practical element that we've raised in our motion is if the Committee were to determine that HDD is the preferred alternative, obviously we would request that a jet plow trial run not be conducted because there would be impacts associated with that trial run alone.

so DES has provided important detailed recommendations that we urge the Committee to follow with the modifications I've described. Eversource has argued that our motion is somehow an appeal, a premature, inappropriate appeal of DES's decision or recommended approval. This is simply not the case. CLF's motion is about asking the SEC to exercise its authority to ensure that it has the information it needs as part of this process prior to reaching a determination fully consistent with one of the stated purposes of the SEC's governing statute,

RSA 162-H, which is to provide full and timely consideration of environmental consequences. So with that, I have nothing to add. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Thank you.

Before getting to Counsel for the Public, are
there other Intervenors in this docket that
would like to comment on these motions?

(No verbal response)

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Hearing none, Counsel for the Public, Attorney Aslin, would you like to address this?

MR. ASLIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Very briefly, my name is Chris Aslin. For those I haven't met before, I'm from the New Hampshire Attorney General's office, and I'm designated as Counsel for the Public for this proceeding.

Counsel for the Public's position is outlined in the response that we filed to both motions. To add to that, I think the only thing I need to supplement is with regard to our expectation from the expert that we hired for reviewing of the Little Bay crossing, we do plan to file Supplemental Testimony that will address the feasibility of HDD as an option, both across

the entire stretch of the bay and as a partial stretch as recommended by DES.

To Durham's point, Attorney Patch, that may not be as fulsome a review as Durham is looking for because our experts are not designing the project. They can only comment on the general feasibility and the kind of plusses and minuses of using HDD versus jet plow techniques. It's not within their capacity or the scope of their position or their role in this project to actually design something and comment on the specific design.

So at this point, there is no design for an HDD alternative in the record on which my experts could comment, but they will be supplementing their testimony with general information about feasibility and the risks and benefits of those different approaches.

Other than that, I think my response is in the filed response so nothing further needs to be added. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Thank you. Does the Applicant wish to add anything to its objection?

MR. NEEDLEMAN: Yes. Thank you, Madam
Chair. Good morning. My name is Barry
Needleman. I represent the Applicant in this
matter and appreciate the chance to make a
number of points in connection with this.

First of all, I think lost in all of these motions are some simple facts regarding the DES approval which is that after a long period of time and with very significant input from these other parties who have made these motions, the DES issued a permit approving the crossing of Little Bay using the jet plow technology with certain conditions.

At the same time, DES suggested to this

Committee that if it was going to issue a

certificate that it might require additional

information on HDD, and as I'll explain in a

minute, none of that was a prerequisite in the

DES approvals, and I think that these motions

essentially lose sight of that.

Speaking first to Durham's motion, in a sense I think that that motion is moot at this point, and the reason that I say that is because the motions were filed in late March, and then

on April 6th the Committee issued a procedural schedule. And when you look at the Prayer for Relief in the Durham motion, it asks in Prayer A that this Committee hire its own expert, and in Prayer B it says in the alternative that it require the Applicant to provide additional information as is specified in the DES approval.

And in the April 6th procedural schedule that's exactly what this Committee did. It ordered the Applicant to provide additional Supplemental Testimony on HDD including a report on July 1st that would answer the questions raised in the DES permits and then to make those experts available for a technical session which is going to happen on July 10th.

So we argued against that in the procedural schedule, but the Committee overruled it and required it presumably pursuant to these motions. So in a sense we have already accomplished what these parties seek to accomplish by introducing that additional information into the record.

Setting that aside for a moment and dealing with some of the other points, I would note for

the Committee that we have significant concerns about the timeliness of this motion. From the standpoint of the Applicants and clearly from the standpoint of the record, HDD is nothing new to this project. When we filed our Application over two years ago, we specifically mentioned that we evaluated and did not select HDD. recognized that people think enough information was not provided on that point and that's being addressed, but, nevertheless, this has been a part of the case from the beginning. When you look at the Supplemental Testimony filed by the opposing parties, they raised HDD in their Supplemental Testimony. Mr. Selig from Durham raised HDD. During the Technical Sessions our witnesses were questioned about HDD. point being, there's nothing new about this, and if at any time the parties felt that enough information wasn't available, they could have come to the Committee long ago and raised this There's nothing about the DES approval issue. that suddenly put HDD into this case when it wasn't present before. So to raise it now and ask for the kind of relief that they're asking

for where a Committee expert be hired, it throws a wrench into these proceedings and would certainly cause delay that we think at this point is just unfair and certainly untimely.

