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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE
Docket No. 2015-066

Joint Application for Northern Pass Transmission, LLC
and Public Service Company of New Hampshire
d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site
and Facility

AGENDA FOR
PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Colebrook Elementary School
27 Dumont Street
Colebrook, New Hampshire
March 7, 2016
5:00 - 10:30 p.m.

1 SPEAKER: Good evening, ladies and
2 gentlemen. My name is Martin Honigberg. I'm
3 the Chair of the Site Evaluation Committee. I'm
4 also chairing this subcommittee. In my day job,
5 I chair the Public Utilities Commission.

6 Welcome to a public hearing of a
7 subcommittee of the Site Evaluation Committee
8 which is reviewing the joint application of
9 Northern Pass Transmission, LLC, and Public
10 Service Company of New Hampshire which does
11 business as Eversource Energy, and they're
12 seeking a Certificate of Site and Facility. I'm
13 going to ask the folks at the table to introduce
14 themselves. Starting to my left. Down at the
15 end.

16 MS. WEATHERSBY: Patricia Weathersby.
17 Public Member.

18 MS. WHITAKER: Rachel Whitaker, Alternate
19 Public Member.

20 MR. WAY: Christopher Way. New Hampshire
21 Department of Resources and Economic
22 Development.

23 MS. BAILEY: Kathryn Bailey from the Public

1 Utilities Commission.

2 MR. OLDENBERG: William Oldenberg from New
3 Hampshire Department of Transportation.

4 MR. WRIGHT: Craig Wright with the
5 Department of Environmental Services.

6 MR. WAGNER: Tom Wagner, Forest Supervisor,
7 White Mountain National Forest.

8 MR. MILLS: Brian Mills for the Department
9 of Energy.

10 MR. HONIGBERG: As indicated by the last
11 two gentlemen who introduced themselves, this is
12 a concurrent hearing with the federal agencies.
13 I'm going to ask the Department of Energy
14 through Brian Mills and the U.S. Forest Service
15 by Tom Wagner to say what they would like to say
16 before I go further.

17 MR. MILLS: Thank you. As I said, I work
18 for the Department of Energy in the Office of
19 Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability. I
20 will be the Hearings Officer for the Department
21 of Energy. The reason we are here is Northern
22 Pass LLC, or Northern Pass, is proposing to
23 construct an international transmission line.

1 Northern Pass has asked the Department of Energy
2 for a Presidential permit. A Presidential
3 permit is needed before any transmission line
4 can be built across the US international border.
5 The Department of Energy determined that an
6 Environmental Impact Statement would be the
7 appropriate level of analysis for this
8 Presidential Permit. This is a public hearing
9 on the Northern Pass Transmission Line Draft
10 Environmental Impact Statement, or simply the
11 Draft EIS.

12 Once we begin the hearing, we'll hear from
13 you in the order you have signed up. If you
14 wish to speak but have not signed up, you can
15 sign up at the registration table.

16 For those of you who may not be familiar
17 with the process we go through in preparing an
18 Environmental Impact Statement, an EIS, and
19 where we are for this particular project, I'll
20 cover the steps.

21 The first step in the EIS process, starting
22 the public participation, begins by DOE issuing
23 a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS. For this

1 project, DOE issued a Notice of Intent on
2 February 11th, 2011, and an Amended Notice of
3 Intent on September 6th, 2013. The Notice of
4 Intent began a process we call scoping, which
5 requests the public to tell us their issues and
6 concerns related to the proposed project. We
7 use this input to help us prepare a draft EIS.
8 If you commented during the scoping period, we
9 used your scoping comments to determine which
10 alternatives and issues we needed to address.

11 The next step in the process is to prepare
12 a draft EIS. The draft EIS analyzes the
13 foreseeable environmental impacts that might
14 result from granting the permit. The Draft EIS
15 also identifies steps that might be needed to
16 mitigate impacts. For this project, we issued a
17 Draft EIS in July, 2015. After we issue a draft
18 EIS, we ask the public to comment on it during a
19 Public Comment Period. EPA opens the comment
20 period by publishing a Notice of Availability in
21 the Federal Register. The EPA Notices for this
22 Draft EIS was in the Federal Register July 31,
23 2015.

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1 The comment period gives you opportunity to
2 tell us any changes you would like to see in the
3 Final EIS, what you think is wrong about the
4 document and how you think we should fix it. We
5 are also looking for issues you think we missed
6 or didn't cover as well as we should.

7 If you ask questions as part of your
8 comment, we, the federal agencies, will not be
9 able to answer your questions today but we will
10 do so in the final EIS. It's also very helpful
11 for your comments to cite specific sections from
12 the document itself. None of this is required,
13 but it will help us to understand your comments.

14 Posters with an abbreviated Draft EIS Table
15 of contents are in the foyer. During the
16 hearing, the Hearings Officer may ask questions
17 to allow you to clarify points you are making.
18 Whether you choose to speak or not, you're
19 invited to submit written comments.

20 Instructions to do so are provided on another
21 poster or are available at the registration
22 table. All comments, whether written or oral,
23 are treated the same and have equal weight.

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1 For this Draft EIS, we will continue to
2 accept comments until April 4, 2016. To the
3 extent we can, we will also consider your
4 comments submitted after that date. After the
5 close of the comment period, we will write the
6 Final Environmental Impact Statement. The final
7 EIS will contain a Comment Response Document
8 that addresses comments received on the Draft
9 EIS.

10 When completed, EPA will issue a Notice of
11 Availability of the Final EIS in the Federal
12 Register, and, again, we will post the document
13 on the EIS website and send it out to the
14 mailing list.

15 I hope that very general process outline is
16 helpful to you. I'd also like to mention a
17 couple other things about the Draft EIS and this
18 project. The US Army Corps of Engineers, the US
19 Environmental Protection Agency, the US Forest
20 Service and the New Hampshire Office of Energy
21 Planning are all cooperating agencies in the
22 preparation for the draft EIS. DOE in
23 evaluating the application requesting issuance

1 of a Presidential permit for the proposed
2 Northern Pass Transmission Line border crossing.
3 While DOE has authority to issue a Presidential
4 permit for the border crossing, DOE does not
5 grant rights of way, issue easements, issue
6 building permits, regulate utilities, or site
7 transmission lines in the State of New
8 Hampshire. The US Forest Service has siting
9 authority for the White Mountain National
10 Forest, and the State of New Hampshire Site
11 Evaluation Committee has authority to site
12 transmission lines in the State of New
13 Hampshire. This hearing is a joint hearing with
14 the State of New Hampshire SEC on the EIS and
15 the Northern Pass Transmission Line Project.
16 Comments on the Draft EIS expressed at any of
17 our hearings, including the joint hearings, or
18 provided to us by email or letter will all be
19 considered equally.

20 MR. HONIGBERG: Thank you, Mr. Mills.

21 Mr. Wagner?

22 MR. WAGNER: Yes. I would only add that,
23 as Brian already outlined, Northern Pass has

1 applied for a Special Use Permit to cross the
2 White Mountain National Forest to operate and
3 maintain a transmission line. I'm the
4 responsible official to make the decision on
5 whether to grant that special use permit, and
6 I'm here tonight to listen to your input on the
7 Draft Environmental Impact Statement and any
8 additional information you think we need to make
9 a decision as far as the siting on White
10 Mountain National Forest.

11 MR. HONIGBERG: I'd like to tell you what
12 the order of events is going to be. I have
13 opening remarks that I need to make to open the
14 record in this proceeding. After I'm done, the
15 Applicant will make a presentation regarding
16 their project. Following that, we will ask the
17 questions that you submit to the Applicant, and
18 questions should be submitted on one of the
19 green sheets of paper. We will try to group
20 them so that questions on the same topic are
21 together. That won't happen, for sure. We will
22 double back without question, and we will get
23 through all the questions as quickly as we can.

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1 The Committee may have questions for the
2 Applicant as well, but the Committee may also
3 choose not to ask questions. Please understand
4 that we've had this application since November.
5 There's been supplemental information on file,
6 but we have had the opportunity to review what
7 the application says. We will also have many
8 other opportunities to interact with the
9 companies, including at a final hearing on the
10 merits of their application. So we may or may
11 not have questions tonight.

12 Following the question period, we'll open
13 the flow for public comments. If you would like
14 to make a comment orally, we'd like to you to
15 fill out one of the yellow sheets. Now, we will
16 call people generally in the order in which
17 they've signed in. I think Mr. Mills indicated
18 there was an opportunity to sign up online in
19 advance. We have a list of names of people who
20 did that. That's likely to be the first group
21 that we call. Then we'll call people largely as
22 they've signed in. There are a couple of
23 exceptions for people who have particular needs.

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1 If you just want to submit a written comment,
2 many of you know you can do that electronically.
3 People have been sending us emails regularly,
4 but we also have the opportunity for you to fill
5 out one of these blue sheets, and all of these
6 comments get scanned and posted on our website.
7 So with that, I'm going to more formally open
8 the hearing and read what, unfortunately, I need
9 to read.

10 On October 19th, 2015, Northern Pass
11 Transmission LLC and Public Service Company of
12 New Hampshire doing business as Eversource
13 submitted an application to New Hampshire Site
14 Evaluation Committee for Certificate of Site and
15 Facility to construct 192-mile transmission
16 line. The line is proposed to have a capacity
17 rating of up to 1090 megawatts and is proposed
18 to run from the Canadian border in Pittsburg to
19 Deerfield, New Hampshire.

