

In Re:

*SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06 Joint Application of Northern
Pass Transmission, LLC, and PSNH d/b/a Eversource*

*PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION - LACONIA
January 14, 2016*

SUSAN J. ROBIDAS, NH LCR 44

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

January 14, 2016 - 6:05 p.m.
Lake Opechee Inn & Spa
62 Doris Ray Court
Laconia, New Hampshire
(Belknap County)

IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06
Joint Application of Northern
Pass Transmission, LLC, and
Public Service Company of
New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource
Energy for a Certificate
of Site and Facility.
(Public Information Session
held pursuant to RSA 162-H:10,
I-a.)

[Consisting of a presentation
by the SEC, a presentation by
the Applicants, followed by a
Question-and-Answer Session,
and comments received from the
public]

PRESIDING: Michael J. Iacopino, Esq. (Brennan...)
(Presiding as the Presiding Officer)

Pamela G. Monroe, SEC Administrator

ALSO PRESENT: Iryna N. Dore, Esq. (Brennan...)

COURT REPORTERS: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52
Susan J. Robidas, LCR No. 44

1 NOTED AS PRESENT:

2 Counsel for the Applicant: Barry Needleman, Esq.
3 Thomas B. Getz, Esq.
(McLane Middleton)

4 Counsel for the Public: Peter C.L. Roth, Esq.
5 Sr. Asst. Atty. General
N.H. Dept. of Justice

6 Thomas Pappas, Esq.
7 (Primmer Piper...)

8
9 Also noted as present from the
10 Applicants who were available
to provide the presentation and
answers to questions:

11 William Quinlan

12 James Muntz

13 Samuel Johnson

14 Kevin Bowes

15 Jerry Fortier

16 Lee Carbonneau

17 Bob Varney

18 Terry DeWan

19 Cherilyn Widell

20 Mark Hodgdon

21 Chris Soderman

22 Jessica Kimball

23

24

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P R O C E E D I N G

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Ladies
3 and gentlemen, if you can take your seats,
4 we'll get started. If the Company
5 representatives could get up here, that would
6 be great. I'd ask everybody to bear with me
7 tonight. I'm catching a little bit of a cold.
8 I'll try not to cough into the microphone too
9 loud.

10 Before we get started, in case you
11 haven't been oriented, there are a number of --
12 first of all, my name is Michael Iacopino. I
13 am counsel to the Site Evaluation Committee.
14 To my left is Pamela Monroe, the Administrator
15 for the Site Evaluation Committee.

16 The purpose of tonight's meeting is a
17 public information session. During the course
18 of the meeting tonight, we'll follow the agenda
19 that was out front. We will start off with a
20 presentation from the Committee that I will
21 narrate for you to explain a little bit about
22 how the Site Evaluation Committee operates and
23 how it works and what it does. That
24 presentation will be followed by a presentation

1 from the developers, the Applicant. And they
2 will put on a presentation about their project.
3 We will then go into a question-and-answer
4 period. There are -- we ask that if you have a
5 question for either the Site Evaluation
6 Committee or the Applicant, you take one of
7 these green sheets and write your question
8 down. As you can see, I have them going every
9 which way. That's because we try to categorize
10 them and organize them, so that if we have a
11 series of questions, for instance, about
12 burying the lines, we go through those
13 questions all in a series. It makes it a lot
14 easier to learn about the Project, to learn
15 about the issues if things are organized.

16 After we finish the question-and-
17 answer period, we will then go into the period
18 that we call "Public Statements." If you wish
19 to make a public statement or comment about the
20 Project or about the Site Evaluation Committee,
21 please fill out one of these yellow sheets.
22 There are some of these back there behind Iryna
23 Dore, my associate, who will raise her hand
24 right now. Behind her is some of these sheets.

1 If you wish to speak tonight, please fill out
2 one of these sheets and bring it up here. And
3 finally, we have a blue comment card, and these
4 are for people who may not want to speak or ask
5 a question tonight, but might want to tell us
6 how they feel about the Project or about the
7 process. If you want to prepare written
8 comments, you can do that right on this blue
9 sheet, and they will all become part of the
10 record. Everything that we say here tonight is
11 being recorded by our court reporters. A
12 transcript will be developed after this
13 meeting, and it will become part of the record
14 in this proceeding. It will be reviewed by the
15 Subcommittee that is hearing -- that is sitting
16 in this docket, and that will include any
17 written comments that are made tonight or at
18 any point during the consideration of this
19 application by the Site Evaluation Committee.

20 One thing I'd like to ask you to do
21 is, if you have a question that you want
22 answers to, please write it down. Please don't
23 try to come up during the public comments or
24 statements time to start asking questions of

1 folks, because, quite frankly, you're not going
2 to get answers at that point. We try to do
3 these meetings in an organized fashion. So if
4 you have a question, especially if it's a
5 question that you think everybody will learn
6 something from, please write it down, and we'll
7 deal with it in the question-and-answer period
8 and save the statement and comment period for
9 folks who want to give us their opinion or
10 state something about the Project or the
11 Committee's process. That will actually make
12 for a much cleaner record for the Site
13 Evaluation Committee to review.

14 Now, you might note that the Site
15 Evaluation Committee itself is not here
16 tonight. We are representatives of the Site
17 Evaluation Committee, Ms. Monroe and I. There
18 will be public hearings that the Subcommittee
19 in this case will be here to hear public
20 comments and to hear from the developers as
21 well. Those will be published on our web site.

22 And to my right, anytime you need any
23 information about this application or any other
24 application before the New Hampshire Site

1 Evaluation Committee, the best place to check
2 first is our web site, which is
3 www.nhsec.nh.gov. If you need to get in
4 contact with us, the phone number for our
5 administrator is (603)271-2435. And her e-mail
6 is up there on the screen, Pamela.Monroe@ -- is
7 it SEC or NHSEC?

8 MS. MONROE: SEC. Sec.nh.gov.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO:

10 sec.nh.gov. So that's how you can get in touch
11 with the Committee.

12 I'm going to go right into the
13 presentation to explain a little bit about the
14 Site Evaluation Committee, its process and how
15 it works. The Site Evaluation Committee is
16 created by a statute. That statute is R.S.A.
17 162-H. The statute has been recently amended
18 in the last session of the legislature. But
19 the purpose of the Site Evaluation Committee is
20 to provide a balance of the benefits and
21 impacts on the site selection, on a number of
22 very important things for the State of New
23 Hampshire: The welfare of the population,
24 private property, the location and growth of

1 industry, the economic growth of the state, the
2 environment, historic sites, aesthetics, air
3 and water quality, natural resources and public
4 health and safety. The state legislature has
5 determined that all of those things are
6 important, and it's important to have an agency
7 that balances those factors, the impacts and
8 the benefits to those factors, when determining
9 where to site and how to construct, whether it
10 be generating plants or transmission lines, but
11 energy facilities.

12 The second purpose of the statute is
13 to avoid undue delay in the construction of new
14 facilities.

15 The third point is to provide full
16 and timely consideration of all of the
17 environmental consequences of a proposed energy
18 facility; and also, fourth, to provide full and
19 complete disclosure to the public about
20 facilities that are slated to be built in the
21 state of New Hampshire; and finally, to ensure
22 that the construction and operation of energy
23 facilities is treated as a significant aspect
24 of land use planning, where all issues,

1 environmental, economic and technical, are
2 resolved in an integrated fashion. In essence,
3 the Site Evaluation Committee is the statewide
4 planning board for energy projects. Our
5 process is designed to integrate all of the
6 various permitting processes, as well as
7 environmental, economic and technical issues.
8 If you compare this to if you wanted to
9 develop, say a shopping mall, you would have to
10 go to a number of different state agencies to
11 obtain various permits. The purpose of R.S.A.
12 162-H is to have all of that done in what we
13 call a "one-stop" type of -- "one-stop" or
14 "integrated" system. The authority of the Site
15 Evaluation Committee preempts the authority of
16 your local planning boards and zoning boards.
17 And again, it's a "one-stop shopping" or
18 "supermarket" theory. Now, just because the
19 Site Evaluation Committee's authority preempts
20 local authority with respect to energy
21 facilities, it does not mean that local
22 authorities are not considered in the process.
23 The site Evaluation Committee is required by
24 statute to consider the views of your regional

1 planning commissions, your local planning
2 boards, zoning boards, conservation
3 commissions, as well as your municipal
4 governing bodies. And in doing that, the Site
5 Evaluation Committee will listen to comments
6 provided from towns and cities along -- that
7 are involved with the project. And in
8 addition, in almost every case, local
9 ordinances are provided to the Site Evaluation
10 Committee so that the Site Evaluation Committee
11 can understand what the rules are in those
12 towns and cities, despite the preemption.

13 The Committee today consists of a
14 number of state agencies and two public
15 members. The Chairman of the Commission is
16 Martin Honigberg. He is the Chair of the
17 Public Utilities Commission. His fellow two
18 Commissioners, Robert Scott and Kathryn Bailey,
19 also sit on the Site Evaluation Committee. The
20 vice-chairman of our Committee is Commissioner
21 Thomas Burack from the Department of
22 Environmental Services. The Commissioner of
23 Transportation sits on our Committee, Victoria
24 Sheehan. DRED Commissioner, Jeffrey Rose, sits

1 on this Committee. Also sitting on this
2 Committee is either the Director of the
3 Division of Historical Resources or the
4 Commissioner of Cultural Resources, and the
5 Commissioner is Mr. Van McCloud, and the
6 Director is Elizabeth Muzzey. Usually it's the
7 Director of Historical Resources who sits on
8 the Committee. And then we have slots for two
9 public members. One public member has to be an
10 attorney, and one -- and both have to have
11 experience -- I'm sorry -- expertise in issues
12 that come before the Committee. Patricia
13 Weathersby, Attorney Patricia Weathersby of
14 Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is our public
15 member. Unfortunately, our other public
16 member, Roger Hawk, of Concord, passed away
17 last weekend. We do have an alternate public
18 member that was appointed by the Governor as
19 well, and that's Rachel Whitaker, from Berlin,
20 New Hampshire, and she will be sitting on the
21 Subcommittee in this particular case.

22 Each person who is a state official
23 on the Site Evaluation Committee has the
24 authority to designate somebody from their

1 agency to sit on the Committee in their place.
2 The only requirements are that that person must
3 be either a senior administrator in that
4 department or a staff attorney. In this
5 particular case, the actual Subcommittee are
6 the folks that are on the screen right now.
7 Chairman Honigberg will sit; commissioner
8 Burack has appointed Craig Wright, who is the
9 Director of the Air Resources Division of the
10 Department of Environmental Services, to sit in
11 his place; commissioner Bailey will sit; Chris
12 Way, who is the Director of the Economic
13 Division of DRED, has been appointed by
14 Commissioner Jeffrey Rose to sit in his place;
15 commissioner Sheehan from the Department of
16 Transportation has appointed Mr. William
17 Oldenburg, the Assistant Director of Project
18 Development, to sit in her place; and then, of
19 course, our public members, they don't get to
20 designate anybody, but Ms. Weathersby and Ms.
21 Whitaker are both assigned to this Subcommittee
22 that will consider this application.

23 In addition to the Committee members,
24 there's another very important person who

1 attends all of our applications, and that
2 person is called Counsel for the Public.
3 Counsel for the Public is appointed by the
4 Attorney General. He represents -- in this
5 case it's a he, sometimes it's a she. He
6 represents the public in seeking to protect the
7 quality of the environment and in seeking to
8 assure an adequate supply of energy for the
9 state of New Hampshire. Counsel for the Public
10 has all the same rights and responsibilities
11 and privileges that an attorney representing a
12 party in a court case would have. In this
13 particular case, Senior Assistant General Peter
14 Roth is our Counsel for the Public. There's
15 his contact information. But he's also here.
16 I'm going to ask him to stand up, introduce
17 himself. And tell the folks what you can do
18 for them, Peter.

19 MR. ROTH: Good evening, everybody.
20 My name is Peter Roth. I'm a senior assistant
21 attorney general. I was appointed by Attorney
22 General Joe Foster to represent the interest of
23 the public in this case. I have been -- I
24 previously served as Counsel to the Public in a

1 number of different cases involving other
2 projects over the last 10 years. I have with
3 me tonight an attorney who Counsel for the
4 Public has retained to represent him in this
5 proceeding, and we'll be working together. His
6 name is Tom Pappas. He's here. He's with the
7 Primmer law firm. And they're out of Vermont,
8 but his office is in Manchester. We also have
9 a very talented energy attorney from the
10 Primmer firm who's not here tonight; he's from
11 Littleton.

12 My job in this case is to ensure that
13 the public interest is met in the proceeding,
14 and the statutory requirement is that it be the
15 proper balance between the need for energy and
16 the impacts on the environment. And the
17 statute allows us to retain experts and to
18 present testimony and to conduct investigations
19 and to cross-examine witnesses and otherwise
20 assist the process and assist the public in
21 participating in the project -- or in the
22 proceeding. I do not represent any particular
23 member of the public, and so I can't provide
24 any of you or your organizations direct legal

1 advice or representation. I have to represent
2 the interests of the broad, overall public in
3 largely a state interest. However, I am always
4 very interested in hearing what people have to
5 say about the Project and if they have any
6 questions about the process or about what we're
7 doing with respect to the process and the
8 Project. And the number on the screen here is
9 my direct dial, and that's my e-mail address.
10 And I encourage and urge any of you to give me
11 a call or send me an e-mail, or both. And, you
12 know, sometimes it pays to be a little
13 persistent. Contact me and let me know what
14 you think or ask me any questions that you may
15 have. In addition, tonight you can feel free
16 to, you know, tap me on the shoulder or greet
17 me somewhere in the hall and, you know, give me
18 a piece of your mind. So I look forward to
19 working with any of you. And let me know if
20 there's anything I can do.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Peter is
22 somewhat modest. He is extremely experienced
23 in this area of the law. He has served as
24 Counsel for the Public on, well, most of the

1 applications that have come before the New
2 Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee. So he's a
3 resource that is a very good resource for the
4 people of the state of New Hampshire.

5 One thing I wanted to address just
6 before we get into what the application
7 consists of is to give everybody an idea of
8 what goes on before an application is actually
9 filed with the Site Evaluation Committee.

10 There are a number of things that an Applicant
11 is likely to do and that various state agencies
12 will do. These things don't come up in a
13 vacuum. It's not one day that the Applicant or
14 developer comes in and just drops off an
15 application. There are many state and federal
16 agencies that an Applicant will have to meet
17 with before they even start preparing their
18 application. There are things like our
19 Independent System Operator which runs the grid
20 for New England; an energy generator or
21 transmission company obviously has to
22 coordinate with the system operator so that
23 they can get their electricity to market or
24 build their transmission lines. There are

1 obviously environmental and resource studies
2 that begin long before an application is filed.
3 There are early pre-permitting meetings where
4 there may be meetings between various state and
5 federal agencies and representatives of a
6 developer so that a developer can find out what
7 the laws are and what's needed to be done in
8 order to get an application filed. There are
9 regional planning commissions, municipalities.
10 Virtually every developer that comes before
11 this agency engages in some kind of process
12 with the government, the local government of
13 where they want to build their facility. If
14 you're an energy generator, obviously you need
15 to deal with the transmission companies in your
16 area. There are power purchase agreements that
17 need to be negotiated, financing that needs to
18 be obtained, consideration of tax issues. And
19 then the very first step once a developer has
20 moved along through all of that process is to
21 engage in pre-filing public information
22 sessions. Those are sessions somewhat similar
23 to this, but no representative of the Site
24 Evaluation Committee is there. And before an

1 Applicant is permitted to file an application,
2 it must hold a pre-filing public information
3 session in each county where their project is
4 going to be developed. So, all of that goes on
5 before an application is actually filed.

6 When an application gets filed, that
7 application has to contain certain information.
8 The application in this case, in this docket,
9 is 27,000 pages, I believe. An application
10 before the Site Evaluation Committee must
11 contain sufficient information to satisfy the
12 requirements of each state agency having
13 jurisdiction under state or federal law, and
14 must have a complete application for each of
15 those state agencies with it. They also must
16 pay the fees to each of those state agencies
17 that they would normally have to pay.

18 In addition, there's a bunch of
19 details there that an application must contain.
20 It must reasonably describe the type and size
21 of each major part of the proposed facility.
22 It must identify the preferred choice for the
23 route or the site of each major part of the
24 proposed facility. And I know everybody here

1 is here for a transmission line project.
2 Oftentimes the Site Evaluation Committee is
3 considering generators, whether it be a
4 wood-burner or gas-burning facility. So the
5 issues are a little bit different, and the
6 statute is made to cover both. An application
7 has to reasonably. Describe in detail each
8 impact that each major part of the facility
9 will have on the environment. It must describe
10 any proposals that the Applicant has for
11 studying and solving environmental issues. It
12 must describe -- and this is very important,
13 especially when we talk about some of the
14 smaller projects. They must describe in detail
15 the Applicant's financial, technical and
16 managerial capabilities to site, construct and
17 operate the facility that's being proposed. It
18 must document that copies of the application
19 have been provided to the governing bodies in
20 each community where the facility is proposed
21 to be located. All applications must describe
22 in detail the elements of and financial
23 assurances for decommissioning the facility.
24 And they must provide additional information as

1 may be required to carry out the purposes of
2 this chapter, and that chapter is R.S.A. 162-H
3 that I discussed right at the beginning. And
4 I'll skip for a second here.

5 We have new administrative rules at
6 the Site Evaluation Committee which provide for
7 additional requirements that must be met in an
8 application. And in this particular docket,
9 just so that you're aware, this particular
10 application was filed before those new rules
11 went into effect. However, the law says that
12 this particular docket -- when I say "docket,"
13 I mean this case -- will be governed under the
14 new rules. However, the Site Evaluation
15 Committee is required to permit the Applicant
16 time to make any amendment to its application
17 that is necessary. And in this particular
18 case, we notified the Applicant on
19 December 18th, 2015, and requested that they
20 make such amendments by January 22nd of this
21 year. So, an application -- the application
22 can be found on our web site. In this
23 particular case, it's a very large document.
24 There's all types of information contained in

1 there. And I would encourage anybody who is
2 interested in what's actually being proposed,
3 that's where you're going to get the most
4 detail.

5 I'm going to go back. The Site
6 Evaluation Committee process is governed by the
7 statute, R.S.A. 162-H. And the statute has
8 certain time frames that the Committee must
9 meet. The first time frame is actually
10 something the Applicant must meet, and I've
11 talked a little bit about it; that is, they
12 must schedule prefiling information sessions at
13 least 30 days before they file their
14 application. Once an application is filed, the
15 Chairman of the Committee, Chairman Honigberg
16 in this case, was required to expeditiously
17 make sure that that application got out to any
18 state agency having permitting or other
19 regulatory authority over various parts of the
20 Project. And the Subcommittee also is required
21 to expeditiously review the application in its
22 totality to determine if it contains sufficient
23 information for the Site Evaluation Committee
24 to undertake its processes. And in this

1 particular case, we -- the Subcommittee issued
2 an order on December 18th, 2015, finding that
3 the application was sufficient to carry out the
4 purposes of the statute, and the application
5 was, as we say, "accepted." "Accepted" doesn't
6 mean granted. Those are two different words.
7 It means that the application will now be
8 reviewed by the Site Evaluation Committee. The
9 Site Evaluation Committee can still grant the
10 application, grant the relief requested in the
11 application, or deny it. And we're going to go
12 through a process that's governed by these time
13 frames in order to make that determination.

14 We have a Subcommittee that's already
15 been designated in this case. Within 45 days
16 after the acceptance of the application, the
17 Site Evaluation Committee is required to have
18 five public -- in this case, five public
19 information sessions, one in each county. I
20 think tonight we're on our third one. We did
21 Merrimack County on the 11th, Rockingham County
22 on the 13th, doing Belknap County tonight. And
23 then the next two are scheduled next week in
24 Coos and Grafton Counties. These are the

1 public information sessions that you're
2 attending here tonight.