And then, again, with respect to hiring the expert, at this point given what the Committee has required of the Applicant with the July 1st disclosures and Technical Sessions, hiring yet another expert would not only be duplicative and inefficient, but at this point it would also, as I said before, cause that delay. And to have another party just become involved and do the same work we don't think would provide any benefit to the process.

Now, Durham says that it would be an independent evaluation. I don't think there has been a single docket that this Committee has ever been involved with that hasn't involved a multitude of contentious issues, and in every one of those the Committee looks at the information provided by the Applicant, it hears the information provided by the opponents, it looks at the conditions suggested by the applicable state agencies, and it makes a

determination. I personally can't recall a time when the Committee hired its own expert, and I think Durham had to point back to a case 30 years ago for that. So in that sense, it's not only duplicative, but I think it's extraordinary relief that isn't merited for any reason in this context. And so for those reasons, we would ask that the Durham motion be denied.

Let me turn briefly to the CLF motion because it involves issues that are separate from the Durham motion. CLF is asking that in addition to the additional HDD information that a sequence of events occur where the Applicant now has to jump through additional hurdles of first ruling out HDD and then doing additional jet plow work before we can even get to the final hearings.

Again, what CLF is doing is ignoring the DES determination which has already been made and essentially rejected that approach, and I think it's very important for the Committee to focus on the materials that we provided that show the course of dealing here. These parties interacted extensively with DES prior to the

time that DES issued its approval. Durham submitted information to DES on several occasions. Durham met with DES. Durham asked DES to include in the final permit the precise conditions here that Durham is now asking this Committee to include which would be a jet plow run beforehand and other similar conditions. DES accepted many recommendations from Durham and its experts, and it rejected some of those recommendations.

And so when we say that this is akin to essentially appealing the DES permit, that's precisely what we mean. These parties had a full opportunity to let their positions be known with respect to DES, and DES considered their positions and then issued the approval subject to that, and so now these parties are here saying well, they would like you to overrule DES in that respect.

I would call your attention to paragraph 9 of Durham's motion. In that motion, Durham specifically says, quote, "The Committee is to give deference to proposed agency terms and conditions." Well, that's the way it's always

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been and we agree with that point, but both
Durham and CLF seem to want to have it both
ways. They want you to give deference to the
conditions that DES has issued that they agree
with, but then when they disagree, they don't
want you to give deference and they want you to
overrule them, and that's simply not appropriate
in this context.

And then, finally, I want to focus in on the argument we made about why this is akin to a backdoor appeal, and the reason that we say that is because any party in any SEC proceeding is always entitled to ask that this Committee overrule agency conditions, add to agency conditions. I think that that happens regularly. I think Applicants have done it, other parties have done it, but it's only appropriate in the context of the final hearing. It's not appropriate at this point. And the reason that I say that is because you need to be at the final hearing where you have all the evidence and information being presented to you so you can make an informed decision about whether or not to overrule and do something

different with respect to those conditions, and
I'm going to give you some concrete examples.

In this docket, Counsel for the Public's expert on this issue, ESS, has said in their Prefiled Testimony that, quote, "for the most part, the Applicant has adequately characterized the potential environmental impacts of the work associated with the installation of the submarine cables in Little Bay," close quote, and, quote, "The potential impacts identified are generally consistent with the type and extent of impacts ESS has experienced on other submarine crossing projects," close quote.

So Counsel for the Public's own technical expert here actually supports the DES conclusion on the permits about the crossing of Little Bay, and it undercuts the argument that you should rule against DES and require something more at this point.

The other thing which we recently learned in Technical Sessions just a week or so ago and which you would hear at the final hearing is that Counsel for the Public's expert, ESS, itself has been involved in multiple projects in

other jurisdictions where jet plow technology has been used, and I asked them specifically, have there been trial runs required in those other projects, and they said yes, there have been, and they told me that in each case the trial runs were required in a relatively brief period of time right before the final run was required.

