

1 STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

2 SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

3 October 11, 2018 - 4:05 P.M.
4 N.H. Dept. of Environmental Services
5 Pease Field Office - Pease Tradeport
6 222 International Drive - #175
7 Portsmouth, New Hampshire

8 {Electronically filed with SEC 11/7/18}

9 IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-04
10 Application of Public Service
11 Company of New Hampshire, d/b/a
12 Eversource Energy, for a
13 Certificate of Site and
14 Facility.
15 (Public Statement Hearing)

16 PRESENT FOR SUBCOMMITTEE/SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:

17 Patricia Weathersby	Public Member
18 (Presiding Officer)	
19 David Shulock, Esq.	Public Utilities Commission
20 Elizabeth Muzzey, Dir.	Div. of Historic Resources
21 Charles Schmidt, Admin.	Dept. of Transportation
22 Christopher Way, Dep. Dir.	Div. of Economic Dev.
23 Susan Duprey	Public Member
24 Michael Fitzgerald, Dir.	Dept. of Env. Services

ALSO PRESENT FOR THE SEC:

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

Pamela G. Monroe, SEC Administrator

COURT REPORTER: Susan J. Robidas, LCR No. 44

{SEC 2015-04}[PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARING] {10-11-18}

I N D E X

1		
2		
3		PAGE
4	INTRODUCTION BY PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY:	2
5	PUBLIC COMMENTS BY:	
6	Chris Phillips	12
7	Jennifer Sanders	15
8	Rep. Marjorie Smith	18
9	Lulu Pickering	22
10	Nick Tulloh	24
11	Alexandra Jacuch	27
12	Laura Ring	29
13	Diana Carroll	32
14	Rick Como	36
15	Timothy Ayer	40
16	Malcolm Sandberg	43
17	Mary Margaret Jaques	46
18	Carolyn Singer	48
19	Sally Ford	51
20	Leila Harte	53
21	Greg Miller	55
22	Robert Chaikin	60
23	Francoise Meissner	63
24	Brenda Ryan	67

1	I N D E X (CONT'D)	
2		PAGE
3	Patty Borkland	70
4	Holly Harris	73
5	Robert Raymond	76
6	Nancy Harris	77
7	Peter Davis	80
8	Robert Ryan	81
9	Michael Hoffman	85
10	Ann Hyland Hebert	89
11	Amanda Merrill	93
12	Sharon Brown	96
13	Gail Pare	97
14	NellAnn Hiatt	102
15	Larry Vietas	104
16	Bob Dell Isola	105
17	Robin Mower	107
18	Pamela Pappas-Clarkin	111
19	Dr. James Belanger	113
20	Nancy Menelly Bulkley	117
21	Bahman Sharifipour	119
22	Dudley Dudley	121
23	Catherine Meeking	125
24		

I N D E X (CONT'D)

	PAGE
Rev. Michael Bradley	129
Diane McCann	133
Derick Wilson	134
Susan Richman	136
Sally Ryder	137
John Parsons	142
Dr. Frank Graf	144

P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for coming, and thank you to New Hampshire DES for letting us use this space so we didn't all have to go to Concord for this public comment session.

Welcome to the Public Statement Hearing of the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee. We have just one docket for consideration on today's agenda. It's a Public Statement Hearing of the Application of Public Service Company of New Hampshire, d/b/a Eversource Energy, for a Certificate of Site and Facility, Docket 2015-04, better known as the Seacoast Reliability Project.

Before turning to our agenda, I would ask the Subcommittee Members to introduce themselves, starting with Director Muzzey.

DIR. MUZZEY: Hello. Elizabeth Muzzey, and I'm director of the Division of Historical Resources in the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

MR. WAY: Good evening. I'm

1 Christopher Way. I'm Deputy Director of the
2 Division of Economic Development within the
3 Department of Business and Economic Affairs.

4 MR. SHULOCK: I'm David Shulock, and
5 I'm the general counsel at the New Hampshire
6 Public Utilities Commission.

7 MS. DUPREY: Good evening. I'm
8 Susan Duprey. I'm a public member of the SEC.

9 MR. SCHMIDT: Good evening. I'm
10 Chuck Schmidt. I work for New Hampshire DOT.
11 I'm the administrator of Right-of-way.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: I
13 neglected to introduce myself. I'm Patricia
14 Weathersby. I'm also a public member. And to
15 my right is our counsel, Michael Iacopino.
16 Also with us is our administrator, Pam Monroe,
17 who's waving her arm there. She's the one
18 that if you have any questions or concerns
19 about how things are going tonight, or written
20 comments or whatever, she's our go-to person.

21 We're now going to open the Public
22 Statement Hearing. Oh, I'm sorry. He was
23 going to get introduced later, but I'll
24 introduce him now. We also have Attorney

1 Christopher Aslin from the Attorney General's
2 Office. He's representing the public in this
3 matter.

4 So, for the convenience of everyone
5 present, I'm going to review the relevant
6 history of this docket.

7 It was on April 12th, 2016, Public
8 Service Company of New Hampshire, d/b/a
9 Eversource Energy, applied to the Site
10 Evaluation Committee to construct a new
11 115-kilovolt electric transmission line. It's
12 approximately 12.9 miles in length between
13 existing substations in Madbury and in
14 Portsmouth.

15 The Application was amended on
16 March 29, 2017. Over the course of the docket,
17 the Applicant has also filed various
18 supplements to the information contained in the
19 Application. We also received reports from
20 state agencies with jurisdiction or other
21 regulatory authority over portions of the
22 Application.

23 On February 19th, 2015, the
24 Subcommittee received a letter from the state

1 fire marshal indicating that there was no
2 reason for that agency to be involved in the
3 planning process.

4 On March 10, 2017, the Public
5 Utilities Commission issued an order granting
6 the Applicant's request to construct the
7 transmission line across and over the Oyster
8 River and under Little Bay in the town of
9 Durham and over Pickering Brook and under
10 Little Bay in the town of Newington. That
11 order is on file with the Subcommittee.

12 On June 14th, 2018, the PUC granted
13 the Applicant's petition for seven additional
14 licenses to construct and maintain electric
15 lines, neutral wire, fiberoptic cable over and
16 across public lands owned by the State of New
17 Hampshire in Durham.

18 On August 1st, 2017, the Department
19 of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of
20 Historical Resources, filed a final report with
21 its recommendations and conditions.

22 On November 21st, 2017, the
23 Department of Transportation filed a progress
24 report with the Subcommittee. That report

1 sought additional information from the
2 Applicant. As of today, the DOT has not filed
3 its final report or decision, recommendations
4 or proposed conditions.

5 On February 28th, 2018, the New
6 Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
7 issued a final decision on parts of the
8 Application related to a Wetland permit,
9 Alteration of Terrain Permit, 401 Water Quality
10 Certificate and Shoreland Permit. Each of the
11 DES permits contained a number of conditions.
12 In addition to the conditions applicable to
13 these permits, New Hampshire DES recommended
14 that this Subcommittee consider requiring
15 additional studies and conditions pertaining to
16 the submarine construction in Little Bay.

17 The Attorney General appointed
18 Christopher Aslin for the Counsel as Public in
19 this matter.

20 A number of people and agencies were
21 permitted to intervene in this proceeding. The
22 intervenors are: The Town of Newington, the
23 Town of Durham and UNH jointly, Conservation
24 Law Foundation, Durham Historical Society, the

1 Nature Conservancy, the Durham Residents Group,
2 Helen Frink, Keith Frizzell, Fat Dog Shellfish,
3 the Crowley-Joyce Trust. And the final
4 adjudicatory hearings commenced on August 29,
5 2018.

6 Under New Hampshire Code of
7 Administrative Rules, Site 202.25, members of
8 the public who do not have intervenor status in
9 this proceeding but have an interest in the
10 subject matter should be afforded an
11 opportunity to state their positions. We're
12 here today for a Public Statement Hearing.
13 Notice of this Public Statement Hearing was
14 issued on September 13, 2018. Notice of the
15 schedule with a roster of speakers were issued
16 on October 3rd, 2018, and amended, I think,
17 yesterday or the day before.

18 Each speaker on the roster shall
19 limit his or her statement to three minutes.
20 If there's time remaining, members of the
21 public who did not pre-register will be allowed
22 to provide statements in the order that they
23 sign in. Individuals who do not wish to speak
24 in public may have their statement read by a

1 person of their choice.

2 Two requests: If you prefer to
3 submit a written comment and not speak, or if
4 you have prepared basically a script of what
5 you're saying and would like to provide it to
6 us, that would be appreciated. You can leave
7 it in that green box near Attorney Aslin. That
8 will help our stenographer get your testimony
9 down verbatim. We want to make sure we don't
10 want to miss anything. If you don't have
11 written comments prepared, that's totally fine.

12 I'm going to call the name of the
13 first commenter and also the name of the next
14 two persons to follow. Please get ready to
15 come up when it's your turn. When you make
16 your statement, you will need to speak -- come
17 up to this table right up here. You can sit or
18 stand. Please speak right into the microphone.
19 You have to get really close, uncomfortably
20 close. You do not need to speak for the full
21 three minutes. Indeed, those that follow you
22 would appreciate it if you do not. If you go
23 over the three minutes, we're going to let know
24 and show you a clock telling you you've gone

1 over three, three and a half minutes. That's
2 your signal to wrap it up. If you go beyond
3 four minutes, I will ask you to stop, and if
4 there's time remaining at the end of the
5 evening, you will be allowed to continue. But
6 we do want to ensure that everyone who has
7 signed up will have an opportunity to talk and
8 make their statement tonight.

9 So, that said, our first commenter is
10 Chris Phillips, and he will be followed by
11 Jennifer Sanders and Representative Marjorie
12 Smith.

13 CHRIS PHILLIPS: Thank you. Thanks
14 to the Committee Members and those that have
15 come out this afternoon to comment and also
16 listen about this proposal.

17 My name is Chris Phillips. I'm from
18 Durham, New Hampshire. I'm lucky enough to
19 live in a neighborhood that has access to the
20 Oyster River, and my family and I spend a great
21 deal of time in the Great Bay Estuary. I'm
22 speaking out today firmly opposed to the
23 plowing project in Little Bay.

24 In 2012, I founded Dover Point Oyster

1 Company and successfully grew and sold oysters
2 in Little Bay. I participated as the budding
3 aquaculture industry grew from four farms to
4 over a dozen today. In 2017, I sold my farm.
5 It's still in operation but under new
6 ownership.

7 I've been in this room annually for
8 DES shellfish meetings as we discussed the
9 natural and man-made issues that concern
10 aquaculture and the bay in general. Believe
11 me, there are many issues. The health of the
12 bay and its organisms are under great stress
13 from wastewater treatment facilities, runoff
14 from overpopulation and development and
15 temperature rise, just to name a few. As we
16 know, many hardworking people and organizations
17 have spent countless hours and dollars trying
18 to improve the health of the Great Bay. We
19 can't jeopardize this slow healing process the
20 bay is undergoing by introducing another
21 stressor. Disrupting the sensitive ecosystem
22 by blasting long dormant and potentially toxic
23 sediments and biologics into the water column
24 which would be spread far and wide by the tides

1 may undue much of the progress made over years
2 of conservation, as well as threaten the
3 livelihood of the folks -- many are my
4 friends -- that are making a living from the
5 bay.

6 I also own a prosthetics company in
7 Portsmouth, and I understand affordable energy
8 is needed, especially for a growing population.
9 And it's mandated in the region. There are
10 other avenues to Portsmouth that could and
11 should be used to bring in additional energy.
12 An addition such as wind and solar locally
13 could decrease the need to bring it from
14 outside the area.

15 My kids are six and nine years old.
16 We spend countless hours fishing, boating,
17 swimming and exploring the beautiful shoreline
18 of the Great Bay Estuary.

19 I ask that you don't allow this
20 project to potentially damage a vital ecosystem
21 for the sake of ease of access or cost savings.
22 I urge you to vote "NO" on the proposal and
23 have Eversource route the power line elsewhere
24 if it's truly needed. Thanks for allowing me

1 to speak.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Next,
3 Jennifer Sanders and then Representative
4 Marjorie Smith, followed by Lulu Pickering.

5 JENNIFER SANDERS: Thank you for the
6 opportunity to be heard today. My name is Jen
7 Sanders, 20 Colony Cove Road, Durham. This is
8 my wife, Robin Cooley, and here is our
9 spectacular view of Little Bay.

10 Our entire family is vehemently
11 opposed to Eversource's plan to jet plow three
12 times beneath Little Bay because we fear it
13 will do irreparable damage to this delicate and
14 much revered national estuary and the wildlife
15 that calls it home. We spend our days on the
16 shore of Little Bay paddling, swimming and
17 admiring the wildlife. I'm sometimes lucky
18 enough to capture the beauty of that wildlife
19 through the lens of my camera. You'll see a
20 few of those photos today. My wife and I dream
21 of one day having grandchildren who spend their
22 summers with us on Little Bay. We dream of
23 taking these future grandchildren with us as we
24 paddle out to see the seals who spend their

1 time every day swimming and basking on the
2 ledges that are visible from our shoreline.
3 But we fear that jet plowing would infect the
4 waters they swim in and their food supply with
5 pollutants and biological contaminants such as
6 arsenic, which the incredibly strong 8-foot
7 tides would spread throughout the estuary
8 within hours, driving the seals away.

9 We also dream of taking our
10 grandchildren to see the bald eagles and
11 eaglets that hatch each year in their nest at
12 the property next to Eversource's proposed
13 project site. This image shows the proximity
14 of the nest to the work site, approximately 642
15 feet. We have no doubt that the clamorous work
16 Eversource proposes on this site to install
17 high-voltage transmission towers and jet plow
18 under the bay will drive the eagles away from
19 their nest permanently, even if work is done
20 when eaglets are not present. Just as
21 concerning is the fact that the adult bald
22 eagles use a perch directly above the work site
23 every day to scout for food, which they of
24 course need to do to survive regardless of

1 whether eaglets are present in the nest.

2 Here's a closer view. No doubt they chose to
3 clear this perch for themselves because its
4 location above the Eversource work site allows
5 them a close and direct line of vision to their
6 nest so that when they do have eaglets, they
7 can watch over them and secure food for them at
8 the same time. The Eversource project would
9 destroy this perch, posing an additional threat
10 to the eagles and their ability to feel safe
11 and unthreatened in this area.

12 We also dream of taking our
13 grandchildren out on our little motor boat to
14 pass through Furber Strait, the body of water
15 that connects Little Bay and Great Bay and
16 which was named after their own ancestor,
17 William Furber, who ran a ferry there in the
18 late 1600s. But we fear that the 6,000-pound
19 concrete slabs that will be installed in the
20 bay between our home and this section of the
21 estuary will hinder our passage at lower tides
22 and mar the beauty of this historic and scenic
23 area.

24 We believe that the proposed project

1 will have unreasonable adverse effects on the
2 water quality and wildlife of our beloved
3 estuary. The environmental risk of jet plowing
4 and underwater cable installation is far too
5 great, and Eversource's willingness to be held
6 accountable for any environmental damage is far
7 too small.

8 We implore you to use your power --

9 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Ms.

10 Sanders --

11 JENNIFER SANDERS: -- to help us
12 protect the Great Bay Estuary. We trust we
13 won't have to show these photos to our
14 grandchildren about how things used to be. We
15 trust that we'll be able to show them
16 firsthand the wonders of the estuary. Thank
17 you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Thank
19 you. Next is Representative Marjorie Smith,
20 followed by Lulu Pickering and Nick Tulloh.
21 Sorry if I mispronounce many people's names
22 tonight. I apologize in advance.

23 REP. MARJORIE SMITH: Good
24 afternoon. Since 1996, I have represented

1 Durham and Madbury in the New Hampshire House.
2 Many of my constituents are behind me, and
3 they might want to stand or wave just so that
4 you see how many there are.

5 Also in this room is Mr. Ned
6 McIntosh, who at 102 has spent more time than
7 any of the rest of the us on the bay, watching
8 the bay develop up and down and up again, and
9 he can give us a time line that shows the
10 importance of the bay.

11 The legislature believes that public
12 involvement is essential, and that is why the
13 legislature has changed several times the laws
14 relating to this process. And it is through
15 the public members that we can best be heard.
16 It is only you who represent the interests of
17 the public, and this is our only chance to
18 speak to you.

19 The 17-mile shoreline that New
20 Hampshire presents to the Atlantic is known.
21 What is less known is that we are the
22 caretakers of one of the most important and
23 fragile ecosystems in the nation. The Great
24 Bay is an estuarine system. Twice a day, the

1 fresh water coming down myriad rivers mixes
2 with the salt water from the ocean. When the
3 tide is out, mud flats are exposed that equal
4 roughly half of the area of the entire system.
5 The mud flats, the bottom, are a significant
6 component of the delicate balance that must be
7 maintained. And that assumes that they are not
8 blocked by large concrete structures.

9 I live on the Oyster River feeding
10 into the bay. For more than 300 years oysters
11 were abound until we humans upset the balance
12 with runoff polluted by fertilizer and waste.
13 With the increased awareness of the public's
14 responsibility, the quality of the water has
15 improved and there is, as you have heard, a
16 growing industry of oyster production, bringing
17 back an important economic activity, important
18 to the region and to the state.

19 You must ensure that the site
20 selected by ISO and Eversource meets the
21 requirements of the law with... "will not
22 unduly interfere with the orderly development
23 of the region."

24 Durham's Master Plan stresses the

1 importance of maintaining the rural nature of
2 the town, and our planning and zoning
3 requirements carry out that goal. This
4 proposal will provide disorderly, not orderly,
5 development of the region... "will not have an
6 unreasonable adverse effect on aesthetics,
7 historic sites, air and water quality, the
8 natural environment and public health and
9 safety." On every count, this proposal
10 violates the requirement by dramatically
11 widening the corridor and building towers far
12 higher than anything we have in town.
13 Aesthetics as viewed from the land or viewed
14 from the bay will be compromised. The town has
15 been here since the 1600s and works to honor
16 and protect our history. The plan cuts through
17 stone walls, cellar holes, quarries and
18 historic sites. The utility plans to use a
19 system to bring the wires across the bay that
20 has never been tested in an estuarine system,
21 with no way to predict what will happen, except
22 that plowing will forever alter the delicate
23 balance of the Great Bay... "will serve the
24 public interest. And there are several

1 alternative routes that do not involve the bay.
2 At least one of them has followed more closely
3 the route of transmission lines already in
4 place. This proposal does not meet the
5 required site selection standards and should go
6 back to the drawing board. Thank you very much
7 for your time.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Next
9 is Lulu Pickering, followed by Nick Tulloh and
10 Alexandra Jacuch.

11 LULU PICKERING: Thank you very much
12 for being here today. We appreciate it.

13 First of all, I hope you deny the SRP
14 proposal. It does not belong in the
15 residential area of Newington, and never has.
16 SRP is wrong at multiple levels. You are the
17 only ones who can deny this project and protect
18 our residential area. If SRP is approved,
19 however, the Town of Newington has argued for
20 the lines to be buried underground. The
21 Pickering Farm does not want underground lines
22 on our farm because the damage from that would
23 be much greater than the installation of four
24 poles.

1 My husband and I decided a year ago
2 that any mitigation funds from an adverse
3 impact on viewing utility poles on our farm
4 should go to the Town's benefit and not to us
5 personally. A proposal was on the table for up
6 to \$250,000 in mitigation funds to be used to
7 improve the old town center. This amount
8 contrasts to about \$1 million to bury the lines
9 across the three Pickering-Poulin fields that
10 we now hay. Through a series of closed-door,
11 totally non-transparent meetings, the \$250,000
12 proposal was reduced to about \$4,000 for
13 chimney repair. Then someone decided the cable
14 house should be studied. Now, mitigation looks
15 to be the creation of a small booklet on the
16 history of agriculture in Newington. The
17 creation of only a tiny booklet to mitigate
18 what Newington would suffer from an SRP through
19 our residential zone is insulting beyond
20 belief. How do we go from \$1 million to bury
21 the lines down to maybe \$2,000 to print 100
22 copies of a tiny booklet using rehashed
23 information from existing reports that looks
24 like this? I understand the mitigation

1 negotiations do not take place with private
2 property owners. But the Section 106 decisions
3 that are being made should take place in a
4 public meeting where people can ask questions,
5 hear the discussion and understand the
6 decisions that are being made.

7 In conclusion, I believe the historic
8 mitigation decisions should be reopened to the
9 public so that people can have faith in what
10 you're doing. More importantly, however, the
11 SRP project as it now stands should be denied.
12 Thank you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Nick
14 Tulloh, followed by Alexandra Jacuch and Laura
15 Ring.

16 NICK TULLOH: My name Nick Tulloh.
17 I live in Durham and own the house I lived in
18 as a UNH student 44 years ago. I have a
19 mooring about a hundred yards from the
20 proposed bay crossing.

21 Recently, after years of underhanded
22 tactics and a fundamental display of ignorance
23 of what is important to the people of New
24 Hampshire, Eversource was denied permits to

1 build Northern Pass. We were told it was
2 essential for the supply, volume and
3 reliability of the New England grid. New
4 Hampshire would bear the brunt of the
5 environmental and economic catastrophe.
6 Hydro-Quebec destroyed pristine acres in
7 Canada, displaced Native Americans and ruined
8 important heritage sites in their efforts to
9 bring environmentally friendly power to New
10 England via Eversource. Now we have the same
11 bunch employing the same tactics and telling us
12 the same thing about this project. They assure
13 us that digging a trench across the bay is
14 safe, although clearly they don't really know
15 that. And their examples of similar projects
16 are not really similar at all. We're told that
17 they will monitor the dig and the resultant
18 plume, but we're not told what they will do if
19 unexpected problems turn up like, say, well
20 contamination here at Pease Air Force Base
21 right next door to this project, which poisoned
22 about 1500 people with PCB, TCB and PFC.

23 We're told that there are
24 alternatives to this route, but they would

1 either be more expensive or simply move the
2 problem elsewhere. The expense argument holds
3 no water with me. If the Project can't bear
4 the cost, the Project should not go forward.

5 Further, we are here today because we
6 live here, not at some other potential site. I
7 don't think the project is justified anywhere.
8 Instead of attempting to shore up the current
9 group, why are we not financing more
10 conservation and alternative energy? Because
11 it's not as profitable for Eversource.

12 Eversource points to the rate of
13 population growth here on the Seacoast. It is
14 evident that they will be back here in 10 years
15 asking for another set of poles, another ditch
16 across the bay because the population growth
17 has again outstripped the power supply.

18 We need to deny Eversource this
19 project. If they want to continue to
20 irresponsibly worship at the altar of
21 unrestricted growth, let them do it somewhere
22 else. We stopped Eversource building Northern
23 Pass. Let's stop them building this. Thank
24 you.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY:

2 Alexandra Jacuch, followed by Laura Ring and
3 Diana Carroll.

4 ALEXANDRA JACUCH: Hi, I'm Alexandra
5 Jacuch. I live on Little Bay Road in
6 Newington, and I am strongly opposed to this
7 project as proposed currently.

8 My first comment is a plea to bury
9 the additional 5,000 feet of transmission line
10 that's currently proposed to run above ground
11 on towers through Newington's residential area
12 and historic area, destroying Newington's rural
13 character and the natural beauty of our
14 village. For decades, our town planners have
15 been committed to developing a well-established
16 and intentional community serving the residents
17 in the residential area, commerce in the
18 commercial zone and industry in the industrial
19 zone, all thoughtfully and meaningfully managed
20 and designed, including in our Town of
21 Newington's Master Plan, that all residents
22 must bury electrical lines. And now Eversource
23 insists on negating our Master Plan
24 requirements with ugly, unhealthy transmission

1 lines running through our residential village
2 and historic areas.

3 Michael, my late husband, who was a
4 brilliant physician, was very concerned about
5 the negative health impact, especially cancer,
6 from high-powered transmission lines. He would
7 never live in a community where they existed.

8 A key point: Buried lines normally
9 produce little electromagnetic radiation
10 because the electromagnetic forces are opposed
11 by current flowing in the opposite direction in
12 adjacent wires. And children are most
13 vulnerable to the EMF, showing increased
14 leukemia rates. The negative health impacts
15 have been shown in many epidemiological studies
16 in the United States and United Kingdom. The
17 controversy over causal evidence of harm
18 reminds me of all the evidence that wasn't
19 believed to be conclusive of cigarettes'
20 negative health impacts and all the cover-up
21 that occurred for decades.

22 My third point is that jet plowing
23 and concrete mattresses along the bay shoreline
24 would be harmful to the ecosystem and the

1 protected Great Bay Estuary.

2 Lastly, go a different route. There
3 have been previously other proposals and
4 options for this project, ones that do not harm
5 our precious natural environment or negatively
6 impacts the health of our residents, including
7 our children, and protecting the rural
8 character of our residential and historic
9 areas. Thank you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Laura
11 Ring, followed by Diana Carroll and then Steve
12 Burns.

13 LAURA RING: Members of the New
14 Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee, I am
15 Laura Ring, President of the Greater Rochester
16 Chamber of Commerce. We are a membership
17 organization that represents over 400
18 businesses and professionals in the region. I
19 want to thank you for the opportunity to speak
20 before you today regarding the critical need
21 for reliable energy in our region and for the
22 Seacoast Reliability Project.

23 The Greater Rochester Chamber of
24 Commerce has been a supporter of the Seacoast

1 Reliability Project since 2016. The
2 independent system operator of New England has
3 identified the Seacoast area as needing
4 additional transmission capacity in order to
5 continue providing reliable energy. As the
6 Seacoast Region's electric demand continues to
7 grow at a faster rate than the rest of the
8 state, we are greatly concerned for our member
9 businesses and the growth in our region.
10 Access to reliable energy is critical to the
11 successful operation of our businesses. With
12 rapidly growing companies, such as
13 Safran/Albany and others located in the region
14 that continue to grow and expand, we believe
15 the Seacoast Reliability Project offers a
16 solution to ensure the reliable delivery of
17 power to meet their current, growing and future
18 energy needs. Without this project, we feel
19 this could put businesses at risk of
20 interruptions and diminish our economic growth.

21 In following this project, we believe
22 that Eversource works responsibly to address
23 the various concerns of communities and
24 property owners along the corridor, as

1 referenced through an amendment provided to the
2 Project. Our chamber does not speak alone.
3 You have received letters of support for the
4 Seacoast Reliability Project from the chambers
5 in the Seacoast Region, including the Chamber
6 Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth and the
7 Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce, who are also
8 concerned with the ability to continue
9 delivering reliable energy. These chambers
10 also believe the construction of this project
11 will result in economic benefits to the local
12 communities, public safety and the quality of
13 life in the region.

14 The Greater Rochester Chamber of
15 Commerce continues to offer its support for the
16 Seacoast Reliability Project, and we
17 respectfully request the Site Evaluation
18 Committee consider the current and future
19 energy needs and the benefits this project can
20 bring to our businesses and residents in the
21 region. Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Diana
23 Carroll, followed by Steve Burns and Rick
24 Como.

1 DIANA CARROLL: Good afternoon. My
2 name is Diana Carroll, and I live in Durham.
3 I'm here this afternoon to speak in opposition
4 to the current Seacoast Reliability Plan. And
5 I'd like to limit my comments to two points.

6 And the first point is I'd like to
7 tell you a little bit more about Durham.
8 Hopefully you already know these things. But
9 just in case you don't, Durham is a town where
10 conscientious decisions are made about -- well,
11 they're made just about everything: Land use,
12 preserving our history, environmental
13 stewardship, climate change, energy sources,
14 education, economic development. They're all
15 made very conscientiously. You name the issue,
16 and Durham, not only the town government, but
17 many, many other residents pay close attention,
18 as I think you're hearing today. And so it's
19 perfectly natural for the people of Durham to
20 have deep concern about this project. They're
21 concerned not only for the history and ecology
22 of our town and bay, but towering over
23 everything else, the truly dispiriting nature
24 of having to view 80-foot and taller towers and

1 lines that would disfigure the landscape.

2 These towers and lines are not Durham, and I do
3 not believe the people of Durham will stand for
4 or accept such an assault on the town's
5 environment.

6 When residents of Durham were
7 surveyed, the results showed residents choose
8 to live here in Durham or move here because of
9 the open space and the natural beauty that
10 exists in our town. We have many parcels of
11 conserved land, no sprawl gateways. Unusual.
12 No sprawl gateways. Come and see if you
13 haven't. Scenic roads. These just name a few
14 of the commitments this town has made to a
15 quality environment. Please do not allow our
16 town to lose what we have diligently worked
17 for. And we've also paid for it in real
18 dollars and cents. If you approve this
19 project, you will destroy much that committed
20 citizens have worked for and cherished.

21 I believe that the above really comes
22 under the criteria that's before you. It
23 certainly does on environment and history, et
24 cetera, and also the public interest. And I

1 think that you can take this into consideration
2 in looking at that criteria.

3 I ask you also, please listen to
4 those members of our community who have shared
5 so much valuable information and facts with
6 you. To name a few: Steve Jones, Nancy
7 Sandberg, Janet Mackie and a whole host of
8 others, and many from Newington who also have
9 done the same.

10 So why do I feel so strongly about
11 what I just said? Because I've been a resident
12 of Durham for 48 years, and I've served on the
13 town council for 10 years and served on many
14 other boards. So I feel like I know the town
15 just about as well as most older residents in
16 the community do.

17 My second point is that I suggest to
18 you that this afternoon the superior Gosling
19 Road auto transformer route is the route that
20 we should be addressing. This route requires
21 only 3 miles of new wires, though I understand
22 existing wires would need upgrading. But
23 they're existing in a place already. This
24 route would not endanger Great Bay. It doesn't

1 even touch it. This route offers more power
2 and an increase of development in an area that
3 is appropriate for it. Yes --

4 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Ms.
5 Carroll, you're at four minutes.

6 DIANA CARROLL: Ooh, I have about
7 less than 10 seconds left.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Okay.
9 Wrap it right up.

10 DIANA CARROLL: Thank you so much.

11 Okay. This route does cost more
12 money. It does. And when everything -- but
13 this is only in the short term. We have to
14 keep our eye on the long term. And when
15 everything is taken into consideration, I think
16 that we would find, in the long term, the
17 Gosling route is less expensive.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Okay.

19 DIANA CARROLL: So I applaud your
20 service. And I ask you when you take this
21 into consideration, keep your eye on the long
22 term. That's where we live. Not only in the
23 short term, but we live in the long term. And
24 generations to come are in the long term.

1 Thank you.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Thank
3 you.

4 Steve Burns, to be followed by Rick
5 Como and Tim Ayer. Is Steve Burns here?

6 [No verbal response]

7 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: We'll
8 skip Mr. Burns and move on to Rick Como. Mr.
9 Como here?

10 RICK COMO: Yup.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Great
12 .

13 RICK COMO: My name is Rick Como,
14 and I'm a resident of the town of Newington.
15 I'd like to thank the Site Evaluation
16 Committee for this opportunity to speak today.

17 I'm a member and volunteer for CCA,
18 the Coastal Conservation Association, the New
19 Hampshire Chapter, as well as an avid
20 outdoorsman, recreational fisherman, a user and
21 protector of the public resources of the Great
22 Bay Estuary.

23 Since 2009, volunteers of CCA, the
24 University of New Hampshire, the Nature

1 Conservancy, and area restaurants have worked
2 diligently in an effort to restore the oyster
3 beds in Little and Great Bays. Weekly pickup
4 of used shells from participating restaurants
5 are recycled back into the bay and seeded with
6 baby oysters. To this date, close to 10,000
7 bushels have been collected. One oyster
8 filters 20 to 50 gallons of water daily, and
9 beds restored in pre-1990 conditions would be
10 able to filter the entire bay system in three
11 to four days. Our efforts have shown results
12 and water quality continues to improve, and so
13 has the health and other aspects of the
14 estuary. Eelgrass, clam beds, the fishery have
15 all seen improvements. That said, continued
16 efforts are needed to increase public awareness
17 of the challenges facing the estuary --
18 notably, siltation, storm runoff and pollution.

19 Eversource's proposed process for
20 laying high-powered transmission lines across
21 the width of the Little Bay is highly invasive
22 and threatens that which we have worked so hard
23 to achieve. Jet plowing three trenches, four
24 feet or deeper, to accommodate the cables and

1 the construction involved of laying large
2 concrete slabs on both existing shorelines can
3 have a devastating impact on the health of the
4 bay. Jet plowing will create large clouds of
5 silt, along with the unearthing of long-buried
6 contaminants, which carried by the tide have
7 potential to smother and possibly poison
8 existing and newly placed beds. Although
9 Eversource believes they can control this silt,
10 with the strength of the tidal push through
11 Little Bay, I have little faith in their
12 ability to do so. Burying of oyster beds, clam
13 beds, muscles, the covering of eelgrass, along
14 with the potential of killing or poisoning
15 other shellfish and crustaceans and with
16 other -- I'm sorry -- with other shellfish and
17 crustaceans with possibly toxic silt is an
18 environmental risk not necessary while there
19 are other viable options for routing. It's
20 therefore my feeling that this power line,
21 though it may be necessary for a growing
22 Seacoast, should be routed around Great and
23 Little Bays, not through it. The risk to the
24 environment is not worth the dollars saved that

1 can be recouped by Eversource over time.

2 I'd also like to state that I fully
3 support the Town of Newington's concerns and
4 position on this project and implore the SEC to
5 use their authority to deny Eversource the
6 necessary permitting to move forward with this
7 project as it's currently proposed. Thank you.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Next
9 we'll hear from Tim Ayer, followed by Sharon
10 Meeker and then Mal Sandberg.

11 Just to be clear, when Attorney --
12 everyone's supposed to have three minutes.
13 We're not going to hold you to that. We're
14 trying to give everyone a chance to say what
15 they'd like. But when Attorney Iacopino turns
16 his computer around and shows you the time,
17 that's when you're at three and a half minutes.
18 And then I'm going to try to cut you off at
19 four if you're still going, just so everybody
20 has a chance to speak tonight. So when you get
21 the signal from him, that's your
22 three-and-a-half-minute marker.

23 So, Mr. Ayer, please go ahead.

24 TIMOTHY AYER: Timothy Ayer, I'm a

1 resident of Durham. My wife and my daughter
2 and I just moved there in May. We moved to
3 Dover last summer from Alaska, and we spent a
4 year there. We moved to Durham in May. We
5 bought a house there. We live at Four Foss
6 Farm Road, which is one of the properties
7 that's going to be affected by this project if
8 it goes forward. There's an easement at the
9 back of our property they would like to be
10 used to develop the lines, and we have serious
11 concerns about that, in addition to our
12 general concerns about the Project.

13 One of the reasons that we moved to
14 Durham -- well, one of the reasons we moved
15 here from Alaska and chose to move here to this
16 region specifically was, in part, the natural
17 beauty, the fact that we were going to be able
18 raise our daughter here to appreciate the quiet
19 and the space and the room and the nature. We
20 moved to Durham because we were able to do that
21 every day. We found a house that would allow
22 my daughter to stand on the kitchen counter,
23 when her mother's not looking, look out the
24 window and see deer, see porcupines, see

1 groundhogs, see squirrels, see chipmunks, see
2 flocks of turkeys, see dozens of different
3 species of birds out of our back window. If
4 this project is allowed to move forward,
5 Eversource is going to traipse through our back
6 yard, traipse through our adjoining properties,
7 likely cut down trees in doing so, and I don't
8 expect my daughter will be able to see the deer
9 and the groundhogs and the porcupines -- you
10 can smell the skunks -- and see all the
11 different types of birds. We would lose one of
12 the main reasons that we moved there, and we
13 would lose something that we value a great
14 deal.

15 We also have concerns about
16 Eversource's good faith in their proposal,
17 given that, like I said, we moved to our house
18 in May and we heard nothing about this. We
19 hadn't been told about it. We've seen no
20 evidence that there have been any surveys done;
21 that Eversource even cares about the boundaries
22 of their easements; that they care about their
23 rights-of-way; that they intend to respect our
24 rights; that they intend to respect our

1 property; that they intend to take any
2 precautions to ensure, for example, that they
3 don't increase the noise on our property from
4 the road by cutting down trees; that they don't
5 intend to increase the noise on our property
6 from the train that goes behind our house, the
7 noise currently being blocked by those trees;
8 that they intend to do anything that would
9 ensure that our property isn't affected by
10 that.