20 On November 2nd, pursuant to RSA 162-H, I
21 appointed a subcommittee of the Site Evaluation
22 Committee to hear and consider the application.
23 Some of the members of the Site Evaluation

1 Committee who are agency heads, New Hampshire
2 state government designated senior officials
3 within their agencies to serve on this
4 subcommittee, and many of the people you see up
5 at the front of the table come from the various
6 agencies that are on the SEC.

7 On December 7th, 2015, the subcommittee met
8 and reviewed the application and determined at
9 that time that the application contained
10 sufficient information to satisfy the
11 application requirements of each state agency
12 having jurisdiction under state or federal law
13 to regulate any aspect of the construction or
14 operation of the proposed facility. The
15 subcommittee also made an independent
16 determination that the application contained
17 sufficient information to carry out the purposes
18 of RSA 162-H. Following that meeting, the
19 subcommittee issued a procedural order setting
20 forth deadlines with interventions and
21 scheduling public information sessions in
22 Franklin, Londonderry, Laconia, Whitefield, and
23 Lincoln. Those public information sessions took

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1 place in January.

2 Regarding interventions, the subcommittee
3 has received over 150 motions to intervene.
4 Orders on the intervention motion petitions will
5 be issued soon. Many of the people in this room
6 I know have filed petitions to intervene.

7 On February 3rd, 2016, the subcommittee
8 issued an order and notice scheduling public
9 hearings in Meredith, Holderness and Deerfield
10 for March 1st, 14th and 16th, respectively.
11 Also on that day, the subcommittee issued an
12 order and notice scheduling public hearings in
13 Colebrook and Concord for March 7th and March
14 10th respectively. The hearing this evening and
15 the hearing in Concord will be held at the same
16 time as the public hearings with the US
17 Department of Energy and the United States
18 Forest Service.

19 Notice of the public hearings was served on
20 the public by publication in the New Hampshire
21 Union Leader on February 10th, 2016. I've
22 already outlined the order of events tonight. I
23 want to emphasize that the company will go

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1 first, there will be opportunities for questions
2 from the subcommittee and the public, and the
3 subcommittee may choose not to ask any questions
4 at this time. Then the public's questions will
5 be asked and then there will be public comment.

6 If you want to submit a comment or a
7 question, please get it on one of the yellow
8 forms to make a public comment, the blue forms
9 for written comment and green forms for
10 questions.

11 One other person I want to introduce
12 tonight is the other person who at this time as
13 formal status in this proceeding and that's the
14 public counsel representative from the Attorney
15 General's office, that's Peter Roth. Peter,
16 could you stand up please and identify yourself?

17 MR. ROTH: Good evening, everybody. I'm
18 Peter Roth. I'm a Senior Assistant Attorney
19 General.

20 MR. HONIGBERG: He's a Senior Assistant
21 Attorney General at the New Hampshire Attorney
22 General's office, and by statute the Attorney
23 General represents the public's interest in Site

1 Evaluation Committee applications for
2 Certificates of Site Facility.

3 MR. ROTH: Thank you, Mike.

4 MR. HONIGBERG: I believe that's all the
5 business I need to do. I'll also mention that
6 our lawyer, Mike Iacopino, is with us tonight,
7 as is our administrator Pam Monroe. If you have
8 questions or concerns about what's going on this
9 evening, you should look for Pam or Mike to see
10 if you can get those resolved. I think without
11 further ado, I'll turn the microphone over to
12 the Applicant, Mr. Quinlan.

13 MR. QUINLAN: Thank you. Good evening,
14 everyone. I'm Bill Quinlan. I'm the President
15 of Eversource New Hampshire. I want to thank
16 you all for being here tonight. I'm joined
17 tonight by Ken Bowes who is our Vice President
18 of Engineering, Jim Muntz who is the President
19 of our Transmission Business, Lee Carbonneau who
20 is our environmental expert with Normandeau
21 Associates, and Sam Johnson who is the technical
22 expert with Burns & McDonnell, an engineering
23 firm. I want to thank Chairman Honigberg and

1 Mr. Mills for the opportunity to make a short
2 presentation about our project.

3 So I'm going to give a short overview of
4 the project. I'm really going to hit three
5 topics. The first is going to be what's going
6 on in the energy markets here in New England; in
7 particular, New Hampshire. I think folks
8 generally are aware that we pay among the
9 highest prices for electricity in the United
10 States. I'm going to explain why that is. What
11 this project could do about it.

12 Secondly, I'm going to cover the
13 environmental benefits of the Northern Pass
14 Project, and, thirdly, the balance that we're
15 trying to strike to ensure that this process
16 delivers substantial benefits to New Hampshire
17 and to New England.

18 This is really a depiction of the wholesale
19 market for electricity here in New England.
20 Think of it as a bucket, if you will. On the
21 right-hand side in any given hour, customers
22 across New England have a certain demand for
23 electricity. Okay? In essence, what happens

1 and what determines the price for that power is
2 you gradually dispatch generation units starting
3 with the lowest cost units first until there's
4 sufficient supply to meet the demands of the
5 customers. When you've got sufficient supply to
6 meet the demands of customers, that establishes
7 the -- I'm going to do this without a
8 microphone. (Microphone adjustments).

9 Back to the energy markets here in New
10 England. Again, what I'm trying to depict here
11 is how are energy costs set for all of New
12 England, and it's really based upon customer
13 demand and then the supply necessary to meet
14 that demand. So, again, the customer demand
15 changes hour to hour. The generation units
16 necessary to meet that demand change hour to
17 hour. When supply and demand are matched, that
18 establishes the clearing price for all of those
19 generation assets in the queue. Okay?

20 That price is common across all of New
21 England. So New Hampshire is part of the New
22 England market, and there is, in essence, one
23 cost for generation for all of the states in New

1 England. It's a common cost. So what happens
2 when you retire a low cost unit. So take a
3 nuclear unit towards the bottom of this bid
4 stack. Vermont Yankee recently retired. When
5 you take out of that bid stack a plant like
6 Vermont Yankee, you have to dispatch a higher
7 cost generation unit to meet the demands of the
8 customers; therefore, the cost of electricity
9 across all of New England goes up.

10 If you take a low cost asset, for example,
11 like Northern Pass, you see it there in the
12 large scale hydro, you insert it in the bid
13 stack, you displace a higher cost generation so
14 the cost of electricity all across New England
15 goes down. That's fundamentally how the markets
16 work in New England, and the effect of
17 retirements or additions to the generation next.

18 Here's a depiction of what's going on in
19 New England. It's a phenomena that's happening
20 as we speak. These are plants that have either
21 retired or announced their retirement or are at
22 risk of retirement based upon the Independent
23 System Operator's view, and what you see there

1 are large number of baseload generation assets,
2 nuclear, coal and oil plants that are
3 essentially retiring. And more to come. The
4 items in red are the ones that are forecast to
5 retire in the foreseeable future. When you look
6 across this snapshot of the retirements, that's
7 about 25 percent of the generation for all of
8 New England that would have retired over this
9 short period of time.

10 Here's what's replacing that generation.
11 These are all the new generation units that have
12 been added across New England over the last 20
13 years, and what you see is the dominance of
14 natural gas so the dark blue is the percentage
15 of gas plants that have come on over the last 20
16 years to replace the units that are retiring.
17 In essence, 85 percent of the new generation for
18 the last 20 years has been natural gas. You do
19 see some incremental nuclear generation that has
20 come online as a result of up rates of
21 utilities, some solar, fairly modest, wind and
22 oil, relatively modest, but dominance in natural
23 gas, to the point where today across New England

1 we rely upon natural gas for about 50 percent of
2 the energy generated in the region, which is a
3 very large dependence.

4 Here's what has happened over time, and
5 it's a result of the dependence on natural gas.
6 So what you're seeing here in blue, that's the
7 price of natural gas from 2003 to 2015 here in
8 New England, and you'll see volatility, and it
9 tends to be a volatile fuel. So, for example,
10 when the hurricanes hit the Gulf of Mexico in
11 2006, natural gas prices spiked across the
12 country. More recently, with the onset of
13 fracking technology, you see a boom so very low
14 cost gas prices, and then you see peaks over the
15 last three winters. I'm going to come back to
16 those three peaks.

17 The other thing you see is the price of
18 power which is in yellow. Okay? Very closely
19 correlated. That's because we've become so
20 heavily dependent on natural gas that there's a
21 tight correlation between the price of that fuel
22 and the price of electricity here in New
23 England.

1 So the rest of the country from here over,
2 from 2008 or 9 over, price of natural gas and
3 therefore the price of electricity is
4 essentially flat. It's because there is ample
5 pipeline capacity to get their natural gas
6 through the generation units. What you have
7 going on in New England, however, are these
8 spikes, every winter. Both gas and therefore
9 electricity prices are spiking. Why is that?
10 In New England, there's a very heavy demand for
11 natural gas to heat homes during the winter, and
12 the pipeline capacity necessary to meet that
13 demand and the demand for generation is
14 insufficient.

15 So for each of the last three winters we've
16 seen very dramatic spikes in the price of
17 electricity in New England. Just for frame of
18 reference when you calculate what does that mean
19 to New England economy? That's a three billion
20 dollar spike, this is a five billion dollar
21 spike, three billion dollar spike. We are
22 literally adding billions of dollars a year in
23 increased costs because of infrastructure

1 inadequacies and dependence on natural gas.