So again, that sort of information which would come directly from Counsel for the Public's own expert would undercut the arguments here that you should be overruling DES at this point. And there's more information like that. But again, if you jump to a premature decision now about overruling DES, and you don't hear the full record on that, then it's going to be too late to consider that sort of information.

And finally, I want to point out that with respect to Counsel for the Public noted and I would note as well that in the CLF motion in their sequencing they say that the Committee should focus on the HDD and require it if it's technically feasible or the environmental impacts are less than jet plow.

Again, that doesn't provide a complete picture because, for example, the Committee would not have the benefit of understanding what the costs of jet plow versus HDD are which you will once we submit the supplemental information on July 1st. The Committee will have absolutely no understanding of what the impact of HDD would be on abutters on either side of the bay. You wouldn't have any information about the other types of impacts associated with it. So you would essentially be making this decision in a vacuum.

So for all those reasons, we ask that the Committee reject both the Durham motion and the CLF motion. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Thank you. Would Committee members have any questions for the Applicant or the movants?

I'll start us off. Attorney Needleman, the HDD expert testimony that you will be filing, will that include, could you give me a sense of the breadth of that. Will that include a design of that alternative, environmental impacts of that, the cost? How comprehensive is the

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information that you plan on submitting?

MR. NEEDLEMAN: We plan to submit Prefiled Testimony from several witnesses. That testimony will be accompanied by a report. Collectively, the testimony and the report will address topics like the relative costs of HDD versus jet plow, the nature of the design and technical constraints associated with HDD, issues like what would it require in terms of bringing equipment to the site for HDD, what would the laydown areas on both the Durham and Newington side have to look like, what would the machinery look like, what would the impacts on abutters look like in terms of noise and other types of impacts. It would talk about the environmental impacts of HDD, potential issues such as frackouts, things like that. It would talk about the mechanics of doing something like this.

So we understood the direction from the Committee to be that it wanted a comprehensive set of information about HDD, and that's what we're preparing and what we intend to file.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Does the nature of that evaluation comport with what DES requested?

MR. NEEDLEMAN: Yes, we believe so. We were informed both by what DES requested and the draft permit and what the Committee instructed us to do in the April 6th order.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Attorney
Aslin? Counsel for the Public, if you could
respond similarly with regard to your experts
concerning this comprehensive nature of the HDD
testimony they may be giving us.

MR. ASLIN: Certainly. I anticipate that ESS will provide a response to the specifics that DES has set out in its recommendations in the letter from February. It will probably not include some of the specifics that Attorney Needleman was outlining in terms of potential laydown areas and construction mechanics, simply because ESS is reviewing and commenting rather than designing the project.

But it has extensive experience in this type of work and will be providing sort of more generalized concepts of how HDD would have to be set up, what kind of impacts there would be and

what benefits it would have in relationship to the jet plow approach.

So I would say it wouldn't be as fulsome a review as DES had requested because it's not our project, but our experts will be trying to address each of the issues that DES has raised.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Am I correct that your experts will also be reviewing the information provided by the Applicant and commenting on that information?

MR. ASLIN: Yes, and that would be expected. One question would be timing. We could file our Supplemental Testimony on HDD at the same time as the Applicant or we could wait and file it as part of our general Supplemental Testimony which is due I think 20 days later on July 20th. The difference being that if Counsel for the Public's expert files on July 1st they could also be available for Technical Sessions on July 10th, whereas if it's just in the generalized Supplemental Testimony there would be no Technical Sessions on that testimony.

MR. NEEDLEMAN: Madam Chair, if I might.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Yes.

1	MR. NEEDLEMAN: The simultaneous filing is
2	certainly not, I think, considered in the order,
3	but to the extent that Counsel for the Public is
4	willing to file on July 1st we would certainly
5	appreciate it and appreciate the chance to be
6	able to ask some questions as well in Technical
7	Session.
8	MR. IACOPINO: Do you guys see that as we
9	leave a hole in the procedural schedule there?
10	Is that the issue when it comes to the HDD
11	information? We didn't accommodate for you to
12	have experts in there, Mr. Aslin. Correct?
13	MR. ASLIN: Yes. I think it was
14	anticipated that yes, that this group's
15	Supplemental Testimony filed in the regular
16	course would address some of these issues, but
17	we're certainly willing and able to do it
18	earlier if it is considered more effective by
19	the Committee.
20	MR. IACOPINO: That way we would have the
21	Technical Sessions with both sets of experts.
22	MR. ASLIN: Yes.
23	MR. IACOPINO: This is just procedural. Do

any of the parties that are here, I mean, the

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procedural order is a procedural order. Do any of the parties here object to that process where we would have both sets of at least folks who have identified that they're going to present experts on HDD at the Technical Session at the same time? Maybe not together but on the same day?