11 So we would ask -- we strongly oppose
12 this proposal from going forward at all. And
13 we would ask that, if it does go forward, that
14 Eversource be required to get the surveys done,
15 that they be required to note that they're not
16 going to chop any trees down, that they be
17 required to show any sort of good faith that
18 they intend to respect property rights over and
19 above the profits, because we're all here today
20 to show that the Town of Durham, Newington, and
21 everybody affected values things. And we're
22 asking our government to value those things as
23 our representatives. And to a man, every
24 individual property owner who's been here so

1 far has come up and said what we value is the
2 nature, peace and quiet, and what we value are
3 the towns we decided to live in. We don't
4 value Eversource's profits, and we don't think
5 that those should be a consideration.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY:

7 Sharon Meeker, followed by Mal Sandberg and
8 Mary Margaret Jaques. Is Sharon Meeker here?

9 [No verbal response]

10 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY:

11 Moving then to Mal Sandberg.

12 MALCOLM SANDBERG: Thank you,

13 Members of the Committee. My name is Malcolm
14 Sandberg, a resident of Durham. Over the past
15 45 years, I've been an active participant in
16 Durham's effort to protect the Great Bay
17 Estuary as a citizen, as a town councilor, as
18 a planning board member.

19 Years ago, Durham recognized that the
20 Great Bay Estuarine System is an enormously
21 important nursery for the coastal marine
22 environment. Our efforts to repair, restore
23 and preserve this vital and fragile resource
24 has benefitted not only Durham, but the entire

1 region's economic and environmental health.
2 While the health of the Great Bay system has
3 improved over the years, it is still in a very
4 precarious condition. It would be folly for us
5 to allow this essential resource to become the
6 proverbial guinea pig for the benefit of
7 Eversource. Durham's consultants agree that
8 Eversource has not adequately evaluated the
9 impacts of the yet untested jet plowing across
10 Little Bay's estuarine environment.

11 When we were first introduced to the
12 Eversource SRP in April of 2015, it was
13 presented to us as a fait accompli. No
14 discussion about alternative plans or routes
15 was allowed because ISO New England and
16 Eversource had already chosen the route under
17 consideration here. Eversource's failure to
18 consider the potential risks to Little Bay and
19 the wishes of the people of Newington and
20 Durham, as expressed in their master plans,
21 demonstrates Eversource's disregard for the
22 values we and the Seacoast hold dear.

23 As you perform your duty under New
24 Hampshire RSA 162 to ensure that the site and

1 facility will not unduly interfere with the
2 orderly development of the region, with due
3 consideration given to planning commissions and
4 the municipal governing bodies, and that the
5 site and facility will not have unreasonable
6 adverse effects on aesthetics, historic sites,
7 air and water quality, the natural environment,
8 and public health and safety, it is clear that
9 more consideration must be given to alternative
10 plans and routes, such as transiting Maine
11 through existing corridors and crossing the
12 Piscataqua River from Maine to Portsmouth at
13 Schiller Station.

14 Given the evidence before you, the
15 Site Evaluation Committee has to deny this
16 Application and should encourage Eversource and
17 others to submit updated needs assessment data
18 and alternative proposals for meeting those
19 needs in cooperation with the citizens they
20 intend to serve. Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Mary
22 Margaret Jaques, followed by Carolyn Singer
23 and then Sally Ford.

24 MARY MARGARET JAQUES: Good

1 afternoon. Thank you for hearing us this
2 afternoon. And I wish to just give a couple
3 of little pointers that are concerning me.

4 My name is Mary Margaret Jaques. I
5 own and operate the Pines at Coe's Corner Guest
6 House in Durham. Our house, built in 1760, is
7 one of the oldest homes in Durham, has been in
8 my family for multiple generations. Sorry. My
9 husband and I have been operating this
10 establishment for more than 20 years now,
11 serving the Seacoast community, as well as
12 guests associated with the University of New
13 Hampshire.

14 Having lived in Durham most of my
15 life, I've seen many changes to our town. And
16 in my opinion it's not all for the better.
17 Many of our historic properties and landmarks
18 have either been altered or demolished. Many
19 new buildings in town are in stark contrast to
20 the former historic nature of our small town.
21 Visitors come to Durham for many reasons, but
22 all enjoy the bucolic, small-town nature of our
23 community. But I gravely fear that this
24 project will do nothing to enhance or improve

1 our community.

2 With our Great Bay in jeopardy of
3 possibly being forever altered with the
4 introduction of jet plowing, causing
5 irreparable damage to the ecosystem and
6 introduction of enormous concrete slabs to
7 supposedly capture excess heat from the --

8 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

9 MARY MARGARET JAQUES: With our
10 Great Bay in jeopardy of possibly being
11 forever altered with the introduction of jet
12 plowing, causing irreparable damage to the
13 ecosystem, and introduction of enormous
14 concrete slabs to supposedly capture excess
15 heat from the high-voltage transmission lines,
16 while possibly leaching chemicals into the
17 water, impacting wildlife, decreasing property
18 values and destroying or altering conservation
19 easements, our way of life in the Seacoast and
20 in Durham will be forever changed. Huge,
21 100-foot-tall transmission poles are planned
22 to be installed altering conservation land and
23 other historic landmarks.

24 I stand in solidarity with my fellow

1 board members of the Durham Historic
2 Association, of which I am a member, in
3 opposition to the Eversource project as it
4 stands, and hope that plans can be altered to
5 minimize catastrophic impact on our
6 irreplaceable historic and natural resources
7 and to our quality of life in Durham and in the
8 entire Seacoast area. Respectfully, Mary
9 Margaret Jaques.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Next
11 we'll hear from Carolyn Singer, followed by
12 Sally Ford and Leila Harte.

13 CAROLYN SINGER: Thank you for this
14 opportunity to comment. My name is Carolyn
15 Singer, and I'm a resident of Durham, New
16 Hampshire.

17 I hope you will not approve the
18 Seacoast Reliability Project because the
19 resulting damage to Durham and Little Bay would
20 be extreme to the estuary, to the rural
21 character of our community, and to our historic
22 resources.

23 We moved to Durham more than 22 years
24 ago because of its rural character. And

1 despite the fact that the University of New
2 Hampshire is in Durham and occupies much of the
3 town, the community has, over several decades,
4 invested millions of dollars in preserving its
5 rural character by acquiring hundreds of acres
6 of undeveloped land. Indeed, in 1974, the
7 community fought back against Aristotle
8 Onassis's plan to build an oil refinery in
9 Durham.

10 I live in the Woodridge neighborhood,
11 not far from Foss Farm Road, one of those
12 places along the route where the Project would
13 have a substantially different effect on the
14 neighborhood than does the existing
15 transmission facilities. The new
16 hundred-foot-tall steel poles required for this
17 project would easily be visible from Mill Road,
18 which is very close to Woodridge Road.
19 Clearly, the unsightly and overbearing poles
20 will have a negative effect on property values
21 in an otherwise lovely and cohesive
22 neighborhood. The unsightly poles will also be
23 visible from Bennett Road and Durham Point
24 Road, both designated scenic roads, protected

1 by New Hampshire statute. Further, the
2 installation of tall steel poles and
3 transmission lines will cause significant
4 damage and loss within three federally eligible
5 historic districts crossed by the easement.
6 Simply put, these huge steel poles will ruin
7 the character and historic character of our
8 community. I do not understand why these
9 transmission lines cannot be routed along an
10 existing, wider easement that already has high
11 transmission poles and lines. This route runs
12 from the Madbury Substation through Dover, over
13 the river to Eliot, Maine, then south, and then
14 back over the river to the generating station
15 at Portsmouth, near Gosling Road in Newington.
16 There are already high poles and pylons along
17 that corridor. Why destroy the rural and
18 historic character of our community when
19 another route already exists? Please don't put
20 Eversource's profits above our quality of life.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Sally
22 Ford, followed by Leila Harte and then Sarah
23 Keener Starkweather.

24 SALLY FORD: Good afternoon. My

1 name is Sally Ford. I've lived in --

2 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Could
3 you sit and use the microphone. Or you're
4 welcome to stand, but you do need to speak
5 into the microphone.

6 SALLY FORD: I've lived in Durham
7 all my life. Terry Picard has asked me to
8 read her letter for her. She, Terry, and her
9 husband, Ned McIntosh, have been in Little Bay
10 with boats forever. Ned is captain emeritus
11 of the UNH research vessel, the Jere Chase,
12 based in Little Bay. Ned is 102 years young.
13 And Terry and he have spent many of those
14 years on Little Bay and living on McIntosh
15 Island in Great Bay, and we are honored that
16 they care enough that they are here this
17 afternoon. I will now read Terry's letter.

18 As a Durham taxpayer, I wish to
19 oppose the Eversource high-voltage transmission
20 line across Little Bay in the town of Durham.
21 Jet plowing across Little Bay will release
22 toxic materials long encapsulated in mud and
23 sediment, and this material will be distributed
24 throughout the Great Bay Estuarine System, as

1 demonstrated by the Interactive Great Bay Flow
2 Touch Exhibit at the Jere A. Chase Ocean
3 Engineering Building at UNH. This sediment
4 will adhere to eelgrass, depriving it of
5 sunlight and eventually killing it. Eelgrass
6 sustains estuarine life. According to Colleen
7 McClare, naturalist at the Great Bay Natural
8 Estuarine Research Reserve, quote, In the last
9 20 years, eelgrass has been in steady decline
10 in Great Bay, the loss being primarily
11 anthropogenic, a result of human activity.
12 Eelgrass is the largest and one of the most
13 important habitats in the Great Bay Estuary.
14 It is the basis of the estuarine food web,
15 providing life, nourishment, safety and food
16 for species both in the bay and in the ocean.

17 We have a choice in this case.

18 Eversource can bring these high-voltage lines
19 along Route 4. The State of New Hampshire
20 should negotiate a transit rate which is fair
21 and reasonable and creates incentive to avoid
22 the risk to our estuarine system, as well as to
23 our historic and ancient landmarks and
24 aesthetic values. Respectfully, Teresa E.

1 Picard.

2 Thank you very much.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Leila
4 Harte, followed by Sarah Keener Starkweather
5 and then Greg Miller.

6 LEILA HARTE: Hi. Leila Harte,
7 Newington. I was actually going to forfeit my
8 opportunity to speak tonight until I heard the
9 gentleman from Durham speak earlier, and here
10 is why: I oppose the Project through
11 Newington and through Little Bay. I support
12 the Gosling Road upgrade. And we're listening
13 to all of the negative impacts, the permanent
14 impacts of the jet plowing through the bay,
15 through the residential neighborhoods, quiet
16 neighborhoods. Very serious, long-term,
17 permanent impacts. For a technology that's
18 likely going to fade away in my lifetime, my
19 children's lifetime, it's very-shortsighted to
20 do this damage when we don't know what's going
21 to happen in the coming decades. If an
22 upgrade needs to be done later after Gosling
23 Road, then maybe we should look at that. But
24 doing permanent destruction to our community

1 and to the bay for this type of transmission
2 line, does anybody see this as our future? I
3 don't think so. And that's really all I have
4 to say about it. It's unbelievable that it's
5 being taken into consideration.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: We've
7 just had another SEC member join us. Mr.
8 Fitzgerald, would you like to introduce
9 yourself.

10 MR. FITZGERALD: Good afternoon.
11 Sorry for the delay. Got caught in traffic.
12 Mike Fitzgerald. I'm the assistant director
13 of the Department of Environmental Services,
14 Air Resources Division.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Thank
16 you.

17 We'll next hear from Sarah Keener
18 Starkweather and then Greg Miller, followed by
19 Robert Chaikin.

20 Is Ms. Starkweather here?

21 [No verbal response]

22 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Mr.
23 Miller.

24 GREG MILLER: Hello. My name is

1 Greg Miller. I'm a resident of New Hampshire.
2 I'm here, actually, to discuss something a
3 little bit different than a lot of other
4 people have probably here tonight. I'm really
5 here to talk more about the financial
6 investment aspects of this project. You know,
7 three or four minutes, obviously, I can't go
8 into all the financial investment aspects of
9 the Project, but I'm going to give you a
10 little background about myself so you know a
11 little bit about where I'm coming from.

12 I'm a CPA, and I'm an MBA. I'm the
13 co-founder and chief executive officer of a
14 financial investing and consulting firm in
15 Massachusetts that has about two and a half
16 billion dollars in assets. My clients include
17 some of the world's largest corporations and
18 Fortune 500 companies. I was elected in
19 Barron's and The Wall Street Journal for the
20 last four years as the No. 1 investment advisor
21 in Massachusetts and the No. 2 investment
22 advisor in the United States by both The Wall
23 Street Journal and Barron's. And I tell you
24 these credentials not to really -- because I do

1 know a lot about financial investing in
2 projects. And I honestly feel that if this
3 project goes through, it would be the worst
4 thing for the state of New Hampshire than one
5 that I've ever seen. It makes no economic
6 sense. And what we're really thinking about
7 here is who's really paying for this project?
8 It's not Eversource paying for this project.
9 What we're asking Eversource to do is to make a
10 loan because Eversource invests in projects,
11 and then they turn around and they mark the
12 projects up. So who is really paying for this
13 project? People that are paying for this
14 project are the people in this room, the people
15 in the -- the residents of New Hampshire, the
16 citizens of New Hampshire, the businesses of
17 New Hampshire. They're the ones who are paying
18 for this project. They're going to pay it
19 through a rate increase. And I think most of
20 the people who I've spoken to, and I've
21 heard --

22 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

23 GREG MILLER: I'm not going to get
24 into most of the detail. But so Eversource is

1 really making a loan. They're not really
2 making an investment. And what is this loan?
3 So the people who are paying are the people in
4 this room. And I've done some analysis, which
5 I could share with the SEC. But this is going
6 to cost the people in New Hampshire pennies a
7 day to do the Project right, not to hurt the
8 environment, not to hurt the residents who's
9 going to have cables and power transmission
10 lines going over their property, not to hurt a
11 bay that's already in peril and that's
12 probably going to get hurt even more worse.
13 It's not going to cost a lot for Eversource to
14 make a loan so that the Project could be done
15 right.

16 Now, how could the Project be done
17 right? My opinion, it could be done right in
18 many, many ways. Like I say, not enough time
19 to discuss it tonight. But all know we could
20 put a transmitter closer to where the power is
21 needed and not go through the bay at all. And
22 I've heard arguments, Oh, you can't do that
23 because legislature doesn't allow that. Hey,
24 if we could do all the stuff they're talking

1 about doing, we can change the legislature if
2 it makes economic and financial sense. It
3 doesn't make any sense not to do the Project in
4 a way, like put power lines on the other side
5 of the bay. They can do a different route.

6 I heard some people -- I got here a
7 little bit late. It's bumper-to-bumper traffic
8 out there. But there's ways to reroute this
9 and not to go through a bay, not to go through
10 the area that they're going through. There's
11 ways that I've heard and spoken to a lot of
12 people that could be done a lot more
13 environmentally safe if they have to go through
14 the bay, which I don't believe they do, through
15 HDD. And all this will cost the people of New
16 Hampshire pennies more a day. Pennies more a
17 day.

18 We had Eversource come to our
19 property to talk about, you know, where the
20 lines are going to go. And, you know, we asked
21 Eversource, Well, why don't you bury the lines?

22 And they said, We can't bury lines
23 because it would be cost-prohibitive.

24 Cost prohibitive? My calculations,

1 again, pennies a day. And cost-prohibitive,
2 but why are they burying the lines in Newington
3 then, but they're not going to bury them on the
4 other side in Durham? And for that matter, why
5 are they not burying the lines in all the
6 towns?

7 I was originally from Massachusetts.
8 My company is located in Massachusetts. They
9 don't allow --

10 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Mr.
11 Miller, you're at four minutes. Really
12 quickly wrap it up or save it until the end.

13 GREG MILLER: I'll wrap it up
14 because it's going to take me too long to even
15 get through this stuff. And like I said --

16 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY:
17 Couple of seconds.

18 GREG MILLER: You know, Eversource
19 has \$7 billion and definitely can make the
20 loan to the people of New Hampshire. It's a
21 privilege be able to do business in the state
22 of New Hampshire and make the huge amounts
23 they do.

24 And I'm just going give one example,

1 if I got two more, one more minute --

2 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Nope.

3 GREG MILLER: Okay.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: No.

5 If we have time at the end, you can come back
6 and finish, okay. Just want to make sure
7 everyone gets a turn. Everyone has a lot of
8 valuable things to say.

9 GREG MILLER: Thank you very much.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Thank
11 you.

12 So, next will be Robert Chaikin,
13 followed by Francoise Meissner and Brenda Ryan.

14 ROBERT CHAIKIN: Hi, my name is
15 Robert Chaikin. I'm a resident of Newington.

16 Now comes an amended plan to
17 construct and operate a new high-voltage
18 transmission line between the Madbury and
19 Portsmouth substations, traversing portions of
20 Newington's neighborhoods. Eversource's
21 original design to install aerial cables to
22 carry electrical energy via thick, high-voltage
23 lines supported by pylons rising several
24 stories above the ground seemed ill-advised and

1 incompatible with Newington's bucolic landscape
2 and the town's Master Plan.

3 Despite the Pease Air Base's massive
4 disruption to its rural character, Newington's
5 residents shouldered the sacrifice. Town
6 leaders, in concurrence with New Hampshire
7 state law, adopted a master plan to move
8 forward. And central to the Master Plan is the
9 preservation of life, the quality of life, and
10 to simply ensure Newington's residential areas
11 are protected from incompatible uses.

12 Eversource's March 29, 2017
13 modification clearly reconsidered local
14 concerns, and they specified alterations to the
15 project design either by undergrounding or
16 altering segments of the overhead design. The
17 Applicant states the amended project will now
18 preserve local land use patterns and will not
19 interfere with the implementation of local
20 master plans. Eversource concluded the
21 unwelcomed placement of highly visual
22 above-ground transmission towers inside
23 Newington's residential heartland is an
24 unacceptable stipulation to stakeholders,

1 especially when proven project alternatives are
2 available -- namely, undergrounding. These
3 undergrounding costs through Newington are not
4 too burdensome, as regulators permit companies
5 to recoup the cost of most undergrounding in
6 pricing to consumers.

7 With respect to the Applicant's
8 visual assessment summary in the amendment of
9 the Project, notably the overhead lines and
10 towers, these following excerpts from
11 Eversource's April 2017 amendment included
12 these observations which, when taken in
13 context, disclose an appreciative perception of
14 local resistance, that, one, the Project causes
15 a fundamental alteration of the landscape
16 character, and the Project becomes a primary
17 feature in the landscape; that undergrounding
18 represents a substantial [avoidance] and
19 minimization measure as compared to the
20 overhead route; and that design modifications
21 do reduce the visual effects of the Project.
22 But in a passage suggesting the utmost contempt
23 and arrogance, and here I paraphrase, over time
24 they state individuals will become accustomed

1 to and accommodate the visual change.

2 Be that as it may, in preparing to
3 complete certification of this nearly
4 13-mile-long project, after acknowledging
5 misgivings in the original plan and then
6 proposing modifications, the puzzling question
7 is why, at this late stage of the Project, when
8 Eversource is nearly to the goal line with just
9 a few remaining overhead areas in Newington
10 that could be undergrounded, why are they
11 holding back? Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY:

13 Francoise Meissner, followed by Brenda Ryan
14 and then Patty Borkland.

15 FRANCOISE MEISSNER: Good evening.
16 My name is Francoise Meissner. I've been a
17 resident of Durham for 20 years and live at
18 571 Bay Road. Great Bay is my back yard. And
19 I'm very much against the Seacoast Reliability
20 Project for the following reasons.

21 One, the possible destruction of many
22 archeological and historical sites dating back
23 to the Oyster River Plantation in the
24 mid-1600s. The Durham Historic Association is

1 of the opinion that the reports prepared by
2 consultants hired to identify historic
3 resources are superficial and incomplete
4 because they do not include sites before 1850.

5 The size and weight of heavy
6 equipment needed to install these lines will
7 destroy everything in its path. There will be
8 many trees cut down. There will be blasting
9 through rock, construction of large concrete
10 pads through conservation lands and close to
11 some neighborhoods. Some of the high-voltage
12 lines will cross beautiful trails that are
13 currently enjoyed by many Seacoast residents.

14 I'm also concerned about the impact
15 on property values where the lines pass close
16 to residential areas.

17 My second big concern is that jet
18 plowing will have a serious impact on the
19 delicate ecosystem of Little Bay and Great Bay
20 by disturbing the sediments on the floor of the
21 estuary. Does anyone know what toxins will be
22 released from the sediment when the jet plowing
23 takes place? We're constantly hearing about
24 the importance of eelgrass in the bay and the

1 need to protect it. Will it be affected by
2 these procedures? And what about marine life,
3 including the wonderful horseshoe crabs we see
4 in abundance each spring on the shore? I'm
5 also concerned about the concrete mattresses to
6 be installed on the shoreline and how they will
7 look at low tide. Is there a guaranty also
8 that they will not deteriorate over time? Will
9 the newly established oyster farms survive, or
10 will the farmers be put out of business?

11 My understanding is that there is an
12 alternative route. I would like to quote from
13 the prefiled direct testimony of Denis J.
14 Hebert on behalf of the Town of Newington,
15 July 28, 2017.

16 The Gosling Road auto transformer
17 proposal would physically impact less geography
18 and resources than the proposed transmission
19 line project and therefore would either avoid
20 or greatly mitigate the Project's impacts. The
21 Gosling Road solution would not unduly
22 interfere with the orderly development of the
23 region as it would completely avoid the
24 construction of new high-voltage transmission

1 lines through the University of New Hampshire,
2 Durham, Little Bay, Newington and Portsmouth.
3 It would also avoid the impacts to aesthetics,
4 historic sites, water and the natural
5 environment in those areas.

6 In conclusion, do we really need such
7 an ambitious and costly project at all? I have
8 a quote here from UNH Carsey School of UNH, an
9 analysis dated March 17th, entitled "New
10 Hampshire's Electricity Future." And under the
11 headline "Risk," and I quote, During this
12 period of rapid transformation in the global
13 and regional energy markets, there is
14 significant stranded cost risk to electricity
15 ratepayers for large infrastructure investments
16 with uncertain return on investment.

17 And so, just to finish, I would just
18 like to thank you all for being here and
19 listening to us. And I hope you made make the
20 right decision for this wonderful Seacoast
21 area. Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Next
23 we'll hear from Brenda Ryan, followed by Patty
24 Borkland and then Holly Harris.

1 BRENDA RYAN: My name is Brenda
2 Ryan, and I live at 269 Durham Point Road in
3 Durham. And I oppose this project.

4 After coming to Great Bay and Little
5 Bay for 20 years to kayak, we finally made the
6 decision two years ago to move to the Seacoast
7 of New Hampshire. We now live on Little Bay,
8 just north of where Eversource proposes to do
9 irreparable harm to this sensitive area. There
10 are so many reasons why this project should not
11 be allowed to move forward: No real need for
12 additional power in New Hampshire, unsightly
13 90-foot poles running down our scenic byways,
14 threat to eagles that nest only 600 feet away
15 from the Durham shore where the proposed cable
16 will, run; unsightly concrete mattresses along
17 our pristine shoreline. But the main reason
18 I'm here today is to call attention to the
19 potential damage to the waters of Little Bay
20 and Great Bay.

21 As a kayaker and a paddle boarder, I
22 spend as much time as possible on the water
23 along the shores of Little Bay. Weather and
24 tide permitting, I'm out on the water every

1 chance I get. I kayak north around the islands
2 and into the Piscataqua, and I kayak south
3 towards Adams Point to see how the eagles are
4 doing. I go into the coves along the shore to
5 enjoy the peaceful beauty of these special
6 places. I stop by to visit friends. I
7 socialize on the water with other kayakers and
8 fishermen and typically make my way down to
9 Adams Point and beyond. I've heard there's
10 been testimony saying that boaters only stay in
11 the channel. I guarantee you that is not the
12 case for kayakers or fishermen. The shores of
13 Little Bay are where kayakers can be found.
14 What is going to happen at low tide when the
15 concrete mattresses are exposed? This is going
16 to mean that I can't get as close to the shore
17 as I'd like to get, not to mention the fact
18 that this will tremendously detract from the
19 beauty of the shoreline.

20 What about the impact to the fish in
21 Little Bay? Will we still be able to safely
22 eat the striped bass that we catch in the
23 waters of the bay? I frequently encounter
24 small boats of families out fishing along the

1 shoreline. These families are exposing their
2 children to the beauty of the bay and the
3 excitement of catching fish for dinner. If
4 this project is allowed to move forward, will
5 these parents have to tell their children the
6 fish are no longer safe to eat?

7 And what about those of us who swim
8 in Little Bay? Can you assure me that it will
9 continue to be safe for me and others to swim
10 in these waters after the jet plows churn up
11 the dangerous sediments that have been lying
12 dormant at the bottom of the bay? I've lost my
13 place here.

14 I've heard that Eversource is
15 planning to move the oyster farms that are in
16 Little Bay. If the jet plowing isn't going to
17 disturb the water quality, then why do they
18 need to move oyster farms? If the water isn't
19 safe for the oysters, then I'd hazard to guess
20 it's not going to be safe for me. Don't you
21 feel that it's imperative that we safeguard the
22 quality of the water? There have been
23 tremendous efforts over last several years to
24 reintroduce natural oyster habitats by dumping

1 boat loads of oyster shells, since oysters are
2 natural cleaners of the water. Aren't we going
3 to undue the last 10 years of these efforts by
4 allowing this project to move forward? I
5 implore this Committee to do the right thing
6 and reject the Seacoast Reliability Project
7 proposal. Thank you.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Next
9 is Patty Borkland, followed by Holly Harris
10 and then Robert Raymond.

11 PATTY BORKLAND: Hi. For my
12 neighbors in Newington, I live at 5 Little Bay
13 Extension with my husband Scott. We're the
14 ones on the corner of Little Bay and McIntyre.
15 We have big gardens and beehives and -- we're
16 farmers, as a lot of people in town are.

17 I'm going a little different in my
18 direction here. Pollution. From the World
19 Book Dictionary definition of pollution: The
20 act or process of polluting, defiling,
21 uncleanliness. From the Oxford American
22 Dictionary definition of pollution: The
23 presence in or introduction into the
24 environment of a substance or thing that has

1 harmful or poisonous effects. Defiling:
2 Harmful, poisonous effects. Those are the
3 words we all need to hear. Then I went to
4 Wikipedia because I don't understand
5 transmission lines. But I went there.

6 Mains hum. That's M-A-I-N-S, hum.
7 It's a sound associated with an alternating
8 grid... goes on to share... mains hum may also
9 be heard coming from powerful electric power
10 grid equipment such utility transformers,
11 caused by mechanical vibrations induced by the
12 powerful AC in them. It goes on to share...
13 the electrical hum around transformers is
14 caused by stray magnetic fields causing the
15 enclosure and accessories to vibrate. So we
16 are going see them, we're going to hear them,
17 and we're going to feel them.

18 It goes on to say, around
19 high-voltage power lines, hum line may be
20 produced by a corona discharge. Oh, my God,
21 what is a corona discharge? Looked it up again
22 in Wikipedia. Electrical discharge brought on
23 by the ionization of fluid, such as air
24 surrounding a conductor that is electrically

1 charged... it is often seen as a bluish, or
2 other color, glow in the air adjacent to
3 pointed metal conductors carrying high voltage
4 and emits light. In many high-voltage
5 applications, corona is an unwanted side
6 effect.

7 These are powerful words, as
8 Eversource wants these transmission lines
9 running through our town, our village, our
10 rural and rich in history, I'm going to say
11 communities here 'cause I'm just from
12 Newington, but I do mean Durham. We're going
13 to see them, we're going to feel them, we're
14 going to hear them.

15 I'm going to quickly correct the
16 gentleman who was here earlier. No, not all
17 the lines are going to be underground in
18 Newington, starting at Flynn's Pond, better
19 known to my kids as Frog Pond. Those things
20 are going to be right there, right up high,
21 buzzing on all those poor kids also who like to
22 skate during the winter. And I'm not even
23 going to touch my thoughts on the jet plows
24 'cause it makes me sick.

1 What it really comes down to is that
2 everyone must abide by Newington's Master Plan.
3 It's simple. It's simple. That's how it is.
4 The Master Plan states that all power lines
5 must be buried underground in the residential
6 area. Electric lines are incompatible with
7 residential districts. And don't forget,
8 Newington, we lost over half of our residential
9 communities to the Government for Pease Air
10 Force Base. We have very little left to
11 protect and preserve. This project as proposed
12 must be denied. There are so many alternate
13 avenues that would accomplish the same end
14 result.

15 Thank you for giving me this
16 opportunity to speak as I try to protect our
17 beautiful community.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Holly
19 Harris, followed by Robert Raymond, then Nancy
20 Harris.

21 HOLLY HARRIS: Hello, everybody.
22 I'm Holly Harris. I live in Durham, New
23 Hampshire.

24 I want you to appreciate the fact

1 that the Great Bay is one of the biggest jewels
2 in the state of New Hampshire's crown. It's
3 the second largest estuary on the east coast.
4 We moved here 30 years ago to raise our family
5 in the healthy, beautiful, good living this
6 region provided. Every spring, summer and fall
7 we spend boating the rivers that feed the Great
8 Bay and the Great Bay itself. We are
9 constantly swimming, fishing and enjoying the
10 good life with our friends and family out here
11 on the bay.

12 I work in sustainability, and I
13 understand the value of, you know, upstream
14 supply source. We've done a lot here in Durham
15 and surrounding areas to work on that supply
16 source -- meaning, the rivers that go into the
17 Great Bay. We've protected those rivers,
18 making them the highest designation they can
19 be, keeping golf courses from building on there
20 and polluting what would eventually go down
21 into the bay. And I even live on the other
22 side of the town. But I use the Great Bay and
23 all those rivers all the time in the summer.

24 One summer, about 20 years ago, we

1 went sailing on the Chesapeake, which is the
2 first, largest estuary on the east coast. And
3 although beautiful, we were disgusted that we
4 couldn't swim right off our boat as we do in
5 the Great Bay because the waters were so
6 polluted. I want to make sure that we are
7 doing whatever we could to protect our Great
8 Bay.

9 So we in this region, so many of us
10 have worked so hard to protect the bay and the
11 creatures that live in the bay, particularly
12 the oysters. The Oyster River used to be
13 75 percent covered in oysters, but no more.
14 But we're working hard to bring that back. We
15 now have oyster farms, and we're delighted with
16 that. They're jumping up. They're pumping new
17 blood into our local estuary. We even
18 collected oysters to eat last weekend. There's
19 no doubt that the jet plowing will have a
20 devastating effect on this oyster population,
21 not only churning up so much silt, but all the
22 toxic chemicals that are put to rest for the
23 time being in the mud from the early polluters
24 of the region. It would be stupid to

1 jeopardize the health of the waters and the
2 people and the animals by plowing up God knows
3 what toxins.

4 My son now has a boat in his family.
5 My grandchildren are boating on the river. And
6 I've taught my children to always leave things
7 better than they found it. What will we tell
8 our children?

9 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY:

10 Robert Raymond, followed by Nancy Harris, and
11 then Peter Davis.

12 ROBERT RAYMOND: My name's Robert
13 Raymond, and I'm a resident of Newington, New
14 Hampshire. I only have a couple of points.

15 I am opposed to this project. And
16 two things I'd like you to consider. The first
17 one is I'd like to have you make sure you honor
18 the plans of each of those towns. And a lot of
19 thought has gone into that, a lot of work. And
20 I ask you to honor those plans.

21 Second of all, I'd like you to think
22 about, when you think about the cost of the
23 Project, it's very easy to look at the figures
24 that Eversource has come up with. But there's

1 a figure that's not in there, and that figure
2 is the harm that's being done to the
3 environment, to people's lives. Put a price on
4 that. And when you put a price on that, I
5 think you'll come up with the conclusion that
6 this project should not go through. Thank you.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Nancy
8 Harris, followed by Peter Davis and Robert
9 Ryan. And I think after Mr. Ryan we're going
10 to take a 10-minute break or so, so that
11 everyone can stretch their legs, and then
12 we'll come back. You've all done a great job
13 of keeping to the time limits, so I think
14 we'll take a very short break after Mr. Ryan.

15 Go ahead, Ms. Harris.

16 NANCY HARRIS: Thank you. My name
17 is Nancy Harris, and I'm a Durham resident.
18 And I oppose the Eversource Reliability
19 Project on all fronts.

20 My husband and I moved to Durham 32
21 years ago to raise our family in this town of
22 rural beauty, which includes, as we all know by
23 now, an estuary of abundant wildlife and
24 spectacular vistas. Our immediate family of

1 six, an extended family of 23 more members who
2 have also chosen to settle in Durham, spend
3 time on the Oyster River and the Little Bay
4 most days of spring, summer and fall. We all
5 boat, fish, kayak and swim on Little Bay as our
6 main recreation -- not only our own generation,
7 but now our children, nieces and nephews who
8 have also chosen to settle here and raise their
9 own families.

10 We are all well aware of the delicate
11 ecosystem of the Little and Great Bays and the
12 ecological disruptive effects a cable-laying
13 device will have in stirring up toxins that are
14 already known to be present, yet relatively
15 benign in undisturbed sediment. We now enjoy
16 eating the stripe bass we catch, as well as the
17 Little Bay farmed oysters we eat in local
18 restaurants, but fear these will no longer be
19 safe to eat for many years to come with this
20 proposed project.

21 Our house borders on conservancy land
22 that leads via the Sweet Trail System to
23 Crommet Pond. We frequently walk and
24 cross-country ski these trails. The industrial

1 power lines that cross these trails are
2 projected to rise above tree level in mammoth
3 proportions and run just beyond our back yard.
4 From our house we will see these unsightly
5 towers and the massive clearing of trees that
6 will be required to erect them. This we have
7 no doubt will impact not only the natural
8 beauty of the trails our town members enjoy and
9 our front and back yard views, but our property
10 values as well.

11 Long ago when the Town of Durham
12 granted a right-of-way to the electric utility,
13 there was an element of self-interest since
14 this provided a reliable supply of electricity
15 to the town. The proposed Eversource project
16 has no such element of self-interest since the
17 power is being transmitted to users farther
18 away. For this, we are paying a huge price
19 that was never planned for in our communities:
20 Environmental and historical landmark
21 destruction; distressing views of industrial
22 towers on private, public and conservancy land;
23 disruption of the Great Bay's delicate balance,
24 and depreciating property values. It is a fact

1 that through the years the Town of Durham has
2 proactively fought to preserve our land and
3 waterways in order to maintain our town's
4 natural and historical beauty. The proposed
5 project not only does not align with the Town's
6 long-term interests, but its costs are simply
7 too great. The Town of Durham has actively
8 sought to acquire land along the Lamprey and
9 Oyster Rivers and the Great Bay, often in
10 partnership with others, in order to ensure the
11 health of our extraordinary natural resources
12 for the benefit of its residents now and in the
13 future. This project flies in the face of
14 Durham's long-term conservation efforts.
15 Please do not approve the Seacoast Reliability
16 Project. Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Peter
18 Davis, followed by Robert Ryan.

19 PETER DAVIS: My name is Peter
20 Davis. I'm a resident of Newington. I'm
21 opposed to this project as proposed.

22 The visual impact in the Great Bay
23 Estuary is to me quite obvious. There is
24 probable environmental impact as well in the

1 area that is designated as a National Estuarine
2 Research Reserve. The visual impact the
3 residential areas is also obvious and runs
4 counter to the town's Master Plan, particularly
5 as regards to incompatible use in residential
6 areas and historic zones. Thank you.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: I
8 didn't even need to call you. Mr. Ryan.