3 Also within 90 days of the acceptance
4 of the application, we will hold a public
5 hearing in each county. At the public hearing
6 the Subcommittee will be present. We will hear
7 from -- the Subcommittee will hear
8 presentations from the Applicant, but also will
9 hear questions and comments from the public as
10 well at those proceedings. And those are in
11 the process of being scheduled in this
12 particular case. We have to complete all of
13 those before St. Patrick's Day.

14 Other important deadlines are that
15 state agencies are required to submit their
16 preliminary reports and proposed conditions to
17 the Site Evaluation Committee within 150 days
18 after acceptance; in this case, that's
19 May 16th. And then they have to submit their
20 final permits, conditions and other
21 recommendations within 240 days of the
22 acceptance of the application; in this case,
23 that means August 15th, 2016.

24 Once that is done, the Site

1 Evaluation Committee will begin what's called
2 the "adjudicative process." They will hold a
3 hearing, just like a trial, similar to what you
4 see on TV. There will be witnesses that will
5 get on the witness stand and testify. Those
6 witnesses will be cross-examined. There will
7 be exhibits presented. And ultimately, at the
8 end of that process, the Site Evaluation
9 Committee will sit down in public, discuss the
10 evidence that they have received, discuss what
11 they think of it, deliberate on the issues --
12 all of this is done in public -- and ultimately
13 take a vote and then ultimately issue a written
14 decision on whether or not the Certificate of
15 Site and Facility should be granted to the
16 Northern Pass developers. In this particular
17 case, that final decision must be made by
18 December 19th, 2016, under our rules.

19 Many of you are here tonight, so I'm
20 sure that you're interested in participating.
21 There are a number a different ways that folks
22 can participate in the Site Evaluation
23 Committee process. First, you can contact
24 Counsel for the Public, who you've already

1 heard from. That's a different number. That's
2 the number that's up on the screen right now.
3 It's just the main number to the Attorney
4 General's Office. That will get you there.
5 That can get you to Mr. Roth as well. The
6 second way that the public can participate is
7 by attending the prefiling public information
8 sessions that were held in this case before the
9 filing of the application. You can participate
10 by attending meetings, such as those -- such as
11 the one we're having tonight and had last week
12 and will continue to have next week. In
13 addition, you can attend the joint public
14 hearings where the Subcommittee is actually
15 present, and you will have the opportunity to
16 speak directly to them or to ask questions of
17 the Applicant while the Subcommittee is there,
18 or to ask questions about the process as well.
19 The fifth way, and a very important way, by the
20 way, that you can participate is by filing
21 written comments with the Site Evaluation
22 Committee. Under the law, the Site Evaluation
23 Committee will accept comments throughout the
24 entire pendency of the proceedings. In other

1 words, right up until the time that they take
2 their vote, they will accept public -- written
3 public comment. And they must -- the statute
4 requires the Committee to consider and weigh
5 information and reports that come in from the
6 public. And finally, any member of the public
7 who can demonstrate that they have a right,
8 duty, privilege, immunity or substantial
9 interest that might be affected by the
10 proceeding can file what's known as a "motion
11 to intervene." They can demonstrate that they
12 will not interfere with the orderly process,
13 and they demonstrate that they have a
14 substantial interest, and they are granted
15 intervention status by the Chairman of the
16 Committee. They will then have all the same
17 rights and privileges as the folks from
18 Northern Pass, as Counsel for the Public, to
19 participate in the adjudicative process. In
20 other words, they can put on their own
21 witnesses, they can cross-examine witnesses and
22 whatnot. So if you have that type of interest
23 where that is going to be impacted by these
24 proceedings, you do have the right to file a

1 motion to intervene. That motion can be in the
2 form of a letter. But you have to make sure
3 that you explain those two things: What's the
4 substantial interest that you have, and how you
5 will not interfere, or how the interests of
6 justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of
7 our proceedings would not be impaired by
8 allowing you to intervene.

9 In this particular case, Chairman
10 Honigberg has set February 5, 2016, as the
11 deadline for filing of petitions to intervene
12 in this case. So if you're interested in doing
13 that, you should keep that deadline in mind.
14 And if you have questions about how to file a
15 petition to intervene, there's a couple things
16 I can tell you to do. You can call Ms. Monroe
17 or you can call me. But you can also look at
18 other -- all of the dockets that are considered
19 by the Site Evaluation Committee are on our web
20 site. And you can go in there and see motions
21 to intervene that have been filed by other
22 parties, or parties in this case. There's
23 already been some filed in this docket. But
24 also, in other dockets you can see what they've

1 done. The web site is very helpful, actually,
2 to folks who are interested in how we proceed.

3 And then, finally, we're going to
4 talk about what it is that the Site Evaluation
5 Committee actually considers, what are the
6 standards that it applies. Those standards can
7 be found in Section 16 of R.S.A. 162-H. First,
8 the Site Evaluation Committee must give due
9 consideration to relevant information regarding
10 the potential siting or routes of a proposed
11 facility; second, the Committee must give due
12 consideration to all of those significant
13 impacts and benefits that I spoke about in the
14 very first slide; and finally, the Committee
15 must consider whether the issuance of a
16 certificate will serve the objectives of R.S.A.
17 162-H, which were also contained in that first
18 slide. In order to grant a Certificate of Site
19 and Facility -- in other words, to allow a
20 project to go forward -- the Site Evaluation
21 Committee has to find, by a preponderance of
22 the evidence, that the Applicant has adequate
23 financial, technical and managerial capability
24 to assure that the siting, construction and

1 operation of the facility will occur in
2 continuing compliance with any terms and
3 conditions that are set forth in the permit or
4 certificate; second, that the Project will not
5 unduly interfere with the orderly development
6 of the region -- and this next part is very,
7 very important -- consideration having been
8 given to the views of municipal and regional
9 planning commissions and municipal governing
10 bodies; third, in order to grant the
11 certificate, the Site Evaluation Committee must
12 find, by a preponderance of the evidence, that
13 the Project will not have an unreasonable
14 adverse effect on aesthetics, historic sites,
15 air and water quality, the natural environment,
16 or public health and safety. And then,
17 finally, a new consideration or a new
18 requirement in the latest version of the
19 statute is that the Site Evaluation Committee,
20 if they determine to grant the certificate,
21 must be satisfied by a preponderance of the
22 evidence that granting that certificate -- in
23 other words, allowing a project to go
24 forward -- will serve the public interest.

1 Those are the considerations that the Site
2 Evaluation Committee will use. If you ever go
3 to our web site and review some of the prior
4 decisions of the Committee, you will see and
5 get -- be able to glean how the Committee goes
6 about its work and how it comes to
7 determinations with respect to those various
8 criteria.

9 And finally, once again, our web
10 site, the e-mail for our administrator and our
11 phone number.

12 What I'm going to do at this point in
13 time, we're going to follow the agenda and I'm
14 going to turn the dais over to the folks from
15 the Applicant. They're going to make a
16 presentation about the Project to you, and
17 after that we will begin the
18 question-and-answer period. Thank you.

19 MR. QUINLAN: Thank you, Attorney
20 Iacopino.

21 Good evening. I'm Bill Quinlan. I'm
22 the President of Eversource New Hampshire, and
23 it's a pleasure to be here tonight. As you
24 know, we were in Laconia a few months ago and

1 got some very useful feedback. These sessions
2 have proven very beneficial to us as we
3 continue to think about this project and to
4 shape our final proposal. So I can assure you
5 that the views, whether they're positive or
6 negative around this project, some of the
7 feedback we receive is very helpful and
8 beneficial to the Company. So, thanks for
9 taking time out of your schedule and being here
10 tonight to share us with your views and
11 hopefully have your questions answered. If we
12 don't fully answer your questions during the
13 formal Q & A, you know, the Open House is going
14 to continue to remain open. And there's a lot
15 of experts on this project, our engineers,
16 environmental team, et cetera. So, you know,
17 feel free to pose the questions to that team,
18 and we'll be certain to get you an answer.

19 What we're going to do here is
20 provide you kind of a brief overview by way of
21 a video of the Project, just kind of
22 reintroduce it to you so that you know some of
23 the vernacular that I'm going to use in the
24 presentation. And then we're going to drill

1 down into Belknap County, and then probably the
2 most important part is take your questions and
3 have an opportunity to share with you our
4 answers.

5 So, with that, Andrea, why don't we
6 queue up the video.

7 [Video presentation provided on the
8 Northern Pass Project.]

9 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. Well, hopefully
10 that was a helpful overview. As the video
11 showed, you know, the impacts in Belknap County
12 are really within the town of New Hampton, and
13 it's these two segments in blue, okay. You'll
14 see each is about 3-1/2 miles long, so a little
15 over 7 miles worth of overhead construction in
16 the town of New Hampton. That overhead
17 construction is going to be running parallel to
18 an existing transmission line -- through an
19 existing transmission right-of-way. So there's
20 no new right-of-way. In essence, you'll have
21 two lines running in parallel through New
22 Hampton. The new line, the Northern Pass line,
23 when you look at that segment, the most common
24 height of that structure is around 80 feet.

1 The existing transmission structures are in the
2 50-foot range. So it's somewhat taller, but it
3 varies, structure to structure. You know, last
4 year we made some changes to the Project,
5 reducing the overall size of the project. It
6 was a 1200 megawatt; it's now 1,090-megawatt
7 project. When we made that change, we also
8 changed some of the technology. And across the
9 entire route we've been able to lower the new
10 structure heights by about 5 feet, on average.

11 And the last time we were here, we
12 talked a little bit about structure design.
13 So, you know, I know there's a lot of
14 discussion around underground construction as a
15 way of addressing view impacts, and that's one
16 way to address it. There are many other
17 techniques that we use when we actually get
18 into the detailed design, and I'll show you
19 that in a bit. Last time we were here, I
20 showed you some generic depictions of what a
21 traditional tower looks like, referred to as a
22 "lattice" structure, and then what a more
23 streamlined structure might look like. So I'll
24 show you some view simulations today to kind of

1 illustrate what I'm talking about there. But
2 my point is, you know, underground construction
3 is certainly one way of addressing view
4 impacts. There are other ways to mitigate view
5 impacts. And we're very firmly committed to
6 pursuing all of those as we get to our final
7 design. We know that's a big issue. View
8 impacts, scenic impacts of the overhead portion
9 of the route, that's the question we continue
10 to get most frequently. And it's got our full
11 attention, I'll assure you of that.

12 Here's what the Department of Energy
13 concluded, as the video depicted and Attorney
14 Iacopino mentioned. The Department of Energy,
15 which is the lead federal agency, did issue a
16 draft Environmental Impact Statement last year.
17 This was their conclusion. And they looked at
18 the total project. They identified, I'll call
19 it, a "modest" visual impact. Now, this was
20 prior to the changes that we made which put an
21 additional 58 miles of this line underground in
22 and around the White Mountain National Forest.
23 So this was their view then. We've since made
24 that commitment. That's our new design basis.

1 We've scaled down the Project to accommodate
2 that. So my view is that that rating from DOE
3 probably will come down as a result of that
4 decision. We addressed many of the scenic
5 impacts that they had identified. At this
6 point, over 80 percent of the line is either
7 underground or in an existing transmission
8 right-of-way, like in New Hampton, where
9 there's an existing line, an existing cleared
10 right-of-way, and what we talked about, two
11 lines running parallel. The video did a good
12 job, I think, of depicting the area of new
13 construction, which is really up in the far
14 North Country. The vast majority of that is
15 one parcel of land that's referred to as the
16 Wagner Forest, 24 miles of very remote timber
17 land that is routinely harvested, so it's --

18 (Audience interruption)

19 MR. QUINLAN: It's one landowner who
20 has leased us that property rights. But my
21 point is it's an area that is routinely subject
22 to timber harvesting, and it's very remote. We
23 intentionally moved this line from the western
24 part of the state in northern New Hampshire to

1 the eastern part of the state to mitigate view
2 impacts. That was a decision made several
3 years ago. Nonetheless, we're employing many
4 other techniques, and I'll show you some of
5 them in a moment. But some of them are
6 highlighted here, you know, more streamlined
7 structures. There are things we can do with
8 respect to the material that we use so that
9 it's less visible, and I'll illustrate that for
10 you in a moment. We're looking at every tower
11 and getting them to be as low as they possibly
12 can be. Ultimately, we'll use vegetation as a
13 way to minimize visual impacts. These are all
14 techniques that are routinely used in our
15 business to address the principal issue being
16 raised here in New Hampshire. Again, we're
17 going to continue to look at this on a
18 structure-by-structure basis.

19 (Audience interruption)

20 MR. QUINLAN: Sorry. Do you have a
21 question? Okay we'll get to it.

22 Here's an example of what I'm talking
23 about, okay. This is the -- and this was an
24 area where there's an existing line. To get

1 some attention last time we were here -- that's
2 the Pemigewasset River, and this is the
3 existing conditions. This is an example of
4 what we refer to as a "visual simulation." So
5 we've identified some of the critical areas so
6 we can take a hard look at what do they look
7 like today, what would it look like with the
8 project as proposed, what can we do to reduce
9 visual impacts and apply those techniques. We
10 do have visual simulation experts who assist us
11 in this, and they work very closely with our
12 engineers and design teams to do everything we
13 can to reduce visual impacts. I'll just show
14 you one that's still a work in progress. We
15 still have to work on this one, given its
16 significance.

17 So this is what Northern Pass would
18 look like with a conventional -- this is
19 Northern Pass. That's a conventional lattice
20 structure. That's a visual simulation of a
21 picture I showed you last time. This is the
22 existing transmission line that runs through
23 that transmission corridor today. This land
24 has been cleared so we can see what those

1 structures look like. Obviously, that
2 vegetation would be allowed to grow back to its
3 natural state, okay. So this is from New
4 Hampton looking across the river to
5 Bridgewater, okay. You'll see a lattice
6 structure. This is a monopole, which is a
7 single pole with three conductors hanging off
8 it. It's at the top of a hill, so it's
9 elevated and you're essentially looking up at
10 it. So it's probably the most direct line of
11 sight that you could possibly have of this.
12 It's about a tenth of a mile from this vantage
13 point up to that, those structures, okay.
14 That's what a conventional design might look
15 like. As we take a hard look at this, and as
16 our engineers study it, this would be a
17 monopole replacing the previous lattice
18 structure. In this case, it's what's referred
19 to as a "weathered steel" monopole. That's a
20 material and a color that's designed to blend
21 in to the surrounding forest. So if you're in
22 a tree-lined area, this might be the type of
23 monopole you would use because it would blend
24 in with the trees, okay. Against a white

1 background like the sky, that is not likely the
2 one you would use. This is also a weathered
3 steel monopole with the existing line, okay.
4 So we continue to look at this, and we say,
5 okay, if we went to a galvanized steel, what
6 might that look like? So if you look at that
7 and you look at this, okay, this is now a
8 galvanized steel. It doesn't rust. It remains
9 basically silver. That's the type of structure
10 you might use against a white background.

11 Now, our work is not done on this
12 location, but I'm just trying to demonstrate to
13 you some of the techniques that we intend to
14 continue to use as we think about how do we
15 mitigate view impacts, okay. There are dozens
16 of these view simulations up and down the route
17 that we've prepared and that our experts and
18 our engineers continue to work on. We
19 understand the significance of this issue, and
20 we intend to continue working on it, okay.

21 All right. Beyond visual impacts,
22 one of the other things we hear as we talk
23 about Northern Pass is, "What does it mean to
24 my local community from a tax perspective?"

1 Again, here in Belknap County, there's only one
2 town through which Northern Pass would be run.
3 This is what the annualized tax revenue would
4 look like. There's a range there. That's
5 based upon kind of the range of cost estimation
6 around the Project for the actual
7 infrastructure in that town, as well as, you
8 know, the tax base and the tax methodology that
9 the town may apply. But, you know, this is
10 something we are in dialogue with
11 municipalities up and down the route about. In
12 some towns, this is a very significant property
13 value for a town. For example: Some of the
14 smaller towns in the North Country, you know,
15 the asset value, the book value of the asset
16 that we're putting into the town, you know,
17 approaches their current grant[?] list. So
18 it's a very significant question that
19 municipalities may have in the North Country.

20 (Audience interruption.)

21 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So this is a
22 topic of importance. We understand that. We
23 are making commitments around taxes to these
24 towns with respect to methodologies. And as

1 our final design comes into focus, we'll be
2 able to narrow this range and get more specific
3 around what this looks like on a town-by-town
4 basis, okay.

5 The other question we've gotten from
6 the outset, since at least I've been involved
7 in this, is, "What does this mean to the state
8 of New Hampshire?" Now, there's been this
9 perception out there that Northern Pass is all
10 about taking hydro power from Canada and
11 delivering it to Boston or Connecticut and that
12 none of the benefits will reside here in New
13 Hampshire. So what we've done here is to
14 really capture the true story: What does this
15 project mean to the state of New Hampshire?
16 And we'll go through them quickly.

17 The video alluded to what does it
18 mean from an energy cost perspective. This is
19 the issue you hear from businesses and
20 residences across New Hampshire. You know, if
21 you talk to any business leader about their top
22 three issues, if you're in an energy-intensive
23 business, one of them is going to be energy.
24 They're going to say, "Prices are high.

1 They're unstable. I can't plan. And if they
2 don't stabilize and aren't lowered, we're going
3 to have to look at other options because we're
4 not competitive." Businesses across New
5 Hampshire say that, and business across New
6 England say that. When we take almost
7 1100 megawatts of stably-priced power and
8 deliver it to New Hampshire, that's a
9 conservative estimate as to what it's going to
10 mean to New Hampshire businesses and residences
11 from an energy cost perspective. This is based
12 upon what that power will do to lower the
13 overall wholesale market price in New England.
14 You can extrapolate this up. So New
15 Hampshire's share of this is \$80 million a
16 year. For new England, this is about an \$800
17 million a year energy cost savings, okay.

18 Beyond that, we've made a commitment
19 as part of our ForwardNH Plan to establish a
20 fund, a \$200 million fund that's targeted
21 towards the communities that are going to be
22 hosting the line. Why did we do that? We're
23 doing that because we are demonstrating the
24 benefits that this project can bring to New

1 Hampshire. And, you know, there's been
2 questions: "Is it going to have a negative
3 impact on tourism? How about economic
4 development? You know, clean energy?" We're
5 making a \$200 million commitment to fund
6 initiatives in those areas, in these towns, in
7 essence, to drive tourism, create economic
8 development opportunities, promote small-scale,
9 clean-energy solutions, okay.

10 (Audience interrupts.)

11 MR. QUINLAN: Beyond that -- beyond
12 that, the tax revenues, when you look at it all
13 across the towns up and down the route, about
14 \$30 million a year. When we do our analysis of
15 what does it mean from a jobs perspective,
16 you'll see over 2,000 jobs during the
17 construction phase and several hundred jobs
18 thereafter, a very significant driver of gross
19 domestic product here in the state of New
20 Hampshire, okay.

21 It's not mentioned here, but one of
22 the things we've committed to is that, to the
23 extent possible, and this referred to as our
24 "New Hampshire first" commitment, all of the

1 construction and associated work on this
2 project will first be made available to New
3 Hampshire companies and New Hampshire
4 employees, and we'll only look outside of this
5 state when there's, in essence, not sufficient
6 resources in this state. So we truly
7 anticipate, you know, putting a lot of New
8 Hampshire residents to work on a very important
9 project, okay. Up north we've created a Job
10 Creation Fund. It's really designed to help do
11 in essence what the name says, which is create
12 jobs. That's going to be managed locally. The
13 companies, in essence, are going to turn the
14 funds over to an independent group, and they're
15 going to look for job creation opportunities in
16 the North Country. And I think many of you
17 know that's an area that can use that type of
18 infusion of funding.