2 What does the future hold. This is a
3 depiction of the other element in your energy
4 cost which is capacity market so your power
5 price that you pass is a combination of energy
6 costs and capacity costs. Capacity is nothing
7 more than payments made to competitive
8 generators to be there in the future. For the
9 last decade, that's been about a one billion
10 dollar market. Because of the retirements that
11 have occurred and the scarcity now of generation
12 and our dependence on gas, when you look out
13 over the future, those prices are going to go up
14 significantly. We know these numbers, 3
15 billion, 4 billion, and 3 billion, those are in
16 markets that have already cleared forward. So
17 we have visibility of what these market prices
18 will be three years out. And you see a dramatic
19 increase in the cost of electricity and it's for
20 that same phenomena. We're becoming very
21 heavily dependent on one fuel source and there's
22 a scarcity during the winter months. So this
23 will now cripple the economy. In essence, what

1 you've got is a combination of the energy cost
2 and capacity costs are creating the highest
3 energy cost in America, right here in New
4 England, at a time where the rest of the country
5 is experiencing record low energy costs because
6 of the availability of natural gas. So that's
7 the problem we are trying to solve. It's one of
8 the issues we're trying to resolve.

9 Here is one of the approaches that's taking
10 place. So if you look across the three southern
11 New England states in recognition of those high
12 energy prices as well as furtherance on meeting
13 our environmental goals, those three states,
14 Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island,
15 have gone out for competitor proposals to bring
16 in supplies that are not gas-fired into the
17 region. Northern Pass, the project we're here
18 tonight to talk about, is one of those projects.
19 We have bid the identical project that we've put
20 in front of the SEC and the Department of Energy
21 in that three-state request for proposals.

22 So identical projects, same route, same
23 design, same cost. Our partner Hydro-Quebec

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1 will essentially provide the power supply to the
2 transmission line.

3 What we have depicted down below is really
4 to answer a question we get commonly, what's the
5 relationship between our company, Northern Pass
6 Transmission, and Hydro-Quebec. It's a fairly
7 simple contractual relationship, transmission
8 service agreement, whereby we build, finance and
9 own the line, provide a transmission path to
10 Hydro-Quebec who owns the hydropower and that
11 allows them to get their power into Deerfield,
12 New Hampshire, and for that they pay us back in
13 essence for the investment that we've made.

14 So that's the relationship between the
15 parties. We believe we have a great project
16 that meets the needs of these three southern New
17 England states and will deliver very substantial
18 benefits to the State of New Hampshire in doing
19 so.

20 Here is a depiction of the balance that we
21 have been working to strike here in New
22 Hampshire. We recognize that there are
23 legitimate issues that have been raised here in

1 the state around, for example, view impacts. We
2 also recognize that we need to have a project
3 that works technically. It has to get the power
4 from the Canadian border down to Deerfield, New
5 Hampshire, and it's got to be a project that is
6 economically viable, meaning someone will pay
7 for it. That's the balance we've been working
8 to strike here in New Hampshire. That's the
9 project we have put in front of the Site
10 Evaluation Committee. I'm going to show a brief
11 video that's going to walk you through the
12 progression of time from when this project was
13 first introduced in 2010 to our most recent
14 presentment of the project, and you'll see the
15 steps that we've taken to address those issues
16 that have been raised here in New Hampshire.
17 And then we'll circle back and I'm going to
18 summarize the benefits that we think we're going
19 to be able to deliver to New Hampshire as a
20 result of the project so, Andrea, could you cue
21 the video, please? Thank you.

22 (Video shown)

23 MR. QUINLAN: So, again, the purpose of

1 that was really to show the steps we've taken to
2 strike a balance here in New Hampshire and have
3 a project that New Hampshire can support. You
4 think about that progression, we are now at a
5 fundamentally different project than the one
6 that was introduced in 2010. It's longer, uses
7 a different cable and converter technology, A
8 third of it is now underground. Here in Coos
9 County a large percentage of it is in the Wagner
10 Forest which is a working forest, as you all
11 know, and we've added about half a billion
12 dollars in project costs to make these changes.
13 That's all based upon feedback that we've
14 received across the State of New Hampshire.

15 I'm going to share some of the other
16 benefits to the State of New Hampshire and
17 having the project located here. Just on the
18 top line, I mentioned earlier, the effect that
19 inserting Northern Pass into that bid stack
20 would have. So on an annual basis, our experts
21 have calculated that's approximately 800 million
22 dollars savings to customers across New England.
23 80 million of that will land here in New

1 Hampshire. In addition to that 80 million
2 dollars a year in energy cost savings, we
3 anticipate having a Power Purchase Agreement
4 with our partners Hydro-Quebec to deliver
5 additional economic benefits to New Hampshire
6 customers. Importantly, here in Coos County we
7 announced last fall establishment of a Forward
8 New Hampshire fund. It's a 200 million dollar
9 fund. The purpose is to make investments and
10 initiatives in towns hosting the line. Our
11 committee here is that many of these dollars are
12 going to retire right here in Coos County. If
13 you go on down the line, there's clearly
14 substantial jobs that will be created by this
15 project. Our commitment is to a New Hampshire
16 first approach to this project, which means that
17 in every instance possible, we are going to
18 source the project from local labor. So the
19 goods, the services, the physical labor
20 necessary to build the project will come from
21 New Hampshire to the extent possible.

22 Property tax issues, very big issue for
23 municipalities. Our current estimate is about

1 30 million dollars a year property tax benefits
2 across New Hampshire. When you total all of
3 that, economically, almost four billion dollars
4 in benefits across the State of New Hampshire,
5 which is a large number for a project this size.

6 We go to the environmental benefits, beyond
7 the pure economics, there's not another project
8 like this that could have the impact on carbon
9 reductions. Wind and solar, those are
10 intermittent resources, which means they don't
11 operate all the time. This looks like a very
12 large baseload source of clean energy which
13 means it operates around the clock 7 days a
14 week.

15 When you run the numbers, it's about a
16 three million ton reduction a year in carbon
17 dioxide emissions. This is really important
18 right now. When you look at New England's
19 goals, New Hampshire's goals for cleaning up our
20 environment, for the last ten years we've been
21 going in the right direction which means carbon
22 emissions have been going down. 2015, for the
23 first time in the last decade, emissions went

1 up. Now, why was that? Because we're retiring
2 nuclear plants which are not carbon emitting,
3 and we're replacing them with gas plants. So
4 for New England, New Hampshire and this country,
5 to achieve its carbon emission reduction goals
6 you're going to need project just like Northern
7 Pass to do it.

8 I'll touch upon this last one because
9 there's a question I get often is what's going
10 to be the impact on small scale renewable. If
11 you bring in a large amount of hydropower, is
12 there rule for solar, is there room for biomass
13 plants, wind plants. One of the things that's
14 unique here in Coos County is our ability to
15 take advantage of this project and take the time
16 to upgrade the Coos transmission loop. So the
17 Coos transmission loop is a transmission loop
18 that basically serves the North Country today.
19 It is a transmission infrastructure that is
20 basically at its capacity. So for many hours on
21 many days, there are small scale renewable
22 generators on that loop, whether it's Burgess
23 Biomass plant or the Granite Wind Reliable plant

1 that can't run. There's not sufficient
2 transmission capacity to get their energy to
3 market. One of things we're going to do as part
4 of Northern Pass and the commitment we've made
5 is to upgrade the loop. That's been something
6 that's been talked about here for a decades.
7 We're going to do it as part of this project.
8 So not only are we going to unlock those
9 existing generators to run more, we're going to
10 create the opportunity for more small scale
11 renewables right here in Coos County. We've not
12 quantified these environmental benefits, but if
13 you think about it, those are very significant
14 benefits and the vast majority of them will
15 reside right here in the North Country. So with
16 that I thank you for your attention and I look
17 forward to your questions.

18 MR. HONIGBERG: Thank you, Mr. Quinlan. Do
19 members of the subcommittee have questions for
20 Mr. Quinlan or his team?

21 MS. WEATHERSBY: I have one.

22 MR. HONIGBERG: Yes. Ms. Weathersby.

23 MS. WEATHERSBY: One quick question I

1 thought of while you were doing the
2 presentation. There's presently a plan to build
3 two hydroelectric transmission lines through the
4 State of Vermont. If that project is built,
5 what effect will that have on the New England
6 energy market, and how does it affect the need
7 for this project?

8 MR. QUINLAN: So for those who didn't hear
9 the question, the question was about a project
10 that has been discussed in State of Vermont
11 which would essentially do the same thing. It
12 would be a similar project in the sense that it
13 would take hydropower from Canada and deliver it
14 to a point in Vermont so it, generally, would
15 have the same impact if that were built.

16 Now, curiously, I mentioned the three-state
17 RFP. The sponsors of that project did not bid
18 into the three-state RFP. Why is that? You
19 know, what we're hearing in the industry is that
20 there are a couple of things that that project
21 has not been able to demonstrate. So to be a
22 successful bidder you need to demonstrate you've
23 got a reliable committed source of hydropower so

1 you have to have clean energy to bring into New
2 England. We have a very strong partnership and
3 a contractual arrangement with Hydro-Quebec to
4 do that. That project apparently didn't have
5 the necessary supply of electricity.

6 Secondly, the hydro generation assets are
7 northern Quebec, and essentially you need to get
8 to the US border so that can interconnect with
9 your project. We have a project or Hydro-Quebec
10 has a project designed to bring a transmission
11 line down from their generation source to
12 connect with us at the US border. That project
13 is being sited in Canada parallel with our
14 siting here. They don't have a project being
15 sited to connect to Vermont. So they also don't
16 have that transmission path to get it down into
17 the region.