9 ROBERT RYAN: Yes. My name is
10 Robert Ryan. I live at 269 Durham Point Road
11 in Durham. About 20 years ago I came to this
12 area on an MS bike ride. I was struck then
13 with the scenic beauty of Durham Point Road
14 and the two bays. I returned many times to
15 kayak or hike at --

16 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

17 ROBERT RYAN: I used to tell my
18 friends back where I lived in Amherst, New
19 Hampshire, that there's this absolutely
20 amazing, undeveloped bay practically next door
21 to Portsmouth, and no one seems to know about
22 it. This area could be a state park or even a
23 natural wildlife area, it is that beautiful
24 and pristine. We all know about places like

1 Pinkham Notch and Squam Lake, but I think this
2 area is equal to those places.

3 I recently watched the Ken Burns
4 documentary series, "The National Parks:
5 America's Great Idea." The title is a quote
6 from the writer, Wallace Stegner, who called
7 national parks the best idea we ever had.
8 Absolutely American, absolutely democratic.
9 They reflect the best rather than our worst.
10 We have a tendency of taking for granted that
11 our land will always be here. That wasn't the
12 case 140 years ago, and it was a struggle to
13 set aside land, first for Yellowstone,
14 Yosemite, the Grand Canyon and all the others.
15 Then, as now, we had competing interests: Coal
16 mining in the Grand Canyon, damming the rivers
17 for San Francisco's water supply, or hunting
18 buffalo and elk in Yellowstone. Then, as now,
19 we see land as being infinite, that fish and
20 wildlife will always be plentiful, that the
21 gorgeous vistas will always be here.

22 I'm here tonight to say that we
23 cannot take for granted the bay and surrounding
24 areas will always be here as we know and love

1 today. Just to be clear, I'm not suggesting
2 that this area be turned into a national park.
3 Rather, I urge you to think beyond this
4 terrible idea of running power lines 7 miles
5 through the woods, cutting a swath of 120 feet
6 through forest, bogs, streams, marshland,
7 vernal ponds and then down to the shores of
8 Little Bay, installing concrete beds, trenching
9 across the bay and doing the same thing on the
10 other side in Newington. Think about what is
11 being proposed. And for what? There are
12 alternatives, some of which -- and I put in
13 quotes -- are "most costly."

14 Think about what remains afterwards:
15 90-foot power poles that are one-third taller
16 than our tallest trees; 120-foot swath of
17 treeless land; hideous concrete mattresses that
18 are exposed during low tides; not to mention
19 scaring off or harming eagles, ospreys and
20 herons; stirring up toxins buried in sediments
21 of Little Bay mud, and potential killing of
22 oysters that the state of New Hampshire has
23 worked so diligently to reintroduce and
24 cultivate. And for what? There are

1 alternatives.

2 Spend an hour or two biking down
3 Durham Point Road or chatting with one of the
4 oyster farmers, or standing on the shore and
5 watching fishermen catching stripe bass, and
6 you'll realize this is a very special place.
7 Better yet, watch herons standing sentry at low
8 tide, marvel at bald eagles soaring, and maybe
9 catch a glimpse of an occasional seal. New
10 Hampshire's best idea is to run away from this
11 project and protect its forests, its waters,
12 its wildlife, its fishery.

13 We cannot take for granted that
14 Eversource will do the right thing. It isn't
15 in their mandate or DNA to do so. Everything
16 that Eversource has been telling us has been
17 disingenuous or just bad science. This area
18 will never be the same if this project goes
19 through. I urge this Committee to
20 wholeheartedly reject the Seacoast Reliability
21 Project.

22 MS. WEATHERSBY: Okay. We're going
23 to take a 10-minute break and be back at ten
24 minutes of six. And at that time we'll hear

1 from Michael Hoffman, Ann Hyland Hebert and
2 Amanda Merrill.

3 (Recess was taken at 5:41, and the
4 hearing resumed at 5:50 p.m.)

5 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Okay.
6 We're going to get started. We're hoping that
7 we have time at the end for people who have
8 not pre-registered to speak. And if you would
9 like to get on the list, we'll go in order of
10 the list. But if you'd like to sign up to
11 speak, we'll get as many in as we can. That
12 list is at the table at the front door with a
13 woman named Jody, who is helping us out from
14 the PUC. And she has the list if you'd like
15 to sign up to speak.

16 So we will move along here so we can
17 get as many of you in as we can. We'll next
18 hear from Michael Hoffman. He will be followed
19 by Ann Hyland Hebert and Amanda Merrill.

20 MICHAEL HOFFMAN: Good evening.
21 Thank you. My name is Michael Hoffman, 300
22 Durham Point Road. I'm opposed to this
23 project.

24 I've lived in this area for close to

1 30 years. I, like many people, moved to this
2 area because of the natural beauty. I have
3 paid extra money to move to an area surrounded
4 by woodlands, close to the bay, where I could
5 enjoy the natural scenery.

6 This campaign appears to be a
7 well-funded and well-oiled propaganda machine.
8 Unfortunately, I fear that one of the
9 constituents of the oil is snake oil.
10 Eversource has been very deliberate to frame
11 this project as the Seacoast Reliability
12 Project. This is clearly a propaganda tag
13 line. We ought to be suspicious of the need to
14 bring electrical power --

15 [Audience clapping.]

16 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Stop,
17 stop, stop, stop. Please don't interrupt him.
18 Be respectful of his time. You may clap
19 afterwards while people are transitioning.
20 But please do not interrupt somebody speaking.
21 Thank you.

22 MICHAEL HOFFMAN: Again, this is a
23 propaganda tag line. We ought to be
24 suspicious of the need to bring electrical

1 power redundancy in the direction of Schiller
2 and Seabrook Stations.

3 I'm no marine biologist or
4 environmental engineer. Eversource has their
5 hired guns who will say what you think
6 they want -- what they think you want to hear.
7 So I won't speak to the questionable bay
8 crossing particularly.

9 At one public hearing, however, an
10 Eversource representative indicated the Project
11 would improve electrical power reliability
12 along Durham Point Road because, as a component
13 of the project, the utility would be replacing
14 miles of single-phase power with three-phase
15 power. This has absolutely nothing to do to
16 improve the reliability of single-phase users.
17 The only three-phase user on Durham Point Road
18 beyond the solid waste management facility is
19 the marine lab, Jackson's marine laboratory.
20 They have some non-critical saltwater pumps
21 that have operated for decades with
22 single-source, three-phase. With this new
23 three-phase, we can be confident we'll be
24 seeing taller, larger diameter poles along the

1 roadside. From a highway engineering
2 standpoint, these poles are referred to as
3 "fixed roadside hazards." Large diameter poles
4 greatly impact the injury potential of a motor
5 vehicle accident involving these poles. This
6 is just again propaganda.

7 We should be concerned with
8 statements such as "improving the reliability
9 of power" on Durham Point Road to be indicative
10 of the other half-truths being told.

11 I can also speak to the effects of
12 property value. I'm a real estate investor and
13 previously licensed realtor. I can tell you
14 unequivocally that high-tension transmission
15 lines in proximity to property being -- bring
16 down the property values. Developers do not
17 build subdivisions of moderate to high-end
18 homes in the shadows of large transmission
19 lines. Prospective buyers do not want to hear
20 the hum of leaking power on a humid night.

21 My neighbor, Dick Godschneider[sic]
22 was told by a certified appraiser that the
23 value of his property will go down 200,000. He
24 was looking to sell an easement to Nature

1 Conservancy. \$200,000 on one property. I feel
2 that I might lose \$10,000 in property value.
3 If 100 homes lose \$10,000 in property value,
4 that's a million dollars right there. And I
5 think that's what we're going to be...
6 [indecipherable].

7 This project just doesn't pass the
8 sniff test to me. My sense is the utility's
9 desire to spend money just to justify higher
10 rates and greater income potential. Thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Ann
12 Hyland Hebert, followed by Amanda Merrill and
13 then Brandon Arsenault.

14 ANN HYLAND HEBERT: A picture is
15 worth a thousand words. This is Newington.
16 The green and black areas are residential,
17 approximately 2.2 square miles. This is the
18 wildlife refuge. This is Pease Air Force
19 Base. Then you hit the Spaulding Turnpike.

20 I would like to start off by saying
21 our town leaders are prevented from speaking,
22 though we have 100 percent support because the
23 Town of Newington is an intervenor. The Town
24 of Newington's Master Plan and town ordinances

1 support quality of life.

2 The SEC rules state, quote, The SEC
3 must give due consideration to the views of
4 municipal governing bodies and municipal
5 planning commissions. Due consideration
6 specifically means that the SEC must listen to
7 and consider the views expressed by
8 municipalities.

9 These rules govern your decision. It
10 is the law.

11 Newington's Master Plan states,
12 quote, The protection of the quality of the
13 town's residential area is central to the
14 Master Plan, end quote. Quote, Under no
15 circumstances should electric transmission line
16 improvements be permitted to be constructed
17 above ground within existing easements that
18 bisect the heart of the residential district.

19 The Town's policy requires land
20 developers to bury electric utility service
21 improvements, and this policy should extend to
22 transmission lines.

23 The shorelines of Great Bay and
24 Little Bay should be protected as they have

1 been designated as a national estuarial
2 research reserve by the federal government.

3 Newington has 755 residents in a
4 residential area of 2.2 square miles. The
5 United States Air Force took half the town for
6 national defense. The State of New Hampshire
7 took land for the Spaulding Turnpike. The
8 Federal Government took land for the wildlife
9 refuge. We can withstand no more land taking
10 or destroying.

11 The word "jet plow" in the same
12 sentence with "Great Bay" is fatally flawed.
13 Great Bay littered with visible concrete
14 mattresses and rural neighborhoods, historic,
15 architectural, agricultural and scenic
16 resources littered with transmission line
17 poles, against the Master Plan, is a problem.
18 When these problems surface, the trucks will
19 have long left, and no remedy will be possible.

20 There are alternatives. Prior PSNH
21 line projects chose not to use this very
22 right-of-way and moved their lines north and
23 south of Great Bay to preserve irreplaceable
24 natural resources. Approximately 20 years ago,

1 a Portland gas pipeline was proposed for this
2 very right-of-way route, and it was also moved
3 outside the residential area. Where that gas
4 line now lives is where electric lines can also
5 live. When the easy wrong way fails, the
6 thoughtful smart way prevails. Tens of
7 millions being spent to defend the wrong
8 alternative can and should be redirected to the
9 right alternative.

10 Eversource's Northern Pass project
11 was unanimously denied to protect the White
12 Mountain National Forest and thousands of
13 residents who would be adversely affected
14 forever more. Eversource Seacoast Reliability
15 Project must be denied on the same premise to
16 protect Seacoast New Hampshire. You must find
17 your courage to deny this project against all
18 odds and all preconceived determinations. The
19 evidence is compelling.

20 The Giving Tree gave and gave and
21 gave until all there was left was a stump.
22 Newington has given over and over and cannot
23 write another chapter in that book. Thank you.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Okay.

1 We'll next hear from Amanda Merrill, Brandon
2 Arsenault and Sharon Brown.

3 AMANDA MERRILL: Thank you, Madam
4 Chair and Members of the Subcommittee. My
5 name is Amanda Merrill, and I live on Meadow
6 Road in Durham, an in-town neighborhood. I
7 grew up in the Seacoast Area and have lived in
8 Durham since 1979. I've served on numerous
9 local and UNH committees over the years and
10 had the privilege of representing Durham in
11 both the New Hampshire House and Senate. In
12 both those legislative bodies, I was a member
13 of the committee dealing with energy policy.

14 When plans for the Seacoast
15 Reliability Project, or SRP, first became
16 public in 2015, I wrote a piece that ran in the
17 Seacoast Sunday under the heading, "Many
18 Questions Remain About Seacoast Reliability
19 Project." I think a takeaway from tonight's
20 session may be that that's still true. It's
21 clear that the Durham and Newington residents
22 in this room have questions about the current
23 proposal and serious concerns about the impact
24 of the Project, as well as about the planning

1 process that lead to this particular project
2 being chosen.

3 As you know, the work of ISO-New
4 England, the regional grid operator where this
5 all began, is unknown to most people and nearly
6 impossible to follow. Companies hire other
7 companies to navigate ISO for them. As I
8 believe was brought up during your recent
9 hearings, communities are not notified by ISO
10 of ISO decision-making that may end up
11 impacting them directly. As you also know,
12 once ISO had identified a need for greater
13 reliability in the region, the process of
14 addressing that need began. And to jump ahead
15 a few steps and layers, it lead to the stage
16 which Eversource chose between the suite of
17 projects of which the SRP is a part, and the
18 Gosling Road auto transformer alternative.

19 Gosling Road was rejected as being
20 more costly. But arguments have been made that
21 a long-term cost/benefit analysis would support
22 a different decision. A 2015 open letter from
23 Eversource estimated that, assuming the costs
24 of SRP were regionalized, the increases in

1 rates for New Hampshire residential customers
2 would come out to an average of less than \$1 a
3 year. I would be interested in knowing more
4 about the per customer cost of Gosling Road or
5 other alternatives. And I think others would,
6 too. I think we might find that a slightly
7 higher investment would be well worth it.
8 Likewise, regarding the discussion of specific
9 proposed routes for SRP.

10 Since 2015, you have heard and read
11 much more about the likely impacts to Little
12 Bay, to our open space and to our historic
13 resources associated with the route chosen by
14 Eversource. I recognize that the Subcommittee
15 has heard and read much about the SRP proposal
16 in general over the last few years. So I kind
17 of feel as though I'm at the risk of eye
18 rolling or worse in bringing up these planning
19 decisions that have been made. However, there
20 were obviously key factors in determining the
21 decisions that you now face in evaluating the
22 SRP. They are part of the whole picture, and I
23 hope you will consider them -- you will
24 continue to consider them as you move ahead. I

1 wish you well in your decision-making. Thank
2 you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Brand
4 on Arsenault, followed by Sharon Brown, then
5 Gail Paré. Is Mr. Arsenault here?

6 [No verbal response]

7 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY:
8 Sharon Brown?

9 [No verbal response]

10 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Next
11 will be Gail Paré, followed by Rick Stern.

12 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Rick Stern had to
13 go back to work.

14 MR. IACOPINO: Okay. Thank you.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY:
16 Sharon Brown, yeah, you're next. Have a seat
17 and try to speak into the mic.

18 SHARON BROWN: All rightie. My name
19 is Sharon Brown. I'm a Newington resident. I
20 just want to briefly say that the town is very
21 important to me and the character and the
22 appearance of the town. I do believe that you
23 need to take into consideration the Master
24 Plan for our town. And I also believe any

1 siting should be worked with the town so that
2 it can be either, A, underground, or B, within
3 the more industrial parts. And just take into
4 consideration the history of this place where
5 we live. Thank you.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Next
7 will be Gail Paré, followed by Nell Ann Hiatt
8 and Larry Vietas.

9 GAIL PARE: Thank you. My name is
10 Gail Myers Pare. We dropped the Paré
11 generations ago. Sorry about that.

12 I currently actually live in Dover.
13 For 20 years I lived in Newington, in a house
14 built in 1760 and purchased by my family over
15 50 years ago. I served on several town
16 committees and chaired the Newington Historic
17 District Commission for 12 years. There are
18 several issues that intertwine in this
19 proposal, the Seacoast Reliability Project.

20 First, the core business of
21 Eversource is power transmission; therefore,
22 it's not in the corporation's interest to
23 consider seriously any other solution to the
24 problem.

1 Second, the small town of Newington
2 provides the most direct access between
3 Portsmouth and the interior of New Hampshire.
4 Newington's land mass is actually only
5 8.2 square miles. We're listed as a little
6 bigger than that, but a lot of it is water.
7 Just look at the map. The rest is the tide
8 water within our borders.

9 Third, for over half a century,
10 Newington has formally planned to balance the
11 needs of the country and the state with the
12 requirements of town residents. When over half
13 the land area of town was federalized for Pease
14 Air Force Base in the midst of Cold War fears
15 for national security in the 1950s, the Town
16 responded by creating a master plan to balance
17 prospective industrial and commercial growth,
18 with protecting the rural aspects of the
19 remaining residential areas. Newington's
20 history demonstrated the town's strategic
21 location for transportation to and from the
22 Seacoast. The first New Hampshire turnpike,
23 now Route 4, crossed a bridge in Newington
24 starting in 1795. They built it across the

1 bay. Subsequent bridges, railroads, pipelines
2 and highways have continued to utilize
3 Newington as the most convenient base to cross
4 the major tidal flow of the Piscataqua estuary.

5 The Newington Master Plan, first
6 drafted in the 1950s, recognized the need for
7 regional infrastructure and designated a
8 section of town by zoning for industrial
9 activities. Not only one, but three electric
10 power generation plants were eventually created
11 in Newington's industrial zone and an abutting
12 lot in Portsmouth. Huge electric transmission
13 lines even running to Maine have been
14 established there. Meanwhile, Newington has
15 been able to preserve a tiny remnant of its
16 historically rural, agricultural, residential
17 past. The residential district is only one and
18 a half square miles. In fact, the Newington
19 Center Historic District has been characterized
20 as one of the finest remaining districts of
21 18th and 19th Century integrity still in use in
22 New Hampshire in the 21st Century.

23 When Pease was taken as an Air Force
24 Base in the early 1950s, existing electric

1 distribution corridors were relocated to cross
2 remaining farms in Newington. When Pease was
3 decommissioned as a base in the early 1990s,
4 those former corridors were conveniently
5 forgotten. Now, Eversource has a Seacoast
6 Reliability Project planning to replace small
7 distribution wires from the 1950s with major
8 transmission lines through the residential
9 portion of Newington. A proposal to add local
10 access to existing power at Gosling Road and
11 then that being sent through existing major
12 transmission lines was dismissed by Eversource
13 as too expensive. However, their plan for that
14 project included greater infrastructure than
15 that included in similar projects in other
16 places. You could say it was designed to be
17 too expensive to build. Tapping into power in
18 that existing substation would not only keep
19 the power works consistent with the Newington
20 Master Plan, but would also create local
21 facilities that could be easily upgraded for
22 future needs. Also, such a project would not
23 require the new transmission lines now being
24 proposed. But I digress.

1 I have read that you are here to
2 consider only the plan that Eversource is
3 currently presenting. We, the public, have
4 been given no other opportunity to comment on
5 the other proposed routes. I ask that the SEC
6 take these other routes into consideration.
7 The original plan that we're currently
8 considering included not only plowing through
9 the sediments of Little Bay --

10 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Ms.
11 Pare, you're at four minutes. Are you just
12 about -- no, you're not just about done.

13 GAIL PARE: No.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: You
15 have a lot left.

16 GAIL PARE: I'm going to take some
17 of Sharon's time because she was pretty short.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: No,
19 you're not.

20 GAIL PARE: The original plan --

21 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Ma'am
22 , ma'am, you need to stop. You need to stop.
23 You can't unilaterally make that decision.
24 That wouldn't be fair to everyone. So --

1 GAIL PARE: And we ask that you bury
2 lines if you must proceed with the existing
3 project.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Thank
5 you. And if there's time at the end after
6 others have had their say, you can come back
7 and finish.

8 GAIL PARE: Thank you.

9 NELLANN HIATT: Good evening. My
10 name is NellAnn Hiatt, and I live at 80 Little
11 Bay Road in Newington. And I am here in
12 opposition to the project through Durham,
13 Newington and Little Bay as proposed.

14 I want to bring up a different
15 perspective to this. As homeowners who are
16 lucky enough to live on Little Bay, my husband
17 and I have had to jump through hoops in order
18 to make any improvements to our home and
19 property because of our proximity to the bay.
20 In fact, I joke that our permits need permits.
21 Our improvement applications and projects have
22 been in front of every town board and some
23 government agencies, including DES. We must
24 take the utmost care to stay away from

1 eelgrass, have appropriate setbacks, use
2 certain plants, grade a certain way, pervious
3 versus impervious surfaces. I wish I could
4 bring the permits to show you the conditions,
5 all in the name of not disturbing the bay. And
6 we have to keep shoreland and wetland
7 protection in mind. I'm not complaining about
8 these laws we have to abide by. I'm glad we
9 have them. These are the laws we have
10 implemented to protect the bay.

11 What dumbfounds me is that jet
12 plowing through the bay would even be
13 considered. It seems like Eversource won't
14 have to live by the same environmental
15 protection laws that private citizens do. We
16 have to protect the bay in ways Eversource
17 doesn't. Please deny this project, and please
18 consider the use of existing towers and
19 rights-of-way. Thank you.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: So,
21 next will be Larry Vietas, followed by Bob
22 Dell Isola and Robin Mower.

23 LARRY VIETAS: Hello. My name is
24 Larry Vietas. I currently reside in

1 Newington. I've lived there for over 20
2 years. I oppose this transmission line
3 because it goes through our small and, as the
4 map illustrates, scenic residential area which
5 must be preserved. Only proposals with no
6 lines within the residential district should
7 be considered. Newington's Master Plan states
8 electric transmission lines are generally
9 viewed as incompatible with residential areas.
10 The Master Plan further states the Town
11 supports improvements to electrical
12 transmission infrastructure, but only if
13 improvements are made outside the residential
14 district. Now the current proposal includes
15 some above-ground transmission lines within
16 our residential area. These lines will become
17 an eyesore if approved. Newington's Master
18 Plan requires all transmission lines in the
19 residential district to be buried. Thank you
20 very much. And I yield some of my time to the
21 former speaker.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Bob
23 Dell Isola, followed by Robin Mower, followed
24 by Pamela Pappas-Clarkin.

1 BOB DELL ISOLA: Hi, my name is Bob
2 Dell Isola. I live on 224 Little Bay Road
3 with my wife Nin and my 11-year-old daughter
4 Gigi. And I just want to make a couple of
5 comments just on history and community values
6 really more than anything.

7 So we bought our house on Little Bay
8 Road, not far from where the lines were
9 proposed to go through in 2005. It's an 1830s
10 cape and post-and beam barn. We spent almost
11 two years putting it back to an authentic,
12 historical look and feel before we could move
13 in. We vested that much doing that in
14 Newington, New Hampshire, for reasons I'm about
15 to describe.

16 So we chose Newington for its charm,
17 its wonderful people, its outstanding schools,
18 its fantastic residential life, including the
19 historical aspects of the community -- the
20 land, Fox Point, the walking, the hiking
21 trails. We feel a real sense of community
22 because of these things.

23 Now, I've served on the Newington
24 Recreation Committee for the past six or seven

1 years. I've chaired it for the past three
2 years, and I've seen how this town is committed
3 to providing these community-based services to
4 its residents because it all matters. It all
5 matters what the community is like living here
6 in Newington. It's interesting. I also happen
7 to serve as board president for Big Brothers,
8 Big Sisters of New Hampshire and have held many
9 fund raisers at my home here in Newington.

10 So clearly we value the historic
11 history and the community and serving the
12 community of New Hampshire. And I think that's
13 reflective of all Newington residents. When
14 people come and they get to experience
15 Newington, they just are amazed at the
16 wonderful place that it is. I always rave
17 about its virtues. It's the hidden gem of the
18 Seacoast. As far as residential living, in my
19 estimation, it really surpasses Rye and
20 Portsmouth and those for living here. The
21 land, the history, the community, its values,
22 the values of this community are all key
23 components to this.

24 Going against the town's Master Plan

1 for the community which really reflects that,
2 and clearly these plans do that, is a message
3 that these things don't matter. Now, I don't
4 know exactly why these lines are being proposed
5 here or why they're above ground, but I can
6 only suspect it's for cost and profits and
7 such. I just know that when we look back years
8 from now on the decisions we make today, I hope
9 history judges us for valuing the community and
10 not valuing the corporate bottom line, but
11 choosing the side of the people, the values and
12 the community of Newington, New Hampshire.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Robin
14 Mower, followed by Pamela Pappas-Clarkin and
15 then James Belanger.

16 ROBIN MOWER: Good evening. Robin
17 Mower. I'm a resident of Durham. In fact, I
18 grew up in Durham. I lived in New York City
19 for many years and returned in 2006 largely
20 because of Durham's natural beauty. I do not
21 live on the bay, but I do treasure it.

22 Shortly after I returned, I started
23 to serve on town boards, the conservation
24 commission and the town council. This project

1 would unduly interfere with the orderly
2 development of Durham and not be in the public
3 interest. I base my statement on Durham's
4 Master Plan and on personal experience with one
5 of the natural sites through which the Project
6 would cross. The process for updating the
7 current Master Plan began in 2010 with the
8 development of a community survey. By
9 April 2015, when Eversource posted notices of
10 public information sessions, the 10 core
11 chapters of the Master Plan, including the
12 Existing Land Use chapter, were well on their
13 way to adoption by the planning board, which
14 occurred on November 18, 2015. The Future Land
15 Use chapter, the capstone of the Master Plan,
16 adopted on January 24, 2018, culminates seven
17 years of community input. References to the
18 terms "rural character," "natural resources"
19 "environment," "conservation" abound. And maps
20 identified conservation lands that the Project
21 would traverse.

22 The docket's web site posts a review
23 of master plans in abutting municipalities. I
24 find no such thorough review of Durham's Master

1 Plan, although the Project would run directly
2 through Durham. Normandeau's 2016 review of
3 land use and local and regional planning
4 blatantly ignores a key thing underpinning
5 master plans and zoning ordinances going back
6 decades -- i.e., that Durham highly values its
7 rural areas and specifically planned to protect
8 them throughout the history of our 10-year
9 plans, has zoned to protect them, has
10 identified specific lands for conservation, and
11 then has regularly conserved many of those
12 parcels. Normandeau also selectively chose to
13 emphasize the portion of the Project that would
14 follow existing right-of-way easements -- that
15 is, along the railroad -- but to ignore the
16 miles through forests and along estuaries and
17 Great Bay. Normandeau claims that, quote, By
18 locating the Project within an existing utility
19 right-of-way, the Project will be consistent
20 with the established character and land
21 development pattern of these areas. That
22 statement is blatantly unsupportable. Contrary
23 to Normandeau's assertion, the introduction of
24 transmission lines into Durham's rural areas

1 would be against all land use principles
2 planned and implemented for decades.

3 Here is just one example of a
4 location reflecting the adverse impact of
5 Eversource's choice of routes. Given a choice
6 of access roads to the railroads south of the
7 bridge, which does Eversource choose? The one
8 that would widen and irrevocably alter the
9 Class VI road that has served as a serene,
10 passive recreational trail through the forest
11 at Foss Farm. If the southern route through
12 Durham currently proposed by the Applicant is
13 approved, I urge the Committee to require that
14 the Applicant use the alternate water tank
15 driveway access only, not the Class VI road
16 access.

17 But I urge the Committee to reject
18 the Applicant's request for the Project to
19 follow the proposed route and instead choose
20 the northern route shown in Appendix 23,
21 overview map of the three different route
22 alternatives referred to by others before me.
23 This would significantly be less disruptive of
24 the natural environment. It has an existing

1 wide easement and already has high-voltage
2 transmission lines. It would not require going
3 underwater, be less disruptive to the bay, to
4 property owners and the environment.

5 I know that many people have said
6 before me that they are opposed -- that they
7 oppose this project. I think many of us would
8 actually say we are appalled by the Project.
9 Thank you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY:

11 Pamela Pappas-Clarkin followed by James
12 Belanger and then Nancy Menelly Bulkley.

13 PAMELA PAPPAS-CLAKIN: Good evening.
14 My name is Pamela Pappas-Clarkin. I am a
15 resident of Newington. I live at 244 Little
16 Bay Road.

17 I'm humbled by the passion, the
18 intelligence, the values spoken here, the
19 commitment, and the commitment to preserving
20 our natural beauty, the environment, the
21 special uniqueness that we share here, all of
22 us who live here on the Seacoast, anyone who's
23 a resident of New Hampshire, anyone who comes
24 to visit New Hampshire. Once it's destroyed we

1 cannot fix it. This is the opportunity we
2 have. This is the time we have to say, you
3 know, "Necessity is the mother of invention."
4 You have to find another way to this project.
5 Everyone here is -- I love what she just said,
6 that she is appalled by this project. They're
7 echoing my sentiments exactly. I really
8 implore you, you know, to open your hearts, to
9 really listen to what everything has been
10 spoken about here. It's so important not just
11 for us but for all the future generations, for
12 our kids. I mean, this is the time we have
13 this opportunity to make a difference to do
14 something better, which is to protect our
15 environment, to protect these national
16 resources we have. We just can't say, okay,
17 they need more power. This is what we're going
18 to do. You have to come up with a better idea.
19 We're the stewards of this land.

20 There is nothing else I can say. I
21 feel like everything has been said in such a
22 beautiful way and so eloquently by all of my
23 fellow neighbors here tonight. But I could not
24 miss this opportunity to also voice my concern

1 and be here and stand here with my neighbors
2 and say "NO" to this project. Thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: James
4 Belanger, then Nancy Menelly Bulkley and then
5 Bahman Sharifipour. I apologize in advance
6 for everyone's name that I butchered here
7 tonight. Thank you for your tolerance.

8 Mr. Belanger.

9 DR. JAMES BELANGER: Ladies and
10 gentlemen, Committee, my name is Dr. James
11 Belanger. I live here in Newington with my
12 wife and children. My seven- and
13 four-year-old are here today. This decision
14 is going to affect them more than it's going
15 to affect our generation. I'm here to speak
16 in strong opposition to this project as
17 presented. If completed, it will leave future
18 generations to cope with yet another permanent
19 scar on what remains of Newington's
20 residential and historic districts, what's
21 left of them.

22 My understanding is Eversource, a
23 large company that profits primarily from
24 transporting electricity, would like to take a

1 small distribution line running across the
2 center of our little town and convert it into a
3 huge, industrial-scale transmission line. The
4 proposed line will negatively impact several
5 other neighboring communities that we heard
6 from today. It will cross Newington's Frink
7 Farm, which is on the National Register. It
8 will jet plow across the already stressed and
9 struggling Little Bay, part of the National
10 Estuarine Research Reserve. "Let's keep
11 Newington Newington" is a catch phrase that I
12 have heard over and over again at town meetings
13 and throughout town. Town residents often
14 disagree about the usual small-town politics.
15 But protecting this tiny little bubble of rural
16 Newington is a longstanding sentiment that
17 unifies our town. Open spaces and rural
18 settings are an increasingly rare and valuable
19 commodity in the growing New Hampshire
20 Seacoast. This is precisely why preservation
21 is top priority for Newington. This sentiment
22 is expressed as the very first policy statement
23 of Newington's Master Plan which you've heard
24 of over and over again today. But what good is

1 a town's master plan if it is simply tossed
2 aside when industry deems its interests are
3 more important than the town's?

4 The Newington Master Plan is a
5 considered and carefully balanced document
6 that, among other things, clearly addresses the
7 type of project we are discussing today. I
8 certainly don't have time to review the master
9 plan in detail in this brief time we've been
10 allotted. I do request that the Committee goes
11 back and carefully reviews it, as it
12 provides -- as this plan provides the Town's
13 detailed guidance on projects of this scope.
14 Any project out of conformance with Newington's
15 Master Plan is simply not acceptable.

16 Newington has given so much. Pease
17 Air Force Base, the Pease Development
18 Authority, the Spaulding Turnpike, each occupy
19 land that was once rural Newington. Newington
20 will struggle for generations to recover from
21 the resulting air and groundwater pollution.
22 We endure daily traffic counts that are among
23 the busiest in the state, along with all the
24 associated noise and nuisance. Enough is

1 enough. Newington is being squeezed from all
2 directions, and now Eversource wants to push a
3 huge transmission line straight through the
4 center, a circle with a line right through it.
5 Where does it end? Newington must now push
6 back to preserve what little is left because
7 once gone, it does not come back. Please find
8 a better solution. The proposed line might not
9 be the best -- might be the best solution for
10 Eversource --

11 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Dr.
12 Belanger --

13 DR. JAMES BELANGER: -- but it
14 certainly is not the best overall solution for
15 Newington, Little Bay and the ratepayers. I
16 challenge the talented --

17 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Dr.
18 Belanger, you're over four minutes. So if you
19 only have like another sentence, you may add
20 it. Otherwise, I'm going to ask you to come
21 back at the end if there's time.

22 DR. JAMES BELANGER: I challenge the
23 talented teams of engineers to sharpen their
24 pencils, return to the drawing board, look a

1 little bit deeper and protect what matters the
2 most.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Nancy
4 Menelly Bulkley, followed by Bahman
5 Sharifipour and Dudley Dudley.

6 NANCY MENELLY BULKLEY: Hi, thanks
7 for hearing us today. I am Nancy Bulkley, and
8 live in Durham. I oppose this large-scale,
9 risky and unnecessary disturbance of cutting,
10 crushing and configuring by man and machine
11 over 13 miles of connecting water bodies and
12 wetlands within one vital watershed. While
13 not an exhaustive list, a quick look at the
14 map identifies the following will be impacted:
15 Beards Creek, Littlehole Creek, Reservoir
16 Brook, College Brook, Ellison Brook, Longmarsh
17 Brook, LaRoche Brook, Hamel Brook, Bedford
18 Brook, Crommet Creek, Horsehide Brook. These
19 eleven streams and brooks, along with many
20 other unnamed water bodies, impact the
21 Bellamy, Lower Cocheco, Lamprey, Oyster,
22 Salmon Falls and Piscassic Rivers, all leading
23 to the greater estuary. Adding to the
24 totality of this disruption, aesthetics aside,

1 is the damage from laying a line of concrete
2 mattresses on the mud flats that serve the
3 natural habitats of many aquatic animals and
4 other species.

5 And then the worst example of least
6 impact, jet plowing in fast tidal waters where
7 containment and mitigation of toxic plumes will
8 be very difficult in strong tides and winds.
9 There are so many unknowns and potential for
10 damage, even with the most vigilant monitoring.
11 There's a lot to risk for an energy reliability
12 project that has been found unnecessary by
13 UNH's Carsey School of Public Policy, and
14 certainly isn't wanted by all of us at least
15 with so much to lose if our priceless asset and
16 prominent natural treasure is seriously
17 damaged.

18 We appreciate your utmost vigilance
19 and extreme care regarding your decision. We
20 have to trust that you will do the right thing
21 and deny this project through the watershed.
22 Please find another way. Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY:

24 Bahman Sharifipour, followed by Dudley Dudley

1 and then Michael Lambert.

2 BAHMAN SHARIFIPOUR: First of all, I
3 want to thank you to pronounce my name
4 properly.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Got
6 one.

7 BAHMAN SHARIFIPOUR: I'm Bahman
8 Sharifipour. As a background, I'm a VP of
9 energy systems for a major construction
10 company in U.S. So as you can imagine, I deal
11 with power, power transmission on a regular
12 basis, and try to manage it as efficient and
13 as much as possible not impacting the
14 environment.

15 One of the problems that I see with
16 this project is that Eversource has had so much
17 ample opportunities to look at alternative
18 solutions, and because of the cost of those
19 alternative solutions, they have rejected it.
20 We have had several meetings with them. And we
21 have suggested and they came back, they would
22 look at it, and they came back and they changed
23 it again.

24 One of the things that we need to

1 look at, and a lot of people in this room have
2 said, is that we are looking at our future.
3 There's a lot of new technologies coming on
4 power transmission that a lot of companies are
5 looking at it. But because of the cost of the
6 initial cost of the capacity(?) requirement,
7 Eversource, I believe, is not looking at it.
8 And that is not a right thing to do. There's
9 technologies in Europe and even in Asia that
10 they're using to eliminate power transmission
11 lines and replacing them with much more safe,
12 although the initial cost is higher. But the
13 long-term return investment is a lot better
14 than what they have. Unfortunately,
15 Eversource, and I mean it, please forgive me
16 for being abrupt, shortsighted views do not
17 look at it, and all they want to do is take a
18 shortcut through a small town, which I'm very
19 proud to be in it. And I'm very, very
20 disappointed that these individuals -- this
21 company is not looking at it.

22 So all I want to do is this: I'm
23 asking the Committee to please ask them to look
24 at alternatives, and look at them and see

1 there's technologies available and coming down,
2 and take a look at it and put that as a option
3 rather than present proposal. Thank you very
4 much.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY:

6 Dudley Dudley, followed by Michael Lambert and
7 Catherine Meeking.

8 DUDLEY DUDLEY: I'm Dudley Dudley.
9 And you pronounced both of my names correctly.
10 I'm a lifelong resident of Durham, New
11 Hampshire. I was a member of the state
12 legislature for two terms and the Governor's
13 Council for four. Little bit of history,
14 though.