19 When you look at the total economic
20 benefits to New Hampshire, back to the
21 question, "What's in it for New Hampshire?
22 Isn't this all about southern New England?"
23 It's almost \$4 billion worth of direct
24 economic benefits, okay. That's what it

1 means from an economic perspective. The
2 environmental benefits are unparalleled as
3 well. You're looking at over 3 million tons
4 a year of reduced carbon dioxide emissions.
5 If you think about --

6 (Audience interruption)

7 MR. QUINLAN: If you think about the
8 power plants that are retiring or are being
9 displaced by a project like this, whether it's
10 coal or oil, any fossil fuel, you do the
11 numbers, that's what it means from a carbon
12 reduction perspective, 3 million tons a year,
13 okay.

14 There are several other things we are
15 doing here to create other environmental
16 benefits. One that was not mentioned in the
17 video is some transmission upgrades we're
18 planning for up in the North Country. That's
19 going to allow is the small-scale renewable
20 generation to advance. So you've got existing
21 hydro plants, small plants, biomass plants.
22 You've got wind plants up in the North Country
23 that will benefit significant from these
24 transmission upgrades, meaning they'll become

1 more viable. We also create the ability to
2 develop more small-scale renewable. And this
3 is in effort to balance the clean energy
4 benefits of the large hydro importation and
5 allow the small-scale renewable developers to
6 continue to move forward. Consciously designed
7 to do that, okay. So that's what this project
8 does mean to New Hampshire, both economically
9 and environmentally.

10 You know, what happens if the Project
11 gets built elsewhere? Maine, Vermont, et
12 cetera?

13 (Audience interruption)

14 MR. QUINLAN: You know, the short
15 answer is these benefits go with it, okay.
16 That is the short answer. And, you know, when
17 you talk to many across the state, whether it's
18 a business who's looking to lower and stabilize
19 their energy costs or an individual who's
20 looking for a stable construction job for a
21 three-year period, you know, these things
22 matter. Municipalities who perhaps can use an
23 additional tax basis, these are very material
24 considerations. We've specifically designed

1 this to meet those needs, okay.

2 So, with that, I think we're at the
3 point where we're ready for questions and
4 answers.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: All
6 right. These are your questions, folks
7 [indicating]. There's a lot of them.

8 There's a number of questions that
9 are directed to the Site Evaluation Committee.
10 I'm going to take those first. These are
11 questions that would seem to be only directed
12 to the Site Evaluation Committee. But, if I
13 change my mind and there's an answer to be had
14 from the Company, I will let you know,
15 Mr. Quinlan.

16 The first one, the question says:
17 "There seems to be some recent controversy
18 about the Forest Society and its donors on an
19 issue involving the Balsams, will the Site
20 Evaluation Committee require that groups like
21 the Forest Society and Say No to Northern Pass
22 disclose who finances their activities?"

23 There is no general requirement that
24 any intervenor disclose who finances their

1 activities. That doesn't mean that, if there
2 is a dispute over whether or not an entity can
3 participate in the proceeding, that that
4 information may not become relevant or may
5 become relevant. But, in general, there's no
6 specific rule that says that a person or a
7 company or an organization that wants to
8 intervene has to reveal where it gets its
9 finances.

10 The next question for the Site
11 Evaluation Committee is: "Is there an
12 explanation as to why Counsel for the Public's
13 letter raising concerns about the completeness
14 of the Application filed the day before the
15 Application was determined to be complete, why
16 did it not appear on the Site Evaluation
17 Committee's website for several days, when
18 filings submitted afterwards from other parties
19 appeared sooner?"

20 The only answer that I have for that
21 is we don't know the reason why. We received a
22 lot of filings right at that time. And, we
23 apologize that they didn't come in -- that they
24 didn't get put up on the website in the order

1 in which they came in. But it was -- I don't
2 have -- there's no -- put it this way, there's
3 no specific reason why that happened, and it
4 wasn't meant to happen that way.

5 The next question involves intervenor
6 status. "Please explain the intervenor process
7 in detail, the petition requirements, assume a
8 petition is" -- a "petition to intervene", I
9 assume the questioner is asking -- "is
10 accepted. Please explain step-by-step after
11 acceptance. Must an intervenor appear before
12 the Committee or can the Committee accept
13 written testimony? What is the time required
14 for review? And, any suggestions on what works
15 best?"

16 I can't give you legal advice. I do
17 recommend, to folks who can afford it, if you
18 are going to try to intervene in the process,
19 it is always better to hire legal counsel than
20 not, and you certainly are entitled to have a
21 lawyer if you intervene in the process.

22 However, I can tell you that, in
23 order to file a petition -- in order to get a
24 petition granted to intervene, you must

1 demonstrate that you have a right, a claim, or
2 a substantial interest in the outcome of the
3 proceeding, and that it's in the interest of
4 justice for you to participate, and that your
5 participation will not impair the orderly
6 conduct of the proceedings. If you submit a
7 petition that satisfies those three
8 requirements, your petition should be granted.

9 Once your petition is granted, you'll
10 have the same rights and responsibilities of
11 any other party in the proceeding. That means
12 that you will have to identify your witnesses
13 by whatever deadline is set for doing that. It
14 means that you will have to submit prefiled
15 testimony and any motions that you might have
16 by whatever deadlines are set. You must object
17 to motions by whatever the deadlines are. And,
18 you must comply with the Committee's rules.
19 And, those rules are available on our website.

20 The next part of the question is:
21 "Must the intervenor appear before the
22 Committee?" It's a hard question to answer,
23 because I can't imagine a circumstance in
24 which, if you actually went through the

1 intervention process, why you wouldn't want to
2 appear before the Committee? Because,
3 remember, during the adjudicative phase,
4 intervenors have the right to cross-examine
5 witnesses and put on their own witnesses.

6 So, it doesn't -- it wouldn't really
7 make a lot of sense to intervene just to submit
8 written testimony, because the Site Evaluation
9 Committee accepts written testimony right up
10 until the time of their deliberations.

11 So, could you become an intervenor
12 and move to be excused from actually being at
13 the hearings? Yes. You could probably file a
14 motion to do that. It just doesn't, at least
15 from the way we normally operate, I don't know
16 why somebody would.

17 And, what is the time required for
18 review? The timeframes were on the screen up
19 there. The adjudicative portion of the process
20 will occur between day 240, I forget what the
21 actual date was, sometime in August, I believe,
22 and day 365. That would be really the
23 timeframe where, if you intervene, and you're
24 going to participate fully, that's the

1 timeframe where you're going to be -- your
2 presence is going to be most required.

3 I hope that answers the questions.

4 MR. ROTH: Hey, Mike?

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Yes,
6 sir.

7 MR. ROTH: Can I add something to
8 that?

9 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Absolute
10 ly. Peter, if you want to add, I don't have a
11 microphone for you. Can we -- thank you.

12 MR. ROTH: No, that's okay. This is
13 a place where I can provide some information
14 and insight without providing anybody legal
15 advice. But intervention is really important,
16 and I would encourage anybody who has an
17 interest to do it, and it's not as hard as he
18 just made it sound. And, the Committee is
19 actually fairly liberal about allowing people
20 to intervene, and the formalities of doing it
21 are pretty simple. All you do is you need to
22 write a letter and explain why, you know, a few
23 reasons why you think it's a good idea.

24 I think it's really important, and I

1 would advise everybody who wants to do this, to
2 obtain counsel. And, if you can't afford
3 counsel, no one will be appointed for you.
4 And, I cannot represent you, but I can provide
5 you some information and guidance as the
6 process rolls along.

7 It's a fairly typical thing for
8 groups of people who are similarly situated to
9 band together and intervene as a group. You
10 know, for example, the -- you know, the
11 Pemigewasset River Keepers Group or the Smith
12 Street Residents, or whatever group you want to
13 put together, come in as a group and file
14 either a joint request to intervene or file
15 your own separate intervention request, and
16 then join together and participate together.

17 As far as submitting testimony,
18 it's -- if you submit testimony, then you
19 really need to be part of the process, and that
20 means you have to be subjected to
21 cross-examination during the hearing. Now,
22 that said, a person who puts themselves out to
23 be cross-examined and submit testimony, that's
24 going to, in my humble opinion, gets more

1 weight than someone who stands up and gives
2 unsworn commentary at a hearing. Not that
3 those aren't important, but the weight of a
4 person who actually testifies and sits for
5 cross-examination from these guys [indicating]
6 is, and from me, is actually -- that's a
7 courageous thing to do and shows a great deal
8 of commitment and will get a lot of attention.
9 Thank you.

10 FROM THE FLOOR: Thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
12 you, Peter.

13 The next question deals with -- well,
14 it asks: "Will the SEC seek information from
15 other states that also have major transmission
16 projects being planned?" And, it gives some
17 examples: "Plains & Eastern Clean Line in
18 Oklahoma", "Trans West Express in Wyoming",
19 "SunZia Southwest in Arizona", and "Great
20 Northern Transmission Line".

21 There is no requirement that the Site
22 Evaluation Committee consider projects being
23 planned in other places. However, that doesn't
24 mean that they're never considered. It depends

1 upon what the issues are that come up. And,
2 sometimes the way in which an issue has been
3 dealt with in another jurisdiction or another
4 state does indeed become relevant. In large
5 part, that's up to the parties to the
6 proceeding to bring those things to the
7 attention of the Site Evaluation Committee. As
8 you know, the Site Evaluation Committee has one
9 employee, that's Ms. Monroe, and it only sits
10 when there are applications before it. So, the
11 answer to the question really is "it depends."

12 And, I think the last question that's
13 just for the SEC is: "I am an Eversource
14 employee, but I am not directly involved in the
15 Northern Pass Project. How do we ensure that
16 our interests are considered by the Site
17 Evaluation Committee?"

18 It doesn't make a difference whether
19 you're wearing an orange shirt or whether
20 you're an Eversource employee, everybody has
21 equal standing before the Committee, and the
22 equal rights to use all of those public
23 participation measures that I went through
24 previously in our presentation. You can

1 provide written comment. You can come to
2 public meetings and public hearings and speak
3 from the dais or ask questions. If you have an
4 interest, you can move to intervene. The fact
5 that you happen to work for one company or a
6 different company makes no difference, you have
7 the same rights as everybody else before the
8 Site Evaluation Committee.

9 The first group of questions for the
10 Applicant that we've organized into generally,
11 because some of them have more than one
12 question, and they may get off -- out of
13 categorization.

14 MR. QUINLAN: Could I just respond to
15 that employee question, because that's not one
16 we've gotten before?

17 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Sure.

18 MR. QUINLAN: I just wanted to,
19 whoever submitted that, thank them for, first
20 of all, taking time to be here tonight. And, I
21 see many familiar faces out in the audience.
22 So, I do appreciate you taking the time out of
23 your day to be here.

24 And, I know there are 1,500 of you

1 out there. And, I do think, you know, our
2 employees are an important voice on this
3 matter. So -- and, I think Attorney Iacopino
4 just mentioned some of the ways to formally get
5 involved. It sounds like this employee is not
6 involved on Northern Pass. But I think you
7 understand the importance of this Project and
8 the opportunities it creates for our employees
9 to get involved in some really exciting work.

10 So, thank you for that question,
11 thank you for being here and for your
12 engagement.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
14 Mr. Quinlan, the first group of questions that
15 we're going to address deal with the route, the
16 right-of-way, and it looks like some
17 environmental issues.

18 The first question is: "Does
19 Northern Pass, in its consideration of
20 permanent impacts to wetlands, consider the
21 functions and values of the wetlands they're
22 impacting when calculating mitigation ratios as
23 part of their mitigation plan?"

24 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. I'm going to

1 introduce Lee Carbonneau, who is one of our
2 environmental experts. Lee. She's with
3 Normandeau.

4 MS. CARBONNEAU: Yes. Thank you,
5 Bill. Lee Carbonneau, with Normandeau
6 Associates.

7 So, when we evaluate the impact, the
8 permanent impacts to wetland areas, we do
9 consider, and we have categorized these wetland
10 impacts by their principal and other functions
11 and values, for every wetland that's impacted
12 we've done this. That information is in our
13 Application materials. We have a big table at
14 the end of our Wetland Resource Report, and it
15 has every wetland, with every impact, and all
16 of the functions and values that are
17 identified.

18 In calculating what the actual area
19 of impact is for mitigation purposes, every
20 wetland, regardless of its functions and
21 values, is included in that. So, even a very
22 low-functioning wetland, that has minimal
23 wetland functions and values, is treated
24 equally. They are all included in the

1 calculation of wetland impacts.

2 Where the functions and values become
3 important is how we determine what is
4 appropriate mitigation for those impacts. So,
5 if the bulk of the impacts are related to good
6 wildlife habitat, if that's what most of the
7 wetland functions are, then we will try and
8 identify mitigation opportunities that
9 highlight wetland mitigation functions of
10 wildlife habitat.

11 So, all of the wetlands are included
12 in the calculations, but the functions and
13 values are important in determining what kind
14 of mitigation we do.

15 MR. QUINLAN: Thank you.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
17 question, Mr. Quinlan, is "will all towns" --
18 "all towns", I'm sorry, "on the existing
19 right-of-way have a fall zone within the
20 boundaries of the right-of-way?"

21 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to refer that
22 to Sam Johnson. Sam is one of our project
23 engineers. He's from Burns & McDonnell. And,
24 also, I'll introduce Jim Muntz, who's the

1 President of our transmission business.

2 MR. JOHNSON: So, the answer to that
3 is that all of the structures are designed to
4 follow the National Electric Code. And,
5 they're specifically designed such that tower
6 failure will happen, in almost all instances,
7 within -- within the right-of-way itself.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
9 question is: "Why is the proposal for such a
10 high voltage line? Is it correct that the need
11 for the height of the transmission towers is
12 directly related to the voltage?"

13 MR. QUINLAN: Again, I'm going to
14 refer that question to Sam and Jim.

15 MR. JOHNSON: The answer is "yes".
16 The higher the voltage, typically, the higher
17 the structures have to be. And, the reason for
18 that is that you have to have clearances
19 between the conductor at its lowest point to
20 the ground. Coupled with that, structure
21 heights are often dictated by the topography of
22 the land. Again, you need to maintain the
23 clearances. And, again, that's also designed
24 per the National Electric Code.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
2 The next sheet has three questions on it.
3 First one is: "What percentage of New
4 Hampshire electric needs does the Seabrook
5 Nuclear Power Plant provide?

6 MR. QUINLAN: You know, Seabrook is,
7 I believe, a 1,200 megawatt station. I think
8 it was recently upgraded. You would have to
9 ask the owner of that station as to what
10 portion of that power is used to serve load in
11 New Hampshire. I don't know with whom they
12 have contracted, whether that's even being used
13 to serve customers in New Hampshire, or whether
14 it's serving customers in Maine or
15 Massachusetts. That's really a question that I
16 can't answer. Seabrook, again, is a
17 1,200-megawatt plant, a little bit larger than
18 Northern Pass. Northern Pass is just under
19 1,100 megawatts. Okay.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
21 question on this sheet is: "What comparison is
22 there between Eversource and New England Clean
23 Power Link?" I assume they mean the Northern
24 Pass Project.

1 MR. QUINLAN: Could you repeat the
2 question? I'm sorry.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "What
4 comparison is there between Eversource and New
5 England Clean Power Link?"

6 MR. QUINLAN: At a high level, you
7 know, for those of you not familiar with New
8 England Clean Power Link, that's a project
9 proposed by a developer in Vermont. It's
10 similar in size, 1,090 megawatts.

11 I'll say a couple points of
12 differentiation. Obviously, we're not in
13 Vermont, we're in New Hampshire. We're in the
14 process of working with our partner,
15 Hydro-Quebec, on siting an interconnection that
16 essentially would deliver power to the U.S.
17 border. So, the generation, the hydro sources,
18 are not at the border, they're further north in
19 Canada. There's actually a project being sited
20 and will be built in Canada by our partner to
21 deliver power that could then flow onto the
22 Northern Pass line. I'm not aware of a similar
23 project being sited to deliver power to the New
24 England Clean Power Link.

1 You know, I'll say that perhaps a
2 point of differentiation is not only is
3 Hydro-Quebec our partner building that line,
4 they also have entered contracts with us to
5 deliver power into New England through our
6 line. I don't everything about the New England
7 Clean Power Link, but, just from the media
8 coverage of it, I don't know what their power
9 supply is, and I'm not aware of a line being
10 sited in Canada.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And, the
12 third question on this sheet is: "What
13 upgrades will be made to the existing lines
14 between Deerfield and Ayer, Mass. --
15 Massachusetts?"

16 MR. QUINLAN: Sam or Jim.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. So, the
18 Northern -- the impacts of Northern Pass on
19 other upgrades are actually only between
20 Deerfield and Scobie Pond. The extension of
21 that down to any Massachusetts location is not
22 part of this Project.

23 The upgrades that will happen are ten
24 structures, within the 343 structures that are

1 within that corridor, will be raised
2 approximately five feet.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
4 question is: "What are you going to do when
5 the new power lines overstep the right-of-way
6 and/or if there is no right-of-way set up?"

7 MR. QUINLAN: I'm not sure I
8 understand that question, but --

9 MR. JOHNSON: So, the Project -- the
10 Project itself is designed to stay within the
11 existing right-of-way corridor. There will be
12 no places where the design is outside of the
13 corridor at all. So, 100 percent of the
14 Project will be maintained within the existing
15 right-of-way.

16 [Audience interruption.]

17 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
18 you, sir. If you want to make a statement,
19 please fill out a card, and you can make a
20 statement at the time --

21 [Audience interruption.]

22 MR. QUINLAN: I will say, just to
23 follow up on that point. You know, not only
24 are we staying within our existing

1 rights-of-way, --

2 [Audience interruption.]

3 MR. QUINLAN: -- but, you know, the
4 land rights necessary for this Project have
5 been secured, and that's part of our SEC
6 filing.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: You
8 know, throughout our meetings so far this year,
9 everybody has been very courteous. And, I hope
10 that this body, the public here today, will
11 remain courteous as well.

12 The next question really goes to the
13 SEC. It's regarding environmental impact, and
14 asks: "Will you consider only the impact in
15 New Hampshire or will the impact at the source
16 in Canada be part of your consideration? If
17 this is not a prior consideration, can we
18 ethically" -- I think it's "ethically" --
19 "discuss one end of the project without
20 addressing the repercussions we would be
21 contributing to at the origin of the project?"

22 The answer is that, by statute, the
23 New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee will
24 consider the benefits and impacts of the

1 Project in the State of New Hampshire, and will
2 not likely consider impacts in Canada or in
3 other jurisdictions.

4 Now, it doesn't mean that there might
5 not be some discussion or some consideration of
6 that. But I previously went over with you the
7 Section 16 of RSA 162-H, and those are the --
8 those are the statutory requirements that the
9 Site Evaluation Committee is required to
10 consider. And, those are the -- and they don't
11 include anything outside of the State of New
12 Hampshire. So, that's the best answer that I
13 can give you to that question.

14 The next series of questions deal
15 with burying the -- burial of the proposed
16 power line. The first question states that:
17 "The Appalachian Mountain Club continues to
18 oppose the project, but isn't it true that the
19 route modifications including burial of the
20 line in the entire White Mountain area
21 eliminates any view impacts in that region?"

22 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. That is true.
23 You know, as I said earlier, late in 2015,
24 before we moved into the siting process, we

1 made the commitment to 52 miles of additional
2 underground construction, largely based on
3 feedback from groups such as this. You know,
4 prior to making that decision, we had met with
5 many groups across the state, had gotten a lot
6 of feedback on the importance of that White
7 Mountain National Forest area, including
8 Franconia Notch, the Appalachian Trail, et
9 cetera, and that was consistent.