18 There's a question there on cost. You
19 know, that project has been suggested to cost
20 \$1.2 billion. That's what you read about it on
21 the project sponsor's website, for example.
22 There's a real question as to whether that
23 project could be built for that amount. When we

1 look at that project and some of the other
2 experts we know who look at that project, they
3 say it's a dramatically understated number. So
4 why they didn't bid into the three-state RFP, it
5 was the optimal opportunity to import the
6 project to consider. They elected to take a
7 pass. It may be a combination of those three
8 things.

9 MR. HONIGBERG: Do other members of the
10 Committee have questions for the Applicant? All
11 right. Seeing none, we'll begin with questions
12 submitted by the audience. I will say that some
13 of what has been submitted with green forms is
14 in the nature of a statement for a series of
15 challenges to aspects of the SEC process. We're
16 going to take those and treat them as comments
17 and not deal with them through the company.

18 The first question technically directed to
19 Northern Pass is about a report titled
20 Cost/Benefit and Local Economic Impact Analysis
21 of the Proposed Northern Pass Transmission
22 Proposal. That is the subject of a motion for
23 confidential treatment that is pending before

1 the Site Evaluation Committee so such a report
2 exists, and the Board will issue on it in the
3 future.

4 There are a number of questions regarding
5 state employees and former state employees. I'm
6 going to read the first question as it's
7 written. How many, and please identify any
8 members of the SEC that were or I guess are
9 employed by the State of New Hampshire and what
10 agencies. That's not a question for you,
11 Mr. Quinlan. That's a question for us. Each of
12 us introduced ourselves at the beginning of this
13 hearing. Starting with Mr. Way, Ms. Bailey,
14 myself, Mr. Oldenburg and Mr. Wright are all
15 state employees and we all introduced ourselves
16 at the beginning.

17 I believe what this person may have been
18 actually is actually the subject of another
19 question which is how many lawyers and experts
20 working for this project were employed by
21 agencies of the State of New Hampshire. To the
22 extent you can provide where they worked, that
23 is a followup on this sheet.

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1 MR. QUINLAN: I'm aware of a few. Mr.
2 Varney is not a lawyer but is working for the
3 company, was with the Department of
4 Environmental Services, DES. Mr. Hodgdon who is
5 an attorney formerly with the Attorney General's
6 office, representing the Department of
7 Transportation. And Tom Getz, Tom Getz is a
8 lawyer who is with the McLane firm. He was
9 formerly with the New Hampshire Public Utilities
10 Commission. Those are the three that come
11 immediately to mind.

12 MR. HONIGBERG: And to complete Mr. Getz's
13 background, when he was on the Public Utilities
14 Commission he also served on the Site Evaluation
15 Committee, correct?

16 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. I believe that's
17 correct. Yes.

18 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Varney is another one,
19 I think. First one he mentioned, right? Yes.
20 You probably were the Chair of the Site
21 Evaluation Committee.

22 MR. VARNEY: I was the Chair, yes.

23 MR. HONIGBERG: Please describe agreements

1 between Northern Pass, Hydro-Quebec, Eversource,
2 Bayroot LLC, and Wagner Land Management.

3 MR. QUINLAN: I don't believe there are
4 agreements as between Hydro-Quebec and Bayroot.
5 There is a lease agreement that I'm aware of
6 between Northern Pass Transmission LLC and
7 Bayroot which in essence is a long-term lease
8 for the portion of the right-of-way depicted in
9 the video, the 24-mile working forest is
10 property that's under management by Bayroot and
11 in essence Northern Pass is leasing a
12 right-of-way through that property for 24 miles.
13 That was when we made the move up the line to
14 the east to get it out of the less populated
15 area, get it to the less populated area of the
16 state.

17 MR. HONIGBERG: All right. I think we have
18 a series of questions about burial and the above
19 ground/below ground question. At what point
20 after the proposed transmission line crosses the
21 US/Canadian border does it first go underground.
22 How many towers are above ground from the border
23 to the first point it goes underground?

1 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to refer this
2 question to Sam Johnson from Burns & O'Donnell.
3 Sam is an engineer and also a project manager.

4 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening. The
5 underground portion of the project in the most
6 northern section of the project starts in
7 Pittsburg and goes under Route 3 and comes up in
8 Clarksville. There are 20 structures from the
9 border over to where this part goes underground,
10 covering a distance of approximately 2.1 miles.

11 MR. HONIGBERG: If it is less costly to
12 bury direct current transmission lines, I think
13 that's the first premise, if that's not true
14 then correct it, why not convert the power to AC
15 in Deerfield instead of Franklin.

16 MR. QUINLAN: So the premise of the
17 question which is that it's less costly to bury
18 direct current transmission is not correct.
19 When we look at the incremental cost of burial
20 versus overhead construction, it's approximately
21 5 to 10 million dollars per mile of additional
22 cost depending on the site and the terrain.
23 We've now confirmed that range based upon actual

1 cost estimates. So one of the things that we've
2 done as far as our project is gone out and
3 competitively bid for construction services. We
4 actually have awarded contracts to build the
5 line, and we now know with pretty good accuracy
6 what the incremental cost of underground
7 construction is, and it's generally in that five
8 to ten million dollar per mile range that the
9 company believes is true.

10 MR. HONIGBERG: Why is the conversion
11 station sited in Franklin instead of Deerfield?

12 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to refer that
13 question to Ken Bowes. Ken is our Vice
14 President of Engineering at Eversource.

15 MR. BOWES: Thank you, Bill. The simple
16 answer is Franklin was willing to accept the
17 converter station. There's a large land area
18 that's required for that, and they welcomed us
19 to come to their town. Could have been sited to
20 the north or to the south, but that was the main
21 reason was because they were willing, the town,
22 to accept the facility.

23 MR. HONIGBERG: Are there any plans to

1 deliver power to Maine or Vermont from Franklin?

2 MR. QUINLAN: No. The line is in essence a
3 direct delivery to a substance in Deerfield, New
4 Hampshire, at which point all of the power
5 flowing over this line will then enter the
6 regional grid.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: I'm going to do my best to
8 read this one. At one point underground
9 construction of Northern Pass showed six 8-inch
10 conduits. Is this still your plan. There's
11 more. Why don't you start with that one?

12 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to refer that to
13 Mr. Bowes and Mr. Johnson.

14 MR. JOHNSON: As the video depicted, when
15 the technology was changed from the 1200
16 megawatt to the 1090 megawatt, we changed the
17 type of cable used. Instead of carrying or
18 requiring two conductors for each phase and a
19 return, now it can be accomplished with the
20 single conductor for each phase so it is true
21 that the conductors have changed from a total of
22 6 to a total of 2 for the underground portion
23 because of the changes in technology.

1 MR. HONIGBERG: As worded, it says could
2 you ever expand to include additional
3 transmission burial. I think there's
4 potentially two questions there. Can you expand
5 this transmission line is the first. And second
6 is, can you bury more. Two separate questions,
7 obviously.

8 MR. BOWES: So the capacity of the cable
9 can not be expanded once it's installed. The
10 length of the cable can technically be extended.

11 MR. HONIGBERG: Do you believe that if you
12 had initially proposed to bury the entire
13 project when you announced it back in 2010 that
14 the project would have been approved by now?
15 I'm going to do my best to read them as you give
16 them to me.

17 MR. QUINLAN: That's obviously speculation.
18 The reality is, our view is that an
19 all-underground project is not economic, and
20 therefore, would not be built.

21 MR. HONIGBERG: Excuse me. It's his turn
22 to speak.

23 MR. QUINLAN: I'll also add that ironically

1 in certain of the areas where we've chosen to go
2 underground with the underground construction
3 they're the subject of pending lawsuits so I
4 don't know what the view would be if this were
5 an all-underground construction. Some folks may
6 be happy with that, some folks may be less
7 happy.

8 MR. HONIGBERG: The next two questions
9 relate to the various opposition base. Here's
10 the first one. Despite your efforts over the
11 past five years portraying Northern Pass as
12 environmentally friendly, not one New Hampshire
13 environmental group supports the plan, even the
14 revised burial plan, partial burial plan. Some
15 of the groups that have been working in
16 opposition to you include the Society for
17 Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the
18 Appalachian Mountain Club, Conservation Law
19 Foundation, the Sierra Club, New Hampshire
20 Audubon, the Nature Conservancy and the
21 Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust.

22 On a national level, the National Trust for
23 Historic Preservation designated scenic

1 landscapes of New Hampshire a national treasure
2 and has petitioned to intervene as well. What
3 do you say in response to that, and I will note
4 that the questioner asks you not to describe
5 your outreach efforts or claim that you are,
6 quote, working with, close quote, these groups.

7 Now, you can answer however you like, but I
8 will be fair to the question asker.

9 MR. QUINLAN: So the point underlying that
10 question is the notion that large scale hydro is
11 somehow not clean energy. And if you look, for
12 example, at the Environmental Protection
13 Agency's recently released clean power plan,
14 you'll find a very heavy dependence on large
15 scale hydropower to meet this country's clean
16 energy goals. If you go back to New Hampshire's
17 Climate Action Plan several years ago, there's a
18 very heavy reliance on large scale imported
19 hydropower from Canada in recognition of the
20 fact that this is a clean energy source. You
21 look at the Request for Proposals that three
22 southern New England states just issued for
23 clean energy, this is exactly the type of

1 project they're looking for. So the notion that
2 large scale imported hydropower is somehow not
3 clean is wrong. I think public policy suggests
4 that it's wrong, and I shared with you the
5 carbon dioxide emissions that are offset by this
6 project.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Have you ever gone to
8 HydroQuebec and took a look for yourself?