15 Forty-five years ago this fall, the
16 people of Durham were on high alert having
17 learned that many of their townspeople and
18 neighbors had been approached by a mysterious
19 man asking to buy options on their land. When
20 he was asked why he wanted the land, he lied.
21 To some he said he wanted it for a game
22 preserve, to some he said he wanted it for a
23 recreation facility. Some were told that he
24 wanted to raise his son in an environment more

1 rural than where he lived currently, which was
2 Keene, New Hampshire. Took months of sleuthing
3 by townspeople for the truth to come out.
4 Olympic Oil, and the person, world's richest
5 man, Aristotle Onassis, was determined to build
6 the world's largest oil refinery on the bay,
7 the bay that is the star in the crown of New
8 Hampshire's Seacoast. We all know what
9 happened. The people of the Seacoast rallied
10 and organized and rose up in protest, and the
11 refinery was defeated.

12 Now, 45 years later, after the
13 Olympic battle, we've learned that Durham and
14 the bay are threatened again. This time by
15 something mysteriously and euphamistcally
16 called the Seacoast Reliability Project. And
17 just as 45 years ago, we were not notified in a
18 timely fashion. And when we complain about not
19 learning of this sooner, we of course are told,
20 well, we could have read Eversource's meeting
21 notices. We could have argued for a better
22 route perhaps if we had. But you don't know
23 what you don't know. We had no idea such a
24 project was in the works. And so the Seacoast

1 Reliability Project, the SRP, was well
2 developed before we understood its implications
3 for Great and Little Bay, our forests, or town,
4 our conservation lands over which the SRP runs,
5 and for our precious historic resources on
6 which it intrudes.

7 Over the past 45 years, many
8 organizations have worked tirelessly to protect
9 the bay, the forests around it, and our way of
10 life. The list is long, indicating the respect
11 and passion that the citizens of this area feel
12 for the bay and its forests. I'm going to name
13 some of them. I'm going to name some of them
14 because they have worked so hard, they deserve
15 it: The Nature Conservancy, Waterkeepers, the
16 Conservation Law Foundation, Jackson Estuarine
17 Lab, the Society for the Protection of New
18 Hampshire Forests, the Oyster River Watershed
19 Association, the Bellamy and Oyster River
20 Watershed Protection Partnership, Great Bay
21 Stewards, the Town of Newington Conservation
22 Commission, the Great Bay National Estuarine
23 Research Reserve, and the Lamprey River
24 Watershed Association, as well as the

1 Piscataqua Region Estuary Partnership, or PREP.
2 Decades of their work will be lost if the SRP,
3 with its jet plowing of the bay bottom, its
4 massive concrete mattresses, towering poles,
5 and clear-cutting of 100-foot swaths through
6 our forests are allowed. Everything about the
7 imposed route of this high-voltage line and its
8 negative impacts violates Durham's zoning
9 ordinances and our Master Plan.

10 Thereby, I thank this Commission for
11 so patiently and respectfully listening to the
12 citizens of the Seacoast this evening as we
13 make known our views about the Seacoast
14 Reliability Project. And I ask, please, may
15 this Commission vote to deny the Eversource
16 Application for Certificate of Site and
17 Facility. Thank you very much.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Okay.
19 We're going to try to move along so we can get
20 to as many folks as we can. So, Michael
21 Lambert, Catherine Meeking and then Reverend
22 Michael Bradley for Andrea Bodo.

23 CATHERINE MEEKING: So Michael
24 Lambert's not coming.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY:

2 Michael Lambert's not here. Okay.

3 Are you Catherine?

4 CATHERINE MEEKING: Yes, Catherine
5 Meeking. So, Catherine Meeking, Durham. And
6 I also want to thank you very much for
7 listening to us today.

8 I'm here today to voice my opposition
9 to the Seacoast Reliability Project and am
10 asking you to reject it because it does not
11 meet the requirements as stated in RSA 162,
12 specifically, that the Project will not have an
13 unreasonable adverse effect on aesthetics and
14 the natural environment.

15 As I understand it, Eversource has
16 already worked with UNH to have the lines
17 buried that would cross through the campus, and
18 rightly so. The University understands the
19 importance of having a visually attractive
20 campus, and the transmission poles reaching up
21 to 100 feet in height and with multiple hanging
22 wires would indeed have an adverse effect on
23 the aesthetics of their campus. They lobbied
24 against it from the onset.

1 So then we come to the rest of the
2 proposed line. The ones leaving the campus
3 will make its way through the residential
4 neighborhoods and onto the more rural aspects
5 of Durham, along the Foss Farm corridor, over
6 to Bennett Road, across Newmarket Road and down
7 to the Great Bay.

8 I've been thinking a lot about the
9 aesthetics of Durham, and I'm going to start
10 with a comment my mother made when she made her
11 first visit here to me last summer. Naturally,
12 I wanted to show her the town where my husband
13 and I have chosen to live. We walked the
14 trails at Foss Farm and College Woods, and we
15 drove almost everywhere, down Packers Fall
16 Road, up Bennett Road, past farms, over to
17 Newmarket Road where we have conservation land
18 with trails, and then up to Mill Road and the
19 estuary. And as we drove, my mother said to me
20 how lucky I was to live in a place that is so
21 unspoiled. "It's beautiful," she said. I've
22 been thinking about that comment. "Lucky," she
23 said, when in fact luck doesn't come into it.
24 There's a reason our natural environment has

1 been kept intact and has not been spoiled.

2 In Durham, we've worked hard to
3 maintain the rural character of our town. We
4 have strict zoning rules and a master plan that
5 was given such intense consideration, it took
6 several years to complete. We did so because
7 we wanted to make sure that when your
8 construction proposals come before our town, we
9 know it'll be done in a way that's in
10 accordance with our values. And one of our
11 core values is aesthetics. We have rejected
12 proposals for drive-thrus, which though may
13 have added convenience, were not in accordance
14 with our vision of Durham. You'll see no mini
15 malls. We make sure that landscaping is used
16 to buffer hardscapes. We have designated bike
17 routes and designated scenic routes. We're
18 currently working on a solar ordinance that,
19 amongst other things, is looking at the
20 aesthetics of solar panels and how they might
21 affect the views on our scenic routes -- will
22 they be jarring to the eye? Yes, we really do
23 care about these things.

24 Years ago, we spent \$6 million to

1 acquire Wagon Hill, to ensure the land could
2 not be developed but would be used for
3 recreational purposes, maintaining its natural
4 beauty for perpetuity. It's the same reason
5 that back in the '70s the town's residents came
6 out to reject the Onassis oil terminal project.

7 Having worked so hard to protect the
8 natural beauty of our environment, it should
9 come as no surprise that the notion of adding a
10 transmission line where none already exists is
11 not only an affront, but makes no sense. Try
12 to envision, for example, the damage to views
13 on the scenic roads, to conservation lands that
14 we keep protected, now spoiled with
15 hundred-foot transmission poles. No one could
16 argue these are aesthetically pleasing.
17 They'll be rust in color, with a girth of
18 several feet sitting upon a slab of concrete
19 and with multiple hanging wires. And because
20 of their height, they will in many instances be
21 visible through the tree tops. Simply put,
22 they don't belong in this environment. I've
23 got, like, three seconds left.

24 I further argue that the current

1 proposal to add transmission lines would not
2 merely have a reasonable adverse effect,
3 rather, that it would be extreme. So I'm here
4 tonight to really implore you to please reject
5 this proposal and ask Eversource to accomplish
6 their objective by using the northern route
7 where a transmission line is already in place.
8 Thank you.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY:

10 Reverend Bradley will be next.

11 REV. MICHAEL BRADLEY: Thank you.

12 Michael Bradley, Durham resident. I'm reading
13 a prepared statement by Andrea Bolo, also a
14 Durham resident.

15 Durham's a small town where residents
16 have worked hard with our Master Plan to
17 preserve the rural nature of our town, our
18 rivers and bays outside the downtown corridor.
19 The townspeople rallied in 1974 to fight the
20 Onassis oil refinery. That project was touted
21 as beneficial for the region, just as this
22 project is touted today. The Project is not
23 needed for New Hampshire. This project
24 connects to the Northern Pass alternate route

1 running from Quebec through Maine, through
2 Rochester and on to southern New England. The
3 project will have a negative impact on land
4 because it violates the master plans adopted
5 and implemented during the past 49 years. The
6 orderly development of Durham will be disrupted
7 and thrown off course. This project will cause
8 the loss of thousands of dollars in property
9 values.

10 The new structures will be easily
11 seen from our scenic roads that are protected
12 by statute. There is no effective mitigation
13 that can hide the hideous aesthetics of these
14 lines. Counsel for the Public has agreed to
15 stipulations with Eversource about planting
16 trees. This will accomplish nothing because
17 all trees must be kept within the required
18 clearance zone, 18 to 24 feet beneath the
19 lowest cable. Installation of such modern
20 structures will cause irreparable loss of
21 integrity to all three historic districts
22 crossed by the easement. These districts cover
23 more than half of Durham.

24 Large tracks of pristine conservation

1 lands purchased with millions of taxpayer
2 dollars will be ruined. The network of hiking
3 and ski trails in these lands has been ignored
4 and will be destroyed. Heavy construction
5 equipment on access roads and within the
6 easement will leave our conservation lands a
7 clear-cut wasteland.

8 Eversource has other options,
9 including the northern route. Using that route
10 protects the Great Bay Estuary because it runs
11 from Madbury through Dover, over the river to
12 Elliot, then south and over the river to
13 Portsmouth. The river crossings on the
14 northern route are over the estuary, not in it,
15 and will not damage the Great Bay Estuary.

16 It is unreasonable to ruin the rural
17 and suburban areas of Durham and Newington with
18 the construction of a new line where there is
19 no line today. The northern route is far
20 superior. Eversource chose to route this
21 project through Durham because this route
22 requires only one permit from one state. The
23 northern route requires two permits from two
24 states. This proposal is for a new

1 high-voltage transmission line through Durham,
2 Little Bay and Newington that affects two small
3 towns and thousands of residents.

4 Eversource has withheld vital
5 information, filed false data, held secret
6 negotiations state permitting agencies, and
7 created compressed scale maps that cannot be
8 used. Eversource planned that local residents
9 would not understand the impact of this
10 devastating project. The effect of this will
11 be unreasonable and adverse to Durham, where
12 there are no transmission lines, no poles above
13 the streets or in our neighborhoods, in our
14 conservation lands, in our districts or visible
15 from scenic roads. And no expert can say what
16 damage jet plowing the estuary will cause.

17 We ask you, the Site Evaluation
18 Committee, to rule that this project does not
19 meet the statutory requirements for
20 certification. Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Okay.
22 Before we get to that list, I'm just going to
23 double-check that these folks that were not
24 here did not arrive late, stuck in traffic,

1 whatever. If you are here, please shout out.

2 Steve Burns, Sharon Meeker, Sarah
3 Keener Starkweather, Brandon Arsenault, and
4 Rick Stern.

5 [No verbal response]

6 Okay. So we will go to the folks
7 that have registered tonight. We have a few
8 minutes left. Diane McCann, then Derick
9 Wilson, followed by Susan Richman, if we have
10 time.

11 DIANE McCANN: Thank you. My name
12 is Diane McCann. I live in Durham, New
13 Hampshire. And I think we've been there for
14 over 40 years.

15 One of the reasons I wanted to talk
16 today is because I wanted to point out that we,
17 the people, have certain rights: Rights to
18 life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
19 And I think the plan here certainly impedes our
20 right to the special right of life of the bay,
21 the pursuit of liberty to live peacefully in
22 our neighborhoods, and the pursuit of
23 happiness. And when I talk about happiness, I
24 mean our mental health mainly, because I think

1 this project is going to have a terrible impact
2 on the mental health of all of our citizens,
3 not only in Durham, but also in Newington and
4 everywhere else that these lines will be
5 affecting us. If you can just imagine the
6 amount of cutting and the noise factor and the
7 plowing and the construction and the trucks and
8 all of that business coming through our little
9 towns. I don't even know if our roads will be
10 able to sustain the impact of these -- of this
11 project. And I hope that you will reject it
12 fully. Thank you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY:

14 Derick Wilson, followed by Susan Richman and
15 Sally Ryder.

16 DERICK WILSON: Good evening, folks.
17 My name's Derick Wilson. And I appreciate
18 your attention here tonight. I know it's
19 getting tough at this point --

20 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

21 DERICK WILSON: Appreciate your
22 attention to this tremendously important
23 decision you folks have to make here. I want
24 to share -- my wife and I recently made a

1 tremendously important decision for us, and
2 it's a decision that we all share, is where
3 would you like to live. And that question --
4 I also include where would I live if I could
5 live there, and what would it look like. So,
6 for us, that is a place that is beautiful, a
7 place that is safe for our family, a place
8 that is environmentally in good shape, a place
9 where we can drink the water, a place where we
10 can get out and enjoy the environment. That's
11 what we wanted to do for our decision. And so
12 we looked around the Seacoast. We wanted to
13 live on the Seacoast. And those were the
14 qualities that we were looking for in our life
15 going forward. And I think a lot of people
16 share those desires for that and not everybody
17 can get it. And so when we started looking,
18 we actually saw -- and we wanted to stay on
19 the Seacoast, and we chose Newington as the
20 place we wanted to live for all the reasons
21 that people have obviously spoken to.

22 So as you make this decision, think
23 about all the lives you're going to affect and
24 where you want to live and where you would like

1 to live and what will that be like for you.
2 So, please try to do the right thing. Thank
3 you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Susan
5 Richman.

6 SUSAN RICHMAN: Hi, Susan Richman.
7 I live in Durham, but in town, not on the bay.
8 One of the earliest speakers spoke to the fact
9 that population is increasing and that there's
10 a need for electricity. But I've also heard
11 the Carsey Institute Study referenced a few
12 times tonight, and that was on future energy
13 needs in New Hampshire. And they acknowledge
14 that our population is growing. However,
15 because of efficiency of new technologies in
16 conservation, our energy use is not keeping
17 pace with the population. It's falling
18 behind. So, no guaranty that we are going to
19 need more energy in the future. And on top of
20 that, as you heard tonight, quite probably
21 there will be new technologies or renewables
22 that will make it less necessary to build
23 these infrastructures. There's no danger for
24 a utility company in creating new

1 infrastructures because they know that the
2 rates will be underwritten by the taxpayers --
3 the ratepayers will have to pay for it. So
4 that's point one. I'm not sure we even need
5 this power.

6 Point two that I haven't heard
7 tonight at all is nationally we're hearing
8 about rising coastal waters everywhere. And if
9 we have a bay that goes dead, we no longer have
10 the vegetation that has been a buffer for
11 flooding. And if we're layering concrete all
12 over what is now a porous surface in the bay,
13 all the more reason to expect rising costal
14 waters. So I think that is a great
15 environmental danger that this policy -- or
16 this plan would perhaps bring on to us. Thank
17 you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Sally
19 Ryder.

20 SALLY RYDER: Thank you for your
21 patience. Thank you for letting me speak.
22 I'll try to make --

23 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: If
24 you could use the microphone, please. Thank

1 you.

2 SALLY RYDER: My family's ancestor
3 came from a very rural Newington in 1794, and
4 we're still very pleased to be in Newington.
5 We never want to move. And he bought several
6 farms for his sons, two of which are still
7 being used; they're being actively worked.
8 And two of those farms -- and some that are
9 not among that bunch. There are a few farms
10 that are still in Newington. And that's the
11 rural heritage there. Anyway, our family lost
12 a lot of land when Pease Air Force Base came
13 in 1953. But there's one farm in the historic
14 district which saved our farm from being taken
15 by the base, I believe. It's still being
16 worked.

17 Our father ingrained in our heads at
18 an early age that this land would never become
19 house lots. So, in 2005 we sold the
20 development rights and put the land in a
21 permanent agricultural easement, which is very
22 strict about what you can and can't do with
23 this land. One of the things you can't do is
24 to disturb the soil. And so we thought, well,

1 that's good. We're also in the historic
2 district, which forbids the use of intrusive,
3 visual elements that would spoil -- so we felt,
4 okay. So when we heard that Eversource was
5 going to put a power line through our existing
6 agricultural easement, which we had to sell
7 when the base came in 1953, they moved the line
8 down and it went across our fields. And we
9 heard Eversource wanted to put a power line
10 through there. Well, we thought, well, we're
11 going to be protected from overhead by the fact
12 that we're in the historic district, and we're
13 going to be protected from underground lines by
14 the fact we have this agricultural easement.
15 So we're going to stop them dead in their
16 tracks; right? Well, they've got alternative
17 routes. And so we went to the meeting to hear
18 about the alternative routes. And they went
19 through them, and every one had already been
20 ruled out. It had to go on the existing
21 easement which went through our land. Well, we
22 wanted to see -- we thought we had -- we still
23 thought we had a case here for keeping them off
24 this route. And we said, well, you can't put

1 it -- you know, we're in a historic district.
2 You can't put it overhead.

3 Oh, well, we'll put it underground
4 then.

5 Well, you can't put it underground.

6 Well, we will.

7 Anyway, we had to strike a deal with
8 the devil that they would put it underground.

9 They pitted neighbor against neighbor
10 and said they'd put it through Hannah Lane.
11 And we didn't want to get rid -- we wanted to
12 keep the peace. Anyway, so we struck a deal
13 with the devil. And with the agricultural
14 holders of the agricultural easement, if they
15 did a lot of remediation, they could put this
16 line underground. So we signed a deal with the
17 devil. But based on our experience with them,
18 with Eversource, over the past three years, we
19 do not trust them. They have mistaken, changed
20 things and not told us. They have
21 misrepresented what we thought were facts. And
22 we don't trust them at all.

23 We do not want them overhead. We do
24 not want them underground. We do not want them

1 in Newington. Please, please get them to go
2 somewhere else.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: We
4 did have some members of the Committee had
5 various commitments this evening. One did
6 need to leave. But a quick polling of the
7 others, there's three people left who have
8 signed up to speak who have not had a chance
9 yet. So we will take those three folks and
10 stay and hear your comments. Anyone else,
11 whoever, at any time wishes to give us any
12 more information or lodge a comment, you can
13 always do that online through the SEC web
14 site. I can assure you that we do read all
15 comments. Every member reads every single
16 comment that comes in and takes those into
17 consideration as well. But it's especially
18 important to hear you in person here tonight.

19 So we would like to hear from Melissa
20 Prefontaine and then John Parsons and then
21 Frank Graf. I don't think we'll have time to
22 circle back to the two people who were over
23 their four minutes. And we said that if there
24 was time, they could finish. I think we'll cut

1 it off after Frank Graf.

2 So if Ms. Prefontaine is here, if she
3 could come up.

4 [No verbal response]

5 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: John
6 Parsons.

7 JOHN PARSONS: I live in the Foss
8 Farm neighborhood in Durham. A couple of my
9 neighbors have spoken earlier. And I want you
10 to bear with me a few seconds here.

11 At the far end of our neighborhood,
12 away from the Eversource right-of-way, there's
13 a parcel of land that belongs to the Oyster
14 River School District. There was going to be
15 an elementary school built there, but the
16 school district has determined that the
17 neighborhood roads are not appropriate for
18 putting a dozen or so buses on the roads every
19 day with a couple dozen kids who live in the
20 neighborhood and various people going in and
21 out. Foss Farm Road, if you've ever driven on
22 a rural road in Scotland or England or Wales,
23 you know the roads are about a lane and a half
24 wide; that's Foss Farm Road. It's narrow.

1 It's bordered by oak trees and stone walls.

2 And so that brings me to the concern
3 that was sort of mentioned but not directly
4 commented on. Robin Mower mentioned the Class
5 VI portion of Foss Farm Road, which is a dirt
6 woods road. The traveled portion of Foss Farm
7 Road is the narrow part that I was referring to
8 that people live on. If the school district
9 has determined that it's not safe to put school
10 buses on that road, I have concerns about
11 putting construction equipment on that road,
12 putting cranes and heavy trucks and so forth.

13 I'm not even going to talk about the
14 various other concerns that people brought up.
15 I think they've been amply covered. But I am
16 really concerned about the safety aspects of
17 putting that equipment on Foss Farm Road for
18 however long it takes to build this project.
19 Thanks.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Frank
21 Graf.

22 DR. FRANK GRAF: Thank you very much
23 for the opportunity to speak. And actually, I
24 have an honorarium on my name. I'm a

1 physician. Dr. Graf.

2 For several years I've been studying
3 persistent organic pollutants, particularly in
4 reference to work with veterans and
5 understanding combat exposures from the Vietnam
6 period all the way up through the Gulf War, and
7 understanding how the exposures to persistent
8 organic pollutants work in the body. And I
9 hope that -- we could talk about this for a
10 long time, but I don't have a long time. And I
11 appreciate your allowing me to speak at all.
12 It is complex. And what I'd like to do is
13 simply read a letter that I wrote with the help
14 of my wife.

15 We live on Durham Point Road in
16 Durham. The purpose of this letter is to
17 record opposition to the disturbance to the
18 shorelines of Little Bay and the jet plowing of
19 the sediments at the bottom of Little Bay.
20 Both the shoreline and the sediments at the
21 bottom of the bay contain industrial pollutants
22 present by many years of military and
23 industrial activity on lands adjacent to Little
24 Bay, Great Bay and the Piscataqua River. Now,

1 they can be beautiful and pristine-looking, but
2 they can still have these pollutants. They're
3 called persistent organic pollutants because
4 they are in fact persistent. They do not
5 biodegrade. And in fact, they can
6 bio-concentrate in the natural environment.
7 This industrial activity that I'm referencing
8 has released these persistent organic
9 pollutants into the air and water and then into
10 the sediments. The persistent organic
11 pollutants are responsible in humans for
12 metabolic syndromes, as these pollutants
13 initiate and structure inflammation affecting
14 many different organisms and organs -- the
15 brain, the lungs, the kidneys, the pancreas.
16 Both metabolic syndrome, such as diabetes
17 mellitus, hypertension, insulin resistance, and
18 even exogenous obesity is associated with
19 exposure to persistent organic pollutants.
20 Persistent organic pollutants are concentrated
21 in the white fat of our own bodies and in the
22 animals that we eat, and they disrupt
23 physiological pathways regulating inflammation.
24 These pollutants enter the food chain for

1 humans and marine mammals at the same time they
2 disrupt the metabolism of filter feeders
3 indigenous to Little Bay.

4 Little Bay is actively being farmed,
5 as was mentioned by several people, through
6 aquaculture for the harvest of oysters. And
7 Little Bay has a native population of oysters
8 which would be at risk to be contaminated by
9 persistent organic pollutants released into the
10 tidal waters. The metabolic effects of
11 exposure to persistent organic pollutants --

12 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Dr.
13 Graf, I'm going to interrupt you. You're at
14 four minutes. Do you have a sentence or two
15 you can finish --

16 DR. FRANK GRAF: One sentence.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Go
18 ahead.

19 DR. FRANK GRAF: And thank you so
20 much for being so patient.

21 The effect of persistent organic
22 pollutants is well documented and supported by
23 a large body of medical research and medical
24 literature. PubMed Central, if you Google

1 that, any one of you on the panel can have
2 access to much of that information.

3 With this evidence readily available,
4 it is, in my opinion, irresponsible to proceed
5 with the disturbance of the sediments of Little
6 Bay. Thank you.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER WEATHERSBY: Okay.
8 So that's going to wrap up our Public Comment
9 Session. As I said before, you're all free to
10 send us comments. They would be written
11 comments that you would e-mail. There's not a
12 spot -- I'll remind you there's not a spot on
13 our site that you can fill it out right on the
14 site, but just us an e-mail. And we do read
15 the comments.

16 Thank you all for coming and sharing
17 your views. It's much appreciated. Thank you
18 for being respectful of each other in differing
19 views and of the Committee, and of the
20 stenographer who needed you to speak slowly.
21 So, again, thank you, and be assured that we
22 will consider your opinions in our difficult
23 road ahead. Thank you.

24 (Adjourned at 7:15 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed
Shorthand Court Reporter and Notary Public
of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby
certify that the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of my stenographic
notes of these proceedings taken at the
place and on the date hereinbefore set
forth, to the best of my skill and ability
under the conditions present at the time.

I further certify that I am neither
attorney or counsel for, nor related to or
employed by any of the parties to the
action; and further, that I am not a
relative or employee of any attorney or
counsel employed in this case, nor am I
financially interested in this action.

Susan J. Robidas, LCR/RPR
Licensed Shorthand Court Reporter
Registered Professional Reporter
N.H. LCR No. 44 (RSA 310-A:173)

	accept (1) 33:4	100:9;116:19; 129:1	6:3 affect (4) 113:14,15;127:21; 135:23	54:14;61:3;71:23; 72:2;73:9;89:18; 91:5;98:14;99:23; 115:17,21;138:12; 145:9
\$	acceptable (1) 115:15	added (1) 127:13	affected (5) 40:7;42:9,21;65:1; 92:13	Alaska (2) 40:3,15
\$1 (3) 23:8,20;95:2	access (10) 12:19;14:21;30:10; 98:2;100:10;110:6; 15,16;131:5;147:2	Adding (2) 117:23;128:9	affecting (2) 134:5;145:13	alert (1) 121:16
\$10,000 (2) 89:2,3	accessories (1) 71:15	additional (8) 8:13;9:1,15;14:11; 17:9;27:9;30:4;67:12	affects (1) 132:2	Alexandra (5) 22:10;24:14;27:2, 4,4
\$2,000 (1) 23:21	accident (1) 88:5	address (1) 30:22	affordable (1) 14:7	align (1) 80:5
\$200,000 (1) 89:1	accommodate (2) 37:24;63:1	addresses (1) 115:6	afforded (1) 10:10	allotted (1) 115:10
\$250,000 (2) 23:6,11	accomplis (1) 44:13	addressing (2) 34:20;94:14	affront (1) 128:11	allow (6) 14:19;33:15;40:21; 44:5;57:23;59:9
\$4,000 (1) 23:12	accomplish (3) 73:13;129:5; 130:16	adequately (1) 44:8	afternoon (11) 5:3;12:15;18:24; 32:1,3;34:18;46:1,2; 50:24;51:17;54:10	allowed (7) 10:21;12:5;41:4; 44:15;67:11;69:4; 124:6
\$6 (1) 127:24	accordance (2) 127:10,13	adhere (1) 52:4	afterwards (2) 83:14;86:19	allowing (3) 14:24;70:4;144:11
\$7 (1) 59:19	According (1) 52:6	adjacent (3) 28:12;72:2;144:23	again (11) 19:8;26:17;59:1; 71:21;86:22;88:6; 114:12,24;119:23; 122:14;147:21	allows (1) 17:4
[accountable (1) 18:6	adjoining (1) 41:6	against (8) 49:7;63:19;91:17; 92:17;106:24;110:1; 125:24;140:9	almost (2) 105:10;126:15
[Audience (1) 86:15	accustomed (1) 62:24	Adjoined (1) 147:24	age (1) 138:18	alone (1) 31:2
[avoidance] (1) 62:18	achieve (1) 37:23	adjudicatory (1) 10:4	agencies (4) 7:20;9:20;102:23; 132:6	along (22) 28:23;30:24;38:5, 13;49:12;50:9,16; 52:19;67:16,23;68:4, 24;80:8;85:16;87:12, 24;109:15,16; 115:23;117:19; 124:19;126:5
[indecipherable] (1) 89:6	acknowledge (1) 136:13	Administrative (1) 10:7	agency (1) 8:2	altar (1) 26:20
[No (7) 36:6;43:9;54:21; 96:6,9;133:5;142:4	acknowledging (1) 63:4	administrator (2) 6:11,16	agenda (2) 5:11,17	alter (2) 21:22;110:8
A	acquire (2) 80:8;128:1	admiring (1) 15:17	ago (17) 23:1;24:18;43:19; 48:24;67:6;74:4,24; 77:21;79:11;81:11; 82:12;91:24;97:11, 15;121:15;122:17; 127:24	Alteration (2) 9:9;62:15
abide (2) 73:2;103:8	acquiring (1) 49:5	adopted (3) 61:7;108:16;130:4	agreed (1) 130:14	alterations (1) 61:14
ability (3) 17:10;31:8;38:12	acres (2) 25:6;49:5	adoption (1) 108:13	agricultural (7) 91:15;99:16; 138:21;139:6,14; 140:13,14	altered (4) 46:18;47:3,11;48:4
able (9) 18:15;37:10;40:17, 20:41;8:59;21;68:21; 99:15;134:10	across (16) 8:7,16;21:19;23:9; 25:13;26:16;37:20; 44:9;51:20,21;83:9; 98:24;114:1,8;126:6; 139:8	adult (1) 16:21	agriculture (1) 23:16	altering (3) 47:18,22;61:16
abound (2) 20:11;108:19	act (1) 70:20	advance (2) 18:22;113:5	ahead (6) 39:23;77:15;94:14; 95:24;146:18;147:23	alternate (3) 73:12;110:14; 129:24
above (11) 16:22;17:4;27:10; 33:21;42:19;50:20; 60:24;79:2;90:17; 107:5;132:12	active (1) 43:15	adverse (9) 18:1;21:6;23:2; 45:6;110:4;125:13, 22;129:2;132:11	air (16) 21:7;25:20;45:7;	alternating (1) 71:7
above-ground (2) 61:22;104:15	actively (3) 80:7;138:7;146:4	adversely (1) 92:13		alternative (13) 22:1;26:10;44:14; 45:9,18;65:12;92:8, 9;94:18;119:17,19; 139:16,18
abrupt (1) 120:16	activities (1) 99:9	advisor (2) 55:20,22		alternatives (8) 25:24;62:1;83:12;
absolutely (4) 81:19;82:8,8;87:15	activity (4) 20:17;52:11; 144:23;145:7	aerial (1) 60:21		
abundance (1) 65:4	actually (7) 53:7;55:2;97:12; 98:4;111:8;135:18; 143:23	aesthetic (1) 52:24		
abundant (1) 77:23	Adams (2) 68:3,9	aesthetically (1) 128:16		
abutting (2) 99:11;108:23	add (3)	aesthetics (11) 21:6,13;45:6;66:3; 117:24;125:13,23; 126:9;127:11,20; 130:13		
AC (1) 71:12		Affairs (1)		

84:1;91:20;95:5; 110:22;120:24 although (5) 25:14;38:8;75:3; 109:1;120:12 always (7) 76:6;82:11;20:21, 24;106:16;141:13 Amanda (6) 85:2,19;89:12; 93:1,3,5 amazed (1) 106:15 amazing (1) 81:20 ambitious (1) 66:7 amended (4) 7:15;10:16;60:16; 61:17 amendment (3) 31:1;62:8,11 American (2) 70:21;82:8 Americans (1) 25:7 America's (1) 82:5 Amherst (1) 81:18 among (3) 115:6,22;138:9 amongst (1) 127:19 amount (2) 23:7;134:6 amounts (1) 59:22 ample (1) 119:17 amply (1) 143:15 analysis (3) 57:4;66:9;94:21 ancestor (2) 17:16;138:2 ancient (1) 52:23 Andrea (2) 124:22;129:13 animals (3) 76:2;118:3;145:22 Ann (5) 85:1,19;89:11,14; 97:7 annually (1) 13:7 anthropogenic (1) 52:11 apologize (2) 18:22;113:5 appalled (2) 111:8;112:6	appearance (1) 96:22 appears (1) 86:6 Appendix (1) 110:20 applaud (1) 35:19 applicable (1) 9:12 Applicant (5) 7:17;9:2;61:17; 110:12,14 Applicant's (4) 8:6,13;62:7;110:18 Application (7) 5:12;7:15,19,22; 9:8;45:16;124:16 applications (2) 72:5;102:21 applied (1) 7:9 appointed (1) 9:17 appraiser (1) 88:22 appreciate (8) 11:22;22:12;40:18; 73:24;118:18; 134:17,21;144:11 appreciated (2) 11:6;147:17 appreciative (1) 62:13 approached (1) 121:18 appropriate (3) 35:3;103:1;142:17 approve (3) 33:18;48:17;80:15 approved (3) 22:18;104:17; 110:13 approximately (4) 7:12;16:14;89:17; 91:24 April (4) 7:7;44:12;62:11; 108:9 aquaculture (3) 13:3,10;146:6 aquatic (1) 118:3 archeological (1) 63:22 architectural (1) 91:15 area (35) 14:14;17:11,23; 20:4;22:15,18;27:11, 12,17;30:3;35:2; 37:1;48:8;58:10; 66:21;67:9;73:6;	81:1,12,22,23;82:2; 83:2;84:17;85:24; 86:2,3;90:13;91:4; 92:3;93:7;98:13; 104:4,16;123:11 areas (17) 28:2;29:9;61:10; 63:9;64:16;66:5; 74:15;81:3,6;82:24; 89:16;98:19;104:9; 109:7,21,24;131:17 argue (2) 128:16,24 argued (2) 22:19;122:21 argument (1) 26:2 arguments (2) 57:22;94:20 Aristotle (2) 49:7;122:5 arm (1) 6:17 around (8) 38:22;39:16;56:11; 68:1;71:13,18;123:9; 135:12 arrive (1) 132:24 arrogance (1) 62:23 Arsenault (5) 89:13;93:2;96:4,5; 133:3 arsenic (1) 16:6 Asia (1) 120:9 aside (3) 82:13;115:2; 117:24 Aslin (3) 7:1;9:18;11:7 aspects (7) 37:13;55:6,8; 98:18;105:19;126:4; 143:16 assault (1) 33:4 assertion (1) 109:23 assessment (2) 45:17;62:8 asset (1) 118:15 assets (1) 55:16 assistant (1) 54:12 associated (5) 46:12;71:7;95:13; 115:24;145:18 Association (5)	36:18;48:2;63:24; 123:19,24 assumes (1) 20:7 assuming (1) 94:23 assure (3) 25:12;69:8;141:14 assured (1) 147:21 Atlantic (1) 19:20 attempting (1) 26:8 attention (4) 32:17;67:18; 134:18,22 Attorney (6) 6:24;7:1;9:17; 11:7;39:11,15 attractive (1) 125:19 August (2) 8:18;10:4 authentic (1) 105:11 authority (3) 7:21;39:5;115:18 auto (3) 34:19;65:16;94:18 available (3) 62:2;121:1;147:3 avenues (2) 14:10;73:13 average (1) 95:2 avid (1) 36:19 avoid (4) 52:21;65:19,23; 66:3 aware (1) 78:10 awareness (2) 20:13;37:16 away (8) 16:8,18;53:18; 67:14;79:18;84:10; 102:24;142:12 Ayer (5) 36:5;39:9,23,24,24	105:11;107:7;109:5; 115:11;116:6,7,21; 119:21,22;128:5; 141:22 background (2) 55:10;119:8 bad (1) 84:17 Bahman (6) 113:5;117:4; 118:24;119:2,7,7 balance (6) 20:6,11;21:23; 79:23;98:10,16 balanced (1) 115:5 bald (3) 16:10,21;84:8 barn (1) 105:10 Barron's (2) 55:19,23 Base (12) 25:20;73:10;89:19; 98:14;99:3,24;100:3; 108:3;115:17; 138:12,15;139:7 based (2) 51:12;140:17 Base's (1) 61:3 basically (1) 11:4 basis (2) 52:14;119:12 basking (1) 16:1 bass (3) 68:22;78:16;84:5 battle (1) 122:13 Bay (165) 8:8,10;9:16;12:21, 23;13:2,10,12,18,20; 14:5,18;15:9,12,16, 22;16:18;17:15,15, 20;18:12;19:7,8,10, 24;20:10;21:14,19, 23;22:1;24:20;25:13; 26:16;27:5;28:23; 29:1;32:22;34:24; 36:22;37:5,10,21; 38:4,11;43:16,20; 44:2,18;47:2,10; 48:19;51:9,12,14,15, 20,21,24;52:1,7,10, 13,16;53:11,14;54:1; 57:11,21;58:5,9,14; 63:18,18;64:19,19, 24;66:2;67:4,5,7,19, 20,23;68:13,21,23; 69:2,8,12,16;70:12, 14;74:1,8,8,11,17,21,
				B
				baby (1) 37:6 back (32) 20:17;22:6;26:14; 37:5;40:9;41:3,5; 49:7;50:14;60:5; 63:11,18,22;75:14; 77:12;79:3,9;81:18; 84:23;96:13;102:6;