10 Almost irrespective of where you were
11 in the State of New Hampshire and who you were
12 talking to, the first thing we heard about was
13 the impact on the White Mountain National
14 Forest. That's what drove that decision to go
15 with underground construction. That was not an
16 easy decision for us to make, because it
17 resulted in having to reduce the Project size
18 by 15 percent. We probably added several
19 hundred million dollars worth of construction
20 costs to the Project. And, it was all intended
21 to address view impacts in and around the White
22 Mountain National Forest area.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
24 question is: "Northern Pass says that it

1 listens to the people of New Hampshire. I have
2 two questions." And, there are two questions
3 here. "Northern Pass buried 8 miles through
4 Clarksville and Stewartstown, why? Is it
5 because the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Land
6 Trust would not allow Northern Pass to go
7 through their land?"

8 I'm going to give you the second
9 question, too, because it's similar. "Northern
10 Pass buried 35 miles through the White Mountain
11 National Forest, why? Is it because Northern
12 Pass could not go through the National Forest
13 with towers?"

14 And, then, the questioner writes: As
15 Councilor Ray Burton said before he passed
16 away, "Bury the entire line through this
17 beautiful state or pick up your tent and go
18 home"."

19 MR. QUINLAN: So, the --

20 [Audience interruption.]

21 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The
22 questions are regarding the 8 miles in
23 Clarksville and Stewartstown, and 35 miles,
24 according to the questioner, in the White

1 Mountain National Forest.

2 MR. QUINLAN: So, I'll answer the
3 second question first, and then I'll refer the
4 first question to Mr. Muntz, who was here when
5 that earlier decision was made.

6 But, as to the, you know, the
7 decision in and around the White Mountain
8 National Forest, you know, one thing, so
9 everyone's clear, we have an existing
10 transmission right-of-way with an existing
11 transmission line running through the White
12 Mountain National Forest.

13 So, the previous proposal was to use
14 that existing corridor running parallel to that
15 existing line. We determined not to do that.
16 It wasn't because we couldn't do it, we have
17 all the legal rights and property rights
18 necessary to do it. We made that decision to
19 move out of the White Mountain National Forest
20 to minimize view impacts.

21 And, as I said, it resulted in almost
22 a 20 percent reduction in the size of this
23 Project, and therefore the benefits of this
24 Project, and several hundred million dollars of

1 additional costs. Not because we couldn't do
2 it, because, based upon feedback from New
3 Hampshire, we determined not to do it. Okay?

4 So, that was the decision around the
5 White Mountain National Forest. And, Jim, the
6 earlier decision around the 8 miles in the
7 North Country.

8 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. The initial -- Jim
9 Muntz, President of Transmission of Eversource.
10 The earlier decision about the 8 miles, it was
11 an initial reaction to the feedback we got
12 about the north 40 miles of this Project, where
13 there was no right-of-way, there was no
14 transmission line already. As we looked at
15 securing the 22 miles in the Wagner Forest, the
16 other 8 miles, you know, became something
17 that -- underground became the best option for
18 us to establish control of the route and have a
19 viable project going forward.

20 So, that's basically, you know, how
21 that came about.

22 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. And, just to
23 round out that answer, because I wasn't here
24 then, but I do know a little bit of background.

1 Not only did we commit to 8 miles of
2 underground construction, as I said earlier, we
3 moved that whole new right-of-way section in
4 the North Country to the east, to get it away
5 from view impacts and to get it into this
6 timber forest area. Okay?

7 So, that was a combination decision,
8 going underground was our way of getting to the
9 eastern part of the state.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
11 The next question is a lengthy one: "In 2013,
12 Vermont asked Hydro-Quebec to put lines under
13 Lake Champlain and the highway (interstate).
14 It was agreed to. Why is this? What is
15 happening in Vermont that is not happening in
16 New Hampshire? States must be respected in the
17 same way. Our livelihoods will be affected in
18 the same way. There are old railroad beds and
19 a river (long) where these lines should be" --
20 I'm sorry, "river bed (long) where these lines
21 should be buried in New Hampshire. Then a bike
22 path from Concord to Colebrook could be built
23 for the citizens. P.S. Your company gives out
24 false info. 80 percent of the lines are not

1 being buried. It is only one-third of the
2 lines."

3 Several questions in there. Why
4 don't you take a crack at them.

5 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. I'll refer the
6 later question -- I guess, the first part of
7 that question to Mr. Muntz. But the
8 "80 percent" refers to "either underground or
9 an existing right-of-way". Okay? We recognize
10 it's about a third that is underground. So,
11 60 miles is underground. The "80 percent"
12 figure is the combination of that, plus
13 portions of the route that are in an existing
14 right-of-way running parallel to an existing
15 transmission line. Okay? Just so we're clear.
16 Okay.

17 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. For the first part,
18 I think, for clarification, I would suggest
19 that the State of Vermont has not talked to
20 Hydro-Quebec about that. The Project proposed
21 in the State of Vermont is by a transmission
22 developer that said "hey, we're going to run a
23 line from Canada down to here." And, people
24 are free to, you know, propose those type of

1 projects. That type of project is basically a
2 merchant transmission project, where they need
3 to get a supply on one end of the line, and
4 customers on the other, and have an agreement
5 between those two that will cover the cost of
6 the line. And, that's the business they're in,
7 that's how they make money.

8 They've proposed a line. You know,
9 to date, we're not aware who their customers
10 are or who their power supply is. So, you
11 know, it really doesn't have anything to do
12 with the State of Vermont and Hydro-Quebec, to
13 our knowledge. Basically, that developer has
14 asked the State of Vermont for permission to
15 run that line. And, we'll see how that evolves
16 as we proceed.

17 FROM THE FLOOR: May I ask a question
18 about that?

19 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: What's
20 your question, sir?

21 FROM THE FLOOR: There was an article
22 recently, over the last few days, about the New
23 England Pass [sic], and it stated that the
24 State of Vermont has just approved them to

1 build that. And, that it's also going to be
2 buried in Lake Champlain, as well as
3 underground, after it gets at the end of Lake
4 Champlain, into the bottom of Vermont to
5 connect up to the grid.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
7 Why don't we let -- why don't we let
8 Mr. Quinlan give you his best answer that he
9 can about that project. If you could explain,
10 please, because there's a lot of questions
11 about this Vermont project?

12 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. Yes. That is true.
13 This developer that I've talked about has made
14 that proposal in Vermont, and they have
15 received approval to do it. Now, you know, if
16 that was us, we'd say "we need to know who's
17 going to, you know, buy the product from the
18 line, who's going to put the energy into the
19 top part of the line, if you will? And, we
20 also need to know what contractors are going to
21 build that line for, you know, the price -- for
22 the right price, such that, you know, the money
23 works out and people, you know, make a return
24 on their investments?"

1 Those are all questions that are not
2 clear about the Vermont line. Many, many
3 merchant transmission lines are proposed around
4 the country. The success rate of those, from,
5 you know, announcement to siting, is very low.
6 Okay?

7 So, I would also offer that this same
8 developer has a line that is approved to run
9 from Canada down to New York. That's been
10 approved and has had all its permits for
11 several years. That's advertised as a \$2
12 billion line. Nobody's building it, because
13 there's nobody willing to pay for it, there's
14 no contractors that seem to be willing to build
15 it for what, you know, certainly for 2 billion.
16 We have talked to a lot of contractors, as part
17 of getting ready for this Project, and there's
18 also no supply identified for that project.

19 So, those are the ingredients you
20 need to have a successful transmission project.
21 We have a supply. And, we have customers in
22 New England. We have someone willing to pay
23 for it. So, we feel like this application has
24 much more chance of success than a merchant

1 line.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
3 The next question is -- actually, there's three
4 questions on one sheet.

5 [Audience interruption.]

6 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Sir, if
7 you want to make a statement, please fill out a
8 card. I've allowed you to stand up and make
9 the question out-of-line. You could have wrote
10 it down on a sheet. You can still do that, if
11 you'd like? But we need -- we do need to move
12 on. There's a lot of people who have asked
13 questions here, and we want to get them all
14 answered to the best of our ability.

15 The next sheet as three questions on
16 it. The first one is: "What is your basis for
17 saying that Franconia Notch is off limits for
18 burying the line? Have you consulted with all
19 of the parties involved: New Hampshire DOT,
20 New Hampshire DRED, Society for Protection of
21 New Hampshire Forests, Appalachian Mountain
22 Club? If not, why not? If so, what did each
23 say?"

24 That's the first question. Why don't

1 you take that one first.

2 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. I'm going to
3 refer this question to Mark Hodgdon. Mark, why
4 don't you introduce yourself and some of the
5 outreach we've done.

6 MR. HODGDON: My name is Mark
7 Hodgdon. I'm a private attorney in Concord,
8 who's been consulting with Northern Pass on
9 road permitting issues for public highways.
10 For 24 years, I was in the Attorney General's
11 Office and represented DOT.

12 The question is regarding what
13 consent decree or memorandum that's been filed
14 in federal court and governs any construction
15 in Franconia Notch. It was part of the
16 litigation surrounding the creation of the
17 Franconia Notch Parkway. And, anybody that
18 knows Franconia Notch Parkway knows that it is
19 not your typical interstate design; it is, in
20 fact, very different, and goes down to one lane
21 in each direction at one point.

22 And, originally, as designed, it
23 wasn't even divided. There wasn't even a
24 barrier there. And, that was permitted by the

1 federal government, Federal Highway
2 Administration, back in the '80s, as part of
3 the settlement of the litigation because of the
4 very highly sensitive environmentally --
5 environmental considerations in the Notch, as
6 well as the cultural considerations. It is
7 really an important area for the State of New
8 Hampshire for all of us residents. And, it
9 might very well be the most environmentally
10 sensitive area in the state. But that
11 litigation specifically says that "There shall
12 be no further construction or additional lanes
13 within Franconia Notch."

14 So, the question is, "have we
15 consulted or sought to change that agreement?"
16 And, the reason is, we're not party to it; DOT
17 is. And, I happen to have been representing
18 DOT back in the '90s, when they did seek to
19 change that agreement and put in a guardrail
20 between the two lanes. And, that process took
21 years to accomplish, simply to put in a
22 guardrail, after people had been killed in
23 there.

24 So, I am well aware of how difficult

1 that process is. And, DOT is not inclined to
2 engage in that process for anything but safety
3 issues. So, we know that that is not really a
4 viable opportunity to change that agreement,
5 especially for this Project, and given some of
6 the other signatories to that agreement,
7 including the Society and the Appalachian
8 Mountain Club.

9 So, DOT has no appetite to seek a
10 change. They would have to agree to do so.
11 And, that's why we sought alternative routes.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Just
13 stay up there, Mr. Hodgdon, because I have two
14 more questions that involve the roads, so --

15 MR. HODGDON: Okay. Lucky me.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
17 one is: "Have you specifically asked New
18 Hampshire Department of Transportation whether
19 you could use any part of I-93 before you
20 proposed using state roads in Grafton County?
21 If so, what did the Department of
22 Transportation say? If not, why not?"

23 MR. HODGDON: As is typical with
24 this -- with any kind of project of this size,

1 we have had ongoing discussions with DOT for at
2 least three years. I can't remember how long,
3 actually. And, so -- and, we're, as you might
4 imagine, I'm very familiar with their rules and
5 regulations and their policies. And, so, we
6 have had extensive discussions with them. And,
7 we knew where their preferences and their
8 interests lied, and that's why we proposed the
9 roads we did.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The
11 third question on this sheet is: "Have you
12 specifically asked New Hampshire DOT whether
13 you could use Routes 302, 18, 116, and 112
14 before you announced this route in August 2015?
15 If so, what did New Hampshire DOT say? If not,
16 why not?"

17 MR. HODGDON: We filed the
18 Application requesting that with DOT. It would
19 be inappropriate, prior to the filing of the
20 Application, to ask if we could use those
21 roads. We complied with their criteria as they
22 asked us to do, and submitted documents that
23 met their standards and criteria so that we
24 could move forward.

1 They are still reviewing the process.
2 Even today, they haven't said we can use or
3 can't use any particular roads. It would be
4 inappropriate for them to do that. They're
5 reviewing the Application. What they have said
6 to date is that everything we submitted allows
7 them to review the Application. In other
8 words, it's complete.

9 We chose those roads, in part,
10 because of our consultations with DOT and
11 knowing their concerns, particularly with I-93
12 and Franconia Notch.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
14 question is really addressed to the SEC. So,
15 I'll take a crack at answering it.

16 "Has the Site Evaluation Committee
17 done an economic impact study on the potential
18 cost to the state on locating this in I-93, in
19 terms of traffic delays, traffic rerouting, and
20 impacts on tourism?"

21 The Site Evaluation Committee, up to
22 this point, has done no studies at all. The
23 Application is filed before the Site Evaluation
24 Committee. And, the various studies are

1 normally done by the parties. And, the Site
2 Evaluation Committee will consider what studies
3 they are going to rely on, just like a judge in
4 a trial determines what evidence is more
5 persuasive. So, the SEC has not done an
6 economic impact study.

7 You may want to address whether the
8 Applicant has done one.

9 MR. QUINLAN: We have not.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: I'm
11 sorry?

12 MR. QUINLAN: We have not.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
14 The next question is: "Some people have pushed
15 to have the project buried on I-93. Can you
16 explain how that would work with diverting
17 traffic and getting off exit ramps, et cetera?"

18 MR. HODGDON: Can you read that
19 question again for me, counsel?

20 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Sure.
21 "Some people have pushed to have the project
22 buried on I-93. Can you explain how that would
23 work with diverting traffic, getting off exit
24 ramps, et cetera?"

1 MR. HODGDON: Yes. Well, sort of.
2 What you have to understand about I-93 is,
3 according to DOT's own policies, it's intended,
4 and I think everybody kind of knows that I-93
5 is probably -- I'll say it is the most
6 important artery in the state. There are
7 others that are very important. But I-93 runs
8 up through the heart of the state. It's the
9 longest, it's the most heavily traveled. And,
10 it's designed for "optimal mobility and safety
11 of through-traffic". That's why there are no
12 sidestreets, there are no abutter -- abutting
13 driveways. That's why there's only entrance
14 and exit ramps. DOT wants to protect that
15 purpose. That's -- when anything comes up
16 about I-93, protecting that purpose, "safety
17 and mobility of the through-traffic", is their
18 number one concern. And, it probably is their
19 top three concerns.

20 That means, when you're talking about
21 putting a longitudinal -- what's called a
22 "longitudinal installation", utility
23 installation, in a corridor, DOT's policy,
24 number one is, "you can't do it", meaning

1 "running along the highway", that's what
2 "longitudinal" means, as opposed to a crossing,
3 which is a whole separate animal. DOT's first
4 rule is "you can't do it".

5 The second rule is, "you can do it if
6 you prove extreme hardship", and that -- there
7 are several criteria for that. The most
8 important one, for our purposes, there are
9 others that are important, don't get me wrong,
10 that we probably can't meet, but you can't have
11 any other viable alternative. And, our
12 Application is, by definition, viable
13 alternatives.

14 So, we can't meet the "extreme
15 hardship" criteria. Even if you do meet the
16 "hardship" criteria, DOT will prohibit you from
17 doing it in the median or in the roadway.
18 Those are out. So, if you meet the "hardship"
19 criteria, you can't build it in the road or in
20 the median. But they want you out by the fence
21 line. And, if you're driving up and down 93,
22 if you look off to the left or the right, you
23 can look into the woods, and usually it is in
24 the woods, because it's back, it's uncleared

1 area and undisturbed areas, you will see a
2 fence. That's the right-of-way limits. That's
3 where the state property boundary is. They
4 want you out in that area as close as
5 practicable to that.

6 And, they won't allow you to access
7 on or off the highway to build out there.
8 Which means you'll have to build an access
9 road, essentially parallel to the highway,
10 which also is for future maintenance. Again,
11 they don't want you exiting or entering from
12 the highway.

13 So, in answer to the question, there
14 won't be any detours for the most part, there
15 may be very few, very -- one or two exceptions.
16 But, for the most part, if you are going to
17 build on 93 for 50 to 60 miles, we would be
18 creating a gravel road next to the roadway,
19 taking down all the trees, blasting ledge,
20 taking out the wetlands or filling them, and
21 creating, essentially, a parallel access road
22 for 50-60 miles.

23 So, the question asks "well, what's
24 the impact on the detours?" DOT rules are

1 designed to minimize the impact on detours.
2 But that means that there will be extreme
3 impacts on the aesthetics of that road, as well
4 as environmental resources, and the trees and
5 vegetation. Your ride on I-93 would change,
6 very different, it would look different.

7 MR. QUINLAN: Thank you.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Mr.
9 Quinlan, this next question is directed
10 directly to you. It says: "Has Mr. Quinlan
11 read any of the thousands of public comments
12 submitted to the DOE regarding the EIS, and did
13 he note the many calls to bury Northern Pass in
14 Coos County, Belknap County, and Merrimack
15 County?"

16 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. I've read -- read
17 many comments, and I've heard directly from
18 many across the state about options for
19 addressing view impacts. As I said at the
20 outset, you know, we continue to work on that
21 issue. We think we've made a very significant
22 commitment with the one we discussed earlier
23 around the White Mountain National Forest, and
24 we're going to continue to work on impacts.

1 But I've certainly received plenty of
2 feedback on this issue.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
4 The next batch of questions comes under the
5 general heading of "economics". Of course,
6 some of them may stray, because there's
7 numerous questions on some sheets.

8 The first one is: "Exactly what
9 percentage of the energy delivered by the line
10 will be used in New Hampshire?"

11 MR. QUINLAN: So, all of the energy
12 flowing across this line will be delivered to
13 the terminal point here, which is in Deerfield,
14 New Hampshire. Okay? So, that's where
15 electrically the power will be delivered from
16 Northern Pass, all of it. We have reached an
17 agreement with our partner, Hydro-Quebec, who
18 is the source of the power, to reserve at least
19 10 percent of that power for Eversource on New
20 Hampshire customers. Okay? That's the minimum
21 amount that's available to us.

22 To the extent there's an interest in
23 New Hampshire in a greater percentage, I'm sure
24 New Hampshire can access additional percentage.

1 But, electrically, it's all delivered here.
2 Contractually, we've got 10 percent. Why
3 10 percent? Because we are a little less than
4 10 percent of New England's load. New
5 Hampshire, in its entirety, is about 9 percent
6 of all of New England's load. So, we wanted to
7 ensure at a minimum that we received our fair
8 share. It's not to say we couldn't request 20,
9 or buy 40 or more. It's a question of, you
10 know, accessing that in the market and buying
11 it. But we do have that 10 percent
12 reservation.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
14 question is a follow-up to that: "Is this the
15 most cost-effective way to meet the demand this
16 line will serve? Have externalities been
17 internalized in the economic analysis? Has the
18 economic analysis been made available publicly?
19 And, if not, why not?"

20 MR. QUINLAN: Can you reread that
21 question?

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Sure.

23 MR. QUINLAN: I want to make sure I
24 have all the elements.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Sure.
2 "Is this the most cost-effective way to meet
3 the demand this line will serve?" It's
4 actually, really, a series of three questions.
5 "Have externalities been internalized in the
6 economic analysis? And, has the economic
7 analysis been made available publicly? And, if
8 not, why not?"

9 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, again, what
10 we've been striving for is a balance. One that
11 balances the economics of this Project with our
12 ability to site this Project here in New
13 Hampshire at a federal level, and having a
14 Project that works technically. We have -- we
15 have made concessions on the economic side to
16 make it a more attractive project to New
17 Hampshire. We have reduced the benefits by
18 about 20 percent, by our decision to
19 underground more of the construction. We have
20 added several hundred million dollars of costs
21 to the Project, in an effort to strike that
22 appropriate balance.

23 So, is it, from a pure cost/benefit
24 analysis, the single most beneficial? No. You

1 know, it's far less expensive to have an
2 all-overhead construction line, 1,200
3 megawatts, using conventional cable, which was
4 originally proposed. We've made significant
5 adjustments to that to address New Hampshire's
6 concern and to strike an appropriate balance.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: What
8 about "the economic analysis has been made
9 available publicly? And, if not, why not?"