9 MR. HONIGBERG: Be quiet. We're in an
10 elementary school but you're adults. So you'll
11 behave like adults, and if you can't, you'll be
12 asked to leave. If you cannot behave like an
13 adult, you'll be asked to leave.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He's not acting like an
15 adult himself.

16 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Quinlan, you may
17 continue.

18 MR. QUINLAN: Yes, my final point was that
19 if you look at the three million tons per year
20 of carbon dioxide emissions that are offset by
21 this project, it's very hard to argue that it's
22 not a clean source of energy, one that's needed
23 to meet New Hampshire and the region's clean

1 energy goals.

2 MR. HONIGBERG: Following up with
3 opposition, 31 towns have voted in one way or
4 another against the Northern Pass project, and
5 you continue to push forward, and there's a
6 number of questions that are like this. But why
7 are you -- no. Let me just put it that way.
8 Why do you think the towns have taken the
9 positions that they've taken in opposition to
10 the project?

11 MR. QUINLAN: One of the areas that we are
12 working very closely with are the municipalities
13 along this route, and while I'll say that there
14 are quite a number that have over time taken a
15 position against Northern Pass, I think in many
16 instances we're having a very good and
17 constructive dialogue and that is beginning to
18 change. Mr. Bowes has mentioned the city of
19 Franklin, for example. They are a very strong
20 supporter of this project. They recognize what
21 it can do for the economy of Franklin. From a
22 tax perspective and job perspective, I think it
23 could really make a difference to a city like

1 Franklin. I know there are other towns and
2 cities across New Hampshire who have intervened
3 in support of the project. Our commitment is to
4 continue to work with these towns to make the
5 project as good as it can be to address as many
6 of their issues as we can.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: There are some questions
8 about property values. You've stated that you
9 are willing to bury parts of the project. Are
10 you willing to bury more of the project
11 particularly on property that you currently own.

12 MR. QUINLAN: So the project we've
13 submitted to the Site Evaluation Committee for
14 consideration strikes the balance that I was
15 referring to. We've worked very diligently to
16 understand the issues across New Hampshire.
17 It's led to some very dramatic changes in the
18 project design and size and benefits, as well as
19 the commitment to have underground construction
20 for 60 miles. That's a project that we think
21 strikes the right balance and we look forward to
22 the SEC's review of that.

23 MR. HONIGBERG: Would you be willing to

1 compensate property owners for their diminished
2 values. I think I'm going to ask you to answer
3 that question directly, but also then I know you
4 have someone who can provide some information
5 about property values generally.

6 MR. QUINLAN: So one of the things we've
7 done over the last several years is to outreach
8 the property owners up and down the route to
9 understand where the issues are, to address
10 questions or concerns that they have. That
11 dialogue continues. We do have an expert on
12 property values, Dr. Chalmers, who can perhaps
13 speak to the preface of the question which is
14 that there is a negative impact on property
15 value, and then you can turn it back to me.
16 Dr. Chalmers?

17 JAMES CHALMERS: Thank you, Bill. My name
18 is Jim Chalmers. My expertise is in real estate
19 economics and appraisal. Over the past 40 years
20 I've specialized in analyzing the effects of
21 projects of broad variety of types on property
22 values. I've looked at nuclear generating
23 stations and landfills, at Superfund sites,

1 airports, highways, pipelines, and at many
2 transmission lines around the country. Any of
3 these studies of the effects of the project on
4 property values, lot of different ways to
5 approach it. Fundamentally, it comes down to
6 looking at market data on the sales of actual
7 properties that are adjacent to the type of
8 project in question and then looking at the
9 sales of properties that are otherwise, that are
10 in all other respects similar but are a distance
11 from the project in question. So you have a
12 project, a home that's presumably affected, a
13 home that's presumably unaffected, they're
14 similar. One's close to the project that you're
15 studying, and you investigate that and do
16 research on it and see whether there's any
17 effect on the project.

18 In the context of Northern Pass, we've
19 prepared a research report that has four pieces.
20 The first piece is a literature review. The
21 professional literature on this topic is
22 extensive, well done, and provides a foundation
23 from which to start, but most of it is not, none

1 of it is New Hampshire specific. For that
2 reason we initiated three New Hampshire specific
3 initiatives. The first was to study 58
4 transactions, these are actual market sales of
5 properties that either abutted or were crossed
6 by transmission line easement in New Hampshire.
7 The second New Hampshire specific initiative
8 looked at the sale of lots, raw land, in
9 subdivisions where some of the lots were
10 abutting or crossed by right-of-way. Other lots
11 weren't. And that provides really a very clear
12 context in which you can ask the question, were
13 the lots that abutted or were crossed, did they
14 sell at a different price or a different rate
15 than the lots that weren't. And the third New
16 Hampshire specific component was an analysis of
17 Multiple Listings data that has some ratio that
18 gives you some insight as to whether the market
19 is resisting certain properties, and we looked
20 at those ratios for properties different
21 distances from transmission lines in New
22 Hampshire, and those, all of those initiatives
23 as well as the literature basically come to the

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1 same conclusion. They're very consistent, one
2 with the other. And when they're applied to the
3 Northern Pass project the implication is that
4 there will not be due to the project, there's
5 just no evidence that there will be any
6 widespread or consistent measurable effect on
7 property values.

8 MR. HONIGBERG: You may disagree, but its
9 his turn to talk. Thank you.

10 JAMES CHALMERS: This is an empirical
11 question, and that's what the empirical data
12 showed. It did, there were exceptions, however.
13 There were properties where we found that had a
14 unique set of attributes, and for those
15 properties I think the probability of their
16 inuring some effect of the project will go up,
17 but the number of properties is very small.
18 It's a handful. It's 10 or 12 properties along
19 the entire line, and those will be localized
20 property specific effects, and they won't rise
21 to the level of having any effect on local or
22 regional real estate markets.

23 MR. HONIGBERG: Don't move, Mr. Chalmers.

1 The next question specifically asks you about
2 your research and talks about the three types of
3 initiatives that you looked at, and the question
4 is, in your opinion, which of the three types is
5 the best reflection of what is actually, what
6 actually happens in New Hampshire and the effect
7 of a project like this one on property values.

8 JAMES CHALMERS: Well, I think it's, you
9 know, it's the collective evidence of the three.
10 If one of them were out of sync with the other
11 two, then you have to sort of weigh the relevant
12 merits, but I think by far the most important
13 implication is the results of all three are
14 consistent, one with the other, and it's the
15 collective implication of the three that I think
16 matters.

17 MR. HONIGBERG: Thank you. I'm going to
18 read this one as its written. What compensation
19 does the landowner get if towers and wires are
20 installed on his or her land.

21 MR. QUINLAN: Can you repeat that question,
22 please?

23 MR. HONIGBERG: What compensation does the

1 land owner get if towers and wires are installed
2 on his or her land.

3 MR. QUINLAN: So in many instances where we
4 are, where it's a new portion of the line, for
5 example, there was a question earlier about the
6 Bayroot property which is land owned by Bayroot.
7 We entered into a lease agreement, in that case
8 a long-term lease agreement. So that property
9 owner will be compensated for our use of their
10 land. If it's in a right-of-way where we have a
11 current set of property rights, current
12 easement, which is the vast majority of this
13 line, there's no additional compensation.
14 So if you think about from Dummer down to
15 Deerfield with the exception of the area in and
16 around White Mountain National Forest, it's an
17 existing transmission corridor with an existing
18 transmission line. There will, however, be a
19 lease between Northern Pass and Eversource New
20 Hampshire whereby Northern Pass will pay
21 Eversource New Hampshire for use of those
22 property rights in that right-of-way that
23 already exists, and those costs will float back

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1 to customers and be a credit against their
2 electric bill.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: All right. The next
4 question asks how many local North Country
5 Eversource workers are here in support of this
6 project. This question asks those people to
7 show hands. I'm not going to require that.
8 People are uncomfortable doing that. If there
9 are local Eversource workers who are here in
10 support of that project and they would like to
11 show themselves by raising their hands, that's
12 fine. Many of them, some of them may have
13 signed up to speak. I don't know. It's really
14 entirely up to you if you want to do that.

15 MR. HONIGBERG: Next question. Many
16 Eversource employees have testified or spoken in
17 favor of project. Are they being paid to do so?

18 MR. QUINLAN: No.

19 MR. HONIGBERG: Many IBEW members have
20 testified or spoken up in support of the
21 project. Do you know if they are paid to attend
22 and speak in favor?

23 MR. QUINLAN: I don't know the answer to

1 that question.

2 MR. HONIGBERG: This may be a question for
3 one of the lawyers. Please clarify the term,
4 quote, abutter, close quote, in this context.

5 MR. QUINLAN: We're not going to ask for a
6 legal interpretation. I'm going to turn this
7 over to Sam Johnson. When I mentioned Sam's
8 role is the project engineer, he's also leading
9 our outreach to abutters and that's the property
10 owners who are along the route. What's the
11 definition you use?

12 MR. JOHNSON: We define rebutter as a
13 landowner who has property that is either
14 adjacent to the project or on land that we
15 cross. So some it's right next to it and some
16 it's land we actually cross and also includes
17 all of the owners and businesses along the
18 underground route for the 60 miles that we have.

19 MR. HONIGBERG: New topic. Actually a
20 number of individual questions on topics at this
21 point. How will this project affect wildlife?