22;75:5,8,10,11;78:3, 5,17;80:9,22;81:20; 82:23;83:8,9,21; 86:4;87:7;90:23,24; 91:12,13,23;95:12; 99:1;101:9;102:11, 13,16,19;103:5,10, 12,16;105:2,7; 107:21;109:17; 111:3,16;114:9; 116:15;122:6,7,14; 123:3,9,12,20,22; 124:3;126:7;131:10, 15;132:2;133:20; 136:7;137:9,12; 144:18,19,21,24,24; 146:3,4,7;147:6	13,18,22 belief (1) 23:20 believes (2) 19:11;38:9 Bellamy (2) 117:21;123:19 belong (2) 22:14;128:22 belongs (1) 142:13 beloved (1) 18:2 beneath (2) 15:12;130:18 beneficial (1) 129:21 benefit (3) 23:4;44:6;80:12 benefits (2) 31:11,19 benefitted (1) 43:24 benign (1) 78:15 Bennett (3) 49:23;126:6,16 best (7) 19:15;82:7,9; 84:10;116:9,9,14 better (10) 5:15;46:16;72:18; 76:7;84:7;112:14,18; 116:8;120:13;122:21 beyond (6) 12:2;23:19;68:9; 79:3;83:3;87:18 big (4) 64:17;70:15;106:7, 8 bigger (1) 98:6 biggest (1) 74:1 bike (2) 81:12;127:16 biking (1) 84:2 billion (2) 55:16;59:19 bio-concentrate (1) 145:6 biodegrade (1) 145:5 biological (1) 16:5 biologics (1) 13:23 biologist (1) 87:3 birds (2) 41:3,11 bisect (1)	90:18 bit (6) 32:7;55:3,11;58:7; 117:1;121:13 black (1) 89:16 blasting (2) 13:22;64:8 blatantly (2) 109:4,22 blocked (2) 20:8;42:7 blood (1) 75:17 bluish (1) 72:1 board (7) 22:6;43:18;48:1; 102:22;106:7; 108:13;116:24 boarder (1) 67:21 boards (2) 34:14;107:23 boat (5) 17:13;70:1;75:4; 76:4;78:5 boaters (1) 68:10 boating (3) 14:16;74:7;76:5 boats (2) 51:10;68:24 Bob (4) 103:21;104:22; 105:1,1 bodies (6) 45:4;90:4;93:12; 117:11,20;145:21 Bodo (1) 124:22 body (3) 17:14;144:8; 146:23 bogs (1) 83:6 Bolo (1) 129:13 Book (2) 70:19;92:23 booklet (3) 23:15;17,22 bordered (1) 143:1 borders (2) 78:21;98:8 Borkland (4) 63:14;66:24;70:9, 11 both (9) 38:2;49:24;52:16; 55:22;93:11,12; 121:9;144:20;145:16	bottom (6) 20:5;69:12;107:10; 124:3;144:19,21 bought (3) 40:5;105:7;138:5 boundaries (1) 41:21 box (1) 11:7 Bradley (4) 124:22;129:10,11, 12 brain (1) 145:15 Brand (1) 96:3 Brandon (3) 89:13;93:1;133:3 break (3) 77:10,14;84:23 Brenda (5) 60:13;63:13;66:23; 67:1,1 bridge (2) 98:23;110:7 bridges (1) 99:1 brief (1) 115:9 briefly (1) 96:20 brilliant (1) 28:4 bring (13) 14:11,13;21:19; 25:9;31:20;52:18; 75:14;86:14,24; 88:15;102:14;103:4; 137:16 bringing (2) 20:16;95:18 brings (1) 143:2 Brook (9) 8:9;117:16,16,16, 17,17,17,18,18 brooks (1) 117:19 Brothers (1) 106:7 brought (3) 71:22;94:8;143:14 Brown (6) 93:2;96:4,8,16,18, 19 brunt (1) 25:4 bubble (1) 114:15 bucolic (2) 46:22;61:1 budding (1) 13:2	buffalo (1) 82:18 buffer (2) 127:16;137:10 build (7) 25:1;49:8;88:17; 100:17;122:5; 136:22;143:18 building (5) 21:11;26:22,23; 52:3;74:19 buildings (1) 46:19 built (4) 46:6;97:14;98:24; 142:15 Bulkley (5) 111:12;113:4; 117:4,6,7 bumper-to-bumper (1) 58:7 bunch (2) 25:11;138:9 burdensome (1) 62:4 buried (6) 22:20;28:8;73:5; 83:20;104:19;125:17 Burns (7) 29:12;31:23;36:4, 5,8;82:3;133:2 bury (9) 23:8,20;27:8,22; 58:21,22;59:3;90:20; 102:1 Burying (3) 38:12;59:2,5 buses (2) 142:18;143:10 bushels (1) 37:7 busiest (1) 115:23 Business (5) 6:3;59:21;65:10; 97:20;134:8 businesses (6) 29:18;30:9,11,19; 31:20;56:16 butchered (1) 113:6 buy (1) 121:19 buyers (1) 88:19 buzzing (1) 72:21 byways (1) 67:13
				C
				cable (5)

8:15;18:4;23:13; 67:15;130:19 cable-laying (1) 78:12 cables (3) 37:24;57:9;60:21 calculations (1) 58:24 call (3) 11:12;67:18;81:8 called (3) 82:6;122:16;145:3 calls (1) 15:15 came (7) 81:11;119:21,22; 128:5;138:3,12; 139:7 camera (1) 15:19 campaign (1) 86:6 campus (4) 125:17,20,23; 126:2 can (55) 11:6,17;17:7;19:9, 15:22;17:24,4,9; 31:19;34:1;38:2,9; 39:1;41:10;48:4; 52:18;58:1,5;59:19; 60:5;68:13;69:8; 74:18;77:11;85:11, 16,17;87:23;88:11, 13;91:9;92:4,8;97:2; 102:6;107:5;112:20; 119:10;124:19,20; 130:13;132:15; 134:5;135:9,10,17; 138:22;141:12,14; 145:1,2,5;146:15; 147:1,13 Canada (1) 25:7 cancer (1) 28:5 Canyon (2) 82:14,16 capacity (2) 30:4;120:6 cape (1) 105:10 capstone (1) 108:15 captain (1) 51:10 capture (3) 15:18;47:7,14 care (5) 41:22;51:16; 102:24;118:19; 127:23 carefully (2)	115:5,11 cares (1) 41:21 caretakers (1) 19:22 Carolyn (4) 45:22;48:11,13,14 carried (1) 38:6 Carroll (9) 27:3;29:11;31:23; 32:1,2;35:5,6,10,19 carry (2) 21:3;60:22 carrying (1) 72:3 Carsey (3) 66:8;118:13; 136:11 case (5) 32:9;52:17;68:12; 82:12;139:23 catastrophe (1) 25:5 catastrophic (1) 48:5 catch (4) 68:22;78:16;84:9; 114:11 catching (2) 69:3;84:5 Catherine (7) 121:7;124:21,23; 125:3,4,4,5 caught (1) 54:11 causal (1) 28:17 cause (6) 50:3;72:11,24; 130:7,20;132:16 caused (2) 71:11,14 causes (1) 62:14 causing (3) 47:4,12;71:14 CCA (2) 36:17,23 cellar (1) 21:17 center (4) 23:7;99:19;114:2; 116:4 central (3) 61:8;90:13;146:24 cents (1) 33:18 century (3) 98:9;99:21,22 certain (3) 103:2,2;133:17 certainly (5)	33:23;115:8; 116:14;118:14; 133:19 Certificate (3) 5:14;9:10;124:16 certification (2) 63:3;132:20 certified (1) 88:22 cetera (1) 33:24 Chaikin (4) 54:19;60:12,14,15 chain (1) 145:24 Chair (1) 93:4 chaired (2) 97:16;106:1 challenge (2) 116:16,22 challenges (1) 37:17 Chamber (6) 29:16,23;31:2,5,7, 14 chambers (2) 31:4,9 chance (5) 19:17;39:14,20; 68:1;141:8 change (3) 32:13;58:1;63:1 changed (4) 19:13;47:20; 119:22;140:19 changes (1) 46:15 channel (1) 68:11 Chapter (4) 36:19;92:23; 108:12,15 chapters (1) 108:11 character (14) 27:13;29:8;48:21, 24;49:5;50:7,7,18; 61:4;62:16;96:21; 108:18;109:20;127:3 characterized (1) 99:19 charged (1) 72:1 charm (1) 105:16 Chase (2) 51:11;52:2 chatting (1) 84:3 chemicals (2) 47:16;75:22 cherished (1)	33:20 Chesapeake (1) 75:1 chief (1) 55:13 children (8) 28:12;29:7;69:2,5; 76:6,8;78:7;113:12 children's (1) 53:19 chimney (1) 23:13 chipmunks (1) 41:1 choice (4) 11:1;52:17;110:5,5 choose (3) 33:7;110:7,19 choosing (1) 107:11 chop (1) 42:16 chose (8) 17:2;40:15;91:21; 94:16;105:16; 109:12;131:20; 135:19 chosen (6) 44:16;78:2,8;94:2; 95:13;126:13 Chris (3) 12:10,13,17 Christopher (3) 6:1;7:1;9:18 Chuck (1) 6:10 churn (1) 69:10 churning (1) 75:21 cigarettes' (1) 28:19 circle (2) 116:4;141:22 circumstances (1) 90:15 citizen (1) 43:17 citizens (7) 33:20;45:19;56:16; 103:15;123:11; 124:12;134:2 City (1) 107:18 claims (1) 109:17 clam (2) 37:14;38:12 clamorous (1) 16:15 clap (1) 86:18 clapping] (1)	86:15 Class (3) 110:9,15;143:4 cleaners (1) 70:2 clear (5) 17:3;39:11;45:8; 83:1;93:21 clearance (1) 130:18 clear-cut (1) 131:7 clear-cutting (1) 124:5 clearing (1) 79:5 clearly (7) 25:14;49:19;61:13; 86:12;106:10;107:2; 115:6 clients (1) 55:16 climate (1) 32:13 clock (1) 11:24 close (11) 11:19,20;17:5; 32:17;37:6;49:18; 64:10,15;68:16; 85:24;86:4 closed-door (1) 23:10 closely (1) 22:2 closer (2) 17:2;57:20 clouds (1) 38:4 Coal (1) 82:15 coast (2) 74:3;75:2 Coastal (3) 36:18;43:21;137:8 Cocheco (1) 117:21 Code (1) 10:6 Coe's (1) 46:5 co-founder (1) 55:13 cohesive (1) 49:21 Cold (1) 98:14 Collaborative (1) 31:6 collected (2) 37:7;75:18 Colleen (1) 52:6
---	--	--	--	---

College (2) 117:16;126:14	community (27) 27:16;28:7;34:4; 16:46;11:23;47:1; 48:21;49:3,7;50:8; 18;53:24;73:17; 105:5,19,21;106:5, 11,12,21,22;107:1,9, 12;108:8,17	61:14;93:23;143:10, 14	97:4;101:6;127:5; 141:17	convenient (1) 99:3
Colony (1) 15:7	community-based (1) 106:3	concluded (1) 61:20	considered (3) 103:13;104:7; 115:5	conveniently (1) 100:4
color (2) 72:2;128:17	Como (7) 31:24;36:5,8,9,10, 13,13	conclusion (3) 24:7;66:6;77:5	considering (1) 101:8	convert (1) 114:2
column (1) 13:23	companies (6) 30:12;55:18;62:4; 94:6,7;120:4	conclusive (1) 28:19	consistent (2) 100:19;109:19	Cooley (1) 15:8
combat (1) 144:5	Company (9) 5:13;7:8;13:1; 14:6;59:8;113:23; 119:10;120:21; 136:24	Concord (1) 5:6	constantly (2) 64:23;74:9	cooperation (1) 45:19
coming (11) 5:4;20:1;53:21; 55:11;67:4;71:9; 120:3;121:1;124:24; 134:8;147:16	compared (1) 62:19	concrete (17) 17:19;20:8;28:23; 38:2;47:6,14;64:9; 65:5;67:16;68:15; 83:8,17;91:13;118:1; 124:4;128:18;137:11	constituents (2) 19:2;86:9	cope (1) 113:18
commenced (1) 10:4	compelling (1) 92:19	concurrence (1) 61:6	construct (4) 7:10;8:6,14;60:17	copies (1) 23:22
comment (11) 5:6;11:3;12:15; 27:8;48:14;101:4; 126:10,22;141:12,16; 147:8	competing (1) 82:15	condition (1) 44:4	constructed (1) 90:16	core (3) 97:20;108:10; 127:11
commented (1) 143:4	complain (1) 122:18	conditions (7) 8:21;9:4,11,12,15; 37:9;103:4	construction (11) 9:16;31:10;38:1; 64:9;65:24;119:9; 127:8;131:4,18; 134:7;143:11	Corner (2) 46:5;70:14
commenter (2) 11:13;12:9	complaining (1) 103:7	conductor (1) 71:24	consultants (2) 44:7;64:2	corona (3) 71:20,21;72:5
comments (9) 6:20;11:11;32:5; 105:5;141:10,15; 147:10,11,15	complete (2) 63:3;127:6	conductors (1) 72:3	consulting (1) 55:14	corporate (1) 107:10
commerce (5) 27:17;29:16,24; 31:7,15	completed (1) 113:17	confident (1) 87:23	consumers (1) 62:6	corporations (1) 55:17
commercial (2) 27:18;98:17	completely (1) 65:23	configuring (1) 117:10	contain (1) 144:21	corporation's (1) 97:22
Commission (7) 6:6;8:5;97:17; 107:24;123:22; 124:10,15	complex (1) 144:12	conformance (1) 115:14	contained (2) 7:18;9:11	correctly (1) 121:9
commissions (2) 45:3;90:5	component (2) 20:6;87:12	connecting (1) 117:11	containment (1) 118:7	corridor (5) 21:11;30:24;50:17; 126:5;129:18
commitment (2) 111:19,19	components (1) 106:23	connects (2) 17:15;129:24	contaminants (2) 16:5;38:6	corridors (3) 45:11;100:1,4
commitments (2) 33:14;141:5	compressed (1) 132:7	conscious (1) 32:10	contaminated (1) 146:8	cost (16) 14:21;26:4;35:11; 57:6,13;58:15,24; 62:5;66:14;76:22; 95:4;107:6;119:18; 120:5,6,12
committed (3) 27:15;33:19;106:2	compromised (1) 21:14	conscientiously (1) 32:15	contamination (1) 25:20	cost/benefit (1) 94:21
Committee (20) 5:10;7:10;12:14; 29:14;31:18;36:16; 43:13;45:15;70:5; 84:19;93:13;105:24; 110:13,17;113:10; 115:10;120:23; 132:18;141:4;147:19	computer (1) 39:16	Conservancy (6) 10:1;37:1;78:21; 79:22;89:1;123:15	contempt (1) 62:22	costal (1) 137:13
committees (2) 93:9;97:16	concentrated (1) 145:20	Conservation (21) 9:23;14:2;26:10; 36:18;47:18,22; 64:10;80:14;107:23; 108:19,20;109:10; 123:4,16,21;126:17; 128:13;130:24; 131:6;132:14;136:16	context (1) 62:13	costly (3) 66:7;83:13;94:20
commodity (1) 114:19	concern (5) 13:9;32:20;64:17; 112:24;143:2	conserved (2) 33:11;109:11	continued (2) 37:15;99:2	cost-prohibitive (2) 58:23;59:1
communities (7) 30:23;31:12;72:11; 73:9;79:19;94:9; 114:5	concerned (8) 28:4;30:8;31:8; 32:21;64:14;65:5; 88:7;143:16	consider (11) 9:14;31:18;44:18; 76:16;90:7;95:23,24; 97:23;101:2;103:18; 147:22	continues (3) 30:6;31:15;37:12	costs (3) 62:3;80:6;94:23
	concerning (2) 16:21;46:3	consideration (16) 5:11;34:1;35:15, 21;43:5;44:17;45:3, 9;54:5;90:3,5;96:23;	Contrary (1) 109:22	council (3) 34:13;107:24; 121:13
	concerns (10) 6:18;30:23;39:3; 40:11,12;41:15;		contrast (1) 46:19	councilor (1) 43:17
			contrasts (1) 23:8	counsel (4) 6:5,15;9:18;130:14
			control (1) 38:9	count (1) 21:9
			controversy (1) 28:17	counter (2) 40:22;81:4
			convenience (2) 7:4;127:13	countless (2) 13:17;14:16

country (1) 98:11	crossed (3) 50:5;98:23;130:22	45:17;132:5	defeated (1) 122:11	describe (1) 105:15
counts (1) 115:22	crossing (3) 24:20;45:11;87:8	date (1) 37:6	defend (1) 92:7	deserve (1) 123:14
couple (6) 46:2;59:17;76:14; 105:4;142:8,19	crossings (1) 131:13	dated (1) 66:9	defense (1) 91:6	design (4) 60:21;61:15,16; 62:20
courage (1) 92:17	Crowley-Joyce (1) 10:3	dating (1) 63:22	defiling (2) 70:20;71:1	designated (6) 49:24;81:1;91:1; 99:7;127:16,17
course (4) 7:16;16:24;122:19; 130:7	crown (2) 74:2;122:7	daughter (5) 40:1,18,22;41:8; 105:3	definitely (1) 59:19	designation (1) 74:18
courses (1) 74:19	crushing (1) 117:10	David (1) 6:4	definition (2) 70:19,22	designed (2) 27:20;100:16
Court (4) 47:8;56:22;81:16; 134:20	crustaceans (2) 38:15,17	Davis (5) 76:11;77:8;80:18, 19,20	delay (1) 54:11	desire (1) 89:9
Cove (1) 15:7	culminates (1) 108:16	day (11) 10:17;15:21;16:1, 23;19:24;40:21;57:7; 58:16,17;59:1; 142:19	deliberate (1) 86:10	desires (1) 135:16
cover (1) 130:22	cultivate (1) 83:24	days (3) 15:15;37:11;78:4	delicate (6) 15:13;20:6;21:22; 64:19;78:10;79:23	despite (2) 49:1;61:3
covered (2) 75:13;143:15	Cultural (2) 5:23;8:19	dead (2) 137:9;139:15	delighted (1) 75:15	destroy (4) 17:9;33:19;50:17; 64:7
covering (1) 38:13	current (9) 26:8;28:11;30:17; 31:18;32:4;93:22; 104:14;108:7;128:24	deal (6) 12:21;41:14; 119:10;140:7,12,16	delivering (1) 31:9	destroyed (3) 25:6;111:24;131:4
cover-up (1) 28:20	currently (12) 27:7,10;39:7;42:7; 64:13;97:12;101:3,7; 103:24;110:12; 122:1;127:18	dealing (1) 93:13	delivery (1) 30:16	destroying (3) 27:12;47:18;91:10
coves (1) 68:4	customer (1) 95:4	dear (1) 44:22	Dell (4) 103:22;104:23; 105:1,2	destruction (3) 53:24;63:21;79:21
CPA (1) 55:12	customers (1) 95:1	decades (8) 27:14;28:21;49:3; 53:21;87:21;109:6; 110:2;124:2	demand (1) 30:6	detail (2) 56:24;115:9
crabs (1) 65:3	cut (4) 39:18;41:7;64:8; 141:24	decided (3) 23:1,13;43:3	democratic (1) 82:8	detailed (1) 115:13
cranes (1) 143:12	cuts (1) 21:16	decision (14) 9:3,7;66:20;67:6; 90:9;94:22;101:23; 113:13;118:19; 134:23;135:1,2,11,22	demolished (1) 46:18	deteriorate (1) 65:8
create (2) 38:4;100:20	cutting (4) 42:4;83:5;117:9; 134:6	decision-making (2) 94:10;96:1	demonstrated (2) 52:1;98:20	determinations (1) 92:18
created (2) 99:10;132:7	D	decisions (7) 24:2,6,8;32:10; 95:19,21;107:8	demonstrates (1) 44:21	determined (3) 122:5;142:16; 143:9
creates (1) 52:21		decline (1) 52:9	denied (5) 24:11,24;73:12; 92:11,15	determining (1) 95:20
creating (2) 98:16;136:24	d/b/a (2) 5:13;7:8	decommissioned (1) 100:3	Denis (1) 65:13	detract (1) 68:18
creation (2) 23:15,17	daily (2) 37:8;115:22	decrease (1) 14:13	deny (9) 22:13,17;26:18; 39:5;45:15;92:17; 103:17;118:21; 124:15	devastating (3) 38:3;75:20;132:10
creatures (1) 75:11	damage (15) 14:20;15:13;18:6; 22:22;47:5,12;48:19; 50:4;53:20;67:19; 118:1,10;128:12; 131:15;132:16	deep (1) 32:20	Department (6) 5:22;6:3;8:18,23; 9:6;54:13	develop (2) 19:8;40:10
credentials (1) 55:24	damaged (1) 118:17	deeper (2) 37:24;117:1	depreciating (1) 79:24	developed (2) 123:2;128:2
Creek (3) 117:15,15,18	damming (1) 82:16	deer (2) 40:24;41:8	depriving (1) 52:4	Developers (2) 88:16;90:20
criteria (2) 33:22;34:2	danger (2) 136:23;137:15		Deputy (1) 6:1	developing (1) 27:15
critical (2) 29:20;30:10	dangerous (1) 69:11		Derick (5) 133:8;134:14,16, 17,21	Development (14) 6:2;13:14;20:22; 21:5;32:14;35:2; 45:2;65:22;108:2,8; 109:21;115:17; 130:6;138:20
Crommet (2) 78:23;117:18	data (2)		DES (5) 5:4;9:11,13;13:8; 102:23	device (1) 78:13
cross (7) 64:12;79:1;99:3; 100:1;108:6;114:6; 125:17				devil (3)
cross-country (1) 78:24				

140:8,13,17 diabetes (1) 145:16 diameter (2) 87:24;88:3 Diana (8) 27:3;29:11;31:22; 32:1,2;35:6,10,19 Diane (3) 133:8,11,12 Dick (1) 88:21 Dictionary (2) 70:19,22 difference (1) 112:13 different (11) 29:2;41:2,11; 49:13;55:3;58:5; 70:17;94:22;102:14; 110:21;145:14 differing (1) 147:18 difficult (2) 118:8;147:22 dig (1) 25:17 digging (1) 25:13 digress (1) 100:24 diligently (3) 33:16;37:2;83:23 diminish (1) 30:20 dinner (1) 69:3 DIR (1) 5:20 direct (3) 17:5;65:13;98:2 direction (3) 28:11;70:18;87:1 directions (1) 116:2 directly (4) 16:22;94:11;109:1; 143:3 Director (4) 5:19,21;6:1;54:12 dirt (1) 143:5 disagree (1) 114:14 disappointed (1) 120:20 discharge (3) 71:20,21,22 disclose (1) 62:13 discuss (2) 55:2;57:19 discussed (1)	13:8 discussing (1) 115:7 discussion (3) 24:5;44:14;95:8 disfigure (1) 33:1 disgusted (1) 75:3 disingenuous (1) 84:17 dismissed (1) 100:12 disorderly (1) 21:4 dispiriting (1) 32:23 displaced (1) 25:7 display (1) 24:22 disregard (1) 44:21 disrupt (2) 145:22;146:2 disrupted (1) 130:6 Disrupting (1) 13:21 disruption (3) 61:4;79:23;117:24 disruptive (3) 78:12;110:23; 111:3 distressing (1) 79:21 distributed (1) 51:23 distribution (3) 100:1,7;114:1 district (14) 90:18;97:17;99:17, 19;104:6,14,19; 138:14;139:2,12; 140:1;142:14,16; 143:8 districts (7) 50:5;73:7;99:20; 113:20;130:21,22; 132:14 disturb (2) 69:17;138:24 disturbance (3) 117:9;144:17; 147:5 disturbing (2) 64:20;103:5 ditch (1) 26:15 Division (4) 5:21;6:2;8:19; 54:14 DNA (1)	84:15 docket (4) 5:10,15;7:6,16 docket's (1) 108:22 document (1) 115:5 documentary (1) 82:4 documented (1) 146:22 Dog (1) 10:2 dollars (8) 13:17;33:18;38:24; 49:4;55:16;89:4; 130:8;131:2 done (15) 16:19;34:9;41:20; 42:14;53:22;57:4,14, 16,17;58:12;74:14; 77:2,12;101:12; 127:9 door (3) 25:21;81:20;85:12 dormant (2) 13:22;69:12 DOT (2) 6:10;9:2 double-check (1) 132:23 doubt (4) 16:15;17:2;75:19; 79:7 Dover (6) 12:24;31:7;40:3; 50:12;97:12;131:11 down (20) 11:9;19:8;20:1; 23:21;41:7;42:4,16; 64:8;67:13;68:8; 73:1;74:20;83:7; 84:2;88:16,23;121:1; 126:6,15;139:8 downtown (1) 129:18 dozen (3) 13:4;142:18,19 dozens (1) 41:2 DR (11) 113:9,10;116:11, 13,17,22;143:22; 144:1;146:12,16,19 drafted (1) 99:6 dramatically (1) 21:10 drawing (2) 22:6;116:24 dream (4) 15:20,22;16:9; 17:12	drink (1) 135:9 drive (1) 16:18 driven (1) 142:21 drive-thrus (1) 127:12 driveway (1) 110:15 driving (1) 16:8 dropped (1) 97:10 drove (2) 126:15,19 Dudley (10) 117:5,5;118:24,24; 121:6,6,8,8,8,8 due (3) 45:2;90:3,5 dumbfounds (1) 103:11 dumping (1) 69:24 DUPREY (2) 6:7,8 Durham (103) 8:9,17;9:23,24; 10:1;12:18;15:7; 19:1;24:17;32:2,7,9, 16,19;33:2,3,6,8; 34:12;40:1,4,14,20; 42:20;43:14,19,24; 44:20;46:6,7,14,21; 47:20;48:1,7,15,19, 23;49:2,9,23;51:6,18, 20;53:9;59:4;63:17, 24;66:2;67:2,3,15; 72:12;73:22;74:14; 77:17,20;78:2;79:11; 80:1,7;81:10,11,13; 84:3;85:22;87:12,17; 88:9;93:6,8,10,21; 102:12;107:17,18; 108:2;109:2,6; 110:12;117:8; 121:10,16;122:13; 125:5;126:5,9;127:2, 14;129:12,14;130:6, 23;131:17,21;132:1, 11;133:12;134:3; 136:7;142:8;144:15, 16 Durham's (10) 20:24;43:16;44:7; 80:14;107:20;108:3, 24;109:24;124:8; 129:15 During (5) 66:11;72:22;83:18; 94:8;130:5 duty (1)	44:23 E eagles (8) 16:10,18,22;17:10; 67:14;68:3;83:19; 84:8 eaglets (4) 16:11,20;17:1,6 earlier (3) 53:9;72:16;142:9 earliest (1) 136:8 early (4) 75:23;99:24;100:3; 138:18 ease (1) 14:21 easement (12) 40:8;50:5,10; 88:24;111:1;130:22; 131:6;138:21;139:6, 14,21;140:14 easements (4) 41:22;47:19;90:17; 109:14 easily (3) 49:17;100:21; 130:10 east (2) 74:3;75:2 easy (2) 76:23;92:5 eat (6) 68:22;69:6;75:18; 78:17,19;145:22 eating (1) 78:16 echoing (1) 112:7 ecological (1) 78:12 ecology (1) 32:21 Economic (10) 6:2,3;20:17;25:5; 30:20;31:11;32:14; 44:1;56:5;58:2 ecosystem (7) 13:21;14:20;28:24; 47:5,13;64:19;78:11 ecosystems (1) 19:23 education (1) 32:14 Eelgrass (8) 37:14;38:13;52:4, 5,9,12;64:24;103:1 effect (10) 21:6;49:13,20; 72:6;75:20;125:13, 22;129:2;132:10;
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146:21 effective (1) 130:12 effects (8) 18:1;45:6;62:21; 71:1,2;78:12;88:11; 146:10 efficiency (1) 136:15 efficient (1) 119:12 effort (2) 37:2;43:16 efforts (7) 25:8;37:11,16; 43:22;69:23;70:3; 80:14 either (5) 26:1;46:18;61:15; 65:19;97:2 elected (1) 55:18 electric (13) 7:11;8:14;30:6; 71:9;73:6;79:12; 90:15,20;92:4;99:9; 12,24;104:8 electrical (8) 27:22;60:22;71:13; 22;86:14,24;87:11; 104:11 electrically (1) 71:24 Electricity (5) 66:10,14;79:14; 113:24;136:10 electromagnetic (2) 28:9,10 element (2) 79:13,16 elementary (1) 142:15 elements (1) 139:3 eleven (1) 117:19 eligible (1) 50:4 eliminate (1) 120:10 Eliot (1) 50:13 Elizabeth (1) 5:20 elk (1) 82:18 Elliot (1) 131:12 Ellison (1) 117:16 eloquently (1) 112:22 else (6)	26:22;32:23; 112:20;134:4;141:2; 10 elsewhere (2) 14:23;26:2 e-mail (2) 147:11,14 emeritus (1) 51:10 EMF (1) 28:13 emits (1) 72:4 emphasize (1) 109:13 employing (1) 25:11 encapsulated (1) 51:22 enclosure (1) 71:15 encounter (1) 68:23 encourage (1) 45:16 end (11) 12:4;59:12;60:5; 73:13;85:7;90:14; 94:10;102:5;116:5, 21;142:11 endanger (1) 34:24 endure (1) 115:22 Energy (20) 5:14;7:9;14:7,11; 26:10;29:21;30:5,10, 18;31:9,19;32:13; 60:22;66:13;93:13; 118:11;119:9; 136:12,16,19 engineer (1) 87:4 Engineering (2) 52:3;88:1 engineers (1) 116:23 England (7) 25:3,10;30:2; 44:15;94:4;130:2; 142:22 enhance (1) 46:24 enjoy (6) 46:22;68:5;78:15; 79:8;86:5;135:10 enjoyed (1) 64:13 enjoying (1) 74:9 enormous (2) 47:6,13 enormously (1)	43:20 enough (7) 12:18;15:18;51:16; 57:18;102:16; 115:24;116:1 ensure (9) 12:6;20:19;30:16; 42:2,9;44:24;61:10; 80:10;128:1 enter (1) 145:24 entire (5) 15:10;20:4;37:10; 43:24;48:8 entitled (1) 66:9 environment (26) 21:8;29:5;33:5,15, 23;38:24;43:22; 44:10;45:7;57:8; 66:5;70:24;77:3; 108:19;110:24; 111:4,20;112:15; 119:14;121:24; 125:14;126:24; 128:8,22;135:10; 145:6 Environmental (13) 9:6;18:3,6;25:5; 32:12;38:18;44:1; 54:13;79:20;80:24; 87:4;103:14;137:15 environmentally (3) 25:9;58:13;135:8 envision (1) 128:12 epidemiological (1) 28:15 equal (2) 20:3;82:2 equipment (5) 64:6;71:10;131:5; 143:11,17 erect (1) 79:6 especially (4) 14:8;28:5;62:1; 141:17 essential (3) 19:12;25:2;44:5 established (3) 65:9;99:14;109:20 establishment (1) 46:10 estate (1) 88:12 estimated (1) 94:23 estimation (1) 106:19 estuarial (1) 91:1 estuaries (1)	109:16 estuarine (13) 19:24;21:20;43:20; 44:10;51:24;52:6,8, 14,22;81:1;114:10; 123:16,22 Estuary (29) 12:21;14:18;15:14; 16:7;17:21;18:3,12, 16;29:1;36:22;37:14, 17;43:17;48:20; 52:13;64:21;74:3; 75:2,17;77:23;80:23; 99:4;117:23;124:1; 126:19;131:10,14,15; 132:16 et (1) 33:23 euphamistically (1) 122:15 Europe (1) 120:9 evaluated (1) 44:8 evaluating (1) 95:21 Evaluation (7) 5:9;7:10;29:14; 31:17;36:15;45:15; 132:17 even (18) 16:19;35:1;41:21; 57:12;59:14;72:22; 74:21;75:17;81:8,22; 99:13;103:12; 118:10;120:9;134:9; 137:4;143:13;145:18 evening (12) 5:24;6:7,9;12:5; 63:15;85:20;102:9; 107:16;111:13; 124:12;134:16;141:5 eventually (3) 52:5;74:20;99:10 Eversource (80) 5:14;7:9;14:23; 16:16;17:4,8;20:20; 24:24;25:10;26:11, 12,18,22;27:22; 30:22;38:9;39:1,5; 41:5,21;42:14;44:7,8, 12,16;45:16;48:3; 51:19;52:18;56:8,9, 10,24;57:13;58:18, 21;59:18;61:20;63:8; 67:8;69:14;72:8; 76:24;77:18;79:15; 84:14,16;86:10;87:4, 10;92:14;94:16,23; 95:14;97:21;100:5, 12;101:2;103:13,16; 108:9;110:7;113:22; 116:2,10;119:16;	120:7,15;124:15; 125:15;129:5; 130:15;131:8,20; 132:4,8;139:4,9; 140:18;142:12 Eversource's (15) 15:11;16:12;18:5; 37:19;41:16;43:4; 44:17,21;50:20; 60:20;61:12;62:11; 92:10;110:5;122:20 everybody (4) 39:19;42:21;73:21; 135:16 everyone (9) 7:4;12:6;39:14; 60:7,7;73:2;77:11; 101:24;112:5 everyone's (2) 39:12;113:6 everywhere (3) 126:15;134:4; 137:8 evidence (6) 28:17,18;41:20; 45:14;92:19;147:3 evident (1) 26:14 exactly (2) 107:4;112:7 example (5) 42:2;59:24;110:3; 118:5;128:12 examples (1) 25:15 except (1) 21:21 excerpts (1) 62:10 excess (2) 47:7,14 excitement (1) 69:3 executive (1) 55:13 exhaustive (1) 117:13 Exhibit (1) 52:2 existed (1) 28:7 existing (22) 7:13;23:23;34:22, 23;38:2,8;45:11; 49:14;50:10;90:17; 99:24;100:10,11,18; 102:2;103:18; 108:12;109:14,18; 110:24;139:5,20 exists (3) 33:10;50:19; 128:10 exogenous (1)
---	--	---	--	---