MR. PATCH: Well, I guess the only thing I would say is that Durham and UNH stand by their request that there would be an independent expert that would fully address all of the issues, but that having been said, certainly one of the points that we made in our motion was the need for further discovery at a Technical Session. So whatever the Committee decides, we think that's an important issue and modifications to the schedule that would accommodate that we think would be helpful.

MR. IACOPINO: Anybody else?

MR. IRWIN: I have nothing to add to what Attorney Patch just stated. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Mr. Way?

MR. WAY: Counselor Needleman and Counselor Aslin, having had the experience of previous

projects, and I'm recalling back to the voluminous amount of information that we had on horizontal direct drilling, and given what you said to Ms. Weathersby, is that something we could likely expect as we go through this process, that we're going to have a similar amount of information coming back to us that we had before so that we can make a decision? It sounds like that's what's going to happen.

MR. NEEDLEMAN: Well, certainly from our perspective, Mr. Way, I think that what we're preparing and what we intend to provide to you will be a concise but substantial amount of information on this specific topic so that our hope is you will have everything you need to understand this issue.

MR. ASLIN: And I would say from Counsel for the Public's perspective, I don't anticipate that ESS group would file a report specific to horizontal directional drilling but rather testimony that discusses the issues raised by DES. So it may not be as complete as some of the information that has been seen in other dockets but sounds like the Applicant will be

1 attempting to do that.

MR. WAY: Thank you.

MR. IACOPINO: I have one question for Mr. Patch. Mr. Patch, Mr. Aslin raises the point that his expert isn't designing the project, and if the Committee were inclined to hire an expert, that expert wouldn't be designing the project either. What is it that you anticipate that an HDD expert hired by the Committee would do under those circumstances?

MR. PATCH: Well, I understood particularly from the response that Public Counsel filed and I think he reiterated today that the kind of testimony that would be offered and I think he's asked for \$13,000 more to supplement what's already been paid to them, but that it would be, quote, unquote, "general information." And we think the analysis in order to do what DES has recommended is more than general information.

We think it requires somebody with specific expertise to HDD drilling which I'm not sure Public Counsel's expert has that kind of specific expertise. I think he's got some familiarity with it, but I'm not sure he's got

the kind of expertise that we think would be valuable to the Committee.

So we just think that's going to be a less comprehensive review, and I think he's basically said that this morning than, what we think the Committee and the public should have before it.

MR. WAY: So I heard a lot of "I think" and "I believe" and the word "general." Counselor Aslin, your expert, how do you respond to that? From what I understand, your expert has done, has had previous experience in this field and would be considered an expert. What is the general information that will come out of this? Because I understand what Mr. Iacopino is saying is that anybody we hire here is not going to actually do the design. So now we're quibbling about what the word "general" means. And I don't mean the word "quibble." I apologize on that. But we're debating on what the word "general" means, and I thinks that's important here. Can you elaborate on that?

MR. ASLIN: I can certainly try. My experts from the ESS group have project design and monitoring experience that includes HDD

drilling, but they are not an HDD drilling firm. That would normally be a subcontract type of work. So they don't perform it themselves, but they are involved with environmental monitoring and design of these kind of projects.

So I think I'm perhaps not going to be as helpful as you would like, but I can just reiterate that there will not be a Technical Report filed by the ESS group on all the intricacies of HDD for this Project, but they will be filing testimony based on their experience with projects that have used HDD drilling in similar locations.

So I think it is somewhere in between what Durham is asking for and what the Committee may be interested in, but it would be more the Applicant's side of the table that would be able to provide the specific detailed information.

MR. WAY: Thank you.

that include HDD.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Ms. Duprey?

MS. DUPREY: Thank you. Mr. Aslin, did you say that ESS has designed HDD projects before?