22 MR. QUINLAN: Wildlife. So, you know, I
23 think if you asked the environmentalist, I'm

1 going to turn this over to Lee Carbonneau for a
2 technical response. They say it's, it could
3 have some very positive effects. One of the
4 things that we're learning along the
5 transmission corridors throughout New England is
6 that the habitat created by transmission
7 corridor, its early succession habitat that
8 doesn't really exist any longer in New
9 Hampshire. It's critically important to many
10 endangered species. So it's brushy, shrubby
11 areas that have largely been overgrown through
12 the New Hampshire and the rest of New England.
13 There are many endangered species who need that
14 type of habitat to survive. Transmission
15 corridors have proven to be kind of the optimal
16 early successional habitat. Lee, is there
17 anything you'd like to add to this? Again, Lee
18 is an environmental expert with Normandeau
19 Associates.

20 MS. CARBONNEAU: Lee Carbonneau, Normandeau
21 Associates. So there are, as Bill says there
22 are going to be some positive impacts for
23 species that are adapted to these early

1 successional cover types that will result from
2 transmission line right-of-way management, and
3 we already have a number of those in existing
4 transmission corridor. There will be a more
5 negative effect on some wildlife species that
6 are adapted to forest habitats in locations
7 where the forest would be converted to an open
8 right-of-way. So it's a mixed bag. We have
9 some endangered species in the right-of-way
10 already, and in some cases, those will find
11 enhanced habitat. We have some that will be
12 affected more adversely by the project. In
13 particular, we have, for example, Karner blue
14 butterflies in the Concord pine barrens area.
15 So the project during construction may have a
16 direct effect on Karner blue butterflies.
17 However, in the long run the habitat that is
18 created and maintained within the right-of-way
19 is actually beneficiary to Karner blue
20 butterflies so it's a mix.

21 For the most part, the negative impacts to
22 wildlife are temporary and they would occur
23 during construction, and in general the

1 long-term effects on wildlife are quite minimal
2 or positive for the most part.

3 MR. QUINLAN: I'll add just one last
4 element to this. As part of this project, we
5 have committed to a very large relationship with
6 the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation whereby
7 we are in essence providing \$3 million of funds
8 that they are then leveraging up to
9 approximately ten million dollars to be invested
10 here in New Hampshire on important conservation
11 initiatives, really designed to improve the
12 habitat for fish and wildlife, and that's a
13 program that's already under way. 2016 will be
14 year 2 so we're already starting to deliver a
15 very positive effect on wildlife in this state.

16 MR. HONIGBERG: Can you say anything about
17 the northern area of marsh hawk population in
18 Stewartstown?

19 MR. QUINLAN: Which population?

20 MR. HONIGBERG: The northern area? That's
21 the question. I'm reading the question.

22 MR. QUINLAN: One more time.

23 MR. HONIGBERG: Has the northern area for

1 marsh hawk population in Stewartstown been
2 included in any of your work?

3 MS. CARBONNEAU: We did evaluate some of
4 the habitats in the North Country and elsewhere,
5 some of the open lands where marsh hawks or
6 northern harriers are most likely to be present.
7 We were, we got information from New Hampshire
8 Audubon and National Heritage Bureau about where
9 those species might be found, where those birds
10 would be found. We did conduct some preliminary
11 surveys to see if we had appropriate habitats.
12 We did not find any harriers actually nesting in
13 our project area, but we do have some mitigation
14 land that we think was traditionally harrier
15 habitat. It might be just a little bit too
16 grown up now, sort of shrubby instead of very
17 open, but we included that in our mitigation
18 package, and we don't expect this project will
19 have any adverse impacts on harriers.

20 MR. HONIGBERG: Next question is about
21 sound. How much noise does a transmission line
22 like this make? This question asker says he has
23 a video from Quebec of a hum and crackle that

1 can be heard and that it's normal for overheard
2 transmission lines.

3 MR. BOWES: So both AC portion and the DC
4 portion of the line do have some audible noise.
5 It's generally very low. It tends to be higher
6 during certain periods of atmospheric conditions
7 such as humid weather, but in general the levels
8 are quite low for both DC portion and for the AC
9 portion of the line. There is a detailed sound
10 study as part of the application, and it takes
11 almost an entire appendix and goes into a lot of
12 detail around not only the transmission lines
13 but also the transition stations and the
14 substations.

15 MR. HONIGBERG: There are couple of
16 questions on this sheet that are very specific
17 to particular landowners' issues, but I'm going
18 to turn them into more general questions.
19 During construction how long will roads be
20 closed and unavailable to traffic during
21 construction period?

22 MR. QUINLAN: I'll refer this to Mr.
23 Johnson.

1 MR. JOHNSON: So I'm assuming that the
2 question is regarding underground construction
3 in its entirety. The goal is to not close roads
4 at all. We are going to work very diligently
5 with the Department of Transportation and
6 municipalities that will be affected to ensure
7 that at least one lane of a two-lane road will
8 remain open. We're hoping to do most of the
9 construction in the shoulders of the road so
10 that we're not impacting travel lanes as much as
11 possible. We realize that there will be some
12 impacts. However, in typical construction, say
13 in front of a landowner's driveway, we expect
14 that impact to be approximately one to two
15 weeks, and at all times that driveway will be
16 accessible. We will have a plating system that
17 will allow the vehicle to enter and exit the
18 driveway at all times.

19 MR. HONIGBERG: If someone owns a piece of
20 property that is next to or near the line, how
21 can they determine how close the line will
22 actually be to their property line?

23 MR. JOHNSON: Again, if you go to the

1 websites, either the Northern Pass website or
2 the SEC website, we have published a series of
3 maps that have the locale of property lines
4 vis-a-vis the actual easements or the new
5 constructions where it's going to be and you can
6 distinguish where your property would be based
7 on those maps.

8 MR. QUINLAN: As well, I'll just say, you
9 know, for abutting landowners and other
10 landowners near the line, we are going to
11 continue our outreach up and down this route so
12 to the extent you have questions that you can't
13 answer through the website, certainly get in
14 touch with the Northern Pass team and we'll get
15 the engineers to work with you on answering the
16 questions.

17 MR. HONIGBERG: There's a couple of
18 questions that generally relate to cost/benefit.
19 Can you review again how you are going to lower
20 electric rates for New Hampshire's ratepayers?

21 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So at the outset I
22 explained the effect that putting Northern Pass
23 into service has on wholesale electric rates

1 across New England. It basically displaces
2 higher cost generation, and, therefore, lowers
3 the clearing price across New England. That's
4 the effect on the wholesale energy markets.
5 When our experts evaluate Northern Pass and put
6 it into that bid stack that I showed, the annual
7 cost savings to New England customers is
8 approximately 800 billion dollars a year. New
9 Hampshire's approximately 9 percent of New
10 England's total load so 9 percent of those
11 savings land here in New Hampshire, that's
12 approximately 80 million dollars a year in
13 annual energy cost savings. We refer to that as
14 the market suppression effect. It's basically
15 lowering the wholesale price of electricity.

16 Separate and apart from this, we are
17 planning to enter an Power Purchase Agreement
18 with our partner Hydro-Quebec to reserve ten
19 percent of the power flowing over this line for
20 New Hampshire customers, and our anticipation is
21 that's going to be beneficially priced which
22 means it's going to provide additional energy
23 cost savings for New Hampshire customers. So

1 there's really two effects that will result in
2 lower energy bills for our customers.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: Circling back to burial.
4 I'm going to read it as it's written. With the
5 profit potential of the Northern Pass being so
6 high, the payback period being so short, why
7 does the Northern Pass insist on resisting a
8 full burial?

9 MR. QUINLAN: As I indicated earlier, we've
10 been working really hard on the project that
11 strikes that balance. That does what it needs
12 to do technically, that is not priced beyond the
13 point where you pay for, meaning it becomes
14 uneconomic, and protects what critical interests
15 we can here in the State of New Hampshire.
16 That's the project that we have put in front of
17 this Site Evaluation Committee. I also
18 indicated that's the project that we submitted
19 to the three-state RFP. We think it's a very
20 competitive project. In essence, it strikes the
21 balance.

22 MR. HONIGBERG: Two related questions. Why
23 has Northern Pass refused to meet with upper

1 Coos County elected officials to consider their
2 concerns and rights, and why has the Applicant
3 not contacted or met with county officials or
4 the county commissioners who are the elected
5 Selectmen of Dixville and Millsfield?

6 MR. QUINLAN: So for the last year and a
7 half, we've spent, I personally have spent days
8 here in the North Country meeting with elected
9 officials and other interested stakeholders
10 including members of the legislature, county
11 commissioners, individuals from the towns of
12 Millsfield and Dixville so I don't agree that
13 we've ever refused a meeting. In fact, we're
14 open to any meeting from any stakeholder here in
15 New Hampshire, and that's been our policy for
16 the last 18 months which is how long we've been
17 involved in the project.

18 MR. HONIGBERG: All right. New topic. How
19 may current existing PSNH towers will be
20 relocated?

21 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to refer that to
22 Mr. Johnson.

23 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Johnson, there's a

1 series of questions here so why don't you start
2 with that one because, well, I'll tell you what
3 they are so maybe you'll be able to look at
4 multiple pieces of information at the same time.
5 What is the span of heights of the relocated
6 towers. Then there's a question about is this
7 information in the SEC application. And if it
8 is not, where can the information be found.

9 MR. JOHNSON: So the answer is that there
10 are 282 115-kV structures that will be
11 relocated. They range approximately 41 feet to
12 115 feet, the most common being the 92 and a
13 half and that's in Coos County. If you'd like
14 statistics for the whole project?