145:18 expand (1) 30:14 expect (2) 41:8;137:13 expense (1) 26:2 expensive (4) 26:1;35:17;100:13, 17 experience (3) 106:14;108:4; 140:17 expert (1) 132:15 exploring (1) 14:17 exposed (3) 20:3;68:15;83:18 exposing (1) 69:1 exposure (2) 145:19;146:11 exposures (2) 144:5,7 expressed (3) 44:20;90:7;114:22 extend (1) 90:21 extended (1) 78:1 Extension (1) 70:13 extra (1) 86:3 extraordinary (1) 80:11 extreme (3) 48:20;118:19; 129:3 eye (4) 35:14,21;95:17; 127:22 eyesore (1) 104:17	136:8;139:11,14; 145:4,5 factor (1) 134:6 factors (1) 95:20 facts (2) 34:5;140:21 fade (1) 53:18 fails (1) 92:5 failure (1) 44:17 fair (2) 52:20;101:24 fait (1) 44:13 faith (4) 24:9;38:11;41:16; 42:17 fall (4) 74:6;78:4;121:15; 126:15 falling (1) 136:17 Falls (1) 117:22 false (1) 132:5 families (3) 68:24;69:1;78:9 family (12) 12:20;15:10;46:8; 74:4,10;76:4;77:21, 24;78:1;97:14;135:7; 138:11 family's (1) 138:2 fantastic (1) 105:18 far (10) 13:24;18:4,6; 21:11;43:1;49:11; 105:8;106:18; 131:19;142:11 farm (18) 13:4;22:21,22; 23:3;40:6;49:11; 110:11;114:7;126:5, 14;138:13,14;142:8, 21,24;143:5,6,17 farmed (2) 78:17;146:4 farmers (3) 65:10;70:16;84:4 farms (10) 13:3;65:9;69:15, 18;75:15;100:2; 126:16;138:6,8,9 farther (1) 79:17 fashion (1)	122:18 fast (1) 118:6 faster (1) 30:7 Fat (2) 10:2;145:21 fatally (1) 91:12 father (1) 138:17 fear (6) 15:12;16:3;17:18; 46:23;78:18;86:8 fears (1) 98:14 feature (1) 62:17 February (2) 7:23;9:5 federal (2) 91:2,8 federalized (1) 98:13 federally (1) 50:4 feed (1) 74:7 feeders (1) 146:2 feeding (1) 20:9 feel (14) 17:10;30:18;34:10, 14;56:2;69:21;71:17; 72:13;89:1;95:17; 105:12,21;112:21; 123:11 feeling (1) 38:20 feet (8) 16:15;27:9;37:24; 67:14;83:5;125:21; 128:18;130:18 fellow (2) 47:24;112:23 felt (1) 139:3 ferry (1) 17:17 fertilizer (1) 20:12 few (11) 13:15;15:20;33:13; 34:6;63:9;94:15; 95:16;133:7;136:11; 138:9;142:10 fiberoptic (1) 8:15 fields (3) 23:9;71:14;139:8 fight (1) 129:19	figure (2) 77:1,1 figures (1) 76:23 file (1) 8:11 filed (5) 7:17;8:20,23;9:2; 132:5 fill (1) 147:13 filter (2) 37:10;146:2 filters (1) 37:8 final (4) 8:20;9:3,7;10:3 finally (1) 67:5 financial (5) 55:5,8,14;56:1; 58:2 financing (1) 26:9 find (7) 35:16;92:16;95:6; 108:24;112:4;116:7; 118:22 fine (1) 11:11 finest (1) 99:20 finish (5) 60:6;66:17;102:7; 141:24;146:15 fire (1) 8:1 firm (1) 55:14 firmly (1) 12:22 first (16) 11:13;12:9;22:13; 27:8;32:6;44:11; 75:2;76:16;82:13; 93:15;97:20;98:22; 99:5;114:22;119:2; 126:11 firsthand (1) 18:16 fish (5) 68:20;69:3,6;78:5; 82:19 fisherman (1) 36:20 fishermen (3) 68:8,12;84:5 fishery (2) 37:14;84:12 fishing (3) 14:16;68:24;74:9 Fitzgerald (3) 54:8,10,12	fix (1) 112:1 fixed (1) 88:3 flats (3) 20:3,5;118:2 flawed (1) 91:12 flies (1) 80:13 flocks (1) 41:2 flooding (1) 137:11 floor (1) 64:20 Flow (2) 52:1;99:4 flowing (1) 28:11 fluid (1) 71:23 Flynn's (1) 72:18 folks (7) 14:3;124:20; 132:23;133:6; 134:16,23;141:9 follow (5) 11:14,21;94:6; 109:14;110:19 followed (40) 12:10;15:4;18:20; 22:2,9;24:14;27:2; 29:11;31:23;36:4; 39:9;43:7;45:22; 48:11;50:22;53:4; 54:18;60:13;63:13; 66:23;70:9;73:19; 76:10;77:8;80:18; 85:18;89:12;96:4,11; 97:7;103:21;104:23, 23;107:14;111:11; 117:4;118:24;121:6; 133:9;134:14 following (4) 30:21;62:10;63:20; 117:14 folly (1) 44:4 food (6) 16:4,23;17:7; 52:14,15;145:24 forbids (1) 139:2 Force (8) 25:20;73:10;89:18; 91:5;98:14;99:23; 115:17;138:12 forces (1) 28:10 Ford (6) 45:23;48:12;50:22,
F				
face (2) 80:13;95:21 facilities (3) 13:13;49:15; 100:21 Facility (6) 5:15;45:1,5;87:18; 121:23;124:17 facing (1) 37:17 fact (15) 16:21;40:17;49:1; 68:17;73:24;79:24; 99:18;102:20; 107:17;126:23;				

24;51:1,6 forest (3) 83:6;92:12;110:10 forests (7) 84:11;109:16; 123:3,9,12,18;124:6 forever (6) 21:22;47:3,11,20; 51:10;92:14 forfeit (1) 53:7 forget (1) 73:7 forgive (1) 120:15 forgotten (1) 100:5 formally (1) 98:10 former (3) 46:20;100:4; 104:21 forth (1) 143:12 Fortune (1) 55:18 Forty-five (1) 121:15 forward (11) 26:4;39:6;40:8; 41:4;42:12,13;61:8; 67:11;69:4;70:4; 135:15 Foss (11) 40:5;49:11;110:11; 126:5,14;142:7,21, 24;143:5,6,17 fought (2) 49:7;80:2 found (4) 40:21;68:13;76:7; 118:12 Foundation (2) 9:24;123:16 founded (1) 12:24 four (16) 12:3;13:3;22:23; 35:5;37:11,23;39:19; 40:5;55:7,20;59:11; 101:11;116:18; 121:13;141:23; 146:14 four-year-old (1) 113:13 Fox (1) 105:20 fragile (2) 19:23;43:23 frame (1) 86:10 Francisco's (1) 82:17	Francoise (4) 60:13;63:13,15,16 Frank (6) 141:21;142:1; 143:20,22;146:16,19 free (1) 147:9 frequently (2) 68:23;78:23 fresh (1) 20:1 friendly (1) 25:9 friends (4) 14:4;68:6;74:10; 81:18 Frink (2) 10:2;114:6 Frizzell (1) 10:2 Frog (1) 72:19 front (3) 79:9;85:12;102:22 fronts (1) 77:19 full (1) 11:20 fully (2) 39:2;134:12 fund (1) 106:9 fundamental (2) 24:22;62:15 funds (2) 23:2,6 Furber (2) 17:14,17 Further (4) 26:5;50:1;104:10; 128:24 future (13) 15:23;30:17;31:18; 54:2;66:10;80:13; 100:22;108:14; 112:11;113:17; 120:2;136:12,19	gave (3) 92:20,20,21 gem (1) 106:17 general (5) 6:5;9:17;13:10; 40:12;95:16 generally (1) 104:8 General's (1) 7:1 generating (1) 50:14 generation (3) 78:6;99:10;113:15 generations (6) 35:24;46:8;97:11; 112:11;113:18; 115:20 gentleman (2) 53:9;72:16 gentlemen (2) 5:3;113:10 geography (1) 65:17 gets (1) 60:7 Gigi (1) 105:4 girth (1) 128:17 given (9) 41:17;45:3,9,14; 92:22;101:4;110:5; 115:16;127:5 giving (2) 73:15;92:20 glad (1) 103:8 glimpse (1) 84:9 global (1) 66:12 glow (1) 72:2 goal (2) 21:3;63:8 God (2) 71:20;76:2 Godschneider[sic] (1) 88:21 goes (10) 40:8;42:6;56:3; 71:8,12,18;84:18; 104:3;115:10;137:9 golf (1) 74:19 Good (22) 5:2,24;6:7,9;18:23; 32:1;41:16;42:17; 45:24;50:24;54:10; 63:15;74:5,10;85:20; 102:9;107:16;	111:13;114:24; 134:16;135:8;139:1 Google (1) 146:24 gorgeous (1) 82:21 Gosling (11) 34:18;35:17;50:15; 53:12,22;65:16,21; 94:18,19;95:4; 100:10 go-to (1) 6:20 govern (1) 90:9 governing (2) 45:4;90:4 government (6) 32:16;42:22;73:9; 91:2,8;102:23 Governor's (1) 121:12 grade (1) 103:2 Graf (8) 141:21;142:1; 143:21,22;144:1; 146:13,16,19 Grand (2) 82:14,16 grandchildren (6) 15:21,23;16:10; 17:13;18:14;76:5 granted (5) 8:12;79:12;82:10, 23;84:13 granting (1) 8:5 gravely (1) 46:23 great (59) 12:20,21;13:12,18; 14:18;17:15;18:5,12; 19:23;21:23;29:1; 34:24;36:11,21;37:3; 38:22;41:13;43:16, 20;44:2;47:2,10; 51:15,24;52:1,7,10, 13;63:18;64:19;67:4, 20;74:1,7,8,17,22; 75:5,7;77:12;78:11; 79:23;80:7,9,22; 82:5;90:23;91:12,13, 23;109:17;123:3,20, 22;126:7;131:10,15; 137:14;144:24 greater (10) 22:23;29:15,23; 31:6,7,14;89:10; 94:12;100:14;117:23 greatly (3) 30:8;65:20;88:4 green (2)	11:7;89:16 Greg (9) 53:5;54:18,24; 55:1;56:23;59:13,18; 60:3,9 grew (4) 13:1,3;93:7;107:18 grid (4) 25:3;71:8,10;94:4 ground (4) 27:10;60:24;90:17; 107:5 groundhogs (2) 41:1,9 groundwater (1) 115:21 Group (2) 10:1;26:9 grow (2) 30:7,14 growing (7) 14:8;20:16;30:12, 17;38:21;114:19; 136:14 growth (6) 26:13,16,21;30:9, 20;98:17 guarantee (1) 68:11 guaranty (2) 65:7;136:18 guess (1) 69:19 Guest (1) 46:5 guests (1) 46:12 guidance (1) 115:13 guinea (1) 44:6 Gulf (1) 144:6 guns (1) 87:5
H				
				habitats (3) 52:13;69:24;118:3 half (11) 12:1;20:4;39:17; 55:15;73:8;91:5; 98:9,12;99:18; 130:23;142:23 half-truths (1) 88:10 Hamel (1) 117:17 Hampshire (61) 5:4,9,13;6:5,10; 7:8;8:17,9;6,13;10:6; 12:18;19:1,20;24:24;

25:4;29:14;36:19,24; 44:24;46:13;48:16; 49:2;50:1;52:19; 55:1;56:4,15,16,17; 57:6;58:16;59:20,22; 61:6;66:1;67:7,12; 73:23;76:14;81:19; 83:22;91:6;92:16; 93:11;95:1;98:3,22; 99:22;105:14;106:8, 12;107:12;111:23, 24;114:19;121:11; 122:2;123:18; 129:23;133:13; 136:13 Hampshire's (4) 66:10;74:2;84:10; 122:8 hanging (2) 125:21;128:19 Hannah (1) 140:10 happen (4) 21:21;53:21;68:14; 106:6 happened (1) 122:9 happiness (3) 133:18,23,23 hard (7) 37:22;75:10,14; 123:14;127:2;128:7; 129:16 hardscapes (1) 127:16 hardworking (1) 13:16 harm (4) 28:17;29:4;67:9; 77:2 harmful (3) 28:24;71:1,2 harming (1) 83:19 Harris (11) 66:24;70:9;73:19, 20,21,22;76:10;77:8, 15,16,17 Harte (5) 48:12;50:22;53:4, 6,6 harvest (1) 146:6 hatch (1) 16:11 hay (1) 23:10 hazard (1) 69:19 hazards (1) 88:3 HDD (1) 58:15	heading (1) 93:17 headline (1) 66:11 heads (1) 138:17 healing (1) 13:19 health (16) 13:11,18;21:8; 28:5,14,20;29:6; 37:13;38:3;44:1,2; 45:8;76:1;80:11; 133:24;134:2 healthy (1) 74:5 hear (17) 24:5;39:9;48:11; 54:17;66:23;71:3,16; 72:14;84:24;85:18; 87:6;88:19;93:1; 139:17;141:10,18,19 heard (22) 15:6;19:15;20:15; 41:18;53:8;56:21; 57:22;58:6,11;68:9; 69:14;71:9;95:10,15; 114:5,12,23;136:10, 20;137:6;139:4,9 Hearing (12) 5:9,12;6:22;10:12, 13;32:18;46:1;64:23; 85:4;87:9;117:7; 137:7 hearings (2) 10:4;94:9 heart (1) 90:18 heartland (1) 61:23 hearts (1) 112:8 heat (2) 47:7,15 heavy (3) 64:5;131:4;143:12 Hebert (5) 65:14;85:1,19; 89:12,14 height (2) 125:21;128:20 held (3) 18:5;106:8;132:5 Helen (1) 10:2 Hello (4) 5:20;54:24;73:21; 103:23 help (3) 11:8;18:11;144:13 helping (1) 85:13 Here's (1)	17:2 heritage (2) 25:8;138:11 herons (2) 83:20;84:7 Hey (1) 57:23 Hi (7) 27:4;53:6;60:14; 70:11;105:1;117:6; 136:6 Hiatt (3) 97:7;102:9,10 hidden (1) 106:17 hide (1) 130:13 hideous (2) 83:17;130:13 high (5) 50:10,16;72:3,20; 121:16 high-end (1) 88:17 higher (4) 21:12;89:9;95:7; 120:12 highest (1) 74:18 highly (3) 37:21;61:21;109:6 high-powered (2) 28:6;37:20 high-tension (1) 88:14 high-voltage (13) 16:17;47:15;51:19; 52:18;60:17,22; 64:11;65:24;71:19; 72:4;111:1;124:7; 132:1 highway (1) 88:1 highways (1) 99:2 hike (1) 81:15 hiking (2) 105:20;131:2 Hill (1) 128:1 hinder (1) 17:21 hire (1) 94:6 hired (2) 64:2;87:5 historic (34) 17:22;21:7,18; 24:7;27:12;28:2; 29:8;45:6;46:17,20; 47:23;48:1,6,21;50:5, 7,18;52:23;63:24;	64:2;66:4;81:6; 91:14;95:12;97:16; 99:19;106:10; 113:20;123:5; 130:21;138:13; 139:1,12;140:1 Historical (8) 5:22;8:20;9:24; 63:22;79:20;80:4; 105:12,19 historically (1) 99:16 history (15) 7:6;21:16;23:16; 32:12,21;33:23; 72:10;97:4;98:20; 105:5;106:11,21; 107:9;109:8;121:13 hit (1) 89:19 Hoffman (5) 85:1,18,20,21; 86:22 hold (2) 39:13;44:22 holders (1) 140:14 holding (1) 63:11 holds (1) 26:2 holes (1) 21:17 Holly (5) 66:24;70:9;73:18, 21,22 home (4) 15:15;17:20; 102:18;106:9 homeowners (1) 102:15 homes (3) 46:7;88:18;89:3 honestly (1) 56:2 honor (3) 21:15;76:17,20 honorarium (1) 143:24 honored (1) 51:15 hoops (1) 102:17 hope (8) 22:13;48:4,17; 66:19;95:23;107:8; 134:11;144:9 Hopefully (1) 32:8 hoping (1) 85:6 Horsehide (1) 117:18	horseshoe (1) 65:3 host (1) 34:7 hour (1) 84:2 hours (3) 13:17;14:16;16:8 House (15) 19:1;23:14;24:17; 40:5,21;41:17;42:6; 46:6,6;78:21;79:4; 93:11;97:13;105:7; 138:19 Huge (7) 47:20;50:6;59:22; 79:18;99:12;114:3; 116:3 hum (6) 71:6,6,8,13,19; 88:20 human (1) 52:11 humans (3) 20:11;145:11; 146:1 humbled (1) 111:17 humid (1) 88:20 hundred (1) 24:19 hundred-foot (1) 128:15 hundred-foot-tall (1) 49:16 hundreds (1) 49:5 hunting (1) 82:17 hurt (4) 57:7,8,10,12 husband (8) 23:1;28:3;46:9; 51:9;70:13;77:20; 102:16;126:12 Hydro-Quebec (1) 25:6 Hyland (4) 85:1,19;89:12,14 hypertension (1) 145:17
I				
Iacopino (3) 6:15;39:15;96:14 Idea (6) 82:5,7;83:4;84:10; 112:18;122:23 identified (4) 30:3;94:12;108:20; 109:10				

identifies (1) 117:14	24:23;25:8;43:21; 52:13;96:21;112:10;	indicative (1) 88:9	136:11	93:6
identify (1) 64:2	115:3;134:22;135:1; 141:18	indigenous (1) 146:3	insulin (1) 145:17	introduce (4) 5:18;6:13,24;54:8
ie (1) 109:6	importantly (1) 24:10	individual (1) 42:24	insulting (1) 23:19	introduced (2) 6:23;44:11
ignorance (1) 24:22	imposed (1) 124:7	Individuals (3) 10:23;62:24; 120:20	intact (1) 127:1	introducing (1) 13:20
ignore (1) 109:15	impossible (1) 94:6	induced (1) 71:11	integrity (2) 99:21;130:21	introduction (6) 47:4,6,11,13; 70:23;109:23
ignored (1) 131:3	improve (6) 13:18;23:7;37:12; 46:24;87:11,16	industrial (10) 27:18;78:24;79:21; 97:3;98:17;99:8,11; 144:21,23;145:7	intelligence (1) 111:18	intrudes (1) 123:6
ignores (1) 109:4	improved (2) 20:15;44:3	industry (4) 13:3;20:16;27:18; 115:2	intend (7) 41:23,24;42:1,5,8, 18;45:20	intrusive (1) 139:2
ill-advised (1) 60:24	improvement (1) 102:21	industrial-scale (1) 114:3	intense (1) 127:5	invasive (1) 37:21
illustrates (1) 104:4	improvements (6) 37:15;90:16,21; 102:18;104:11,13	infect (1) 16:3	intentional (1) 27:16	invention (1) 112:3
image (1) 16:13	improving (1) 88:8	infinite (1) 82:19	Interactive (1) 52:1	invested (1) 49:4
imagine (2) 119:10;134:5	incentive (1) 52:21	inflammation (2) 145:13,23	interest (5) 10:9;21:24;33:24; 97:22;108:3	investing (2) 55:14;56:1
immediate (1) 77:24	include (3) 55:16;64:4;135:4	information (8) 7:18;9:1;23:23; 34:5;108:10;132:5; 141:12;147:2	interested (1) 95:3	investment (8) 55:6,8,20,21;57:2; 66:16;95:7;120:13
impact (22) 23:3;28:5;38:3; 48:5;64:14,18;65:17; 68:20;79:7;80:22,24; 81:2;88:4;93:23; 110:4;114:4;117:20; 118:6;130:3;132:9; 134:1,10	included (4) 62:11;100:14,15; 101:8	infrastructure (4) 66:15;99:7;100:14; 104:12	interesting (1) 106:6	investments (1) 66:15
impacted (1) 117:14	includes (2) 77:22;104:14	infrastructures (2) 136:23;137:1	interests (4) 19:16;80:6;82:15; 115:2	investor (1) 88:12
impacting (3) 47:17;94:11; 119:13	including (8) 27:20;29:6;31:5; 65:3;102:23;105:18; 108:11;131:9	ingrained (1) 138:17	interfere (5) 20:22;45:1;61:19; 65:22;108:1	invests (1) 56:10
impacts (11) 28:14,20;29:6; 44:9;53:13,14,17; 65:20;66:3;95:11; 124:8	income (1) 89:10	initial (2) 120:6,12	interior (1) 98:3	involve (1) 22:1
impedes (1) 133:19	incompatible (5) 61:1,11;73:6;81:5; 104:9	initiate (1) 145:13	interrupt (3) 86:17,20;146:13	involved (2) 8:2;38:1
imperative (1) 69:21	incomplete (1) 64:3	injury (1) 88:4	interruptions (1) 30:20	involvement (1) 19:12
impervious (1) 103:3	increase (5) 35:2;37:16;42:3,5; 56:19	input (1) 108:17	interruptions (1) 30:20	involving (1) 88:5
implementation (1) 61:19	increased (2) 20:13;28:13	inside (1) 61:22	interrupts (4) 47:8;56:22;81:16; 134:20	ionization (1) 71:23
implemented (3) 103:10;110:2; 130:5	increases (1) 94:24	insists (1) 27:23	intertwine (1) 97:18	irreparable (5) 15:13;47:5,12; 67:9;130:20
implications (1) 123:2	increasing (1) 136:9	install (3) 16:16;60:21;64:6	intervene (1) 9:21	irreplaceable (2) 48:6;91:23
implore (5) 18:8;39:4;70:5; 112:8;129:4	increasingly (1) 114:18	installation (4) 18:4;22:23;50:2; 130:19	intervenor (2) 10:8;89:23	irresponsible (1) 147:4
importance (4) 19:10;21:1;64:24; 125:19	incredibly (1) 16:6	installed (3) 17:19;47:22;65:6	intervenors (1) 9:22	irresponsibly (1) 26:20
important (13) 19:22;20:17,17;	Indeed (3) 11:21;49:6;125:22	installing (1) 83:8	into (32) 11:18;13:23;20:10; 34:1;35:15,21;37:5; 47:16;51:5;54:5; 55:8;56:24;68:2,4; 70:23;74:16,21; 75:17;76:19;83:2; 96:17,23;97:3; 100:17;101:6; 109:24;114:2; 126:23;141:16; 145:9,9;146:9	irrevocably (1) 110:8
	independent (1) 30:2	instances (1) 128:20		Island (1) 51:15
	indicated (1) 87:10	Instead (2) 26:8;110:19		islands (1) 68:1
	indicating (2) 8:1;123:10	Institute (1)	in-town (1)	ISO (6) 20:20;44:15;94:7, 9,10,12
				Isola (4) 103:22;104:23; 105:1,2
				ISO-New (1)

94:3 issue (1) 32:15 issued (4) 8:5;9:7;10:14,15 issues (3) 13:9,11;97:18	34:6 Journal (2) 55:19,23 judges (1) 107:9 July (1) 65:15 jump (2) 94:14;102:17 jumping (1) 75:16 June (1) 8:12 jurisdiction (1) 7:20 justified (1) 26:7 justify (1) 89:9	knowing (1) 95:3 known (6) 5:15;19:20,21; 72:19;78:14;124:13 knows (1) 76:2	large-scale (1) 117:8 largest (5) 52:12;55:17;74:3; 75:2;122:6 LaRoche (1) 117:17 Larry (4) 97:8;103:21,23,24 last (8) 40:3;52:8;55:20; 69:23;70:3;75:18; 95:16;126:11 Lastly (1) 29:2 late (5) 17:18;28:3;58:7; 63:7;132:24 later (3) 6:23;53:22;122:12 Laura (5) 24:14;27:2;29:10, 13,15 Law (5) 9:24;20:21;61:7; 90:10;123:16 laws (4) 19:13;103:8,9,15 layering (1) 137:11 layers (1) 94:15 laying (3) 37:20;38:1;118:1 leaching (1) 47:16 lead (2) 94:1,15 leaders (2) 61:6;89:21 leading (1) 117:22 leads (1) 78:22 leaking (1) 88:20 learned (2) 121:17;122:13 learning (1) 122:19 least (3) 22:2;118:5,14 leave (5) 11:6;76:6;113:17; 131:6;141:6 leaving (1) 126:2 ledges (1) 16:2 left (10) 35:7;73:10;91:19; 92:21;101:15; 113:21;116:6;	128:23;133:8;141:7 legislative (1) 93:12 legislature (5) 19:11,13;57:23; 58:1;121:12 legs (1) 77:11 Leila (5) 48:12;50:22;53:3, 6,6 length (1) 7:12 lens (1) 15:19 less (8) 19:21;35:7,17; 65:17;95:2;110:23; 111:3;136:22 letter (6) 7:24;51:8,17; 94:22;144:13,16 letters (1) 31:3 letting (2) 5:5;137:21 leukemia (1) 28:14 level (1) 79:2 levels (1) 22:16 liberty (2) 133:18,21 licensed (1) 88:13 licenses (1) 8:14 lied (1) 121:20 life (18) 31:13;46:15;47:19; 48:7;50:20;51:7; 52:6,15;61:9,9;65:2; 74:10;90:1;105:18; 123:10;133:18,20; 135:14 lifelong (1) 121:10 lifetime (2) 53:18,19 light (1) 72:4 likely (3) 41:7;53:18;95:11 Likewise (1) 95:8 limit (2) 10:19;32:5 limits (1) 77:13 line (39) 7:11;8:7;14:23;
J		L		
Jackson (1) 123:16 Jackson's (1) 87:19 Jacuch (5) 22:10;24:14;27:2, 4,5 James (7) 107:15;111:11; 113:3,9,10;116:13,22 Janet (1) 34:7 January (1) 108:16 Jaques (6) 43:8;45:22,24; 46:4;47:9;48:9 jarring (1) 127:22 Jen (1) 15:6 Jennifer (4) 12:11;15:3,5;18:11 jeopardize (2) 13:19;76:1 jeopardy (2) 47:2,10 Jere (2) 51:11;52:2 jet (25) 15:11;16:3,17; 18:3;28:22;37:23; 38:4;44:9;47:4,11; 51:21;53:14;64:17; 22;69:10,16;72:23; 75:19;91:11;103:11; 114:8;118:6;124:3; 132:16;144:18 jewels (1) 74:1 job (1) 77:12 Jody (1) 85:13 John (3) 141:20;142:5,7 join (1) 54:7 jointly (1) 9:23 joke (1) 102:20 Jones (1)	K kayak (5) 67:5;68:1,2;78:5; 81:15 kayaker (1) 67:21 kayakers (3) 68:7,12,13 Keene (1) 122:2 Keener (4) 50:23;53:4;54:17; 133:3 keep (7) 35:14,21;100:18; 103:6;114:10; 128:14;140:12 keeping (4) 74:19;77:13; 136:16;139:23 Keith (1) 10:2 Ken (1) 82:3 kept (2) 127:1;130:17 key (4) 28:8;95:20;106:22; 109:4 kidneys (1) 145:15 kids (5) 14:15;72:19,21; 112:12;142:19 killing (3) 38:14;52:5;83:21 kind (1) 95:16 Kingdom (1) 28:16 kitchen (1) 40:22	lab (2) 87:19;123:17 laboratory (1) 87:19 ladies (2) 5:3;113:9 Lake (1) 82:1 Lambert (3) 119:1;121:6; 124:21 Lambert's (2) 124:24;125:2 Lamprey (3) 80:8;117:21; 123:23 land (40) 21:13;32:11;33:11; 47:22;49:6;61:18; 78:21;79:22;80:2,8; 82:11,13,19;83:17; 90:19;91:7,8,9;98:4, 13;105:20;106:21; 108:12,14;109:3,20; 110:1;112:19; 115:19;121:19,20; 126:17;128:1;130:3; 138:12,18,20,23; 139:21;142:13 landmark (1) 79:20 landmarks (3) 46:17;47:23;52:23 lands (11) 8:16;64:10;108:20; 109:10;123:4; 128:13;131:1,3,6; 132:14;144:23 landscape (4) 33:1;61:1;62:15,17 landscaping (1) 127:15 Lane (2) 140:10;142:23 large (10) 20:8;38:1,4;64:9; 66:15;88:3,18; 113:23;130:24; 146:23 largely (1) 107:19 larger (1) 87:24		

17:5;19:9;27:9; 38:20;51:20;54:2; 60:18;63:8;65:19; 71:19;86:13,23; 90:15;91:16,21;92:4; 104:2;107:10;114:1, 3,4;116:3,4,8;118:1; 124:7;126:2;128:10; 129:7;131:18,19; 132:1;139:5,7,9; 140:16 lines (66) 8:15;22:3,20,21; 23:8,21;27:22;28:1,6, 8;33:1,2;37:20; 40:10;47:15;50:3,9, 11;52:18;57:10;58:4, 20,21,22;59:2,5; 60:23;62:9;64:6,12, 15;66:1;71:5,19; 72:8,17;73:4,6;79:1; 83:4;88:15,19;90:22; 91:22;92:4;99:13; 100:8,12,23;102:2; 104:6,8,15,16,18; 105:8;107:4;109:24; 111:2;120:11; 125:16;129:1; 130:14;132:12; 134:4;139:13 list (7) 85:9,10,12,14; 117:13;123:10; 132:22 listed (1) 98:5 listen (4) 12:16;34:3;90:6; 112:9 listening (4) 53:12;66:19; 124:11;125:7 literature (1) 146:24 littered (2) 91:13,16 Little (80) 8:8,10;9:16;12:23; 13:2;15:9,12,16,22; 17:13,15;27:5;28:9; 32:7;37:3,21;38:11, 11,23;44:10,18;46:3; 48:19;51:9,12,14,20, 21;53:11;55:3,10,11; 58:7;64:19;66:2; 67:4,7,19,23;68:13, 21;69:8,16;70:12,14, 17;73:10;78:3,5,11, 17;83:8,21;90:24; 95:11;98:5;101:9; 102:10,13,16;105:2, 7;111:15;114:2,9,15; 116:6,15;117:1;	121:13;123:3;132:2; 134:8;144:18,19,23; 146:3,4,7;147:5 Littlehole (1) 117:15 live (50) 12:19;20:9;24:17; 26:6;27:5;28:7;32:2; 33:8;35:22,23;40:5; 43:3;49:10;63:17; 67:2,7;70:12;73:22; 74:21;75:11;81:10; 92:5;93:5;97:5,12; 102:10,16;103:14; 105:2;107:21; 111:15,22;113:11; 117:8;126:13,20; 133:12,21;135:3,4,5, 13,20,24;136:1,7; 142:7,19;143:8; 144:15 lived (11) 24:17;46:14;51:1, 6;81:18;85:24;93:7; 97:13;104:1;107:18; 122:1 livelihood (1) 14:3 lives (3) 77:3;92:4;135:23 living (6) 14:4;51:14;74:5; 106:5,18,20 loads (1) 70:1 loan (5) 56:10;57:1,2,14; 59:20 lobbied (1) 125:23 local (12) 31:11;61:13,18,19; 62:14;75:17;78:17; 93:9;100:9,20;109:3; 132:8 locally (1) 14:12 located (2) 30:13;59:8 locating (1) 109:18 location (3) 17:4;98:21;110:4 lodge (1) 141:12 long (14) 13:22;35:14,16,21, 23,24;51:22;59:14; 79:11;91:19;123:10; 143:18;144:10,10 long-buried (1) 38:5 longer (3)	69:6;78:18;137:9 Longmarsh (1) 117:16 longstanding (1) 114:16 long-term (5) 53:16;80:6,14; 94:21;120:13 look (17) 40:23;53:23;65:7; 76:23;98:7;105:12; 107:7;116:24; 117:13;119:17,22; 120:1,17,23,24; 121:2;135:5 Looked (2) 71:21;135:12 looking (10) 34:2;40:23;88:24; 120:2,5,7,21;127:19; 135:14,17 looks (2) 23:14,23 lose (6) 33:16;41:11,13; 89:2,3;118:15 loss (4) 50:4;52:10;130:8, 20 lost (4) 69:12;73:8;124:2; 138:11 lot (22) 55:3;56:1;57:13; 58:11,12;60:7;70:16; 74:14;76:18,19;98:6; 99:12;101:15; 118:11;120:1,3,4,13; 126:8;135:15; 138:12;140:15 lots (1) 138:19 love (2) 82:24;112:5 lovely (1) 49:21 low (4) 65:7;68:14;83:18; 84:7 lower (2) 17:21;117:21 lowest (1) 130:19 luck (1) 126:23 lucky (5) 12:18;15:17; 102:16;126:20,22 Lulu (4) 15:4;18:20;22:9,11 lungs (1) 145:15 lying (1)	69:11 M Ma'am (2) 101:21,22 machine (2) 86:7;117:10 Mackie (1) 34:7 Madam (1) 93:3 Madbury (5) 7:13;19:1;50:12; 60:18;131:11 magnetic (1) 71:14 main (3) 41:12;67:17;78:6 Maine (5) 45:10,12;50:13; 99:13;130:1 mainly (1) 133:24 Mains (2) 71:6,8 M-A-I-N-S (1) 71:6 maintain (3) 8:14;80:3;127:3 maintained (1) 20:7 maintaining (2) 21:1;128:3 major (4) 99:4;100:7,11; 119:9 makes (4) 56:5;58:2;72:24; 128:11 making (4) 14:4;57:1,2;74:18 Mal (3) 39:10;43:7,11 MALCOLM (2) 43:12,13 malls (1) 127:15 mammals (1) 146:1 mammoth (1) 79:2 man (4) 42:23;117:10; 121:19;122:5 manage (1) 119:12 managed (1) 27:19 management (1) 87:18 mandate (1) 84:15	mandated (1) 14:9 man-made (1) 13:9 many (46) 13:11,16;14:3; 18:21;19:2,4;28:15; 32:17,17;33:10;34:8, 13;46:15,17,18,21; 51:13;57:18,18; 63:21;64:8,13;67:10; 72:4;73:12;75:9; 78:19;81:14;85:11, 17;86:1;93:17;106:8; 107:19;109:11; 111:5,7;117:19; 118:3,9;121:17; 123:7;124:20; 128:20;144:22; 145:14 map (4) 98:7;104:4;110:21; 117:14 maps (2) 108:19;132:7 mar (1) 17:22 March (4) 7:16;8:4;61:12; 66:9 Margaret (6) 43:8;45:22,24; 46:4;47:9;48:9 marine (6) 43:21;65:2;87:3, 19,19;146:1 Marjorie (4) 12:11;15:4;18:19, 23 mark (1) 56:11 marker (1) 39:22 markets (1) 66:13 marshal (1) 8:1 marshland (1) 83:6 marvel (1) 84:8 Mary (6) 43:8;45:21,24; 46:4;47:9;48:8 mass (1) 98:4 Massachusetts (4) 55:15,21;59:7,8 massive (3) 61:3;79:5;124:4 Master (39) 20:24;27:21,23; 44:20;61:2,7,8,20;
---	--	--	--	---