10 MR. QUINLAN: You know, I know as
11 part of our SEC Application, the testimony of
12 our expert from London Economics is part of
13 that Application. Portions of their analysis I
14 understand are subject to a protective order,
15 because they're proprietary.

16 [Audience interruption.]

17 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Sir, why
18 don't we handle your question this way, okay?
19 We're recording everything that's going down
20 here with court reporters. They can't hear
21 you. I would ask if you would fill out a
22 yellow card and bring it up here, and then, at
23 the time when we make the public statements,
24 you can make your statement up here. And, if

1 you --

2 [Audience interruption.]

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: If
4 you -- may I finish, sir? May I finish? If
5 you believe that they haven't answered a
6 question, and you want to make that part of
7 your statement, that's fine. The other thing
8 that I would ask you to do is write your
9 question down on a green sheet, like the dozens
10 of other folks have done, and --

11 [Audience interruption.]

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Do you
13 have any more of an answer to his question
14 about the -- well, I'll read the question
15 again. "Is this the most cost-effective way to
16 meet the demand this line will serve? Have
17 externalities been internalized in the economic
18 analysis? And, has the economic analysis been
19 made available publicly? If not, why not?"

20 MR. QUINLAN: So, as to the first
21 question, it is the balance that we think is
22 necessary for this Project to move forward.

23 [Extended audience interruption.]

24 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. Okay. Now, I

1 better understand your question. So, one of
2 the things we're trying to do is to address the
3 large number of power plants that have retired
4 in this region. You know, you're probably
5 aware that several nuclear plants recently have
6 retired or are about to retire, one in Vermont,
7 Pilgrim Station in Massachusetts. And,
8 additionally, coal-fired power plants,
9 oil-fired power plants, across New England,
10 including in New Hampshire, have been retiring.
11 So, about 25 percent of the existing fleet has
12 either retired or will be retiring.

13 The options for replacing baseload
14 generation are very limited in New England.
15 We're not -- not likely to be building new
16 nuclear plants, coal plants, oil plants in the
17 near future. We've become hugely dependent on
18 natural gas, to the point where over 50 percent
19 of our load is served by natural gas.

20 So, to have any measure of fuel
21 diversity in this region, we need an
22 alternative to gas, for baseload power
23 generation. The single best, most
24 cost-effective alternative to natural gas

1 that's viable in New England is large-scale
2 hydro. Okay?

3 That's not to say that there's not a
4 role for wind and solar. Those are
5 intermittent resources. They are not going to
6 replace baseload power plants.

7 So, the short answer to your question
8 is "yes". In my estimation, unless you want to
9 become 70 or 80 percent dependent on one fuel
10 supply, which tends to be very volatile,
11 natural gas, large baseload hydro imports are
12 the most cost-effective approach in meeting New
13 England and New Hampshire's load requirements
14 in the future.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
16 you. The next question is: "Is the rate in
17 the MOU/PPA with Hydro-Quebec market rate or a
18 fixed rate? Either way, is New Hampshire
19 required to accept the stated rate?"

20 MR. QUINLAN: So, what's being
21 referred to here is a Power Purchase Agreement
22 that we anticipate entering into with our
23 partner, Hydro-Quebec. At this point, we have
24 executed a Memorandum of Understanding with our

1 partner, Hydro-Quebec, which will ultimately be
2 converted into that Power Purchase Agreement.
3 The terms of that Memorandum of Understanding
4 are the principal terms you would expect; you
5 know, duration of the arrangement, the pricing
6 terms, the environmental treatment of the
7 power, the clean energy flowing over the line.
8 All of that is spelled out in the Memorandum of
9 Understanding. It is subject to a protective
10 order. It's confidential at this point. So, I
11 am not in a position to disclose it.

12 Ultimately, the New Hampshire Public
13 Commission will determine whether our entry
14 into a Power Purchase Agreement is in the best
15 interest of customers. So, when we're at a
16 point where we have a true Power Purchase
17 Agreement, we will submit it to our regulator,
18 they will look at it and determine whether
19 that's in the economic best interests of
20 customers and should move forward. So,
21 everything we're doing with Hydro-Quebec is
22 subject to review by our regulatory body.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
24 question follows up on that one, it appears.

1 "You claim that the Project will have benefits
2 of \$80 million, and last night you suggested
3 that people read the London Economics study
4 that is part of the Application. Isn't that
5 study marked "confidential" and you have filed
6 a motion with the SEC to keep it confidential?
7 How can we look at the study to review the
8 claimed benefits if it is confidential?"

9 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, that is the
10 study I was referring to. It's the London
11 Economic study. It was filed as part of our
12 SEC Application subject to a protective order.
13 So, to the extent I misspoke last evening, it
14 was because I was not aware that we had sought
15 protective treatment for that particular study.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And, the
17 next follow-up question is for the Site
18 Evaluation Committee: "When will the SEC make
19 this study available to the public?"

20 And, that's a determination that will
21 be made by the Chairman of the Committee.
22 There is a motion for it to be confidential,
23 and that decision will be made, once the
24 interventions have been ruled on, and folks

1 have had an opportunity to weigh in, and either
2 agree with or object to the Motion for
3 Confidentiality.

4 Next question: "New Hampshire pays
5 about 50 percent more than the national average
6 for electricity, which is a real problem for
7 keeping businesses and jobs here. It seems
8 that the power generators, many of whom seem to
9 oppose the Project through their industry
10 association, are making money on the back of
11 New Hampshire. Ratepayer" -- "on the back of
12 New Hampshire ratepayers. Can you address how
13 this Project will reduce rates?"

14 MR. QUINLAN: Yes, I can. And, it
15 was alluded to, both in the video and in the
16 presentation.

17 This Project will lower New Hampshire
18 rates in two ways. First, is the suppression
19 of the overall wholesale price of electricity
20 in New England. Okay? So, as I said, when you
21 take 1,090 megawatts of competitively priced
22 power, you deliver it into New Hampshire, it
23 displaces large inefficient, generally
24 carbon-emitting power plants. So, those less

1 cost-effective plants don't run, the entire
2 wholesale market price is suppressed. That's
3 about an \$800 million a year effect on the
4 wholesale market price. The 80 million --

5 [Audience interruption.]

6 MR. QUINLAN: The "80 million" that
7 was referred to earlier is New Hampshire's
8 proportionate share of that 800 million. Okay?
9 But customers across New England will see that
10 benefit.

11 In addition to that, the Power
12 Purchase Agreement that I alluded to earlier,
13 that we anticipate entering into with our
14 partner, will provide additional economic
15 benefits that will lower electric rates for our
16 customers, both business and residential.

17 So, the number we shared is only that
18 first effect. We anticipate additional energy
19 cost reductions as a result of that Power
20 Purchase Agreement.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
22 question is: "New Hampshire's forests, farms,
23 and towns provide a sense of place that
24 residents and visitors value. Since the

1 proposed transmission lines transect our state
2 with significant change to this characteristic
3 landscape, has there been an economic analysis
4 of the effects on the natural and historic
5 landscape from the proposed Northern Pass
6 towers and clearing for transmission lines?
7 Recognizing that tourism is critical to the
8 state's economy, what are the adverse economic
9 effects from Northern Pass on tourism?"

10 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. I'm going to
11 refer that question to Bob Varney. He's also
12 from Normandeau.

13 MR. VARNEY: Thank you. The Northern
14 Pass Project hired a tourism expert to look at
15 the issue of potential impacts on the tourism
16 industry here in New Hampshire as it relates to
17 this Project. And, an expert firm called
18 Nichols Tourism Group, Mitch Nichols conducted
19 a study of this issue. Mitch is a very
20 experienced tourism expert who works in the
21 field directly for people who are trying to
22 increase tourism and pursue tourism strategies,
23 tourism plans throughout the country. He's
24 developed tourism strategies for I believe

1 seven states, including, about 15 years ago, I
2 think he was employed by the State of New
3 Hampshire to develop a tourism plan here.

4 He conducted a study looking at the
5 issue which had five elements, which are
6 described in detail in his report, that is in
7 Appendix 45 of the SEC Application, as well as
8 discussed and summarized in his testimony
9 that's in the Application.

10 The five elements of his study
11 included looking at his professional experience
12 over 20 years working in the industry, in which
13 he saw that there had never been any data
14 developed or significant information that would
15 suggest that power lines have any significant
16 effect on tourism anywhere that he's worked.
17 And, he's worked on over 250 projects around
18 the country. And, this is -- I'm reporting the
19 results of his study and his report.

20 He examined New Hampshire's tourism
21 industry, looked very carefully at the tourism
22 data that was developed by Plymouth State
23 University, as well as the New Hampshire
24 Division of Travel & Tourism, and the

1 Department of Resources & Economic Development.

2 He looked at the issue of the number
3 of establishments and the jobs that were
4 associated with tourism by state and by county
5 over time, and looked at the Phase II Hydro
6 Project in New Hampshire, that was conducted --
7 or, constructed back in 1990, looking before,
8 during, and after construction, and what the
9 data said in using Bureau of Labor Statistics'
10 data.

11 He also looked more recently at the
12 Maine Reliability Project, a very large
13 project, extending from the Bangor area down to
14 Eliot, Maine, a large 345 kV line, and, again,
15 looked at the data associated with that. And,
16 the data showed that the tourism economy
17 continued to grow, and there was no empirical
18 data to suggest that it had an adverse effect
19 on tourism in either of those projects.

20 He also conducted listening sessions
21 and interviews with tourism leaders in
22 different parts of the state, and also
23 conducted a prospective visitor survey with
24 prospective visitors in seven states, the six

1 New England states, plus New York State, which
2 together represents about 80 percent of the
3 tourism visitors that come into New Hampshire.
4 A total of 456 surveys were conducted as part
5 of that effort.

6 And, overall, his conclusion was that
7 the empirical data, as well as the data from
8 interviews and work in the tourism industry,
9 has suggested that there would be no
10 significant impact on tourism in the state.
11 That there were other factors that were a much
12 higher priority, as it relates to tourism, many
13 other factors were much more significant.

14 And, again, I would urge that you
15 carefully read his report, which is included as
16 part of the SEC Application. Thank you.

17 MR. QUINLAN: I would just add one
18 other item to that. That's certainly the work
19 of our experts and it's well-supported. We do
20 recognize that there have been questions raised
21 about tourism. It's one of the reasons, when
22 you look at our ForwardNH Fund, the
23 \$200 million fund we're establishing, we've
24 earmarked a portion of that fund and intend to

1 direct it towards tourism initiatives. So, a
2 portion of that 200 million will go in that
3 direction to promote tourism in New Hampshire.
4 It's one of four focus areas.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
6 question is: "We have heard about a possible
7 Purchase Power Agreement for 10 percent of the
8 power delivered by Northern Pass. Is that
9 10 percent of whatever happens to be delivered
10 or is that 100 megawatts? And, is it for all
11 New Hampshire consumers or just Eversource New
12 Hampshire customers?"

13 MR. QUINLAN: As I said earlier, we
14 have executed a Memorandum of Understanding
15 with our partner. It will be converted into a
16 Power Purchase Agreement. The terms of that
17 are proprietary at this point.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And, the
19 other --

20 MR. QUINLAN: And, as to the second
21 part of that question, I will say it's a Power
22 Purchase Agreement as between Eversource New
23 Hampshire, which is the former PSNH, and
24 Hydro-Quebec. So, the benefits of that power

1 will flow to PSNH and now Eversource New
2 Hampshire customers.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
4 question is: "Can you please explain how
5 Eversource generates revenue on Northern Pass
6 through the TSE" -- "TSA", I'm sorry, "and the
7 FERC approved return on equity?"

8 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. I'm going to
9 refer that to Mr. Muntz.

10 MR. MUNTZ: Sure. Northern Pass is a
11 \$1.6 billion investment. It's a typical
12 utility investment. Utility companies finance
13 an investment like that with half debt, at, you
14 know, nominally 3-4 percent, and half equity.
15 The equity rate is regulated by the FERC. And,
16 our equity rate is expected to be about
17 11 percent. So, if you look at that, it's a
18 weighted average cost of capital, which, you
19 know, you may be familiar with that term from
20 businesses and industries you're familiar with,
21 somewhere around seven and a half percent.

22 So, what happens is we will have
23 Hydro-Quebec, will be paying the -- what we
24 call the "revenue requirements" of that

1 \$1.6 billion mortgage, they will pay it down
2 over a 40-year period. The payment will be
3 based on a debt component and an equity
4 component. Eversource derives their earnings
5 from just from the equity component, the debt
6 component is, basically, you know, a
7 pass-through.

8 We would expect that our earnings on
9 the \$1.6 billion investment would be about
10 \$90 million the first year, and that would
11 decline down to zero at the end of 40 years.
12 And, this Project, a project like this,
13 typically has a longer life than 40 years.
14 Should it go longer than 40 years, there's no
15 equity or debt component left. You're just
16 basically left paying the operating and
17 maintenance costs, and those are typically very
18 small. And, there are also no earnings
19 associated with that.

20 So, that's, basically, the story of
21 the investment, from 40 years, down to totally
22 depreciated, and, you know, just basically O&M
23 expenses.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next

1 question is: "How would a local business apply
2 for a grant under the ForwardNH Fund?"

3 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So, again, the
4 ForwardNH Fund will become a reality when we
5 place Northern Pass in service, which is in the
6 2019 timeframe currently. And, however, in
7 these intervening months, we are going to be
8 establishing the rules around grant
9 applications and how funding requests are made
10 for other types of initiatives. We also hope
11 to be establishing an advisory board that has
12 expertise in the four Fund target areas:
13 Tourism, economic development, community
14 investments, and clean energy.

15 So, we want to put together the right
16 advisory board, who can make the decisions
17 around these initiatives, so that they have the
18 maximum positive benefit for New Hampshire.
19 That's something we're going to be putting
20 together this year, the structure, the
21 governance, probably constituting the advisory
22 board, and then hopefully be in a position to
23 begin to consider requests, suggestions, and
24 grant applications.

1 But it's something we're very excited
2 about. We think we can do a lot of great
3 things. I mean, \$200 million is a significant
4 investment from a pure economic development
5 perspective, and we want to ensure we have the
6 right expertise to help guide those decisions.

7 And, if there's a specific follow-up
8 question from whoever raised that, they could
9 contact me after this meeting.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
11 question is: "Does your research show that
12 economic activity increases during the
13 construction period in communities along the
14 route of the projects like" -- "of projects
15 like the Northern Pass?" And, then, there's a
16 follow-up question: "Would Northern Pass make
17 it less likely that New Hampshire electric
18 ratepayers experience rolling blackouts at some
19 point in the next 15 years?"

20 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. The first of
21 those questions, on the economic impacts, I'm
22 going to refer this to Lisa Shapiro. Lisa,
23 maybe you could introduce yourself.

24 MS. SHAPIRO: Thank you. Hi. My

1 name is Lisa Shapiro. I'm with Gallagher,
2 Callahan & Gartrell. And, I'm a consultant for
3 the project on economic and tax benefits.

4 So, could you just repeat the
5 question? I just want to make sure I --

6 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Sure.

7 "Does your research show that economic activity
8 increases during the construction period in
9 communities along the routes of projects like
10 the Northern Pass?

11 MS. SHAPIRO: Yes. This is a very
12 significant construction project, \$1.6 billion.
13 And, the Project Team estimates that about 500
14 million of that will be directly spent on New
15 Hampshire labor and New Hampshire suppliers,
16 service providers, local businesses. And, as
17 that money is spent, it's recycled back into
18 the economy, and it has quite a bit of a boost.
19 So, the 2,400 job estimates during that
20 timeframe, as well as a significant impact in
21 the gross state product of several hundred
22 million dollars.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And,
24 then, the second part of that question --

1 MR. QUINLAN: And, I will add just to
2 that answer. You know, that's going to be
3 empirical expert analysis. We also have
4 practical experience with large-scale
5 infrastructure projects in the other states
6 that we serve, like Connecticut. Mr. Varney
7 mentioned the Maine Reliability Project
8 recently built. And, if you look at the actual
9 economic impact along the route in those
10 municipalities, and what it means to local
11 contractors and local businesses, it's not just
12 theoretical. It's truly real. And, you know,
13 there's plenty of evidence out there to support
14 that.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And, the
16 second question was: "Would Northern Pass make
17 it less likely that New Hampshire electric
18 ratepayers experience rolling blackouts at some
19 point in the next 15 years?"

20 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, today,
21 Northern Pass is not technically required to
22 keep the lights on, if you will. It's not a --
23 what the grid operator would say is a
24 "reliability project". Okay? So, that's

1 today's circumstance.

2 I said earlier, a large amount of our
3 existing generation fleet is going to be
4 retiring. Many of those plants that I referred
5 to earlier have already announced their
6 retirement dates. And, there are many others
7 across New England that we would expect are
8 going to follow suit, you know? The question
9 is going to become, "if all that generation
10 retires, how do you continue to keep the lights
11 on and meet customers' load?" Our belief is
12 that Northern Pass is a big part of that
13 answer. It's not going to do it in and of
14 itself. There's many other projects that are
15 going to have to be developed to, in essence,
16 keep the lights on 15 years out.

17 Now, so, today not technically a
18 "reliability project", but a critically
19 important addition to the supply mix. And,
20 we'll see, you know, how that generation fleet
21 is rebuilt in the intervening 15 years.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Who
23 pays for the training program that your
24 electrical workers go through to be able to

1 work on this Project?"

2 MR. QUINLAN: So, I think what's
3 being referred to here is there's two
4 apprentice trainings. So, electrical workers,
5 obviously, it's a highly skilled trade, it's a
6 true craftsman, it's a multiyear qualification
7 process. It's a mix of classroom training and
8 on-the-job experience. You know, oftentimes
9 the classroom training is done, you know,
10 nights and weekends, if in parallel these young
11 apprentices are working their way through the
12 in-the-field qualification. You know, that
13 in-the-field qualification is generally while
14 they're doing useful work.

15 You know, we, at Eversource, have our
16 own apprentice training program for electrical
17 workers who are going to ultimately -- who are
18 Company employees, so, they work on projects
19 under our management and supervision.

20 Just last year, we announced a --
21 I'll call it a state-of-the-art or very
22 innovative partnership with the IBEW to create
23 opportunities for residents across New
24 Hampshire. So, what we've agreed to with the

1 IBEW is we're going to use their
2 state-of-the-art training facilities, their
3 state-of-the-art methodologies, and these folks
4 will work under the tutelage of contractors,
5 large national contractors who are doing work
6 on our system.

7 And, it's just a wonderful
8 opportunity to bring folks into a highly
9 skilled craft position, you know, teach them a
10 career, something that's going to serve them
11 well throughout their lives. And, you know,
12 the payment for that is, basically, they're
13 being paid for the work they're doing in the
14 field, and the majority of the balance of it is
15 on their own time.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
17 two questions on this sheet are related to each
18 other. So, I'll read them both to you.

19 "What will the impact of the Northern
20 Pass be on climate change? And, will this
21 Project reduce net greenhouse gas emissions?"

22 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, you know, if
23 you looked at some of the information we shared
24 earlier, you know, a very significant impact on

1 greenhouse gas emissions or carbon dioxide
2 emissions. If you think about what's happening
3 in New England, for us to meet our clean energy
4 targets, projects like this are critically
5 important.

6 So, when you are retiring nuclear
7 plants, say what you will about nuclear plants,
8 but they don't -- they don't emit carbon
9 dioxide emissions. So, when Vermont Yankee
10 retires and when Pilgrim retires, and Millstone
11 1 retires and Connecticut Yankee and Maine
12 Yankee and Yankee-Rowe, you know, a large part
13 of our nuclear fleet is gone or going.

14 You know, what is going to replace
15 it? As I said earlier, it's either going to be
16 natural gas power plants, which are going to
17 push us in the wrong direction from a carbon
18 perspective, or projects like Northern Pass.
19 This is the single largest source of clean
20 energy that at least I can envision right now
21 in New England.

22 [Audience interruption.]