15 MR. HONIGBERG: Could you repeat that, the
16 Coos County numbers, please?

17 MR. JOHNSON: 282 with the average range of
18 heights ranging between 41 and 115 and the most
19 common being 92 and a half.

20 MR. HONIGBERG: Are you able to quickly
21 give the information for the entire project?

22 MR. JOHNSON: I'm adding it up right now.
23 Let's just say it's approximately 600 structures

1 for the entire project. All of these structures
2 are in the application. If you look at the mile
3 sheets, project maps that were submitted, each
4 of these structure heights of the new project
5 and the relocated project are all listed there.

6 MR. HONIGBERG: All right. We're going to
7 move on. Have you sought or obtained any
8 permits from the State of Vermont for any of the
9 subdivisions or municipalities? If so, what
10 permits have you obtained and what permits are
11 you seeking? If not, why not.

12 MR. QUINLAN: So we have not sought nor
13 received any permits from the State of Vermont.
14 None are required.

15 MR. HONIGBERG: You have stated previously
16 that you cannot use any part of the I-93
17 corridor for any part of buried component of
18 this project. Is this because New Hampshire
19 Department of Transportation has told you the
20 corridor is not available to you or is it
21 because of some other reason, and if so, what is
22 that reason?

23 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to refer that

1 question to Mr. Bowes.

2 MR. BOWES: I'll start out with the
3 analysis that the company has performed. We
4 don't believe that the I-93 corridor is a viable
5 route, four main reasons. The ability to
6 construct it on a limited access highway creates
7 public safety issues. Second item is
8 environmental impacts, construction through
9 undisturbed soil which I will come back to at
10 the end. The third item is the constructability
11 of that project. While it's much easier to
12 construct inside a state highway, for example,
13 Route 3, on Route 93 there are many other
14 complications to that constructability, the exit
15 and on ramps, the elevation of the highway, and
16 as, again, I mentioned some of the
17 constructability issues that take us off the
18 roadway into the undisturbed soil area. All of
19 those things lead to a much higher cost so
20 ultimately the project cost becomes a tipping
21 point where it's no longer a viable project.

22 Now, as far as the New Hampshire DOT is
23 concerned, we've had a series of meetings with

1 the DOT both before we submitted the
2 application, during the application process to
3 make sure we had the permits that were necessary
4 for the project in the sense the project has
5 been announced. In each one of those meetings,
6 we have confirmed the New Hampshire DOT's
7 understanding of their rules for this project.
8 That we must come up with a viable alternative
9 to using I-93 before we can ask for that use.
10 In every case, we have a viability alternative
11 to using I-93. So if we were for some reason to
12 go on I-93, you could not be in the median, we
13 could not be in the travel lanes, we could not
14 be in the breakdown lane and we could not be in
15 the shoulder which pushes us to the far
16 right-hand side of the highway into the
17 undisturbed area of that highway right-of-way.
18 That would make, the first four statements I
19 made, public safety, environmental impacts, the
20 constructability, and ultimately the cost would
21 make that a nonviable project for us to pursue.

22 MR. HONIGBERG: Following up on something
23 that was said earlier, a question's been

1 submitted asking you to clarify something. The
2 question writer says that a couple of weeks ago
3 in a meeting Northern Pass's engineers stated
4 that the buried portion of the transmission line
5 would be located under paved portions of roads.
6 This question asker understood you to just say a
7 little while ago that the construction would be,
8 quote, mostly in the shoulder of the road. Can
9 you please clarify the situation?

10 MR. JOHNSON: I believe the words I used in
11 that meeting were disturbed areas of the road.
12 Disturbed areas by definition means the shoulder
13 and also the paved area. Our prior goal is to
14 locate our underground line within the disturbed
15 area of the shoulder of the road so that would
16 minimize the impacts due to the paved areas.
17 There will be some places where we cannot avoid
18 the paved areas and that thus will in some in
19 some areas be in the paved areas.

20 MR. HONIGBERG: All right. The final
21 question on green sheets here is directed to our
22 friends from the Department of Energy regarding
23 the Environmental Impact Statement. So it will

1 be submitted to them to comment and I will read
2 it. Will the Final EIS include additional
3 contrast/dominance ratings for simulation of the
4 use prepared by Northern Pass or the SEC/DOE or
5 for additional views simulated by others. That
6 is the last question.

7 So what we're going to do is we're going to
8 take a 10 or 15 minute break to give people a
9 chance to stretch their legs. We have, I
10 believe, upwards of 50 people who are signed up
11 to speak. So what we're going to do is we're
12 going to ask people to limit their comments to
13 three minutes. If what you have extends well
14 beyond three minutes, we're going to offer you a
15 couple of choices; to submit what you have in
16 writing or to come back and after all have had a
17 chance to speak. We're not going to be
18 draconian. It's not like we're going to cut the
19 microphone off in three minutes. If you go a
20 little bit over, that's okay, but we do, we
21 would like you to limit yourself to three
22 minutes. So we'll come back in 15 minutes.

23 (Recess taken)

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1 MR. HONIGBERG: All right, folks. We are
2 at the public comment portion of evening. As I
3 said before the break, we'd like you to, if
4 possible, to keep your comments to three
5 minutes. If you need a little bit more time, we
6 can do that, but if you need a lot more time,
7 we're probably going to ask you to either submit
8 in writing or wait until the end to finish your
9 remarks. I'm going to do my best to pronounce
10 your names as well as I can. I have been living
11 with a somewhat difficult-to-pronounce name for
12 my entire life so I am empathetic.

13 When you come up, please spell your name
14 for the stenographer. If you have something you
15 want to read, please read it slowly and clearly
16 as best you can. That's the only way the
17 stenographer is going to get it right. She does
18 a great job, but she's only human, and if you go
19 too fast, her machine may explode. If you do
20 have something in writing, if you could please
21 give her a copy when you're done, that way she
22 has the best chance to understand if you used
23 some obscure words or said something that she

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1 couldn't get.

2 If you hear something that someone else has
3 said with which you agree, you don't, we'd ask
4 you please not to repeat it. If you say I agree
5 with what so-and-so said about such-and-such,
6 that will get you through this very large pile
7 of yellow sheets and names on this list as
8 quickly as we can.

9 So with that, we have two elected officials
10 that I'm aware of and we'll call on them first.
11 The first is the Chair of the Colebrook Board of
12 Selectmen, Raymond Gorman. You'll be followed
13 by Representative Larry Rappaport and then
14 Mr. Samuel Bird.

15 SPEAKER: Good evening. Raymond Gorman.
16 Chairman of the Board here in Colebrook,
17 Selectman. First of all, I'm coming to make a
18 statement here about we really appreciate seeing
19 this meeting here tonight, and I think if you
20 look at the number of people that are here, you
21 compare it to the population in this area, this
22 might be one of your most well-attended
23 meetings. And it's important, I think it's

1 been, I was at the original meeting in 2010, and
2 it's important to please include Colebrook in
3 this area in your meetings.

4 And next is going to be a question for
5 folks over here, and maybe you can help answer.
6 We see tonight with your Power Point that you're
7 talking about 30 million dollars in property
8 tax. Okay? And why I'm coming to this is the
9 town of Colebrook right now is involved with a
10 lawsuit with New Hampshire Electric Co-op that
11 we have spent tens of thousands of dollars on.
12 We spent 40 to \$50,000 in the last four to five
13 years disagreeing with them about the evaluation
14 of their power lines and poles. We feel we've
15 got at least two more years with this lawsuit.
16 There's several other towns. So my question to
17 you folks are, do you have any lawsuits with any
18 other communities over the values of the
19 transmission lines, and how do you see this 30
20 million over the next five to ten years, will we
21 sue, will those towns be collecting the same
22 percentage after five years and ten years as you
23 projected at the first year of this to be taxed.

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1 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Gorman, the time for
2 questions for the company has passed this
3 evening. We had dozens of written questions
4 submitted for the company to answer. If you
5 want to have a question submitted to them at the
6 next public hearing in Concord on Thursday, you
7 can submit that, or when we're in Deerfield or
8 Plymouth on the other occasions, but right now,
9 we're for public comment.

10 MR. GORMAN: All right. Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MR. HONIGBERG: Please stop, please stop.
13 We don't have all night, folks. Representative
14 Rappaport followed by Samuel Bird and Dolly
15 McPhaul.

16 SPEAKER: Thank you. My name is Larry
17 Rappaport. Boy, it's been a long time. I
18 started this in 2007, and Mr. Quinlan, I have
19 been asking to meet with you for two years now
20 through your associate Donna Gamache who was in
21 my committee. I'm a State Representative. And
22 so far nothing's happened.

23 (Applause)

1 MR. HONIGBERG: Samuel Bird followed by
2 Dolly McPhaul and Mark Armstrong.

3 SPEAKER: I'd like to thank the committee
4 for coming to Colebrook, and I have to say this
5 right at the beginning, of course I know he's
6 here, Charlie Jordan said it best. This is like
7 being trapped in the movie Groundhog Day. Now,
8 I know this is the procedure, but the same thing
9 over and over again, year after year, EIS, DOE
10 hearings, SEC hearings, and absolutely nothing
11 has changed. All the few pros on Northern Pass
12 are the same. All the many cons on Northern
13 Pass are the same. But the Groundhog Day
14 meetings, hearings and steps in this so-called
15 process go on and on, but you're not going to
16 wear us out, and to make things even more
17 ridiculous, we are here again to comment even
18 though Northern Pass has not completed its
19 application and still doesn't even have a route
20 to build the project. You are going to hear
21 nothing here that you haven't heard many times
22 before. I've already heard so many things that
23 I've heard before. And after millions and

1 millions of words about this, it's many
2 possible, no matter how many speakers there are
3 or how articulate for anyone to say something
4 different or shed a new thought on this saga.
5 If you are among the very few that support this
6 exploitation or if you are among many that are
7 against this project without burial, you will
8 hear nothing new. It's all been said.