73:2,4;81:4;89:24; 90:11,14;91:17; 96:23;98:16;99:5; 100:20;104:7,10,17; 106:24;108:4,7,11, 15,23,24;109:5; 114:23;115:1,4,8,15; 124:9;127:4;129:16; 130:4 material (1) 51:23 materials (1) 51:22 matter (5) 7:3;9:19;10:10; 59:4;107:3 matters (3) 106:4,5;117:1 mattresses (8) 28:23;65:5;67:16; 68:15;83:17;91:14; 118:2;124:4 may (15) 10:24;14:1;38:21; 40:2,4;41:18;63:2; 71:8,19;86:18;93:20; 94:10;116:19; 124:14;127:12 maybe (3) 23:21;53:23;84:8 MBA (1) 55:12 McCann (3) 133:8,11,12 McClare (1) 52:7 McIntosh (3) 19:6;51:9,14 McIntyre (1) 70:14 Meadow (1) 93:5 mean (5) 68:16;72:12; 112:12;120:15; 133:24 meaning (1) 74:16 meaningfully (1) 27:19 means (1) 90:6 Meanwhile (1) 99:14 measure (1) 62:19 mechanical (1) 71:11 medical (2) 146:23,23 Meeker (4) 39:10;43:7,8;133:2 Meeking (6)	121:7;124:21,23; 125:4,5,5 meet (4) 22:4;30:17;125:11; 132:19 meeting (4) 24:4;45:18;122:20; 139:17 meetings (4) 13:8;23:11;114:12; 119:20 meets (1) 20:20 Meissner (4) 60:13;63:13,15,16 Melissa (1) 141:19 mellitus (1) 145:17 member (10) 6:8,14;30:8;36:17; 43:18;48:2;54:7; 93:12;121:11;141:15 Members (13) 5:18;10:7,20; 12:14;19:15;29:13; 34:4;43:13;48:1; 78:1;79:8;93:4;141:4 membership (1) 29:16 Menelly (4) 111:12;113:4; 117:4,6 mental (2) 133:24;134:2 mention (2) 68:17;83:18 mentioned (3) 143:3,4;146:5 merely (1) 129:2 Merrill (6) 85:2,19;89:12; 93:1,3,5 message (1) 107:2 metabolic (3) 145:12,16;146:10 metabolism (1) 146:2 metal (1) 72:3 mic (1) 96:17 Michael (15) 6:15;28:3;85:1,18, 20,21;86:22;119:1; 121:6;124:20,22,23; 125:2;129:11,12 microphone (4) 11:18;51:3,5; 137:24 mid-1600s (1)	63:24 midst (1) 98:14 might (6) 19:3;89:2;95:6; 116:8,9;127:20 Mike (1) 54:12 miles (10) 7:12;34:21;83:4; 87:14;89:17;91:4; 98:5;99:18;109:16; 117:11 military (1) 144:22 Mill (2) 49:17;126:18 Miller (11) 53:5;54:18,23,24; 55:1;56:23;59:11,13, 18;60:3,9 million (4) 23:8,20;89:4; 127:24 millions (3) 49:4;92:7;131:1 mind (1) 103:7 mini (1) 127:14 minimization (1) 62:19 minimize (1) 48:5 mining (1) 82:16 minute (1) 60:1 minutes (16) 10:19;11:21,23; 12:1,3;35:5;39:12, 17;55:7;59:11;84:24; 101:11;116:18; 133:8;141:23;146:14 misgivings (1) 63:5 mispronounce (1) 18:21 misrepresented (1) 140:21 miss (2) 11:10;112:24 mistaken (1) 140:19 mitigate (2) 23:17;65:20 mitigation (7) 23:2,6,14,24;24:8; 118:7;130:12 mixes (1) 20:1 moderate (1) 88:17	modern (1) 130:19 modification (1) 61:13 modifications (2) 62:20;63:6 money (3) 35:12;86:3;89:9 monitor (1) 25:17 monitoring (1) 118:10 Monroe (1) 6:16 months (1) 122:2 mooring (1) 24:19 more (38) 19:6;20:10;22:2; 24:10;26:1,9;32:7; 35:1,11;45:9;46:10; 48:23;55:5;57:12; 58:12,16,16;60:1,1; 75:13;78:1;91:9; 92:14;94:20;95:3,11; 97:3;105:6;112:17; 113:14;115:3; 120:11;121:24; 126:4;130:23; 136:19;137:13; 141:12 most (15) 19:22;28:12;34:15; 46:14;52:12;56:19, 24;62:5;78:4;83:13; 94:5;98:2;99:3; 117:2;118:10 mother (3) 112:3;126:10,19 mother's (1) 40:23 motor (2) 17:13;88:4 Mountain (1) 92:12 move (19) 26:1;33:8;36:8; 39:6;40:15;41:4; 61:7;67:6,11;69:4,15, 18;70:4;85:16;86:3; 95:24;105:12; 124:19;138:5 moved (15) 40:2,2,4,13,14,20; 41:12,17;48:23;74:4; 77:20;86:1;91:22; 92:2;139:7 Moving (1) 43:11 Mower (6) 103:22;104:23; 107:14,16,17;143:4	much (30) 14:1;15:14;22:6, 11,23;33:19;34:5; 35:10;49:2;53:2; 60:9;63:19;67:22; 75:21;95:11,15; 104:20;105:13; 115:16;118:15; 119:13,16;120:11; 121:4;124:17;125:6; 143:22;146:20; 147:2,17 mud (6) 20:3,5;51:22; 75:23;83:21;118:2 multiple (4) 22:16;46:8;125:21; 128:19 municipal (3) 45:4;90:4,4 municipalities (2) 90:8;108:23 muscles (1) 38:13 must (16) 20:6,19;27:22; 45:9;73:2,5,12;90:3, 6;92:15,16;102:2,23; 104:5;116:5;130:17 Muzzey (3) 5:19,20,21 Myers (1) 97:10 myriad (1) 20:1 myself (2) 6:13;55:10 mysterious (1) 121:18 mysteriously (1) 122:15	
					N
					name (38) 11:12,13;12:17; 13:15;15:6;24:16; 32:2,15;33:13;34:6; 36:13;43:13;46:4; 48:14;51:1;54:24; 60:14;63:16;67:1; 77:16;80:19;81:9; 85:21;93:5;96:18; 97:9;102:10;103:5, 23;105:1;111:14; 113:6,10;119:3; 123:12,13;133:11; 143:24 named (2) 17:16;85:13 namely (1) 62:2 names (2)

18:21;121:9 name's (2) 76:12;134:17 Nancy (11) 34:6;73:19;76:10; 77:7,16,17;111:12; 113:4;117:3,6,7 narrow (2) 142:24;143:7 nation (1) 19:23 national (13) 15:14;81:1;82:4,7; 83:2;91:1,6;92:12; 98:15;112:15;114:7, 9;123:22 nationally (1) 137:7 Native (2) 25:7;146:7 Natural (34) 5:23;8:19;13:9; 21:8;27:13;29:5; 32:19;33:9;40:16; 45:7;48:6;52:7;66:4; 69:24;70:2;79:7; 80:4,11;81:23;86:2, 5;91:24;107:20; 108:5,18;110:24; 111:20;118:3,16; 125:14;126:24; 128:3,8;145:6 naturalist (1) 52:7 Naturally (1) 126:11 Nature (11) 10:1;21:1;32:23; 36:24;40:19;43:2; 46:20,22;88:24; 123:15;129:17 navigate (1) 94:7 near (2) 11:7;50:15 nearly (3) 63:3,8;94:5 necessary (4) 38:18,21;39:6; 136:22 Necessity (1) 112:3 Ned (4) 19:5;51:9,10,12 need (29) 11:16,20;14:13; 16:24;26:18;29:20; 34:22;51:4;65:1; 66:6;67:11;69:18; 71:3;81:8;86:13,24; 94:12,14;96:23;99:6; 101:22,22;102:20; 112:17;119:24;	136:10,19;137:4; 141:6 needed (7) 14:8,24;37:16; 57:21;64:6;129:23; 147:20 needing (1) 30:3 needs (8) 30:18;31:19;45:17, 19;53:22;98:11; 100:22;136:13 negating (1) 27:23 negative (7) 28:5,14,20;49:20; 53:13;124:8;130:3 negatively (2) 29:5;114:4 neglected (1) 6:13 negotiate (1) 52:20 negotiations (2) 24:1;132:6 neighbor (3) 88:21;140:9,9 neighborhood (9) 12:19;49:10,14,22; 93:6;142:8,11,17,20 neighborhoods (8) 53:15,16;60:20; 64:11;91:14;126:4; 132:13;133:22 neighboring (1) 114:5 neighbors (5) 70:12;112:23; 113:1;121:18;142:9 Nell (1) 97:7 NellAnn (1) 102:10 NELLANN (1) 102:9 nephews (1) 78:7 nest (6) 16:11,14,19;17:1, 6;67:14 network (1) 131:2 neutral (1) 8:15 New (88) 5:4,9,13;6:5,10; 7:8,10;8:16;9:5,13; 10:6;12:18;13:5; 19:1,19;24:23;25:3,3, 9;29:13;30:2;34:21; 36:18,24;44:15,23; 46:12,19;48:15;49:1, 15;50:1;52:19;55:1;	56:4,15,16,17;57:6; 58:15;59:20,22; 60:17;61:6;65:24; 66:1,9;67:7,12; 73:22;74:2;75:16; 76:13;81:18;83:22; 84:9;87:22;91:6; 92:16;93:11;95:1; 98:3,22;99:22; 100:23;105:14; 106:8,12;107:12,18; 111:23,24;114:19; 120:3;121:10;122:2, 7;123:17;129:23; 130:2,10;131:18,24; 133:12;136:13,15,21, 24 Newington (78) 8:10;9:22;22:15, 19;23:16,18;27:6; 34:8;36:14;42:20; 44:19;50:15;53:7,11; 59:2;60:15;62:3; 63:9;65:14;66:2; 70:12;72:12,18;73:8; 76:13;80:20;83:10; 89:15,23;91:3;92:22; 93:21;96:19;97:13, 16;98:1,10,23;99:3,5, 14,18;100:2,9,19; 102:11,13;104:1; 105:14,16,23;106:6, 9,13,15;107:12; 111:15;113:11; 114:11,11,16,21; 115:4,16,19,19; 116:1,5,15;123:21; 131:17;132:2;134:3; 135:19;138:3,4,10; 141:1 Newington's (21) 27:11,12,21;39:3; 60:20;61:1,4,10,23; 73:2;89:24;90:11; 98:4,19;99:11;104:7, 17;113:19;114:6,23; 115:14 newly (2) 38:8;65:9 Newmarket (2) 126:6,17 next (20) 11:13;15:2;16:12; 18:19;22:8;25:21; 39:8;48:10;54:17; 60:12;66:22;70:8; 81:20;85:17;93:1; 96:10,16;97:6; 103:21;129:10 Nick (5) 18:20;22:9;24:13, 16,16 nieces (1)	78:7 night (1) 88:20 Nin (1) 105:3 nine (1) 14:15 noise (5) 42:3,5,7;115:24; 134:6 non- (1) 23:11 non-critical (1) 87:20 none (1) 128:10 Nope (1) 60:2 normally (1) 28:8 Normandeau (2) 109:12,17 Normandeau's (2) 109:2,23 north (3) 67:8;68:1;91:22 Northern (10) 25:1;26:22;92:10; 110:20;129:6,24; 131:9,14,19,23 notably (2) 37:18;62:9 Notch (1) 82:1 note (1) 42:15 Notice (2) 10:13,14 notices (2) 108:9;122:21 notified (2) 94:9;122:17 notion (1) 128:9 nourishment (1) 52:15 November (2) 8:22;108:14 nuisance (1) 115:24 number (2) 9:11,20 numerous (1) 93:8 nursery (1) 43:21	objective (1) 129:6 observations (1) 62:12 obvious (2) 80:23;81:3 obviously (3) 55:7;95:20;135:21 occasional (1) 84:9 occupies (1) 49:2 occupy (1) 115:18 occurred (2) 28:21;108:14 ocean (3) 20:2;52:2,16 October (1) 10:16 odds (1) 92:18 off (7) 39:18;75:4;83:19; 89:20;130:7;139:23; 142:1 offer (1) 31:15 offers (2) 30:15;35:1 Office (1) 7:2 OFFICER (80) 5:2;6:12;15:2;18:9, 18;22:8;24:13;27:1; 29:10;31:22;35:4,8, 18;36:2,7,11;39:8; 43:6,10;45:21;48:10; 50:21;51:2;53:3; 54:6,15,22;55:13; 59:10,16;60:2,4,10; 63:12;66:22;70:8; 73:18;76:9;77:7; 80:17;81:7;85:5; 86:16;89:11;92:24; 96:3,7,10,15;97:6; 101:10,14,18,21; 102:4;103:20; 104:22;107:13; 111:10;113:3; 116:11,17;117:3; 118:23;119:5;121:5; 124:18;125:1;129:9; 132:21;134:13; 136:4;137:18,23; 141:3;142:5;143:20; 146:12,17;147:7 often (3) 72:1;80:9;114:13 oil (7) 49:8;86:9,9;122:4, 6;128:6;129:20 old (2)
--	---	--	--	---

14:15;23:7 older (1) 34:15 oldest (1) 46:7 Olympic (2) 122:4,13 Onassis (3) 122:5;128:6; 129:20 Onassis's (1) 49:8 once (4) 94:12;111:24; 115:19;116:7 one (49) 5:10;6:17;15:21; 19:22;22:2;37:7; 40:6,13,14;41:11; 46:7;49:11;52:12; 56:4;59:24;60:1; 62:14;63:21;74:1,24; 76:17;81:21;84:3; 86:8;87:9;89:1;99:9; 17,20;108:4;110:3,7; 117:12;119:6,15,24; 127:10;128:15; 131:22,22;133:15; 136:8;137:4;138:13; 23;139:19;141:5; 146:16;147:1 ones (5) 22:17;29:4;56:17; 70:14;126:2 one-third (1) 83:15 online (1) 141:13 only (32) 19:16,17;22:17; 23:17;32:16,21; 34:21;35:13,22; 43:24;67:14;68:10; 75:21;76:14;78:6; 79:7;80:5;87:17; 98:4;99:9,17;100:18; 101:2,8;104:5,12; 107:6;110:15; 116:19;128:11; 131:22;134:3 onset (1) 125:24 onto (1) 126:4 Ooh (1) 35:6 open (6) 6:21;33:9;94:22; 95:12;112:8;114:17 operate (2) 46:5;60:17 operated (1) 87:21	operating (1) 46:9 operation (2) 13:5;30:11 operator (2) 30:2;94:4 opinion (4) 46:16;57:17;64:1; 147:4 opinions (1) 147:22 opportunities (1) 119:17 opportunity (13) 10:11;12:7;15:6; 29:19;36:16;48:14; 53:8;73:16;101:4; 112:1,13,24;143:23 oppose (8) 42:11;51:19;53:10; 67:3;77:18;104:2; 111:7;117:8 opposed (8) 12:22;15:11;27:6; 28:10;76:15;80:21; 85:22;111:6 opposite (1) 28:11 opposition (6) 32:3;48:3;102:12; 113:16;125:8;144:17 option (1) 121:2 options (4) 29:4;38:19;121:19; 131:8 order (8) 8:5,11;10:22;30:4; 80:3,10;85:9;102:17 orderly (6) 20:22;21:4;45:2; 65:22;108:1;130:6 ordinance (1) 127:18 ordinances (3) 89:24;109:5;124:9 organic (10) 144:3,8;145:3,8,10, 19,20;146:9,11,21 organisms (2) 13:12;145:14 organization (1) 29:17 organizations (2) 13:16;123:8 organized (1) 122:10 organs (1) 145:14 original (4) 60:21;63:5;101:7, 20 originally (1)	59:7 ospreys (1) 83:19 others (10) 30:13;34:8;45:17; 69:9;80:10;82:14; 95:5;102:6;110:22; 141:7 otherwise (2) 49:21;116:20 ought (2) 86:13,23 out (24) 12:15,22;15:24; 17:13;20:3;21:3; 40:23;41:3;58:8; 65:10;67:24;68:24; 74:10;85:13;95:2; 115:14;122:3;128:6; 133:1,16;135:10; 139:20;142:21; 147:13 outdoorsman (1) 36:20 outside (4) 14:14;92:3;104:13; 129:18 outstanding (1) 105:17 outstripped (1) 26:17 Over (50) 7:16,21;8:7,9,15; 11:23;12:1;13:4; 14:1;17:7;28:17; 29:17;32:22;39:1; 42:18;43:14;44:3; 49:3;50:12,14;57:10; 62:23;65:8;69:23; 73:8;92:22,22;93:9; 95:16;97:14;98:9,12; 104:1,11;114:12,12,24, 24;116:18;117:11; 123:4,7;126:5,16; 131:11,12,14;133:14; 137:12;140:18; 141:22 overall (1) 116:14 overbearing (1) 49:19 overhead (7) 61:16;62:9,20; 63:9;139:11;140:2, 23 overpopulation (1) 13:14 overview (1) 110:21 own (7) 14:6;17:16;24:17; 46:5;78:6,9;145:21 owned (1)	8:16 owner (1) 42:24 owners (3) 24:2;30:24;111:4 ownership (1) 13:6 Oxford (1) 70:21 Oyster (24) 8:7;12:20,24;20:9, 16;37:2,7;38:12; 63:23;65:9;69:15,18, 24;70:1;75:12,15,20; 78:3;80:9;84:4; 117:21;123:18,19; 142:13 oysters (12) 13:1;20:10;37:6; 69:19;70:1;75:12,13, 18;78:17;83:22; 146:6,7 P pace (1) 136:17 Packers (1) 126:15 paddle (2) 15:24;67:21 padding (1) 15:16 pads (1) 64:10 paid (2) 33:17;86:3 Pam (1) 6:16 Pamela (5) 104:24;107:14; 111:11,13,14 pancreas (1) 145:15 panel (1) 147:1 panels (1) 127:20 PAPPAS-CLAKIN (1) 111:13 Pappas-Clarkin (4) 104:24;107:14; 111:11,14 paraphrase (1) 62:23 parcel (1) 142:13 parcels (2) 33:10;109:12 PARE (8) 97:9,10;101:11,13, 16,20;102:1,8 Paré (4)	96:5,11;97:7,10 parents (1) 69:5 park (2) 81:22;83:2 Parks (2) 82:4,7 Parsons (3) 141:20;142:6,7 part (5) 40:16;94:17;95:22; 114:9;143:7 participant (1) 43:15 participated (1) 13:2 participating (1) 37:4 particular (1) 94:1 particularly (4) 75:11;81:4;87:8; 144:3 partnership (3) 80:10;123:20; 124:1 parts (2) 9:7;97:3 pass (7) 17:14;25:1;26:23; 64:15;89:7;92:10; 129:24 passage (2) 17:21;62:22 passion (2) 111:17;123:11 passive (1) 110:10 past (8) 43:14;99:17; 105:24;106:1;123:7; 126:16;130:5;140:18 path (1) 64:7 pathways (1) 145:23 patience (1) 137:21 patient (1) 146:20 patiently (1) 124:11 Patricia (1) 6:13 pattern (1) 109:21 patterns (1) 61:18 Patty (4) 63:14;66:23;70:9, 11 pay (3) 32:17;56:18;137:3
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(18) paying - posted

108:9 posts (1) 108:22 potential (9) 26:6;38:7,14; 44:18;67:19;83:21; 88:4;89:10;118:9 potentially (2) 13:22;14:20 power (38) 14:23;18:8;25:9; 26:17;30:17;35:1; 38:20;57:9,20;58:4; 67:12;71:9,19;73:4; 79:1,17;83:4,15; 86:14;87:1,11,14,15; 88:9,20;97:21;99:10; 100:10,17,19;112:17; 119:11,11;120:4,10; 137:5;139:5,9 powerful (3) 71:9,12;72:7 practically (1) 81:20 pre-1990 (1) 37:9 precarious (1) 44:4 precautions (1) 42:2 precious (2) 29:5;123:5 precisely (1) 114:20 preconceived (1) 92:18 predict (1) 21:21 prefer (1) 11:2 prefiled (1) 65:13 Prefontaine (2) 141:20;142:2 premise (1) 92:15 PREP (1) 124:1 prepared (4) 11:4,11;64:1; 129:13 preparing (1) 63:2 pre-register (1) 10:21 pre-registered (1) 85:8 presence (1) 70:23 present (6) 7:5;16:20;17:1; 78:14;121:3;144:22 presented (2)	44:13;113:17 presenting (1) 101:3 presents (1) 19:20 preservation (2) 61:9;114:20 preserve (9) 43:23;61:18;73:11; 80:2;91:23;99:15; 116:6;121:22;129:17 preserved (1) 104:5 preserving (3) 32:12;49:4;111:19 President (2) 29:15;106:7 PRESIDING (79) 5:2;6:12;15:2;18:9; 18;22:8;24:13;27:1; 29:10;31:22;35:4,8; 18;36:2,7,11;39:8; 43:6,10;45:21;48:10; 50:21;51:2;53:3; 54:6,15,22;59:10,16; 60:2,4,10;63:12; 66:22;70:8;73:18; 76:9;77:7;80:17; 81:7;85:5;86:16; 89:11;92:24;96:3,7; 10,15;97:6;101:10; 14,18,21;102:4; 103:20;104:22; 107:13;111:10; 113:3;116:11,17; 117:3;118:23;119:5; 121:5;124:18;125:1; 129:9;132:21; 134:13;136:4; 137:18,23;141:3; 142:5;143:20; 146:12,17;147:7 pretty (1) 101:17 prevails (1) 92:6 prevented (1) 89:21 previously (2) 29:3;88:13 price (3) 77:3,4;79:18 priceless (1) 118:15 pricing (1) 62:6 primarily (2) 52:10;113:23 primary (1) 62:16 principles (1) 110:1 print (1)	23:21 Prior (1) 91:20 priority (1) 114:21 pristine (4) 25:6;67:17;81:24; 130:24 pristine-looking (1) 145:1 private (3) 24:1;79:22;103:15 privilege (2) 59:21;93:10 proactively (1) 80:2 probable (1) 80:24 probably (3) 55:4;57:12;136:20 problem (3) 26:2;91:17;97:24 problems (3) 25:19;91:18; 119:15 procedures (1) 65:2 proceed (2) 102:2;147:4 proceeding (2) 9:21;10:9 process (8) 8:3;13:19;19:14; 37:19;70:20;94:1,13; 108:6 produce (1) 28:9 produced (1) 71:20 production (1) 20:16 professionals (1) 29:18 profitable (1) 26:11 profits (5) 42:19;43:4;50:20; 107:6;113:23 progress (2) 8:23;14:1 prohibitive (1) 58:24 Project (140) 5:16;12:23;14:20; 16:13;17:8,24;22:17; 24:11;25:12,21;26:3; 4,7,19;27:7;29:4,22; 30:1,15,18,21;31:2,4, 10,16,19;32:20; 33:19;39:4,7;40:7; 12;41:4;46:24;48:3; 18;49:12,17;53:10; 55:6,9;56:3,7,8,13,	14,18;57:7,14,16; 58:3;61:15,17;62:1,9, 14,16,21;63:4,7,20; 65:19;66:7;67:3,10; 69:4;70:4,6;73:11; 76:15,23;77:6,19; 78:20;79:15;80:5,13, 16,21;84:11,18,21; 85:23;86:11,12; 87:10,13;89:7;92:10, 15,17;93:15,19,24; 94:1;97:19;100:6,14, 22;102:3,12;103:17; 107:24;108:5,20; 109:1,13,18,19; 110:18;111:7,8; 112:4,6;113:2,16; 115:7,14;118:12,21; 119:16;122:16,24; 123:1;124:14;125:9, 12;128:6;129:20,22, 22,23;130:3,7; 131:21;132:10,18; 134:1,11;143:18 projected (1) 79:2 projects (9) 25:15;56:2,10,12; 91:21;94:17;100:15; 102:21;115:13 Project's (1) 65:20 prominent (1) 118:16 pronounce (1) 119:3 pronounced (1) 121:9 propaganda (4) 86:7,12,23;88:6 properly (1) 119:4 properties (3) 40:6;41:6;46:17 property (27) 16:12;24:2;30:24; 40:9;42:1,3,5,9,18, 24;47:17;49:20; 57:10;58:19;64:15; 79:9,24;88:12,15,16, 23;89:1,2,3;102:19; 111:4;130:8 proportions (1) 79:3 proposal (21) 12:16;14:22;21:4, 9;22:4,14;23:5,12; 41:16;42:12;65:17; 70:7;93:23;95:15; 97:19;100:9;104:14; 121:3;129:1,5; 131:24 proposals (5)	29:3;45:18;104:5; 127:8,12 proposed (28) 9:4;16:12;17:24; 24:20;27:7,10;37:19; 39:7;65:18;67:15; 73:11;78:20;79:15; 80:4,21;83:11;92:1; 95:9;100:24;101:5; 102:13;105:9;107:4; 110:12,19;114:4; 116:8;126:2 proposes (2) 16:16;67:8 proposing (1) 63:6 Prospective (2) 88:19;98:17 prosthetics (1) 14:6 protect (21) 18:12;21:16;22:17; 43:16;65:1;73:11,16; 75:7,10;84:11;92:11, 16;103:10,16;109:7, 9;112:14,15;117:1; 123:8;128:7 protected (9) 29:1;49:24;61:11; 74:17;90:24;128:14; 130:11;139:11,13 protecting (3) 29:7;98:18;114:15 protection (5) 90:12;103:7,15; 123:17,20 protector (1) 36:21 protects (1) 131:10 protest (1) 122:10 proud (1) 120:19 proven (1) 62:1 proverbial (1) 44:6 provide (3) 10:22;11:5;21:4 provided (3) 31:1;74:6;79:14 provides (3) 98:2;115:12,12 providing (3) 30:5;52:15;106:3 proximity (3) 16:13;88:15; 102:19 PSNH (1) 91:20 public (39) 5:6,8,11,12;6:6,8,
---	---	---	--	---

14,21;7:2,7;8:4,16; 9:18;10:8,12,13,21, 24;19:11,15,17;21:8, 24;24:4,9;31:12; 33:24;36:21;37:16; 45:8;79:22;87:9; 93:16;101:3;108:2, 10;118:13;130:14; 147:8 public's (1) 20:13 PubMed (1) 146:24 PUC (2) 8:12;85:14 pumping (1) 75:16 pumps (1) 87:20 purchased (2) 97:14;131:1 purpose (1) 144:16 purposes (1) 128:3 pursuit (3) 133:18,21,22 push (3) 38:10;116:2,5 put (23) 30:19;50:6,19; 57:20;58:4;65:10; 75:22;77:3,4;83:12; 121:2;128:21; 138:20;139:5,9,24; 140:2,3,5,8,10,15; 143:9 putting (5) 105:11;142:18; 143:11,12,17 puzzling (1) 63:6 pylons (2) 50:16;60:23	quickly (2) 59:12;72:15 quiet (3) 40:18;43:2;53:15 quite (2) 80:23;136:20 quote (10) 52:8;65:12;66:8, 11;82:5;90:2,12,14, 14;109:17 quotes (1) 83:13	129:12 reads (1) 141:15 ready (1) 11:14 real (4) 33:17;67:11;88:12; 105:21 realize (1) 84:6 really (23) 11:19;25:14,16; 33:21;54:3;55:4,24; 56:6,7,12;57:1,1; 59:11;66:6;73:1; 105:6;106:19;107:1; 112:7,9;127:22; 129:4;143:16 realtor (1) 88:13 reason (5) 8:2;67:17;126:24; 128:4;137:13 reasonable (2) 52:21;129:2 reasons (9) 40:13,14;41:12; 46:21;63:20;67:10; 105:14;133:15; 135:20 received (3) 7:19,24;31:3 recent (1) 94:8 Recently (3) 24:21;82:3;134:24 Recess (1) 85:3 recognize (1) 95:14 recognized (2) 43:19;99:6 recommendations (2) 8:21;9:3 recommended (1) 9:13 reconsidered (1) 61:13 record (1) 144:17 recoup (1) 62:5 recouped (1) 39:1 recover (1) 115:20 recreation (3) 78:6;105:24; 121:23 recreational (3) 36:20;110:10; 128:3 recycled (1)	37:5 redirected (1) 92:8 reduce (1) 62:21 reduced (1) 23:12 redundancy (1) 87:1 reference (1) 144:4 referenced (2) 31:1;136:11 References (1) 108:17 referencing (1) 145:7 referred (2) 88:2;110:22 referring (1) 143:7 refinery (4) 49:8;122:6,11; 129:20 reflect (1) 82:9 reflecting (1) 110:4 reflective (1) 106:13 reflects (1) 107:1 refuge (2) 89:18;91:9 regarding (3) 29:20;95:8;118:19 regardless (1) 16:24 regards (1) 81:5 region (20) 14:9;20:18,23; 21:5;29:18,21;30:9, 13;31:5,13,21;40:16; 45:2;65:23;74:6; 75:9,24;94:13;124:1; 129:21 regional (4) 66:13;94:4;99:7; 109:3 regionalized (1) 94:24 Region's (2) 30:6;44:1 Register (1) 114:7 registered (1) 133:7 regular (1) 119:11 regularly (1) 109:11 regulating (1)	145:23 regulators (1) 62:4 regulatory (1) 7:21 rehashed (1) 23:22 reintroduce (2) 69:24;83:23 reject (7) 70:6;84:20;110:17; 125:10;128:6;129:4; 134:11 rejected (3) 94:19;119:19; 127:11 related (1) 9:8 relating (1) 19:14 relatively (1) 78:14 release (1) 51:21 released (3) 64:22;145:8;146:9 relevant (1) 7:5 Reliability (29) 5:16;25:3;29:22; 30:1,15;31:4,16; 32:4;48:18;63:19; 70:6;77:18;80:15; 84:20;86:11;87:11, 16;88:8;92:14;93:15, 18;94:13;97:19; 100:6;118:11; 122:16;123:1; 124:14;125:9 reliable (6) 29:21;30:5,10,16; 31:9;79:14 relocated (1) 100:1 Remain (1) 93:18 remaining (6) 10:20;12:4;63:9; 98:19;99:20;100:2 remains (2) 83:14;113:19 remediation (1) 140:15 remedy (1) 91:19 remind (1) 147:12 reminds (1) 28:18 remnant (1) 99:15 renewables (1) 136:21
Q	R			
qualities (1) 135:14 Quality (15) 9:9;18:2;20:14; 21:7;31:12;33:15; 37:12;45:7;48:7; 50:20;61:9;69:17,22; 90:1,12 quarries (1) 21:17 Quebec (1) 130:1 questionable (1) 87:7 quick (2) 117:13;141:6	radiation (1) 28:9 railroad (1) 109:15 railroads (2) 99:1;110:6 raise (5) 40:18;74:4;77:21; 78:8;121:24 raisers (1) 106:9 rallied (2) 122:9;129:19 ran (2) 17:17;93:16 rapid (1) 66:12 rapidly (1) 30:12 rare (1) 114:18 rate (4) 26:12;30:7;52:20; 56:19 ratepayers (3) 66:15;116:15; 137:3 rates (4) 28:14;89:10;95:1; 137:2 rather (4) 82:9;83:3;121:3; 129:3 rave (1) 106:16 Raymond (5) 70:10;73:19;76:10, 12,13 reaching (1) 125:20 read (10) 10:24;51:8,17; 95:10,15;101:1; 122:20;141:14; 144:13;147:14 readily (1) 147:3 reading (1)			

reopened (1) 24:8	103:24	37:2;43:22	41:24;42:18;	130:2
REP (1) 18:23	resident (18) 34:11;36:14;40:1;	restored (1) 37:9	133:17,17;138:20	rock (1) 64:9
repair (2) 23:13;43:22	43:14;48:15;55:1;	result (3) 31:11;52:11;73:14	rights-of-way (2) 41:23;103:19	rolling (1) 95:18
replace (1) 100:6	60:15;63:17;76:13;	resultant (1) 25:17	Ring (5) 24:15;27:2;29:11,	room (7) 13:7;19:5;40:19;
replacing (2) 87:13;120:11	107:17;111:15;23;	resulting (2) 48:19;115:21	13,15	56:14;57:4;93:22;
report (4) 8:20,24,24;9:3	121:10;129:12,14	results (2) 33:7;37:11	rise (2) 13:15;79:2	120:1
Reporter (4) 47:8;56:22;81:16;	residential (36) 22:15,18;23:19;	resumed (1) 85:4	rising (3) 60:23;137:8,13	rose (1) 122:10
134:20	27:11,17;28:1;29:8;	return (3) 66:16;116:24;	risk (10) 18:3;30:19;38:18,	roster (2) 10:15,18
reports (3) 7:19;23:23;64:1	53:15;61:10,23;	120:13	23;52:22;66:11,14;	roughly (1) 20:4
represent (1) 19:16	64:16;73:5,7,8;81:3,	returned (3) 81:14;107:19,22	95:17;118:11;146:8	route (38) 14:23;22:3;25:24;
Representative (4) 12:11;15:3;18:19;	5;89:16;90:13,18;	REV (1) 129:11	risks (1) 44:18	29:2;34:19,19,20,24;
87:10	91:4;92:3;95:1;	Reverand (1) 124:21	risky (1) 117:9	35:1,11,17;44:16;
representatives (1) 42:23	98:19;99:16,17;	reversed (1) 15:14	River (18) 8:8;12:20;20:9;	49:12;50:11,19;
represented (1) 18:24	100:8;104:4,6,9,13,	Reverend (1) 129:10	45:12;50:13,14;	52:19;58:5;62:20;
representing (2) 7:2;93:10	16,19;105:18;	review (5) 7:5;108:22,24;	63:23;75:12;76:5;	65:12;92:2;95:13;
represents (2) 29:17;62:18	106:18;113:20;126:3	109:2;115:8	78:3;123:18,19,23;	98:23;110:11,19,20,
request (4) 8:6;31:17;110:18;	Residents (25) 10:1;27:16,21;	reviews (1) 115:11	131:11,12,13;142:14;	21;122:22;124:7;
115:10	29:6;31:20;32:17;	rich (1) 72:10	144:24	129:6,24;131:9,9,14,
requests (1) 11:2	33:6,7;34:15;56:15;	richest (1) 122:4	rivers (9) 20:1;74:7,16,17,	19,20,21,23;139:24
require (3) 100:23;110:13;	57:8;61:5;64:13;	Richman (5) 133:9;134:14;	23;80:9;82:16;	routed (2) 38:22;50:9
111:2	80:12;91:3;92:13;	136:5,6,6	117:22;129:18	routes (12) 22:1;44:14;45:10;
required (7) 22:5;42:14,15,17;	93:21;98:12;106:4,	Rick (9) 31:23;36:4,8,10,13,	Road (52) 15:7;27:5;34:19;	95:9;101:5,6;110:5;
49:16;79:6;130:17	13;114:13;128:5;	13;96:11,12;133:4	40:6;42:4;49:11,17,	127:17,17,21;139:17,
requirement (2) 21:10;120:6	129:15;132:3,8	rid (1) 140:11	18,23,24;50:15;	18
requirements (6) 20:21;21:3;27:24;	resistance (2) 62:14;145:17	ride (1) 81:12	53:12,23;63:18;	routing (1) 38:19
98:12;125:11;132:19	resource (2) 43:23;44:5	right (25) 6:15;11:17,18;	65:16,21;67:2;81:10,	RSA (2) 44:24;125:11
requires (5) 34:20;90:19;	Resources (17) 5:22,23;8:19,20;	25:21;35:9;57:7,15,	13;84:3;85:22;87:12,	ruin (2) 50:6;131:16
104:18;131:22,23	36:21;48:6,22;54:14;	17,17;66:20;70:5;	17;88:9;93:6;94:18,	ruined (2) 25:7;131:2
requiring (1) 9:14	64:3;65:18;80:11;	72:20,20;75:4;84:14;	19;95:4;100:10;	rule (1) 132:18
reroute (1) 58:8	91:16,24;95:13;	89:4;92:9;116:4;	102:11;105:2,8;	ruled (1) 139:20
research (7) 51:11;52:8;81:2;	108:18;112:16;123:5	118:20;120:8;	110:9,15;111:16;	Rules (4) 10:7;90:2,9;127:4
91:2;114:10;123:23;	respect (5) 41:23,24;42:18;	133:20,20;136:2;	126:6,6,16,16,17,18;	run (5) 27:10;67:16;79:3;
146:23	62:7;123:10	139:16;147:13	142:21,22,24;143:5,	84:10;109:1
Reserve (5) 52:8;81:2;91:2;	respectful (2) 86:18;147:18	rightie (1) 96:18	6,7,10,11,17;144:15;	running (7) 28:1;67:13;72:9;
114:10;123:23	respectfully (4) 31:17;48:8;52:24;	rightly (1) 125:18	147:23	83:4;99:13;114:1;
Reservoir (1) 117:15	124:11	Right-of-way (7) 6:11;79:12;91:22;	roads (11) 33:13;49:24;110:6;	130:1
reside (1)	responded (1) 98:16	92:2;109:14,19;	128:13;130:11;	runoff (3) 13:13;20:12;37:18
	response] (7) 36:6;43:9;54:21;	142:12	131:5;132:15;134:9;	runs (4) 50:11;81:3;123:4;
	96:6,9;133:5;142:4	rights (5)	142:17,18,23	131:10
	responsibility (1) 20:14		roadside (2) 88:1,3	rural (27) 21:1;27:12;29:7;
	responsible (1) 145:11		Robert (14) 54:19;60:12,14,15;	48:20,24;49:5;50:17;
	responsibly (1) 30:22		70:10;73:19;76:10,	61:4;72:10;77:22;
	rest (5) 19:7;30:7;75:22;		12,12;77:8;80:18;	
	98:7;126:1		81:9,10,17	
	restaurants (3) 37:1,4;78:18		Robin (7) 15:8;103:22;	
	restore (2)		104:23;107:13,16,16;	
			143:4	
			Rochester (4) 29:15,23;31:14;	