23 MR. JOHNSON: It's 3 million tons a
24 year of reduced carbon dioxide emissions, the

1 equivalent of removing I believe the number is
2 600,000 cars from our roadways.

3 [Audience interruption.]

4 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Please
5 let him answer the question.

6 MR. QUINLAN: So, yes. I think it's
7 a huge step in the right direction.

8 [Audience interruption.]

9 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Mr.
10 Quinlan, please. Please continue with your
11 answer.

12 MR. QUINLAN: I'll just conclude
13 with, you know, if you look at, you know, what
14 is the thinking at a federal level on this, and
15 you look at the Obama Administration's Clean
16 Power Plan recently released by the EPA, they
17 make a very direct point, saying that, for
18 United States to achieve its clean energy
19 goals, this is a critically important part of
20 the mix, which is large-scale imported hydro
21 from Canada. There's really no other way for
22 New England, the U.S., and New Hampshire to
23 achieve our clean energy targets without
24 accessing this source of power.

1 [Audience interruption.]

2 MR. QUINLAN: I'm trying to be
3 thorough.

4 [Audience interruption.]

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Sir?
6 Sir? Sir? Thank you. The next thing I was
7 going to say is that some of these questions
8 you've been asked already.

9 MR. QUINLAN: Okay.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: So, if
11 you can keep your answers short in response to
12 them.

13 The first one is: "How much of the
14 power" -- "how much of the power in percentage
15 will stay in New Hampshire?" And, then, the
16 next question that goes with that is: "When
17 will we know how much the electricity will
18 cost? I understand there's no set price and
19 you're using a power purchase agreement. How
20 will we know what this will cost and how will
21 the SEC know?"

22 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. The first
23 question?

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "How

1 much power by percentage will stay in New
2 Hampshire?"

3 MR. QUINLAN: All of it will be
4 delivered to New Hampshire, Deerfield, New
5 Hampshire. And, where it flows electrically is
6 going to be a matter of existing conditions.
7 You know, there are multiple lines that feed
8 into and out of this delivery point, and the
9 electrons will flow into the New England grid.
10 Where is -- what customers are going to benefit
11 contractually? We know we're going to have
12 10 percent of it for PSNH or Eversource New
13 Hampshire customers. The other 90 percent of
14 it has not been contracted for, to my
15 knowledge.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
17 The next question was: "How do we know how
18 much the electricity will cost" -- or, "when
19 will we know how much the electricity will
20 cost? I understand there is no set price and
21 you are using a power purchase agreement. How
22 will we know what this will cost and how will
23 the SEC know?"

24 MR. QUINLAN: Once we have executed a

1 Power Purchase Agreement, we'll file it with
2 our New Hampshire Public Utility Commission.
3 And, they will evaluate the pricing to
4 determine whether it's in the economic interest
5 of customers.

6 As to the SEC, when we presented our
7 \$80 million a year benefits package of
8 ForwardNH, it doesn't include the benefits
9 associated with the Power Purchase Agreement.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And, the
11 third question on this sheet: "Could you
12 please compare the environmental impact of the
13 Northern Pass overhead proposal versus the
14 Alternative 4a, the full burial identified in
15 the DOE Draft EIS. DOE says there's" -- "DOE
16 says there is less environmental impact."

17 MR. QUINLAN: Without repeating
18 everything that Mr. Hodgdon said earlier, our
19 view is that the 4a option is not a viable
20 option. We recently filed a explanation of
21 that with Department of Energy, which I'm sure
22 they will post. And, I would encourage you to
23 access, as to why we don't think that is a
24 viable option.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
2 question, there are three of them on this
3 sheet: "We have heard you say the power
4 agreement with Hydro-Quebec is not yet
5 finalized. So, can you explain how you came up
6 with the \$80 million in savings? And, the next
7 one is: If New Hampshire ratepayers aren't
8 paying for Northern Pass, how do they get the
9 savings?"

10 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So, to be
11 repetitive, the \$80 million does not include
12 the incremental benefits associated with the
13 Power Purchase Agreement. It is purely the
14 market suppression price to the wholesale
15 market.

16 As to the cost of the Project, it
17 will be borne by others, generally through the
18 agreements Mr. Muntz referred to earlier.
19 There is no New Hampshire utility that's a
20 party to those contracts, and, therefore, New
21 Hampshire customers will not bear any of the
22 costs of the transmission infrastructure
23 project.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Can you

1 explain how you are managing the demand from so
2 many people that you bury the line" -- "that
3 you bury the line, when I've read that there is
4 a lawsuit against the Company for proposing to
5 bury the line? It makes no sense to me, but
6 there must be more to this matter.

7 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, again, back
8 to an earlier point, we have heard from many
9 that now there's an interest in looking at
10 options for mitigating particular view impacts,
11 we're fully committed to continuing to do that.
12 It is ironic that, in the instance you're
13 referring to, where the construction is
14 underground, there's a lawsuit pending to
15 prevent us from pursuing underground
16 construction. And, it's from a party who is
17 advocating for complete burial. So, I can't
18 speak for that party. But it's something we'll
19 deal with in the ordinary course.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "If
21 there is a lawsuit against the Company for
22 using some roads to bury the line, will this
23 hold up the Project and stall the creation of
24 the construction jobs?"

1 MR. QUINLAN: Our expectation is that
2 it will not. You know, the issue has been
3 raised. We recently have made a responsive
4 filing with the court to explain the reason why
5 we think we are entitled to use the public
6 highway. So, what we're talking about is
7 putting our line along the public highway. We
8 think there's 150 years of well-established New
9 Hampshire law on this point. And, we think the
10 court will find for us in this instance.

11 We hope they will do so
12 expeditiously. And, that's our intention, is
13 to pursue an expeditious resolution of that, so
14 as not to hold up the benefits we referred to
15 earlier. You know, the \$4 billion of economic
16 benefits, as well as the associated
17 environmental benefits, are real. They are
18 going to be directed here in New Hampshire, and
19 we hope to be able to deliver them.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "If New
21 Hampshire ratepayers aren't paying for Northern
22 Pass, how does Eversource get its profits from
23 this line?"

24 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. I think Mr. Muntz

1 did a thorough job of explaining the financial
2 recovery of our investment. It's through our
3 relationship with Hydro-Quebec and the
4 agreements with Hydro-Quebec.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: This
6 question may have been asked before as well.
7 But "Does the 80 million in annual energy
8 savings come just from the power contract with
9 Hydro-Quebec?"

10 MR. QUINLAN: No. None of that comes
11 from the power contract with Hydro-Quebec.
12 It's purely the effect of a competitively
13 priced new source of electricity on the
14 wholesale market.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
16 question is: "The state is losing
17 manufacturing jobs and companies to states with
18 lower energy costs. How does this Project help
19 that problem?"

20 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, that
21 \$80 million that I was referring to, as well as
22 any additional economic benefits that come
23 through the Power Purchase Agreement,
24 businesses across New Hampshire, as well as all

1 of New England, are going to see a reduction in
2 their energy costs.

3 And, probably almost equally
4 important, based upon my discussions with
5 dozens of businesses across the state, not only
6 are they looking to reduce their bill, but
7 they're looking for stability of supply and
8 stability of energy costs.

9 Right now, you're probably aware that
10 there's a huge fluctuation in energy costs
11 between summer months, and, you know, we tend
12 now to see price spikes during the winter.
13 It's very difficult to plan a business around
14 that kind of variability.

15 So, a portion of those energy cost
16 savings are going to flow to these businesses
17 who, you know, view this as a very important
18 issue. And, probably equally important, they
19 will see a greater stability in their seasonal
20 cost of electricity and more ample supply.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And, the
22 next two questions, you might just want to
23 refer these folks to somebody that they can
24 speak to. But the first one is: "I work for a

1 small service agency. How do small local
2 non-profit organizations apply for funding from
3 the ForwardNH Plan?"

4 And, the next one is: "Can you
5 please explain how a local contractor
6 (trucking, logging, excavation, et cetera)
7 could get involved in this Project and benefit
8 from this Project?"

9 MR. QUINLAN: So, I'll take the
10 second one first. You know, as we move through
11 the siting process, and we start planning in
12 greater detail around the actual construction
13 activities, I mentioned our "New Hampshire
14 first" commitment, we intend to be holding
15 fairs across the State of New Hampshire to
16 explain opportunities for local contractors to
17 go to work on this Project, whether they're
18 gravel suppliers, logging contractors,
19 electrical workers. So, we're going to create
20 fairs and opportunities for them to come and
21 understand the opportunities. And, you know,
22 our goal being to put as many of those folks to
23 work on this Project as possible.

24 So, that's in our planning. It's

1 going to be rolling out beginning in 2016, as
2 we plan for the construction. We've already
3 had early discussions with some contractors
4 across the state. The national contractors who
5 we are bringing in to oversee this Project are
6 firmly committed to that "New Hampshire first"
7 approach. And, they're actually very excited
8 about it. They have been impressed by what's
9 available here in New Hampshire. And, you
10 think about that up in the North Country, it's
11 a game-changing set of opportunities for some
12 of these small contractors.

13 [Audience interruption.]

14 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: We're
15 almost done with the questions.

16 [Audience interruption.]

17 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Yes.
18 I'm going through every single question, even
19 if they're repetitive, because I want folks to
20 be, if they want to be heard, to be heard.

21 The next question is for the SEC:
22 "Earlier tonight, in response to someone in the
23 audience, Mr. Quinlan stated that "our land
24 rights have been secured" and alluded to an SEC

1 ruling supporting his statement. Has the SEC,
2 in fact, ruled that Northern Pass has secured
3 all of the property rights that it needs,
4 including, for example, that the Northern Pass
5 will not impermissibly overburden any existing
6 easements?"

7 The answer to that question from the
8 SEC is "no". The only determination that the
9 Site Evaluation Committee has made so far is
10 that the Application contained sufficient
11 information for the process to go forward. No
12 other determinations have been made by the
13 Committee, other than the dates that these
14 meetings would be scheduled.

15 Next question has to do with historic
16 resources: "There are many treasuries along
17 the impacted area: Views, vistas, pieces of
18 history, and even undiscovered archeological
19 relics. How will any impact to historic
20 resources be located and protected?"

21 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. I'm going to
22 introduce Cherilyn Widell.

23 MS. WIDELL: Thank you for your
24 question. Northern Pass has completed a

1 Historic Property Assessment Report, which is
2 posted on our website. It includes a database
3 of 1,284 properties along in what is called the
4 "area of potential effect", a mile on either
5 side. Of those, using the National Park
6 Service criteria for the National Register
7 eligibility potential, 192 -- 4 -- excuse me,
8 194 properties were identified in throughout
9 the 29 cities and towns that the line goes
10 through.

11 I would encourage you, if you have a
12 concern about a particular property or
13 community, to look at that database and look at
14 those forms and the evaluation that has been
15 completed.

16 MR. QUINLAN: Lee Carbonneau.

17 MS. CARBONNEAU: Lee Carbonneau, with
18 Normandeau Associates. The question also
19 referred to "archeological resources", which
20 are below -- the below-ground resources. So,
21 those have been studied by two separate
22 consultants. There's consultants that were
23 hired by the Department of Energy, as well as
24 consultants that are working directly for

1 Northern Pass.

2 Each of those consultants has
3 completed a Phase IA Report, which involves
4 researching existing information and doing a
5 walk-down of the right-of-way, identifying
6 areas of potential archeological sensitivity.

7 In addition to that, the next step of
8 that is, in those areas of sensitivity,
9 additional field research is done, including
10 digging test pits, this is called the "Phase
11 IB" phase of the Project. That is underway. I
12 am not sure what percentage of that is done,
13 but there's been quite a bit of that work
14 already completed. And, that work is ongoing.

15 There's a Memorandum of Understanding
16 with the Division of Historical Resources that
17 sets up timeframes and responsibilities for
18 completing that work. Once that work is done,
19 then Phase II may be necessary, that's
20 additional survey and research to the
21 underground resources. This process is in
22 compliance with the Section 106 requirements of
23 the National Historic Preservation Act. And,
24 the consultation process and the research

1 process is ongoing.

2 MR. QUINLAN: Thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: We have
4 three more questions -- or, three more sheets,
5 I should say.

6 The next one, the first question is:
7 "Is Northern Pass applying or actively seeking
8 State of New Hampshire status as a public
9 utility company?"

10 And, there are two other questions:
11 "Will Eversource guarantee taxes to local
12 towns? And, will Eversource guarantee electric
13 rate reduction?" I assume they mean "by this
14 Project".

15 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, I'll take the
16 second two first. You know, as I said earlier,
17 our estimate as to what this Project is going
18 to do to the wholesale price of electricity in
19 New England and in New Hampshire is based on a
20 whole range of assumptions. You know, when do
21 power plants retire? What's added back? Many
22 things are kind of, I'll say, beyond our
23 control. It's our experts' best estimates of
24 what the future holds. Whether things develop

1 exactly like that, you know -- you know,
2 unlikely it will. It could be better or it
3 could be worse.

4 You know, you could have a
5 catastrophic event that wipes out the natural
6 gas inventory in this country, and, as I said
7 earlier, we're 50 percent dependent on natural
8 gas. So, what happens if fracking is banned?
9 Okay? Or, my point being, that will have a
10 very dramatic effect on electric rates. And,
11 there's no one project or series of projects
12 that is going to deliver the guarantee you're
13 referring to. So, it's impossible to respond.
14 What was the second question again?

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Well,
16 the first question, you answered the second --
17 well, there was one about local taxes. "Will
18 you guarantee taxes to local towns?"

19 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, you know, I
20 showed you the range of taxes earlier today.
21 There are assumptions underlying that range.
22 As we move closer to final project design and
23 know exactly what our investments are in each
24 state, we do expect to have follow-on

1 conversations with the municipalities around
2 the methodology for taxing our investment, as
3 well as, in essence, establishing a tax floor,
4 meaning the taxable asset in the town would be
5 no less than "X". And, it's generally our net
6 book value minus -- well, it's our net book
7 value, which is the asset value minus the
8 depreciation. So, assuming towns are
9 comfortable with that industry-accepted
10 methodology, our intention is to pledge to
11 those amounts.

12 [Audience interruption.]

13 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
14 question is: "Is Northern Pass applying for or
15 actively seeking State of New Hampshire status
16 as a public utility company?"

17 MR. QUINLAN: Mr. Muntz.

18 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. Northern Utilities
19 will seek status as a public utility in New
20 Hampshire. It's required to own transmission
21 assets.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
23 question is: "Why was "Northern Pass" chosen
24 as the name for this 192-mile project, if not

1 to imply that it only affects the northern
2 portion of New Hampshire, when, in fact, it
3 goes down the entire length of the state, from
4 the Great North Woods and the White Mountains,
5 into the Lakes Region, and through the
6 Merrimack Valley?"

7 MR. JOHNSON: This is going back a
8 while. I'm not exactly sure what the genesis
9 was. This came out of our Communications
10 Department.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: So, you
12 don't know?

13 MR. JOHNSON: No. No, implication of
14 what the name means.

15 MR. QUINLAN: And, I would -- I don't
16 believe it meant to imply that this was solely,
17 you know, a project that was built in the North
18 Country. I don't think that was the intention.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
20 We're going to move into the statement part of
21 our proceeding. There is one more question.
22 It's not really a question. So, I saved it for
23 last, so it can be the first statement. The
24 person did not identify themselves.

1 But their statement says: "Northern
2 Pass, I found your monopole design offensive to
3 my religious beliefs. Your design looks like a
4 crucifix. Bury your entire transmission
5 route."

6 Okay. We're going to take a
7 five-minute break, so everybody can stretch,
8 before we go into taking public statements and
9 comments.

10 If anybody wants to make a public
11 statement or comment, and has not yet turned in
12 their yellow card, please do so.

13 (Recess taken at 8:42 p.m. and the public
14 information session resumed at 8:45 p.m.)

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Can
16 everybody please return to their seats and
17 we'll get going. Take your seats. We have
18 about 20 people who wish to make public
19 statements. Again, I'm going to remind you
20 that this is not time for questions. It's time
21 for you to give us your opinions and your
22 statements. And what I'm going to do is call
23 three folks at a time. If you'd just come up
24 to the podium there, that way we'll waste less

1 time in between folks as they come up. And the
2 first person that we're going to call is Garth
3 Woolsey, followed by Pat Hoertdoerfer.

4 MS. HOERTDOERFER: I pass.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Pass?
6 Okay. Thank you, ma'am.

7 The next person will be Susan Seitz,
8 and then followed by Ron Charland. And I
9 apologize if I don't pronounce people's name
10 correctly. I'll do the very best that I can.

11 MR. WOOLSEY: Hello.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
13 you, sir. Oh, by the way, we're going to ask
14 that you limit your comments to three minutes.
15 I'm not going to stop you right at three
16 minutes, but please be respectful of the other
17 folks who wish to speak. Thank you.

18 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

19 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Oh, I'm
20 sorry. And one more announcement. Tell us
21 your name, spell your name. And if you have a
22 written statement that you're going to read
23 from, please provide it to the court reporters
24 afterwards. It will be very helpful to assure

1 that they get what you say accurately.

2 With that, Mr. Woolsey.

3 MR. WOOLSEY: Hello. Garth Woolsey.

4 I'm from New Hampton. Garth, G-A-R-T-H,
5 W-O-O-L-S-E-Y. I have a statement from the
6 Select Board of New Hampton that could not be
7 here tonight, so they asked me to represent
8 them.

9 I'd like to make a brief comment as a
10 resident of the town because that will probably
11 roll right into this statement rather nicely.
12 The gentleman that's been speaking on behalf of
13 Northern Pass, he's I think in the back of the
14 room right now, as I don't see him, but I just
15 want to comment, he's just done a fantastic job
16 tonight. The presentation he's displayed, very
17 well put together. I thought it a little
18 interesting when he got to the section, kind of
19 caught my eye about the anticipated revenues
20 the Town of New Hampton could possibly see
21 through tax assessment. I think it was in the
22 range of \$250,000 to \$400,000 a year. And he
23 made a comment that that fit nicely into the
24 mold of what the town would like to see and

1 would be happy to receive through this project.

2 And it wasn't planned, but I was,
3 again, last-minute standee for the Select
4 Board, as they have prior commitments to a
5 budget hearing tonight. They did give me a
6 statement to read on their behalf, which I'll
7 read.

8 "Statement on behalf of the Select
9 Board for the Town of New Hampton:
10 Unfortunately, this meeting conflicts with the
11 previously scheduled and posted 2016 budget
12 hearing for the Town of New Hampton. However,
13 we did not wish for our absence tonight to be
14 misinterpreted as an endorsement of the
15 Northern Pass Project as it was currently
16 proposed. Ever since its initial unveiling,
17 the board of selectmen and the residents of New
18 Hampton have been and remain opposed to the use
19 of above-ground transmission lines for the
20 Northern Pass. Our previously stated
21 objections and observations still stand. We
22 remain steadfast in our call for the Project,
23 if constructed, to be buried in its entirety.
24 A position supported by more than 600

1 signatures to a petition we are currently
2 circulating in town for submission at the
3 Department of Energy hearings. The Town
4 intends to use its intervenor status at the SEC
5 proceedings to add its voice to those of the
6 other affected communities calling for the full
7 burial of the project. 'bury it all, or don't
8 build it at all.'" Signed by the three
9 selectmen Town of New Hampton.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
11 you, sir.

12 MR. WOOLSEY: I'm not done.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Oh,
14 okay.

15 MR. WOOLSEY: I got time left.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: You
17 still have time, yes.

18 MR. WOOLSEY: I'm going to jump back
19 to my resident status. I found it interesting,
20 the statements made by, again, the gentleman in
21 the presentation, that the towns would
22 gratefully accept this money, would be glad.
23 The inference that I [sic] made was that the
24 town would be glad for this project to go

1 through because of the money that they
2 received. I don't think that's the case. I
3 think the town will put their belief in the
4 State of New Hampshire, the nature of New
5 Hampshire, scenic New Hampshire, over money.
6 I'm not sure Northern Pass feels that same way.
7 Please bury it.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
9 you, sir. If you could provide that statement
10 to the court reporter.