MR. ASLIN: They have consulted on projects

They are not a technical HDD

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1	firm. They may have other expertise beyond the					
2	individuals that we hired for this Project that					
3	have done HDD, but the experts for this Project					
4	are not the kind of design-on-the-ground people.					
5	They're the more environmental monitoring and					
6	compliance side of it.					
7	MS. DUPREY: So they're familiar with the					
8	effects of HDD?					
9	MR. ASLIN: They are, yes.					
10	MS. DUPREY: Because they monitor it?					
11	MS. ASLIN: Yes, and they've been involved					
12	in many, many projects that have used HDD.					
13	MS. DUPREY: Thank you very much.					
14	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Director					
15	Muzzey?					
16	DIR. MUZZEY: Thank you. And also for the					
17	Counsel for the Public, the experts that you'll					
18	be working with, will they give their general					
19	recommendations in a manner that's site					
20	specific? We know the importance of the					
21	environment of Little Bay. Will they be					
22	addressing that in their comments?					
23	MR. ASLIN: That's my expectation that they					
24	will be directing their comments to this					

1 specific location and this proposed project, and 2 obviously, that includes the specifics of Little 3 Bay's ecological importance. 4 DIR. MUZZEY: Thank you. 5 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Mr. Schmidt? 6 MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Needleman, I know you 7 talked about the laydown areas and specifics in regard to that, but will your report also 8 9 include specifics of the Little Bay itself? The 10 construction? You mentioned frackout, but I 11 wasn't sure if that was a general term in this 12 case or if it was specific to known conditions. MR. NEEDLEMAN: General term. 13 So the 14 expectation is that one of the things the report will cover will be potential environmental facts 15 16 from HDD in this specific location. 17 Thank you. MR. SCHMIDT: 18 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Any further 19 questions from the Committee? Mr. Iacopino? 20 MR. IACOPINO: No. 21 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Okav. 22 there being no further questions or further 23 evidence before this Committee, I think we 24 should begin deliberation -- oh. We have --

1 yes, ma'am? 2 MS. SANDBERG: I am here on behalf of the Durham Historic Association. 3 4 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Could you 5 tell us your name, please? 6 MS. SANDBERG: My name is Nancy Sandberg. I am the curator of the Durham Historical 7 Association Museum. I am speaking on their 8 9 behalf. We would like to say that we feel that 10 Little Bay is a critical historic resource in 11 the Town of Durham and that we believe that an 12 independent evaluation of HDD crossing of Little 13 Bay is very important for your Committee to have 14 that evidence before you, and so we support the Town of Durham and UNH's motion, too. 15 Thank 16 you. 17 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Thank you, 18 Ms. Sandberg. Attorney Irwin? 19 Madam Chair, thank you. Thank MR. IRWIN: 20 you, Committee members. Just very briefly, I 21 did want to respond to the concept that these 22 motions are somehow seeking to overrule DES 23 findings. I think you know in the normal course

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when the Department of Environmental Services

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conveys its recommendations to the Site Evaluation Committee, it's under cover of a letter that's maybe one page long. This is a three-page letter, two and a half pages of which relate to specific recommendations which are essentially an invitation to the Site Evaluation Committee to engage in further analysis, and I just wanted to make sure that lost in this discussion around an independent review that we don't lose the notion of DES having some further role. Since as part of their recommendation they invited the Site Evaluation Committee to require further analysis, they could go back to DES for their further review and feedback. Again, to benefit the Committee. Thank you. PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Thank you have a second to anyone else? Okay. Then let's proceed to deliberations. Would anyone like to begin?

Mr. Way?

MR. WAY: I guess as I was reading this and this goes back to my question, my first question about what we might expect from the proceedings as we go forward and recalling back, and a lot of people weren't there, but recalling back how

much information we had before us from both sides of the equation and that was incredibly helpful.

So I guess my concern is that this might not be necessary which I think looking at the statute is one of the requirements, at least at this point. I'm open to other thoughts, but I see this as something that will be borne out through the process.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Ms. Duprey?

MS. DUPREY: I agree with Mr. Way, and agree with what has just been said, and I would just state that it is the Applicant's job to persuade us on these matters and should they fail to do so that it puts their Application at risk. So the responsibility and the burden is on the Applicant to satisfy this Subcommittee with respect to the technology that it intends to use, the means that it intends to use to cross Little Bay, and the protection of Little Bay. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Mr. Way?

