

**In Re:**

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

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*PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION - LACONIA  
January 14, 2016*

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

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**PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION - LACONIA - January 14, 2016**  
**SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06 Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC, and PSNH d/b/a Eversource**

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