11 Ms. Seitz?

12 MS. SEITZ: Seitz. That's okay. No
13 one can say it. Susan Seitz, S-E-I-T-Z. And
14 I'm from Deerfield.

15 You're saying that \$80 million
16 savings in electric costs to New Hampshire. At
17 the meeting in Deerfield, you said, at the
18 most, we would save 5 percent on our electric
19 bills. Since it was stated here that we're
20 50 percent above the average of the United
21 States, how is this supposed to benefit us?
22 Five percent on my electric bill? I'm not even
23 going to notice it. You say we will see stable
24 prices, but we'll be at the mercy of Canada.

1 Once this line is built, they know we will have
2 to buy electricity from them. It gives them no
3 incentive to keep the prices fair, and it gives
4 them no incentive to send electricity. When
5 the cold weather hits and they need extra
6 electricity, we [sic] have no incentive to get
7 it for us. Most people I've noticed who attend
8 these meetings and that are in support of
9 Northern Pass are the people that are going to
10 benefit job-wise from Northern Pass. They
11 don't live in the area of Northern Pass. They
12 are not going to get anything out of this.

13 I live in Deerfield. What this
14 project means to me is that each time I leave
15 my house, I will be impacted by your project.
16 If I go north, I go south or east out of my
17 road, I will be impacted. I live -- I drive an
18 extra half-hour every day to live in the
19 country. My favorite view in Deerfield is when
20 I come in from Candia, I turn the sharp right
21 into town, and I look to the left and I see the
22 rolling hills with the little white churches.
23 And from now on, I'm going to see the power
24 lines behind them. You can't tell me that that

1 isn't going to affect how I feel about my town.
2 You can't tell me how it's going to affect
3 people wanting to live in my town.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
5 you. Next speaker was Ron Charland.

6 MR. CHARLAND: Yes, Ron Charland. I
7 lived in Laconia for 10 years back in the '60s.

8 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

9 MR. CHARLAND: C-H-A-R-L-A-N-D.

10 But now I also live in Deerfield.
11 That's why I came, because the impact of the
12 towers on the views and so forth through the
13 town of Deerfield would be similar to putting a
14 120-, 150-foot tower line through Gilford
15 Village. That's about the size of Deerfield,
16 around 4400 population. We already have a
17 double line that crosses the village about
18 halfway between the village, and which were
19 upgraded also. Poles were increased six feet,
20 probably, this past year. I don't know for
21 what reason. But the impact for the views and
22 the sight by the residents I believe would just
23 be disappointing and very critical, because
24 even the property owners that are on the power

1 line now -- I went to other meetings, and there
2 was one where a young couple wanted to --
3 decided to put their house up for sale which
4 were on the power line as it is. And they were
5 having another child and they needed a bigger
6 house. They put the house up for sale and
7 never could sell it because of the word that
8 Northern Pass was going to be putting up these
9 major towers along the line. Instead of
10 \$150,000, the realtors told them they couldn't
11 even get \$75,000 for it. So, this business of
12 creating income to the residents of New
13 Hampshire -- excuse me. I have a bad cold.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: I
15 sympathize.

16 MR. CHARLAND: Thinking that New
17 Hampshire's going to make money from this power
18 project is not accurate because the power lines
19 would diminish the values of thousands of
20 properties along the entire route. If you have
21 a \$150,000 house, it's now worth 75,000, or
22 maybe you can't sell it. If you have a
23 \$400,000 house and this power line goes up next
24 to it, it's going to be worth \$200,000, if you

1 can sell it. So, it's by far very detrimental
2 to the views. And after all, the other factor
3 is that we are a tourist state.

4 The first view that our tourists are
5 going to get is going to be in northern
6 Concord. The power line is going to cross the
7 road, 93, around Canterbury, I believe, and
8 going to see it all the way up through to the
9 entrance to the Lakes Region. Laconia
10 especially has always depended on tourism. One
11 of the most important features of the business
12 here in the Lakes Region is tourism. And
13 having this scar of towers down the middle of
14 our chest for the entire state is just
15 absolutely not acceptable. And if it
16 eventually does get built, it should be
17 completely buried.

18 And there is announcements now -- it
19 was in the paper this past week -- that this
20 other firm is going to build one from the
21 Canadian border right down through Lake
22 Champlain and then bury it to the state of
23 Massachusetts. And they also mentioned in the
24 article that they had seven sources of power

1 available to them as yet. And if Northern Pass
2 is not built, then Hydro Quebec will probably
3 want to sell theirs to them as well. So I
4 think the most important thing is for us to
5 choose the source that is buried, not with the
6 towers down the middle of New Hampshire.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
8 you, sir.

9 The next three speakers will be
10 Manfred Hoertdoerfer, Claude Levesque and
11 Gretchen Draper.

12 Please spell your name, sir.

13 MR. HOERTDOERFER: My name is Manfred
14 Hoertdoerfer, spelled M-A-N-F-R-E-D,
15 H-O-E-R-T-D-O-E-R-F-E-R. I'm residing in New
16 Hampshire. And I'm a engineer by profession,
17 former profession. I'm now retired, so... And
18 I studied a little bit --

19 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

20 MR. HOERTDOERFER: I studied somewhat
21 from the perspective of engineer. And I found
22 that in New Hampton we have total of 62 towers.
23 And they're talking about an average height of
24 about 85 feet or something like this. Five of

1 them are 110 to 125 feet, 3 between 100 and
2 105, 15 between 90 and 95. That's already more
3 than a third. It's way above average. Then
4 you have another 23, 80 to 85, which are above
5 average. So, we'd really get big towers
6 galore. In addition, some of the existing pole
7 structures which are 55 feet are also replaced,
8 and they're replaced with higher towers which
9 are nine -- there's a total of 16 of them; 9
10 between 100 and 125 feet. So, not only now you
11 have the new towers going way up here, the old
12 ones next to them going up just the same, and
13 just as high in some places.

14 When you also look at what's going on
15 in New Hampshire, you have three crossings
16 across the Pemigewasset. And they showed a
17 beautiful picture here of one of the crossings,
18 which I get to a little later in terms of what
19 they show and what the reality is. We have two
20 crossings across the interstate. And I assume
21 most --

22 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

23 MR. HOERTDOERFER: -- have been
24 driving up into the White Mountains at some

1 point. And as you drive through the Lakes
2 Region through the hills, starting to open up,
3 it really gets kind of the pre-hills to the
4 White Mountains, and it's pretty and it's nice.
5 And now we have two crossings on the Interstate
6 90[sic] with towers that are up to 125 feet
7 tall. We have two crossings over the State
8 Highway 132. We have four crossings on the
9 local residential roads where, as typical in
10 New Hampshire, there are houses along...
11 [inaudible].

12 So, Northern Pass has a series of one
13 set of pictures for all what's going on in New
14 Hampshire that reflect what is New Hampshire,
15 and that's the one they showed you. They show
16 it -- unfortunately, I'm not as well endowed as
17 Northern Pass to be able to put things on the
18 screen -- and I hope I could do that. I will
19 at some point maybe. Show you the condition
20 before that you've seen here, and then they
21 show you the one after. Mind you, that doesn't
22 look all that bad because that tower on the
23 other side is only 65 feet tall, and it's in
24 Bridgewater. And it's shorter because there's

1 a little hill over which it goes. And you can
2 see over here [indicating] the grade is lower
3 on the New Hampton side. Now, if you look at
4 this from the New Hampton side, right now it
5 looks like this [indicating]. Looks pretty
6 nice. Poles are below the tree line and along
7 the river. It's not too bad. Looks pretty
8 good. We used to that. And we can live with
9 that. We lived with it for a long time. The
10 new towers I can estimate as good as I can. I
11 don't have the support and money to do real
12 fancy things. I don't know if you can see it.
13 These black things are the proposed lines being
14 that high, 110 feet at this location.

15 I'm saying this just to point out in
16 terms of how they try to pick their spots and
17 what to show us. And reality will look a hell
18 of a lot different, a hell of a lot. And in
19 addition to that, you know, that is a pretty
20 scenic area. First of all, it looks already on
21 the highways when you drive through, just like
22 it was described by previous people here. But
23 we also have the river. And there is
24 beautiful, quiet water upstream up behind the

1 dam where you can go out kayaking and canoe.
2 And there's eagles and ospreys and all these
3 things out there. My wife and I, we live off
4 the river. We are out there all the time.

5 In addition to what I just remind
6 myself is when we're down there, as we look
7 down to the river from the side where New
8 Hampton is, there's another nine towers there
9 in Bristol on the other side which all are
10 going to pop up, and they are going to be part
11 of the vista on a good stretch of the road that
12 goes between New Hampton and Bristol on the New
13 Hampton side for all those people. It affects
14 our whole atmosphere that we enjoy. Affects
15 our view. Will affect our house prices, house
16 value if I ever want to sell it --

17 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Sir, I'm
18 going to have to ask you to wrap it up.

19 MR. HOERTDOERFER: I have a lot to --
20 I have a lot to say, and it's important.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Well,
22 you've already --

23 MR. HOERTDOERFER: It goes to --

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: -- gone

1 five minutes, sir.

2 MR. HOERTDOERFER: It goes to -- I'm
3 not finished yet. It goes to the value and the
4 selective presentation and what they provide.
5 And for that reason, I think it's relatively
6 easy, at least for New Hampton, to bury from
7 Plymouth all the way down past Franklin,
8 swinging over and go down on 25 and go down
9 Route 3 and bury it from New Hampton, because
10 we, in New Hampton, we hit the jackpot.
11 There's no place on the entire route that has
12 as many, and as many tall towers right out but
13 not in the woods. And we feel like we're the
14 doormat of the whole project. And some --

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Please
16 wrap it up, sir.

17 MR. HOERTDOERFER: Yeah, I will wrap
18 it up. As I went through this, I was trying to
19 figure out how am I going to paint that tower
20 in and what it's really look like. And I found
21 these details that they have in their -- and
22 that's all I could find. And the only thing
23 they have is the dimension of height, nothing
24 else. Except in this picture, then all of a

1 sudden I saw more... [inaudible] it's only
2 65 feet tall, probably a lot fatter than what
3 they show in all the other ones. So I say
4 okay. Maybe one pole from the picture that
5 they show on the Bristol view would have a
6 tapered face like this. The one they show on
7 all the diagrams looks like this. There's a
8 big difference. So which one are they going to
9 provide? If you leave it to them, down the
10 road they're going to get even fatter, because
11 fatter with thinner metal, smaller welding
12 requirements, it's going to be cheaper. So
13 they're showing us this already. In reality,
14 it's maybe going to be that. And it's maybe
15 going to be even twice that fat.

16 So I think as part of this submittal,
17 I have a list in my -- I have already
18 submitted. They should provide all the
19 dimensions for the widths of the pole, top and
20 bottom, for all the cross arms, and the
21 thickness of the transmission line, which is
22 kind of shown like a thin line. And it's going
23 to be a lot bigger. And if it has a support
24 wire over the top of it, it looks even twice as

1 big. The pictures don't show that. How
2 much --

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Sir,
4 you've been speaking for nine minutes. That's
5 three times the amount that we -- if you have
6 more to say, I'll call you back at the end --

7 MR. HOERTDOERFER: So you guys --

8 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: I will
9 call you back --

10 MR. HOERTDOERFER: -- heard about
11 these things?

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Sir --

13 MR. HOERTDOERFER: Okay.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: --
15 please respect the other folks who wish to
16 speak.

17 Mr. Levesque.

18 MR. LEVESQUE: Claude Levesque,
19 C-L-A-U-D-E, L-E-V-E-S-Q-U-E. Well, I am in
20 favor of the Northern Pass. With the closing
21 of all these power plants, there is a need for
22 renewed energy. Hydro is the way to go. Being
23 a clean energy, we will be cutting -- on smog,
24 hopefully eliminating acid rain affecting --

1 effects of that, acid pollution on our
2 waterways, to the extent that fish consumption
3 is restricted. Also, it affects the
4 consumption of big game liver.

5 Overhead versus underground. Expense
6 of installing and repairs versus underground.
7 Troubleshooting overhead can be done faster
8 with visual inspection versus underground
9 troubleshooting. Underground is usually done
10 by process of elimination, thus taking longer
11 to find. By being guaranteed 10 percent of our
12 incoming power, we should hope that if there
13 ever is a brown-out, that this 10 percent is --
14 if there's a brown-out in the Northeast, that
15 we are guaranteed this 10 percent, thus having
16 power while everybody else is underground.

17 As far as tourism, I started in the
18 power line construction in the -- when the
19 first 345KV lines were built in the late '60s
20 and '70s. Although a few problems happened
21 while being built, controversy seemed to have
22 died. Seabrook was a real controversy from the
23 onset. Today, now, if you go to Hampton
24 Beach -- in the early '70s you can go down

1 there at noon and find a parking space. Well,
2 today, if you're not there by 9:00, you might
3 as well go home. All you go to do is just turn
4 around and look in the back of you, and there's
5 the dome just sitting out there. So as far as
6 these structures being an obstruction to
7 tourism, I think it's a hogwash. People, after
8 a while, accept it, and life goes on. Thank
9 you. Claude Levesque.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
11 you, sir.

12 Gretchen Draper.

13 MS. DRAPER: Do we also need to say
14 where we're from? 'Cause I didn't catch where
15 this gentleman lived.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: I think
17 Mr. Levesque said that he was from --

18 MR. LEVESQUE: Deerfield.

19 MS. DRAPER: Deerfield. Okay. Thank
20 you.

21 Yes, I'm Gretchen Draper. That's
22 G-R-E-T-C-H-E-N, D-R-A-P-E-R. I live in the
23 famous New Hampton. I've been here for five
24 years doing these kinds of talks. And tonight,

1 I found it one of the most discouraging nights
2 I've been here, because I'm suddenly realizing
3 how many new people are associated with
4 Eversource, you know, our famous P-N -- Public
5 Service. So we have people here who haven't --
6 don't have that five-year history. And what
7 happens now is that I really have lost all
8 credibility in Northern Pass transmission
9 lines. I've been opposed to this project.
10 Nothing here I've heard tonight has changed me
11 one iota. From my five years of experience, I
12 think that the Project -- the amended project
13 that's been put forth does not respond to any
14 of the testimonies, the years I've stood in
15 halls with people and listened to their
16 stories, and the opposition has been
17 overwhelming. And here we are now looking
18 forward to the SEC taking up this project.
19 Because in the past, and even up to now, that
20 public opinion has been consistently condemning
21 this project.

22 And, you know, also, the credibility
23 part, you know, I wonder how you expect us to
24 believe anything you tell us. Anything. You

1 know, the fact that you can pull out a
2 statistic that says, you know, "Tourists will
3 be fine with these" doesn't go along with me.
4 And I'm also -- I'm a testing specialist. I
5 know all about statistics. And I'm really sick
6 of hearing these kinds of testimonies or data
7 that comes out, and it's laughable. And
8 throughout this, you know, there's just been so
9 much misinformation, deception.

10 I've heard about how careful you're
11 all going to be with the wetlands. I go home.
12 I drive down on Bristol Road, and there's a big
13 Eversource truck parked in the middle of the
14 wetlands. So I'm much more -- I'm not going to
15 listen to the words as much as I'm going to
16 look at what happens.

17 Now, a week ago, January 7th, there's
18 an article in the Manchester Union Leader that
19 reported on another attempt, you know, of
20 Northern Pass, early on perhaps, but still
21 trying to manipulate the public. And so the
22 headline was "Northern Pass ads result in
23 \$540,000 penalty for radio station." So, from
24 May to October 2011, a country radio station

1 ran 178 commercial announcements supporting
2 Northern Pass, but they neglected to identify
3 who paid for these ads, which of course was
4 Northern Pass. Now, the radio station got
5 fined. I'm waiting to see if Northern Pass
6 will get anything. Probably not. But what I
7 don't understand is why that staff at Northern
8 Pass didn't realize the omission. Of course
9 they're listening. Of course they're checking
10 to make sure all those ads are on. So if they
11 did miss it, I ask, what does that say about
12 the attention to detail and the overall
13 competence that this project is going to need
14 to make all of their billion-dollar line go
15 from Pittsburgh down to Deerfield? And I want
16 to know that there's somebody who's going to be
17 paying attention to the details. And I wish
18 that the New Hampshire Public Utilities
19 Commission would take incidents like this into
20 account when the board is faced with, you know,
21 shall we make them a public utility of New
22 Hampshire.

23 On October 19th, 2015, I attended a
24 Northern Pass presentation to the Selectmen of

1 the Town of New Hampton, where I live.
2 Forty-eight people showed up. We had, like,
3 two hours' notice that this was going to
4 happen. All 48 opposed this plan. Now,
5 because it wasn't the right kind of meeting,
6 the tally -- there were no notes taken and the
7 tally wasn't added. So I just wanted to make
8 sure that that was put here. And the other
9 part is, you know, half the people have left --
10 well, more than half. But I'm always
11 interested to see how many people show up at
12 these meetings, oppose the Project, and we
13 don't seem to be heard. And that -- I just
14 want to say my question back to you. So why
15 should I believe anything you're going to tell
16 me from now until you try to get these poles
17 up?

18 And just for another fact, when I
19 look out my living room window, I'm going to
20 see two poles. And I really thank this
21 gentleman for bringing the reality in, that
22 these poles are not going to be 85 feet tall.
23 They're going to go up -- in front of me
24 they're going to be 95 feet. And that's the

1 information I got from your very own, you know,
2 engineers. So I'm very disappointed. My [sic]
3 credibility has not improved. And I'll be at
4 the next meeting. Thank you.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
6 you, ma'am. The next three speakers will be
7 Barry Draper, Russ Dumais and Rick Vanderpoll.

8 Mr. Draper.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He's coming.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: If the
11 other two could come up as well, that way we
12 can avoid delay between speakers. Mr. Russ
13 Dumais and Rick Vandepoll.

14 MR. DRAPER: Hello. So I'm Barry
15 Draper. I live in New Hampton. Did you get
16 how to spell my name? Barry Draper.

17 B-A-R-R-Y, D-R-A-P-E-R. I'm been on the record
18 before. I live in New Hampton. I live with
19 that wonderful woman that just spoke.

20 It was five years ago -- and I thank
21 her. It was five years ago when I stated my
22 concerns for the species that would be impacted
23 by the Northern Pass right-of-way. I failed to
24 mention myself as one of those species. I

1 ended up in the Plymouth Hospital that night in
2 the emergency room. Since then, I have
3 observed biologists hired by Eversource
4 painstakingly flagging the existing vernal
5 pools and wetlands on the right-of-way in my
6 area. Not long afterwards, the massive
7 brontosaurus smashed their way right through
8 these existing flagged areas. Eversource's
9 actions reflect their level of concern:
10 Non-existent. No more lies.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
12 you, sir.

13 Actually, Representative Dumais.
14 Very sorry. I didn't see that on here.

15 MR. DUMAIS: My name is Russ Dumais.
16 I'm from Gilford. I represent District 2 in
17 Gilford and Meredith.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Can you
19 just spell your last name for our court
20 reporter?

21 MR. DUMAIS: D-U-M-A-I-S.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
23 you.

24 MR. DUMAIS: I'm going to be very

1 brief. New Hampshire has the highest electric
2 costs in the country. You know, I'd like to
3 support this project, but I just don't
4 understand why you're not looking at the
5 alternative of burying. You talked about the
6 one in Vermont. There's another one in Maine I
7 understand that's being buried. You'd solve
8 all your problems. You'd spend a lot more
9 money, but you'd be heroes. You'd provide us
10 with cheaper electricity, and you wouldn't
11 deface the environment. After Seabrook, Public
12 Service went bankrupt. We got a Scrubber issue
13 in Bow. They projected the cost to be
14 \$250 million; it's \$457 million. And we're
15 going to have some issues with recovery costs
16 and so on. I'm sure there's going to be some
17 legal proceedings as a result of that, and it's
18 probably going to affect our rates and drive
19 our rates higher.