MR. WAY: And I think from what I'm hearing from both sides, and this goes back to my last

question about the definition of general and what the purpose of someone would be from an independent observer. I feel like I'm comfortable with the Counsel for the Public's experts given what they would have to look at. We would not be having someone that would be going through the entire design. They do have experience in monitoring. I'm also comfortable with the experience of the Applicant, and I think it will give us foundation for scrutiny and the appropriate questions will be asked.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: I would agree. I think that the process here will allow for sufficient information for this Committee to make a decision without hiring our own expert. I think between the Applicant's experts who will be asked lots of questions by this Committee and by other parties as to the feasibility of HDD and its impacts, as well as Counsel for the Public's expert who will also undergo a similar -- grilling is too strong a word -- but questioning, that I think that the Committee will have enough information to make some decisions and put in conditions should it decide

1 to approve a certificate.

I think there's no doubt that Little Bay is a critical issue here, probably the critical issue, we'll see as it unfolds, in that a lot of attention and scrutiny will be placed on ensuring that that precious resource isn't damaged, and I think that information will come to light without having the Committee hire its own expert.

MR. SHULOCK: I look forward to receiving the additional information on HDD, and I trust that between the two experts that we'll be hearing from, we'll have sufficient information to make a decision. That decision may be to place some additional conditions and ask for more information about HDD before anything begins. So I think I would deny and then see how things play out in the hearings.

MR. SCHMIDT: I also would agree. I'm looking forward to hearing both sides. I think the comparison of the jet plow to the HDD will enable us to make an educated decision, and I do believe that's up to the Applicant to provide that information.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: I guess I would also just add that if as the hearings unfold we find we have questions that can't be answered or we're uncertain of the answers that we're receiving we can always hire an expert at that time, someone who can provide that information to the Committee. So if it is denied today doesn't mean it's not going to happen ever. It's just right now that we don't, I'm getting the sense we don't see the necessity of hiring one now, but if we find that we do need one later and it will be helpful to the process, that one could be hired in the future. Director Muzzey?

DIR. MUZZEY: I agree with that as well.

That it does seem premature to take the step of the Committee hiring an expert at this point. I greatly appreciate the care that the community surrounding Great Bay has extended to that resource both as a historical resource and a natural resource as well, but it does sound as though we'll be getting a good deal of information, carefully gathered and evaluated information, by July 1st and then again at the

Technical Session. And I am comforted by the fact that we could make the decision as a Subcommittee to hire an expert at a later date as well.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Anything else on HDD?

(No verbal response)

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: We haven't really talked much about the jet plow trial.

Does anyone care to comment on the request to do a trial run?

MS. DUPREY: I guess that I'm prepared to wait and see what the Applicant provides and see if we're satisfied from that information, and if we're not and we decide to request a run, that will delay things, but that's really the Applicant's decision, at least initially.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Mr. Shulock?

MR. SHULOCK: As I understand DES's recommendation, it would be to require that test run as a condition of an order that we issue later so that we're not actually being asked to make that decision now, and I feel comfortable also waiting until we hear from the Applicant

and the other experts as to the relative benefits of the two before considering a condition like that.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: I think what's being asked is that it not wait to be a certificate condition as DES said but to have them do one as part of precertificate issue, should one issue, but no one wants to do it until we decide whether HDD or jet plowing is the appropriate technique so it's, it's kind of a chicken and egg kind of thing.

Mr. Schmidt.

MR. SCHMIDT: I think it's a good idea. I do think we need to get more information on the HDD before we take that step, but I do think it would potentially provide valuable information for the rest of us.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Director Muzzey?

DIR. MUZZEY: I would also add that there may be environmental consequences to performing the trial, and so until we decide which alternative may be appropriate, I would hesitate to run the trial if it wasn't necessary.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Mr. Way? 2 MR. WAY: I agree with everything I've 3 heard. I mean, we've already decided that we want, I wouldn't say we decided, but we've 4 5 suggested that the normal course of events 6 during these proceedings will give us the information we need on horizontal direct 7 drilling versus the other alternative. It would 8 9 seem to make sense that at least we wait until 10 we have that information in and then make that 11 judgment call at that point or condition somewhere down the line. 12 13 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: So you're 14 saying we can always require one later without 15 determining its timing presently. 16 MR. WAY: Exactly. 17 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Any further 18 comments? 19 (No verbal response) 20 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Okav. So 21 we'll have two motions, one at a time. 22 Attorney Patch, do you have a question or 23 comment? 24 MR. PATCH: I have a quick comment.