91:14;98:18;99:16; 108:18;109:7,24; 114:15,17;115:19; 122:1;126:4;127:3; 129:17;131:16; 138:3,11;142:22 rust (1) 128:17 Ryan (13) 60:13;63:13;66:23; 67:1,2;77:9,9,14; 80:18;81:8,9,10,17 Ryder (4) 134:15;137:19,20; 138:2 Rye (1) 106:19	50:22;53:4;54:17; 133:2 save (1) 59:12 saved (2) 38:24;138:14 savings (1) 14:21 saw (1) 135:18 saying (3) 11:5;68:10;89:20 scale (1) 132:7 scar (1) 113:19 scaring (1) 83:19 scenery (1) 86:5 scenic (12) 17:22;33:13;49:24; 67:13;81:13;91:15; 104:4;127:17,21; 128:13;130:11; 132:15 schedule (1) 10:15 Schiller (2) 45:13;87:1 SCHMIDT (2) 6:9,10 School (7) 66:8;118:13; 142:14,15,16;143:8,9 schools (1) 105:17 science (1) 84:17 scope (1) 115:13 Scotland (1) 142:22 Scott (1) 70:13 scout (1) 16:23 script (1) 11:4 Seabrook (1) 87:2 Seacoast (47) 5:16;26:13;29:22, 24;30:3,6,15;31:4,5, 16;32:4;38:22;44:22; 46:11;47:19;48:8,18; 63:19;64:13;66:20; 67:6;70:6;80:15; 84:20;86:11;92:14, 16;93:7,14,17,18; 97:19;98:22;100:5; 106:18;111:22; 114:20;122:8,9,16,	24;124:12,13;125:9; 135:12,13,19 seal (1) 84:9 seals (2) 15:24;16:8 seat (1) 96:16 SEC (9) 6:8;39:4;54:7; 57:5;90:2,2,6;101:5; 141:13 second (5) 34:17;64:17;74:3; 76:21;98:1 seconds (4) 35:7;59:17;128:23; 142:10 secret (1) 132:5 section (3) 17:20;24:2;99:8 secure (1) 17:7 security (1) 98:15 sediment (4) 51:23;52:3;64:22; 78:15 sediments (9) 13:23;64:20;69:11; 83:20;101:9;144:19, 20;145:10;147:5 seeded (1) 37:5 seeing (1) 87:24 seemed (1) 60:24 seems (2) 81:21;103:13 segments (1) 61:16 selected (1) 20:20 selection (1) 22:5 selectively (1) 109:12 self-interest (2) 79:13,16 sell (2) 88:24;139:6 Senate (1) 93:11 send (1) 147:10 sense (6) 56:6;58:2,3;89:8; 105:21;128:11 sensitive (2) 13:21;67:9 sent (1)	100:11 sentence (4) 91:12;116:19; 146:14,16 sentiment (2) 114:16,21 sentiments (1) 112:7 sentry (1) 84:7 September (1) 10:14 serene (1) 110:9 series (2) 23:10;82:4 serious (4) 40:10;53:16;64:18; 93:23 seriously (2) 97:23;118:16 serve (5) 21:23;45:20;106:7; 107:23;118:2 served (6) 34:12,13;93:8; 97:15;105:23;110:9 Service (4) 5:13;7:8;35:20; 90:20 Services (3) 9:6;54:13;106:3 serving (3) 27:16;46:11; 106:11 session (3) 5:7;93:20;147:9 sessions (1) 108:10 set (2) 26:15;82:13 setbacks (1) 103:1 settings (1) 114:18 settle (2) 78:2,8 seven (3) 8:13;105:24; 108:16 seven- (1) 113:12 several (14) 19:13;21:24;49:3; 60:23;69:23;97:15, 18;114:4;119:20; 127:6;128:18;138:5; 144:2;146:5 shadows (1) 88:18 shall (1) 10:18 shape (1)	135:8 share (7) 57:5;71:8,12; 111:21;134:24; 135:2,16 shared (1) 34:4 Sharifipour (6) 113:5;117:5; 118:24;119:2,7,8 sharing (1) 147:16 Sharon (10) 39:9;43:7,8;93:2; 96:4,8,16,18,19; 133:2 Sharon's (1) 101:17 sharpen (1) 116:23 Shellfish (4) 10:2;13:8;38:15,16 shells (2) 37:4;70:1 shore (7) 15:16;26:8;65:4; 67:15;68:4,16;84:4 Shoreland (2) 9:10;103:6 shoreline (9) 14:17;16:2;19:19; 28:23;65:6;67:17; 68:19;69:1;144:20 shorelines (3) 38:2;90:23;144:18 shores (3) 67:23;68:12;83:7 short (4) 35:13,23;77:14; 101:17 shortcut (1) 120:18 Shortly (1) 107:22 shortsighted (1) 120:16 shouldered (1) 61:5 shout (1) 133:1 show (7) 11:24;18:13,15; 42:17,20;103:4; 126:12 showed (1) 33:7 showing (1) 28:13 shown (3) 28:15;37:11; 110:20 shows (3) 16:13;19:9;39:16
S				
sacrifice (1) 61:5 safe (11) 17:10;25:14;58:13; 69:6,9,19,20;78:19; 120:11;135:7;143:9 safeguard (1) 69:21 safely (1) 68:21 safety (5) 21:9;31:12;45:8; 52:15;143:16 Safran/Albany (1) 30:13 sailing (1) 75:1 sake (1) 14:21 Sally (10) 45:23;48:12;50:21, 24;51:1,6;134:15; 137:18,20;138:2 Salmon (1) 117:22 salt (1) 20:2 saltwater (1) 87:20 same (13) 17:8;25:10,11,12; 34:9;73:13;83:9; 84:18;91:11;92:15; 103:14;128:4;146:1 San (1) 82:17 Sandberg (6) 34:7;39:10;43:7, 11,12,14 Sanders (6) 12:11;15:3,5,7; 18:10,11 Sarah (4)				

SHULOCK (2) 6:4,4	skate (1) 72:22	someone (1) 23:13	125:12	stark (1) 46:19
sick (1) 72:24	ski (2) 78:24;131:3	sometimes (1) 15:17	specified (1) 61:14	Starkweather (5) 50:23;53:4;54:18, 20;133:3
side (6) 58:4;59:4;72:5; 74:22;83:10;107:11	skip (1) 36:8	somewhere (2) 26:21;141:2	spectacular (2) 15:9;77:24	start (2) 89:20;126:9
sign (3) 10:23;85:10,15	skunks (1) 41:10	son (2) 76:4;121:24	spend (10) 12:20;14:16;15:15, 21,24;67:22;74:7; 78:2;84:2;89:9	started (3) 85:6;107:22; 135:17
signal (2) 12:2;39:21	slab (1) 128:18	sons (1) 138:6	spent (7) 13:17;19:6;40:3; 51:13;92:7;105:10; 127:24	starting (3) 5:19;72:18;98:24
signed (3) 12:7;140:16;141:8	slabs (4) 17:19;38:2;47:6,14	sooner (1) 122:19	spoil (1) 139:3	state (22) 7:20,24;8:16; 10:11;20:18;30:8; 39:2;52:19;56:4; 59:21;61:7;62:24; 74:2;81:22;83:22; 90:2;91:6;98:11; 115:23;121:11; 131:22;132:6
significant (3) 20:5;50:3;66:14	sleuthing (1) 122:2	sorry (6) 6:22;18:21;38:16; 46:8;54:11;97:11	spoiled (2) 127:1;128:14	stated (1) 125:11
significantly (1) 110:23	slow (1) 13:19	sort (2) 42:17;143:3	spoke (1) 136:8	Statement (13) 5:8,12;6:22;10:12, 13,19,24;11:16;12:8; 108:3;109:22; 114:22;129:13
silt (4) 38:5,9,17;75:21	slowly (1) 147:20	sought (2) 9:1;80:8	spoken (6) 56:20;58:11; 111:18;112:10; 135:21;142:9	statements (2) 10:22;88:8
siltation (1) 37:18	small (11) 18:7;23:15;46:20; 68:24;98:1;100:6; 104:3;114:1;120:18; 129:15;132:2	sound (1) 71:7	spot (2) 147:12,12	States (9) 28:16;55:22;61:17; 73:4;90:11;91:5; 104:7,10;131:24
similar (3) 25:15,16;100:15	small-town (2) 46:22;114:14	source (2) 74:14,16	sprawl (2) 33:11,12	Station (2) 45:13;50:14
simple (2) 73:3,3	smart (1) 92:6	sources (1) 32:13	spread (2) 13:24;16:7	Stations (1) 87:2
simply (8) 26:1;50:6;61:10; 80:6;115:1,15; 128:21;144:13	smell (1) 41:10	south (5) 50:13;68:2;91:23; 110:6;131:12	spring (3) 65:4;74:6;78:4	status (1) 10:8
Singer (4) 45:22;48:11,13,15	Smith (4) 12:12;15:4;18:19, 23	southern (2) 110:11;130:2	Squam (1) 82:1	statute (2) 50:1;130:12
single (1) 141:15	smother (1) 38:7	space (4) 5:5;33:9;40:19; 95:12	square (4) 89:17;91:4;98:5; 99:18	statutory (1) 132:19
single-phase (2) 87:14,16	snake (1) 86:9	spaces (1) 114:17	squeezed (1) 116:1	stay (4) 68:10;102:24; 135:18;141:10
single-source (1) 87:22	sniff (1) 89:8	Spaulding (3) 89:19;91:7;115:18	squirrels (1) 41:1	steady (1) 52:9
Sisters (1) 106:8	sniff (1) 89:8	speak (28) 10:23;11:3,16,18, 20;15:1;19:18;29:19; 31:2;32:3;36:16; 39:20;51:4;53:8,9; 73:16;85:8,11,15; 87:7;88:11;96:17; 113:15;137:21; 141:8;143:23; 144:11;147:20	SRP (15) 22:13,16,18;23:18; 24:11;44:12;93:15; 94:17,24;95:9,15,22; 123:1,4;124:2	steel (3) 49:16;50:2,6
sit (2) 11:17;51:3	soaring (1) 84:8	speaker (3) 10:18;96:12; 104:21	stage (2) 63:7;94:15	Stegner (1) 82:6
Site (24) 5:9,14;7:9;10:7; 16:13,14,16,22;17:4; 20:19;22:5;26:6; 29:14;31:17;36:15; 44:24;45:5,15; 108:22;124:16; 132:17;141:14; 147:13,14	socialize (1) 68:7	speakers (2) 10:15;136:8	stakeholders (1) 61:24	stenographer (2) 11:8;147:20
sites (8) 21:7,18;25:8;45:6; 63:22;64:4;66:4; 108:5	Society (2) 9:24;123:17	speaking (3) 12:22;86:20;89:21	stand (7) 11:18;19:3;33:3; 40:22;47:24;51:4; 113:1	steps (1) 94:15
siting (1) 97:1	soil (1) 138:24	special (4) 68:5;84:6;111:21; 133:20	standpoint (1) 88:2	Stern (3) 96:11,12;133:4
sitting (1) 128:18	solar (3) 14:12;127:18,20	species (3) 41:3;52:16;118:4	stands (2) 24:11;48:4	Steve (6) 29:11;31:23;34:6; 36:4,5;133:2
six (4) 14:15;78:1;84:24; 105:24	sold (3) 13:1,4;138:19	specific (2) 95:8;109:10	star (1) 122:7	stewards (2)
size (1) 64:5	solid (1) 87:18	specifically (4) 40:16;90:6;109:7;		
	solidarity (1) 47:24			
	solution (6) 30:16;65:21;97:23; 116:8,9,14			
	solutions (2) 119:18,19			
	somebody (1) 86:20			

112:19;123:21 stewardship (1) 32:13 still (12) 13:5;39:19;44:3; 68:21;93:20;99:21; 138:4,6,10,15; 139:22;145:2 stipulation (1) 61:24 stipulations (1) 130:15 stirring (2) 78:13;83:20 stone (2) 21:17;143:1 stop (10) 12:3;26:23;68:6; 86:16,17,17,17; 101:22,22;139:15 stopped (1) 26:22 stories (1) 60:24 storm (1) 37:18 straight (1) 116:3 Strait (1) 17:14 stranded (1) 66:14 strategic (1) 98:20 stray (1) 71:14 streams (2) 83:6;117:19 Street (2) 55:19,23 streets (1) 132:13 strength (1) 38:10 stress (1) 13:12 stressed (1) 114:8 stresses (1) 20:24 stressor (1) 13:21 stretch (1) 77:11 strict (2) 127:4;138:22 strike (1) 140:7 stripe (2) 78:16;84:5 striped (1) 68:22 strong (3)	16:6;113:16;118:8 strongly (3) 27:6;34:10;42:11 struck (2) 81:12;140:12 structure (1) 145:13 structures (3) 20:8;130:10,20 struggle (2) 82:12;115:20 struggling (1) 114:9 stuck (1) 132:24 student (1) 24:18 studied (1) 23:14 studies (2) 9:15;28:15 Study (1) 136:11 studying (1) 144:2 stuff (2) 57:24;59:15 stump (1) 92:21 stupid (1) 75:24 Subcommittee (7) 5:18;7:24;8:11,24; 9:14;93:4;95:14 subdivisions (1) 88:17 subject (1) 10:10 submarine (1) 9:16 submit (2) 11:3;45:17 Subsequent (1) 99:1 substance (1) 70:24 substantial (1) 62:18 substantially (1) 49:13 Substation (2) 50:12;100:18 substations (2) 7:13;60:19 suburban (1) 131:17 successful (1) 30:11 successfully (1) 13:1 suffer (1) 23:18 suggest (1)	34:17 suggested (1) 119:21 suggesting (2) 62:22;83:1 suite (1) 94:16 summary (1) 62:8 summer (6) 40:3;74:6,23,24; 78:4;126:11 summers (1) 15:22 Sunday (1) 93:17 sunlight (1) 52:5 superficial (1) 64:3 superior (2) 34:18;131:20 supplements (1) 7:18 supply (7) 16:4;25:2;26:17; 74:14,15;79:14; 82:17 support (7) 31:3,15;39:3; 53:11;89:22;90:1; 94:21 supported (2) 60:23;146:22 supporter (1) 29:24 supports (1) 104:11 supposed (1) 39:12 supposedly (2) 47:7,14 sure (7) 11:9;60:6;75:6; 76:17;127:7,15; 137:4 surface (2) 91:18;137:12 surfaces (1) 103:3 surpasses (1) 106:19 surprise (1) 128:9 surrounded (1) 86:3 surrounding (3) 71:24;74:15;82:23 survey (1) 108:8 surveyed (1) 33:7 surveys (2)	41:20;42:14 survive (2) 16:24;65:9 Susan (6) 6:8;133:9;134:14; 136:4,6,6 suspect (1) 107:6 suspicious (2) 86:13,24 sustain (1) 134:10 sustainability (1) 74:12 sustains (1) 52:6 swath (2) 83:5,16 swaths (1) 124:5 Sweet (1) 78:22 swim (5) 16:4;69:7,9;75:4; 78:5 swimming (4) 14:17;15:16;16:1; 74:9 syndrome (1) 145:16 syndromes (1) 145:12 system (11) 19:24;20:4;21:19, 20:30;2;37:10;43:20; 44:2;51:24;52:22; 78:22 systems (1) 119:9	83:16 tank (1) 110:14 Tapping (1) 100:17 taught (1) 76:6 taxpayer (2) 51:18;131:1 taxpayers (1) 137:2 TCB (1) 25:22 teams (1) 116:23 technologies (5) 120:3,9;121:1; 136:15,21 technology (1) 53:17 telling (3) 11:24;25:11;84:16 temperature (1) 13:15 ten (1) 84:23 tendency (1) 82:10 Tens (1) 92:6 Teresa (1) 52:24 term (7) 35:13,14,16,22,23, 23,24 terminal (1) 128:6 terms (2) 108:18;121:12 Terrain (1) 9:9 terrible (2) 83:4;134:1 Terry (3) 51:7,8,13 Terry's (1) 51:17 test (1) 89:8 tested (1) 21:20 testimony (3) 11:8;65:13;68:10 Thanks (4) 12:13;14:24;117:6; 143:19 Thereby (1) 124:10 therefore (3) 38:20;65:19;97:21 thick (1) 60:22 thinking (3)
				T
				table (3) 11:17;23:5;85:12 tactics (2) 24:22;25:11 tag (2) 86:12,23 takeaway (1) 93:19 talented (2) 116:16,23 talk (7) 12:7;55:5;58:19; 133:15,23;143:13; 144:9 talking (1) 57:24 tall (1) 50:2 taller (3) 32:24;83:15;87:24 tallest (1)

56:6;126:8,22 third (2) 28:22;98:9 thorough (1) 108:24 though (6) 34:21;38:21;89:22; 95:17;121:14;127:12 thought (6) 76:19;138:24; 139:10,22,23;140:21 thoughtful (1) 92:6 thoughtfully (1) 27:19 thoughts (1) 72:23 thousand (1) 89:15 thousands (3) 92:12;130:8;132:3 threat (2) 17:9;67:14 threaten (1) 14:2 threatened (1) 122:14 threatens (1) 37:22 three (21) 10:19;11:21,23; 12:1,1,15:11;23:9; 37:10,23;39:12,17; 50:4;55:7;99:9; 106:1;110:21; 128:23;130:21; 140:18;141:7,9 three-and-a-half-minute (1) 39:22 three-phase (4) 87:14,17,22,23 throughout (4) 16:7;51:24;109:8; 114:13 thrown (1) 130:7 tidal (4) 38:10;99:4;118:6; 146:10 tide (7) 20:3;38:6;65:7; 67:24;68:14;84:8; 98:7 tides (5) 13:24;16:7;17:21; 83:18;118:8 Tim (2) 36:5;39:9 timely (1) 122:18 times (4) 15:12;19:13;81:14; 136:12	TIMOTHY (2) 39:24,24 tiny (4) 23:17,22;99:15; 114:15 tirelessly (1) 123:8 title (1) 82:5 today (25) 9:2;10:12;12:22; 13:4;15:6,20;22:12; 26:5;29:20;32:18; 36:16;42:19;67:18; 83:1;107:8;113:13; 114:6,24;115:7; 117:7;125:7,8; 129:22;131:19; 133:16 today's (1) 5:11 told (10) 25:1,16,18,23; 41:19;88:10,22; 121:23;122:19; 140:20 tolerance (1) 113:7 tonight (17) 6:19;12:8;18:22; 39:20;53:8;55:4; 57:19;82:22;112:23; 113:7;129:4;133:7; 134:18;136:12,20; 137:7;141:18 tonight's (1) 93:19 took (5) 91:5,7,8;122:2; 127:5 top (2) 114:21;136:19 tops (1) 128:21 tossed (1) 115:1 totality (1) 117:24 totally (2) 11:11;23:11 touch (3) 35:1;52:2;72:23 tough (1) 134:19 touted (2) 129:20,22 towards (1) 68:3 towering (2) 32:22;124:4 towers (10) 16:17;21:11;27:11; 32:24;33:2;61:22;	62:10;79:5,22; 103:18 town (73) 8:8,10;9:22,23; 21:2,12,14;22:19; 23:7;27:14,20;32:9; 16,22;33:10,14,16; 34:13,14;36:14;39:3; 42:20;43:17;46:15; 19,20;49:3;51:20; 61:5;65:14;70:16; 72:9;74:22;77:21; 79:8,11,15;80:1,7; 89:21,23,23,24;91:5; 96:20,22,24;97:1,15; 98:1,12,13,15;99:8; 102:22;104:10; 106:2;107:23,24; 114:2,12,13,13,17; 120:18;123:3,21; 126:12;127:3,8; 129:15,17;136:7 towns (5) 43:3;59:6;76:18; 132:3;134:9 Town's (14) 23:4;33:4;61:2; 80:3,5;81:4;90:13; 19;98:20;106:24; 115:1,3,12;128:5 townspeople (3) 121:17;122:3; 129:19 toxic (5) 13:22;38:17;51:22; 75:22;118:7 toxins (4) 64:21;76:3;78:13; 83:20 tracks (2) 130:24;139:16 traffic (4) 54:11;58:7;115:22; 132:24 Trail (2) 78:22;110:10 trails (8) 64:12;78:24;79:1, 8;105:21;126:14,18; 131:3 train (1) 42:6 traipse (2) 41:5,6 transformation (1) 66:12 transformer (3) 34:19;65:16;94:18 transformers (2) 71:10,13 transit (1) 52:20 transiting (1)	45:10 transitioning (1) 86:19 transmission (53) 7:11;8:7;16:17; 22:3;27:9,24;28:6; 30:4;37:20;47:15,21; 49:15;50:3,9,11; 51:19;54:1;57:9; 60:18;61:22;65:18, 24;71:5;72:8;88:14, 18;90:15,22;91:16; 97:21;99:12;100:8, 12,23;104:2,8,12,15, 18;109:24;111:2; 114:3;116:3;119:11; 120:4,10;125:20; 128:10,15;129:1,7; 132:1,12 transmitted (1) 79:17 transmitter (1) 57:20 transparent (1) 23:11 Transportation (2) 8:23;98:21 transporting (1) 113:24 traveled (1) 143:6 traverse (1) 108:21 traversing (1) 60:19 treasure (2) 107:21;118:16 treatment (1) 13:13 tree (3) 79:2;92:20;128:21 treeless (1) 83:17 trees (10) 41:7;42:4,7,16; 64:8;79:5;83:16; 130:16,17;143:1 tremendous (1) 69:23 tremendously (3) 68:18;134:22; 135:1 trench (1) 25:13 trenches (1) 37:23 trenching (1) 83:8 trucks (3) 91:18;134:7; 143:12 true (1) 93:20	truly (2) 14:24;32:23 Trust (6) 10:3;18:12,15; 118:20;140:19,22 truth (1) 122:3 try (8) 39:18;73:16;96:17; 119:12;124:19; 128:11;136:2;137:22 trying (2) 13:17;39:14 Tulloch (5) 18:20;22:9;24:14, 16,16 turkeys (1) 41:2 turn (4) 11:15;25:19;56:11; 60:7 turned (1) 83:2 turning (1) 5:17 Turnpike (4) 89:19;91:7;98:22; 115:18 turns (1) 39:15 Twice (1) 19:24 Two (19) 11:2,14;32:5; 55:15;60:1;67:6; 76:16;81:14;84:2; 105:11;121:12; 131:23,23;132:2; 137:6;138:6,8; 141:22;146:14 type (2) 54:1;115:7 types (1) 41:11 typically (1) 68:8
U				
				ugly (1) 27:24 unacceptable (1) 61:24 unanimously (1) 92:11 unbelievable (1) 54:4 uncertain (1) 66:16 uncleanliness (1) 70:21 uncomfortably (1) 11:19

under (12) 8:8,9;10:6;13:5,12; 16:18;33:22;44:16; 23;66:10;90:14; 93:17 undergoing (1) 13:20 underground (11) 22:20,21;72:17; 73:5;97:2;139:13; 140:3,5,8,16,24 undergrounded (1) 63:10 undergrounding (5) 61:15;62:2,3,5,17 underhanded (1) 24:21 underpinning (1) 109:4 understands (1) 125:18 understood (1) 123:2 underwater (2) 18:4;111:3 underwritten (1) 137:2 undeveloped (2) 49:6;81:20 undisturbed (1) 78:15 undue (2) 14:1;70:3 unduly (4) 20:22;45:1;65:21; 108:1 unearththing (1) 38:5 unequivocally (1) 88:14 unexpected (1) 25:19 Unfortunately (2) 86:8;120:14 UNH (8) 9:23;24:18;51:11; 52:3;66:8,8;93:9; 125:16 unhealthy (1) 27:24 UNH's (1) 118:13 unifies (1) 114:17 unilaterally (1) 101:23 uniqueness (1) 111:21 United (4) 28:16,16;55:22; 91:5 University (5) 36:24;46:12;49:1;	66:1;125:18 unknown (2) 94:5;96:12 unknowns (1) 118:9 unnamed (1) 117:20 unnecessary (2) 117:9;118:12 unreasonable (6) 18:1;21:6;45:5; 125:13;131:16; 132:11 unrestricted (1) 26:21 unsightly (5) 49:19,22;67:12,16; 79:4 unspoiled (1) 126:21 unsupportable (1) 109:22 untested (1) 44:9 unthreatened (1) 17:11 Unusual (1) 33:11 unwanted (1) 72:5 unwelcomed (1) 61:21 up (43) 11:15,17,17;12:2, 7;19:8,8;23:5;25:19; 26:8;35:9;43:1; 56:12;59:12,13; 69:10;71:21;72:20; 75:16,21;76:2,24; 77:5;78:13;83:20; 85:10,15;93:7;94:8, 10;95:18;102:14; 107:18;112:18; 122:10;125:20; 126:16,18;141:8; 142:3;143:14;144:6; 147:8 updated (1) 45:17 updating (1) 108:6 upgrade (2) 53:12,22 upgraded (1) 100:21 upgrading (1) 34:22 upon (1) 128:18 upset (1) 20:11 upstream (1) 74:13	urge (5) 14:22;83:3;84:19; 110:13,17 use (22) 5:5;16:22;18:8; 21:18;32:11;39:5; 51:3;61:18;74:22; 81:5;91:21;99:21; 103:1,18;108:12,15; 109:3;110:1,14; 136:16;137:24;139:2 used (11) 14:11;18:14;23:6; 37:4;40:10;75:12; 81:17;127:15;128:2; 132:8;138:7 user (2) 36:20;87:17 users (2) 79:17;87:16 uses (1) 61:11 using (4) 23:22;120:10; 129:6;131:9 usual (1) 114:14 Utilities (2) 6:6;8:5 utility (8) 21:18;23:3;71:10; 79:12;87:13;90:20; 109:18;136:24 utility's (1) 89:8 utilize (1) 99:2 utmost (3) 62:22;102:24; 118:18	137:10 vehemently (1) 15:10 vehicle (1) 88:5 verbal (7) 36:6;43:9;54:21; 96:6,9;133:5;142:4 verbatim (1) 11:9 vernal (1) 83:7 versus (1) 103:3 very-shortsighted (1) 53:19 vessel (1) 51:11 vested (1) 105:13 veterans (1) 144:4 VI (3) 110:9,15;143:5 via (3) 25:10;60:22;78:22 viable (1) 38:19 vibrate (1) 71:15 vibrations (1) 71:11 Vietas (4) 97:8;103:21,23,24 Vietnam (1) 144:5 view (3) 15:9;17:2;32:24 viewed (3) 21:13,13;104:9 viewing (1) 23:3 views (10) 79:9,21;90:3,7; 120:16;124:13; 127:21;128:12; 147:17,19 vigilance (1) 118:18 vigilant (1) 118:10 village (3) 27:14;28:1;72:9 violates (3) 21:10;124:8;130:4 virtues (1) 106:17 visible (6) 16:2;49:17,23; 91:13;128:21;132:14 vision (2) 17:5;127:14 visit (3)	68:6;111:24; 126:11 Visitors (1) 46:21 vistas (2) 77:24;82:21 visual (7) 61:21;62:8,21; 63:1;80:22;81:2; 139:3 visually (1) 125:19 vital (4) 14:20;43:23; 117:12;132:4 voice (2) 112:24;125:8 voltage (1) 72:3 volume (1) 25:2 volunteer (1) 36:17 volunteers (1) 36:23 vote (2) 14:22;124:15 VP (1) 119:8 vulnerable (1) 28:13
W				
Wagon (1) 128:1 Wales (1) 142:22 walk (1) 78:23 walked (1) 126:13 walking (1) 105:20 Wall (2) 55:19,22 Wallace (1) 82:6 walls (2) 21:17;143:1 wants (2) 72:8;116:2 War (2) 98:14;144:6 waste (2) 20:12;87:18 wasteland (1) 131:7 wastewater (1) 13:13 watch (2) 17:7;84:7 watched (1)				

82:3 watching (2) 19:7;84:5 Water (29) 9:9;13:23;17:14; 18:2;20:1,2,14;21:7; 26:3;37:8,12;45:7; 47:17;66:4;67:22,24; 68:7;69:17,18,22; 70:2;82:17;98:6,8; 110:14;117:11,20; 135:9;145:9 Waterkeepers (1) 123:15 waters (11) 16:4;67:19;68:23; 69:10;75:5;76:1; 84:11;118:6;137:8, 14;146:10 watershed (5) 117:12;118:21; 123:18,20,24 waterways (1) 80:3 wave (1) 19:3 waving (1) 6:17 WAY (17) 5:24;6:1;21:21; 47:19;58:4;68:8; 92:5,6;103:2;108:13; 112:4,22;118:22; 123:9;126:3;127:9; 144:6 ways (4) 57:18;58:8,11; 103:16 Weather (1) 67:23 WEATHERSBY (81) 5:2;6:12,14;15:2; 18:9,18;22:8;24:13; 27:1;29:10;31:22; 35:4,8,18;36:2,7,11; 39:8;43:6,10;45:21; 48:10;50:21;51:2; 53:3;54:6,15,22; 59:10,16;60:2,4,10; 63:12;66:22;70:8; 73:18;76:9;77:7; 80:17;81:7;84:22; 85:5;86:16;89:11; 92:24;96:3,7,10,15; 97:6;101:10,14,18, 21;102:4;103:20; 104:22;107:13; 111:10;113:3; 116:11,17;117:3; 118:23;119:5;121:5; 124:18;125:1;129:9; 132:21;134:13; 136:4;137:18,23;	141:3;142:5;143:20; 146:12,17;147:7 web (3) 52:14;108:22; 141:13 weekend (1) 75:18 Weekly (1) 37:3 weight (1) 64:5 Welcome (2) 5:8;51:4 well-established (1) 27:15 well-funded (1) 86:7 well-oiled (1) 86:7 Wetland (2) 9:8;103:6 wetlands (1) 117:12 what's (2) 53:20;113:20 White (2) 92:11;145:21 whole (2) 34:7;95:22 wholeheartedly (1) 84:20 who's (5) 6:17;42:24;56:7; 57:8;111:22 wide (3) 13:24;111:1; 142:24 widen (1) 110:8 widening (1) 21:11 wider (1) 50:10 width (1) 37:21 wife (7) 15:8,20;40:1; 105:3;113:12; 134:24;144:14 Wikipedia (2) 71:4,22 wildlife (11) 15:14,17,18;18:2; 47:17;77:23;81:23; 82:20;84:12;89:18; 91:8 William (1) 17:17 willingness (1) 18:5 Wilson (5) 133:9;134:14,16, 17,21	wind (1) 14:12 window (2) 40:24;41:3 winds (1) 118:8 winter (1) 72:22 wire (1) 8:15 wires (7) 21:19;28:12;34:21, 22;100:7;125:22; 128:19 wish (5) 10:23;46:2;51:18; 96:1;103:3 wishes (2) 44:19;141:11 withheld (1) 132:4 within (12) 6:2;16:8;50:4; 90:17;97:2;98:8; 104:6,15;109:18; 117:12;130:17;131:5 Without (1) 30:18 withstand (1) 91:9 woman (1) 85:13 wonderful (4) 65:3;66:20;105:17; 106:16 wonders (1) 18:16 woodlands (1) 86:4 Woodridge (2) 49:10,18 woods (3) 83:5;126:14;143:6 word (1) 91:11 words (3) 71:3;72:7;89:15 work (14) 6:10;16:14,15,19, 22;17:4;74:12,15; 76:19;94:3;96:13; 124:2;144:4,8 worked (15) 33:16,20;37:1,22; 75:10;83:23;97:1; 123:8,14;125:16; 127:2;128:7;129:16; 138:7,16 working (2) 75:14;127:18 works (4) 21:15;30:22; 100:19;122:24	World (1) 70:18 world's (3) 55:17;122:4,6 worse (2) 57:12;95:18 worship (1) 26:20 worst (3) 56:3;82:9;118:5 worth (3) 38:24;89:15;95:7 wrap (5) 12:2;35:9;59:12, 13;147:8 write (1) 92:23 writer (1) 82:6 written (4) 6:19;11:3,11; 147:10 wrong (3) 22:16;92:5,7 wrote (2) 93:16;144:13 Y yard (4) 41:6;63:18;79:3,9 yards (1) 24:19 year (4) 16:11;23:1;40:4; 95:3 years (54) 14:1,15;20:10; 24:18,21;26:14; 34:12,13;43:15,19; 44:3;46:10;48:23; 51:12,14;52:9;55:20; 63:17;67:5,6;69:23; 70:3;74:4,24;77:21; 78:19;80:1;81:11; 82:12;86:1;91:24; 93:9;95:16;97:13,15, 17;104:2;105:11; 106:1,2;107:7,19; 108:17;121:15; 122:12,17;123:7; 127:6,24;130:5; 133:14;140:18; 144:2,22 Yellowstone (2) 82:13,18 yesterday (1) 10:17 yield (1) 104:20 York (1) 107:18 Yosemite (1)	82:14 young (1) 51:12 Yup (1) 36:10 Z zone (5) 23:19;27:18,19; 99:11;130:18 zoned (1) 109:9 zones (1) 81:6 zoning (5) 21:2;99:8;109:5; 124:8;127:4 1 1 (1) 55:20 10 (6) 8:4;26:14;34:13; 35:7;70:3;108:10 10,000 (1) 37:6 100 (4) 23:21;89:3,22; 125:21 100-foot (1) 124:5 100-foot-tall (1) 47:21 102 (2) 19:6;51:12 106 (1) 24:2 10-minute (2) 77:10;84:23 10-year (1) 109:8 115-kilovolt (1) 7:11 11-year-old (1) 105:3 12 (1) 97:17 12.9 (1) 7:12 120 (1) 83:5 120-foot (1) 83:16 12th (1) 7:7 13 (2) 10:14;117:11 13-mile-long (1) 63:4 140 (1) 82:12
---	--	--	---	--

14th (1) 8:12	2010 (1) 108:7	401 (1) 9:9	
1500 (1) 25:22	2012 (1) 12:24	44 (1) 24:18	9
1600s (2) 17:18;21:15	2015 (7) 7:23;44:12;93:16; 94:22;95:10;108:9, 14	45 (4) 43:15;122:12,17; 123:7	90-foot (2) 67:13;83:15
162 (2) 44:24;125:11	2015-04 (1) 5:15	48 (1) 34:12	
1760 (2) 46:6;97:14	2016 (3) 7:7;30:1;109:2	49 (1) 130:5	
1794 (1) 138:3	2017 (8) 7:16;8:4,18,22; 13:4;61:12;62:11; 65:15	5	
1795 (1) 98:24	2018 (6) 8:12;9:5;10:5,14, 16;108:16	5 (1) 70:12	
17-mile (1) 19:19	202.25 (1) 10:7	5,000 (1) 27:9	
17th (1) 66:9	21st (2) 8:22;99:22	5:41 (1) 85:3	
18 (2) 108:14;130:18	22 (1) 48:23	5:50 (1) 85:4	
1830s (1) 105:9	224 (1) 105:2	50 (2) 37:8;97:15	
1850 (1) 64:4	23 (2) 78:1;110:20	500 (1) 55:18	
18th (1) 99:21	24 (2) 108:16;130:18	571 (1) 63:18	
1950s (4) 98:15;99:6,24; 100:7	244 (1) 111:15	6	6,000-pound (1) 17:18
1953 (2) 138:13;139:7	269 (2) 67:2;81:10	600 (1) 67:14	
1974 (2) 49:6;129:19	28 (1) 65:15	642 (1) 16:14	
1979 (1) 93:8	28th (1) 9:5	7	
1990s (1) 100:3	29 (3) 7:16;10:4;61:12	7 (1) 83:4	
1996 (1) 18:24	3	7:15 (1) 147:24	
19th (2) 7:23;99:21	3 (1) 34:21	70s (1) 128:5	
1st (1) 8:18	30 (2) 74:4;86:1	75 (1) 75:13	
2	300 (2) 20:10;85:21	755 (1) 91:3	
2 (1) 55:21	32 (1) 77:20	8	
2.2 (2) 89:17;91:4	3rd (1) 10:16	8.2 (1) 98:5	80 (1) 102:10
20 (11) 15:7;37:8;46:10; 52:9;63:17;67:5; 74:24;81:11;91:24; 97:13;104:1	4	80-foot (1) 32:24	
200,000 (1) 88:23	4 (2) 52:19;98:23	8-foot (1) 16:6	
2005 (2) 105:9;138:19	40 (1) 133:14		
2006 (1) 107:19	400 (1) 29:17		
2009 (1) 36:23			