20 Do the right thing. Bury the cable
21 or forget about it. Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
23 you, sir.

24 Mr. Vandepoll. And if you can

1 remember to spell your last name, sir.

2 MR. VANDEPOLL: No problem. Rick
3 Vandepoll, V-A-N-D-E-P-O-L-L. Thank you very
4 much.

5 I live in Sandwich, New Hampshire, a
6 former resident of New Hampton. And my message
7 will be very simple and short as well: Bury
8 the line. I don't see how this is, you know,
9 against the wishes of the Company to provide
10 electric energy to the region. This is not an
11 insurmountable task for you to do. The scenic
12 costs of these transmission poles alone will
13 have long-term effects not just on the
14 wildlife, which is, as an environmental
15 biologist, what I try to represent, but as you
16 heard an earlier gentleman say, it will have
17 irreparable effects on the value of real estate
18 that will be affected, not just the people that
19 live right next to door to it, but even miles
20 away. You will avoid the issues of long-eared
21 bats that are going to present themselves with
22 altering fly-aways along these transmission
23 routes if you have poles. You will avoid a lot
24 of those similar types of aerial wildlife

1 species that are of concern running into poles.
2 If you want to accommodate ospreys, you can
3 build poles next door to the transmission line
4 and build nest platforms for them. There is
5 really no -- so far, I haven't heard any
6 concerns about ice storms and the kind of
7 damage that may result from increased spans,
8 higher poles and higher risks to -- at least in
9 my lifetime, 1998, I seem to recall some rather
10 twisted metal falling across the plains of
11 Quebec from that event, not to mention the
12 December 2008 ice storm. So you would avoid
13 those issues as well. So, if nothing else --
14 and I'm not sure if I heard you correctly
15 before about the cost of burying the line
16 versus establishing the towers on the remaining
17 portions. But it appears to me that overall
18 you would save yourself a lot of time in
19 testimony for all of us if you would just bury
20 the line. So, respectfully, I will submit that
21 as my testimony tonight. Thank you very much.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
23 you, sir. Our next three speakers are Bill
24 Saunders; S. Sakemp, S-A-K-E-M-P; and Mr. or

1 Ms. Whitta [sic] from Whitefield, New
2 Hampshire. Mr. Saunders.

3 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, thank you. Bill
4 Saunders, S-A-U-N-D-E-R-S. I'm an IBEW lineman
5 and -- Barrington New Hampshire.

6 The cost of electricity in New
7 Hampshire is very high, and I think something
8 has to be done. And, you know, I've been on
9 some of these smaller projects where, you know,
10 construction workers have been there living and
11 spending money, and it's appreciated. It's
12 never a controversy. It's always supported.
13 And I think it's a good thing for everybody.
14 And this whole burying thing just isn't --
15 doesn't make sense. So, thank you.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
17 you, sir.

18 MS. SAKEMP: Sakemp is S-A-K-E-M-P,
19 and I'm from Sanbornton.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Did you
21 want to tell the court reporter your first
22 name?

23 MS. SAKEMP: S.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. SAKEMP: I'm part Native
3 American, and it hurts me that my homeland
4 could be destroyed forever by another country
5 for a few dollars, and New York City being
6 their goal. We hear every day from Washington
7 that we should not rely on foreign power. What
8 do you call this? New Hampshire already
9 exports electricity already. We do not need
10 this destruction to our beautiful state by
11 Hydro Quebec and Eversource can get -- to get
12 to New York City. I mean, that's their goal.
13 If 2,000-plus skyscraping towers with
14 additional future plans mapped to have many
15 tributaries off the main line from Canada, New
16 Hampshire will be a grid pattern of towers
17 going every which way, Walpole, Ossipee and so
18 on. New Hampshire will also be an easy target
19 for terrorists here and abroad. Imagine a
20 terrorist pretending and dressing like a hiker,
21 or even a hunter. You wouldn't give it a
22 second thought. One or many terrorists could
23 go out and set up numerous bombs on many of the
24 2,000-plus towers to be detonated all at once

1 at a later date, destroying forever New
2 Hampshire beauty, when the real goal is
3 knocking out power to New York City, Wall
4 Street. We know what 9/11 did to the country
5 as a whole.

6 And the 30 -- I heard that
7 \$30 million was to be donated to the state, and
8 that comes out to \$25 per person. I'll send
9 the State of New Hampshire \$25 to protect the
10 beauty. And my final thing is: Never source
11 the Northern Pass in any way. Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Mr. or
13 Ms. Whitta [sic] from Whitefield?

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sanbornton.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: No, not
16 you, ma'am. The next speaker. I can't read
17 the writing. Looks like W-I-T-T-A.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sure. [inaudible]

19 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Come on
20 up. And when you get to the microphone, spell
21 your name for us again, okay.

22 MR. WOTTON: Hello, I'm Luke Wotton,
23 W-O-T-T-O-N. Kind of like cotton.

24 And my question is directly -- no, I

1 mean, I hear all you guys talking about, you
2 know, the view impact, view impact. I mean,
3 it's kind of selfish. Like the amount of
4 damage they are doing in Hydro Quebec to the
5 Native Canadians, they are literally, like,
6 murdering them, taking away their land. And
7 they just don't give a crap. I mean, they
8 started building these dams back in the '70s.
9 And then, when they were trying to build the
10 Great Whale, which was about the size and
11 square foot of New Hampshire, the Great Whale,
12 Stage 4 of Hydro Quebec, the UN actually had to
13 step in and say, "Do not build this dam until
14 you guys... [inaudible]" And then I found out
15 where you guys are building the power lines
16 underground. You guys are having, like, six,
17 tunnels so that can fit electricity for them,
18 and you guys are only turning on one. So you
19 guys have already planned five more to be built
20 on. And something else to go on top of that
21 is, if the whole thing isn't being buried -- I
22 mean, I'm against it all -- but you're going to
23 have to build bigger towers to accommodate the
24 new lines. That's all. Thank you.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
2 you, sir.

3 Next three speakers will be Ann
4 Hackl, Dawn Scribner and Taras Kucman.

5 MS. HACKL: Good evening. I'm Ann
6 Hackl, H-A-C-K-L, and I'm from Tuftonboro. And
7 I've heard a lot of talk this evening of very
8 specifics, of specific towns and specific
9 properties. And I've heard a lot of reference
10 to tourism experts and real estate experts and
11 historic and natural resource experts. And in
12 many cases, you know these reports, I think as
13 a layman, one can be a bit cautious in
14 accepting such expert testimony, because in
15 actual point of fact, it's really not that
16 impartial. And I think that the people of New
17 Hampshire, the average person knows whether --
18 if they have a grain of common sense, that you
19 simply can't march that number of towers down
20 the spine of New Hampshire and not have it have
21 an impact. New Hampshire is not just anywhere.
22 We're special. That's why people come here,
23 and that's why people live here. And I don't
24 think that there's any expert that can possibly

1 evaluate the impact that this will have on how
2 we view ourselves as a state and how others
3 view us. And I think Ray Burton had it right.
4 I think he was looking at the entirety of the
5 state. I'll feel it in Tuftonboro. We'll all
6 feel it. I think it needs to be buried. Thank
7 you.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
9 you.

10 Dawn Scribner.

11 MS. SCRIBER: Hi, my name is Dawn
12 Scribner, S-C-R-I-B-N-E-R, and I'm from
13 Gilford, New Hampshire.

14 First of all, I just want to say I am
15 very frustrated by the way the meeting went
16 today. A lot of the questions I thought were
17 planted. I'll just say that. I'm sorry.
18 That's how I feel. I'm sorry. I feel like I'm
19 beating a dead horse. Once again, I'm sorry.
20 I know your presentation is very nice and
21 everything, but this is the third time that
22 I've spoken before a panel regarding this
23 project. I spoke against the Project about two
24 to three years ago in Franklin, New Hampshire.

1 A lot has happened since that time. The only
2 thing that hasn't changed is the fact that
3 Northern Pass is still not listening to the
4 Granite Staters. The people have spoken up and
5 down the proposed route: The Project as
6 proposed is not acceptable. If the state
7 really thinks we need this project, then it
8 needs to be buried along state corridors. This
9 project will scar the New Hampshire landscape
10 for future generations. The beauty of New
11 Hampshire should not have to be compromised by
12 this project.

13 Again, as I mentioned before, I want
14 to applaud my parents, Diane and Donald
15 Bilodeau, who are here in the audience, and
16 other people who have given conservation
17 easements to protect their property. They gave
18 their 25-acre parcel to the Society for the
19 Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Their
20 piece of property is located on Route 145 in
21 Clarksville, New Hampshire. It's at the top of
22 a hill, and it has a beautiful, beautiful view.
23 People stop by there constantly at the top of
24 their driveway and take pictures. You can see

1 into Vermont. You can see into Canada. If
2 this project goes through, they are going to
3 see towers on both sides because it's going to
4 cross the road down below their piece of
5 property. So that view is just going to be
6 ruined. Other people have caved in and sold
7 their property to Northern Pass so that they
8 can put their tower lines up, which I think is
9 a shame. But anyway, I think they were bullied
10 into it. But who am I to say. The other thing
11 I wanted to say is that this view will be
12 impacted forever. It will be a permanent scar.
13 And I don't think it should go through.

14 In summary, I don't believe this
15 project is a benefit to New Hampshire. If it
16 needs to be done, then it needs to be buried so
17 New Hampshire can get some benefit, because as
18 we all know, most of the power from this
19 project will all go to the southern states. So
20 once again, I am asking you to listen to the
21 people of New Hampshire. We will not be
22 bullied into accepting this project unless you
23 can come to some compromise and bury it the
24 whole way. Thank you.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
2 you. Taras Kucman.

3 MR. KUCMAN: Yes. Good evening. My
4 name is Taras Kucman. I'm a resident of
5 Concord. And my name is spelled T-A-R-A-S,
6 last name Kucman, K-U-C-M-A-N. And I want to
7 thank the SEC for letting me have the
8 opportunity to speak here this evening.

9 Mr. Quinlan, can you hear me?

10 MR. QUINLAN: Yes.

11 MR. KUCMAN: Let the record show that
12 he confirmed that he's hearing me. I can only
13 pray that you're listening.

14 For the record, yes, I'm wearing
15 orange. And I am also pro growth, pro energy,
16 pro manufacturing, pro industry. I'm a former
17 manufacturing engineer, and I'm a former
18 officer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
19 I'm speaking here today just to say that
20 ForwardNH, as I've heard it, is a slap in the
21 face of every Granite Stater. Let me explain.

22 First of all, I can take a look at
23 the \$80 million that they have been touting as
24 being some kind of mana from heaven. There are

1 1.22 New Hampshire residents living here. And
2 if you can take the \$80 million and you divide
3 it among the 1.2 million, what you have is
4 about \$11 for each couple every month. Now, if
5 I bring my daughter into this, now we might get
6 to a point where we can get a pizza each month.
7 Not probably the best pizza that you can come
8 up with, but it's a pizza. You know, so I'm
9 giving this a little context. And I guess that
10 in part is what I'm here to do. But I didn't
11 come here to talk just about the pizza.

12 Cost is one of the things that really
13 drives me. When I listen to the presentations
14 that say \$3 million - to do what? To collect
15 the material, fabricate the tower, erect the
16 tower, pour the concrete. And then in Concord
17 I can say that it will be moving existing
18 towers on the western boundary and moving them
19 outward and then cutting about 40 to 50 feet of
20 trees. I can accept that. Let's all accept \$3
21 million on that account. What I have trouble
22 understanding is how you can say that burying
23 two cables in a 4-foot-by-5-foot ditch is \$8-
24 to \$13 million. Let me put some context into

1 this.

2 If Eversource were to hire 528
3 lawyers and pay each of them \$200 per billable
4 hour, line them up straight down 93 and tell
5 them, "Each of you has 10 feet of ground to dig
6 up, and you have two weeks to do it," there
7 goes your \$8 million. It's gone. But the
8 enterprising lawyer might say, "Hey, I'm going
9 to call two or three of my laborers and hand
10 them each a thousand bucks, and I'll walk away
11 with \$14,000 and I'll be done by lunch." So,
12 there you have it, \$8 million on time, under
13 budget. But I'm not Eversource. I wouldn't do
14 that. You know, I would probably hire, oh,
15 jeez, a corps of -- a platoon of engineers,
16 give them two backhoes, one at one end and one
17 at the other end and say go, and give them a
18 year. Give them a year to cut that mile of
19 trench for the two conductors. At the end of
20 that year, \$60,000, 40 people, 2 backhoes, \$2.7
21 million. That's what it would cost. But with
22 the backhoes, you'd get it done in two weeks.
23 So that comes out to about \$150,000. I know
24 I'm oversimplifying to a certain extent, but it

1 is difficult for me to envision how it's going
2 to cost \$8 million. Now, I've heard Mr.
3 Hodgdon say you can't go down the middle. But
4 I'm appealing to intellectual honesty here. If
5 it's going down the median, it's already
6 softened. It's not ledge. It's not rock. I
7 went to Easton, and I heard Mr. Hodgdon's
8 presentation. I drove up those roads up the
9 mountains and I said, "Who the hell would want
10 to dig in this?" Well, it comes out to, what,
11 9.4 miles, \$87 million? Well, there you have
12 it, \$8-, \$9 million per mile. You do have 93.
13 And whether it's the NH SEC -- the DOT that
14 says, "Well, you can't because" -- that's all
15 I've heard from Mr. Hodgdon. "DOT says you
16 can't because..." Because why? Make the
17 argument. You've got \$200 million that you've
18 already budgeted up there to say let's
19 incentivize. Let's do the right thing. Well,
20 have you spent any of that \$200 million yet?
21 I'll let that go.

22 But in any case, all I'm saying is
23 you look at these big numbers and it's like
24 listening to a Carl Sagan presentation,

1 80 million of these, so many billions of those.
2 We're not buying it. Your bosses down on the
3 Berlin Turnpike in Connecticut may have bought
4 ForwardNH. It's not selling here. I thank
5 you.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
7 you.

8 MR. KUCMAN: I yield the rest of my
9 time.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
11 three speakers, the final three, are Ruth
12 Niven, Mark Templeton and Senator Forrester.

13 MS. NIVEN: My name is Ruth Niven,
14 N-I-V-E-N. I'm from Franklin. I'm the person
15 who asked the question, "Why was the name
16 Northern Pass chosen for this 192-mile project
17 if not to imply that it only affected the North
18 Country?" I'm not surprised you didn't have an
19 answer. Eversource has reluctantly agreed to
20 reroute and bury portions of the transmission
21 line in order to protect the White Mountain
22 National Forest, the Appalachian Trail, oh, my
23 gosh, and Franconia Notch. And I think that's
24 good. But it's not good enough. Those of us

1 who live in the Lakes Region and in Merrimack
2 Valley believe that the beauty of the areas in
3 which we live may not be as dramatic as the
4 beauty of the Great North Woods or the White
5 Mountains, but there is a beauty in our hills,
6 our woods, our lakes, ponds, rivers and farms.
7 It is a more gentle kind of beauty, but it is
8 beauty nonetheless. And our towns and our
9 cities have cultural and historical
10 significance that needs to be preserved. I
11 believe that Eversource, Northeast Utilities
12 and Hydro Quebec should decide that the entire
13 state of New Hampshire has equal value, and
14 also decide that their need for profit is not
15 so great that they cannot preserve our state as
16 it is.

17 And I believe I know the answer as to
18 why the name "Northern Pass" was applied to the
19 project. I believe it was to lull the rest of
20 the state into a false sense of security. And
21 it has taken us five years to realize that we
22 need to yell and scream and stamp our feet and
23 provide our own witness to the fact that we do
24 not need or want the Northern Pass. But if we

1 must have it, it needs to be buried, the entire
2 length. Thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
4 you ma'am.

5 Mr. Templeton.

6 MR. TEMPLETON: Hi, I'm Mark
7 Templeton, T-E-M-P-L-E-T-O-N. I'm from New
8 Hampton. I know all you guys here for Northern
9 Pass and Eversource, you're all paid to be
10 here. And you guys put on an excellent
11 presentation. And that was a really, really,
12 really well-polished turd. I know with money
13 you can get all the experts you want to
14 generate the data that will make this turd
15 shine. And you guys spent a lot of money. And
16 the numbers you put up there were really
17 impressive, the \$200 million, the \$80 million.
18 They're just numbers. There's nothing
19 materialized. I know you guys are putting on
20 these wonderful presentations. You guys are
21 paying for this, the cookies and the coffee and
22 the tea. Fantastic. But I don't believe a
23 god-damned thing you guys are saying in that
24 other room. Those people are bought and paid

1 for, just like you guys. And I'm coming to the
2 conclusion, after getting matured in this
3 state, being a native, the state government is
4 bought, too. And I honestly believe that all
5 of you guys are working together, and you're
6 not listening to the residents and what New
7 Hampshire residents have to say.

8 When people brought up the comments
9 about the power line project in Vermont and how
10 that's going to be buried, and how you really
11 don't know all the details, I think that's
12 complete BS, because you're in the same
13 business and you're in direct competition with
14 those guys. You're trying to beat them by
15 building that line first. It's like who can
16 run the longest extension cord from Canada to
17 Massachusetts. Who gives a shit? You guys are
18 in it for the money. And if you can build it
19 first, the other guys really can't. So you're
20 trying to shove this down our throat. And
21 you're doing a really good job, but we're not
22 taking it. But the problem is all of our local
23 officials, nobody's really got the balls to
24 stand up to you. Get the fuck out of our

1 state.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Hey,
3 let's keep it classy.

4 Senator.

5 SENATOR FORRESTER: I'm not sure how
6 to follow that.

7 For the record, Jeanie Forrester.
8 F-O-R-R-E-S-T-E-R. Do you need me to spell my
9 first name? J-E-A-N-I-E.

10 For the record, I am a state senator
11 for District 2, representing 27 communities.
12 District 2 is the largest geographic
13 district -- or second largest. I'm sorry. And
14 most of the communities in my district I would
15 say are impacted by this project. And it makes
16 me sad, I have to say, to follow this gentleman
17 behind me, to hear him say that he believes
18 that state officials are bought and paid for,
19 because I can tell you we are not bought and
20 paid for, and we have been fighting this fight
21 for many years.

22 Back in 2014, there was an article
23 written in the New Hampshire Business Review
24 where they talked about PSNH at the time being

1 on a "listening tour." And my question is:
2 Are you listening? When I know, as you know,
3 that 26 communities along the route have
4 formally protested this project, are you
5 listening? When we hear back then from
6 Counselor Burton, who was probably one of the
7 most honorable politicians, if you call him a
8 politician -- I'd call him a servant leader --
9 who knows how to compromise said "Bury the
10 line," I would ask, "Are you listening?"
11 Senator Ayotte, our U.S. Senator, has said,
12 "Bury the line. New Hampshire's worth it."
13 Are you listening? And I would say to you
14 that, if you showed the leadership that Ray
15 Burton and Senator Ayotte show, take that
16 leadership position. Listen to what the people
17 are saying. Bury the line. You will end all
18 these meetings. Everybody can go home. We can
19 stop the testimony, and you'll be heroes.
20 You've heard it time and time again. You've
21 heard it from the folks here. It's not that
22 they're against clean energy. It's not that
23 they're against energy. They're against the
24 towers. They would support burying the lines.

1 So, please, listen to the people of New
2 Hampshire and bury the line. Thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
4 you, Senator.

5 Okay. As indicated earlier, we have
6 two more of these public information sessions
7 next week: Wednesday night at the Mountain
8 View Grand Hotel in Whitefield, and then
9 Thursday night at the Mountain Club at Loon.
10 Thank you all very much. We are adjourned.

11 (Whereupon the public information
12 session was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.)

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PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION - LACONIA - January 14, 2016
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