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Obviously, I'm seeing which way the Committee is going on both of these motions, and I would just want to point out to you that under the schedule you have what is essentially sort of bifurcated There's a couple of hearing days the hearings. end of August. Then there are more that are toward the middle or end of September. I think one thing you could consider would be having the HDD and the jet plowing testimony first in the proceeding, and then there would be a bit of a gap later when you would resume the hearing and that would give you the option at that point of taking up perhaps some of the other things you've talked about. Thank you

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Thank you for that suggestion.

Attorney Needleman, you look like you're dying to speak. Go ahead.

MR. NEEDLEMAN: Thank you. I appreciate it.

I'm not quite sure what that suggestion means, but to the extent that it's suggesting that it might open the door to do any sort of trial run before the hearing's concluded, I

think it's just important for the Committee to understand as a practical matter what a trial run actually means.

It would require, I think, significant input and potential approvals from DES before we could do it. It's not something that could happen at all quickly from what I understand based on our interactions with DES. It is something that I believe is limited by seasons and unless DES gave us a waiver there is a narrow amount of time during the year when we could do something like that. And then there are practical issues associated with mobilizing contractors who need a lot of lead time to be able to go out and do something like that. So my point being that it's not something that happens quickly or easily as a practical matter.

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Thank you for that comment as well.

Unless the Committee has anything, any further questions or comments, I'd entertain a motion on the partially assented to motion requesting the Subcommittee to hire a horizontal directional drilling expert that was filed by

1	the Town of Durham and UNH.						
2	MR. WAY: So moved.						
3	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Is there a						
4	second?						
5	MR. SCHMIDT: Second.						
6	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Is there any						
7	further discussion?						
8	(No verbal response)						
9	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: So your						
10	motion is to deny, just to clarify?						
11	MR. WAY: The motion is to deny. Yes.						
12	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: And that's						
13	your second, correct?						
14	MR. SCHMIDT: Correct.						
15	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: So we have a						
16	motion to deny and a second concerning hiring						
17	the HDD drilling expert. Any further						
18	discussion?						
19	(No verbal response)						
20	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Hearing						
21	none, all in favor say "aye"?						
22	(Multiple members indicating "aye.")						
23	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Opposed?						
24	(No verbal response)						

1	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Unanimous						
2	denial of that motion.						
3	The second motion was the one requesting						
4	the Subcommittee to address DES's recommendation						
5	as part of the adjudicatory process filed by CLF						
6	and that concerned the jet, that was the jet						
7	plow trial as well as the HDD.						
8	MR. SHULOCK: I move we deny.						
9	MS. DUPREY: Second.						
10	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Second by						
11	Ms. Duprey. Is there any further discussion?						
12	(No verbal response)						
13	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: All in favor						
14	of the denial of that motion say "aye"?						
15	(Multiple members indicating "aye.")						
16	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Opposed?						
17	(No verbal response)						
18	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Unanimous						
19	denial of that motion as well.						
20	I don't think we have any further business						
21	this morning. Motion to adjourn?						
22	ADMINISTRATOR MONROE: There's some						
23	procedural motions that are pending, but I don't						
24	think those need to be addressed today. Mr.						

1	Iacopino?
2	MR. IACOPINO: No. They would normally be
3	ruled on by the chair.
4	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Okay.
5	ADMINISTRATOR MONROE: Okay.
6	MR. IACOPINO: In writing.
7	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Then a
8	motion to adjourn?
9	DIR. MUZZEY: So moved.
10	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Director
11	Muzzey moves to adjourn. Seconded by
12	Mr. Schmidt. All in favor?
13	(Multiple members indicating "aye.")
14	PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: We are
15	adjourned. Thank you all.
16	(Hearing adjourned at 10:24 a.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

I, Cynthia Foster, Registered Professional
Reporter and Licensed Court Reporter, duly authorized
to practice Shorthand Court Reporting in the State of
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pages are a true and accurate transcription of my
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Dated at West Lebanon, New Hampshire, this 3rd day of June, 2018.

Cynthia Foster, LCR

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