9 Many of you committee members must have sat
10 through years of listening to this. I see Brian
11 Mills so many times and others I recognize also,
12 and I know it's your job, but this can't be the
13 best part of it. Please, everyone, let's end
14 this movie, but please know, however, like I
15 said before, you ain't going to wear us out.
16 But wait, a brand new idea did just come to me,
17 and I don't think anybody has said this before.
18 How about this. Why don't you bury Northern
19 Pass. All the other companies do. Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 SPEAKER: Dolly McPhaul, M C P H A U L,
22 Sugar Hill, and I'm here tonight to give a
23 little different perspective. Maybe it is

1 something new. I spent one year attending the
2 ICC rulemaking sessions. I only missed one
3 meeting at which the SEC members were present.
4 The final meeting to ratify the new rules. I
5 couldn't bear to be there and watch the
6 Eversource rules be ratified. In my mind,
7 Eversource is the parent company of the SEC.

8 Here are a few examples. Pay attention.
9 They're pretty outrageous. When the project is
10 no longer in use, what happens to the towers.
11 Nothing. If you are a company with wind
12 turbines, you have to remove all structures and
13 restore the site. That sentence is missing from
14 transmission towers. Think about that. No
15 requirements from the SEC for Eversource to
16 remove the obscene Northern Pass towers. 78
17 miles of hideous towers.

18 Next, there was a bill passed that said the
19 SEC must consider cumulative impacts when making
20 its decision. Makes perfect sense to have to
21 consider everything in sight. Oh, oh, wait.
22 Transmission towers were removed from that.
23 Just think. Apparently 85 to 155 foot towers

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1 through 78 miles of New Hampshire are invisible.
2 Isn't that great? We don't have to look at
3 those. Even when they're dead.

4 Third, how far should transmission towers
5 and lines be set back from homes, day care
6 centers and hospitals. We fought for those for
7 two reasons: EMFs and falling tower zones. What
8 happened. No setbacks necessary. According to
9 the SEC, the many studies that indicate the
10 connection between cancer, especially childhood
11 leukemia, and transmission lines I guess don't
12 matter with Eversource or the SEC. What are
13 mere human lives compared with more, and I
14 stress the word more, of the all mighty dollar
15 for Eversource or a high paying job with
16 Eversource for an SEC member. The SEC committee
17 needs to go talk to Rod McAllister or Lynn
18 Placey about where their priorities should be.

19 As far as towers falling, we were told the
20 odds against that happening were so minimal that
21 there was no need to be considered, even after
22 being shown a picture of the towers on a home
23 and being told that 1000 steel towers collapsed

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1 in the Canadian ice storm. What happened? No
2 setbacks. Guess we weren't Eversource.

3 Four, another outrageous acceptance of the
4 completed application that is not complete.
5 They do not have control of their route, and
6 then this circus of meetings. Meetings that are
7 not legitimate. We can't know the facts because
8 they're not out there. We are called to a
9 meeting that does not have all the facts. Oh,
10 we've been told that they will have two more
11 meetings some time somewhere for us to hear
12 these facts. Undoubtedly, they will be in the
13 least accessible at the worst convenient time
14 for people so as few will come out as possible.
15 The people obviously do not count.

16 And finally, for those of you who vote to
17 accept this rape and pillage of our beautiful
18 countryside, I feel every one of you that
19 accepts this project should be investigated.
20 Your acceptance of this application will in no
21 way stop our fight against this obscene,
22 unnecessary, for-Eversource-profits-only
23 project.

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1 providing the springboard for the nation's
2 recovery. The CCC employed thousands of young
3 men building roads through the wilderness, roads
4 that are still in use today. The TVA and the
5 Bureau of Reclamation built big hydroelectric
6 projects that continue to provide cheap
7 electricity to southeastern and west states.

8 Here's what the iconic American folk singer
9 Woody Guthrie had to say about these enormous
10 hydroelectrical projects. Quote, and on up the
11 river is Grand Coulee Dam, the mightiest thing
12 ever built by a man to run these great factories
13 and water land. Roll on, Columbia, roll on.

14 Woody Guthrie was a starving Oakie, right out of
15 the dust bowl. Now, this iconic American folk
16 singer wrote a couple dozen songs about these
17 big hydro projects, and it's interesting to know
18 if that you did a word search on this entire
19 body of lyrical work, graces like snail darter,
20 endangered species or viewshed don't come up.

21 And the hundreds of thousands of hungry
22 refugees from the poverty of the dustbowl didn't
23 pass up these temporary construction jobs.

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1 Maybe they and President Roosevelt realized that
2 sometimes you need a brief but intense spark to
3 ignite something bigger and longer lasting.

4 When you go camping and carefully build
5 your fire lay with the tinder and the kindling
6 and the tiny twigs with some bigger sticks on
7 top and you get ready to strike the match,
8 nobody ever says oh, don't bother with that
9 temporary thing. That's only going to last
10 about five seconds. The Northern Pass
11 construction may well be what we need to
12 rekindle the economy. One enormous benefit of
13 this project will be the upgrade of the Coos
14 loop. This really is very significant for all
15 of Northern New England because it will allow
16 the biomass boiler to run at full capacity.
17 With the slowdown of the pulpwood sector, we
18 desperately need this market for low-grade wood.
19 We need to build this project for the good of
20 New Hampshire, for the good of New England, for
21 the new generation of Americans who will need
22 this low cost electrical energy to build a
23 flourishing economy for the future. Thank you.

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(Applause)

MR. HONIGBERG: Steve Ellis followed by Scott Rineer and Bill Abbott, and Mr. Ellis, I apologize. I didn't realize you are the Chair of the Selectboard in Pittsburg.

SPEAKER: Thank you. My name is Steve Ellis, and I am the Chairman of the Selectboard for the town of Pittsburg. I'm also a retired Senior Vice President and National Director of Sales for a major insurance company.

As you know, Northern Pass plans to enter the US over Halls Stream in Pittsburg and erect 20 towers before it is buried under the Connecticut River. Pittsburg is a community that survives on tourism, where people can escape to enjoy our abundant wildlife and scenic vistas. There are many unique things about our town. We have the largest geographic township in New England. We're considered the snowmobile capital of New England, having over 200 miles of groomed trails and hosting vintage snowmobile races. We are part of the Ride the Wilds trail which covers over 1000 miles for ATVs. We have

1 many fishing habitats, including lakes, ponds,
2 streams, bogs and the Connecticut River. We
3 have a trophy fishing area on the Connecticut
4 River that attracts anglers from all over the
5 world, and we have miles of beautiful hiking
6 trails.

7 Without any consideration for our natural
8 resources, Northern Pass plans to ruin our
9 pristine vistas. In February of 1998, the State
10 of New Hampshire recognized the importance of
11 keeping Pittsburg and the Great North Woods from
12 being developed. They established an easement
13 of 146,000 acres of the Connecticut Lake
14 Headwaters and established the Connecticut Lake
15 Headwaters Citizen Committee to monitor
16 compliance with the terms and conditions of the
17 easement.

18 We wish Northern Pass also recognized this
19 importance by leaving our landscape untouched,
20 by simply burying the lines. It is only two
21 miles from the entrance into the United States
22 to the Connecticut River where a directional
23 bore will bury the line under the Connecticut

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1 River. If not buried, the towers erected up to
2 that point will be seen for miles as you enter
3 our town on Route 3.

4 The biggest insult to our town, however, is
5 the disturbing our historic land where the
6 towers will be erected; namely, the Indian
7 Stream Republic territory. In 1783 the Treaty
8 of Paris established the border between the US
9 and Canada. It was not clear and in 1832 this
10 border dispute caused double taxation for the
11 inhabitants of which is now a section of
12 Pittsburg. They had enough and revolted and
13 created their own sovereign nation with their
14 own Constitution and Congress and named it the
15 Indian Stream Republic. For over 175 years,
16 this land has remained untouched. But now
17 Northern Pass wants to change that.

18 In conclusion, I ask you not to let
19 Northern Pass destroy our beautiful vistas which
20 will have an adverse effect on our economy. Do
21 not let them destroy Indian Stream Republic
22 territory which has been preserved for over 175
23 years. This is sacred land to our town and

1 citizens. The solution is very simple. Bury
2 the lines, so both Northern Pass objectives and
3 ours can be achieved. Thank you for your
4 attention.

5 (Applause)

6 SPEAKER: My name is Scott Rineer. I'm a
7 resident of Errol, New Hampshire. I've been a
8 resident of Northern New Hampshire for over 25
9 years living in towns close to the proposed
10 Northern Pass project. I also work in the
11 timber industry, an industry that is vital to
12 this region and one of the leading industries in
13 our state for many years.

14 I support the Northern Pass project and for
15 many good reasons. Northern Pass doesn't just
16 promise to spend money in this area. They have
17 already begun to do so. This project will
18 support local businesses, it will provide jobs,
19 and it will provide a much needed upgrade to the
20 Coos loop. In recent months the timber industry
21 has been hard hit, losing markets for low-grade
22 wood that are vital to keeping our loggers and
23 sawmills in business. The current limitations

1 to the Coos loop are the reason for the new
2 biomass plant in Berlin to be running at half
3 throttle. An upgrade would allow for up to 100
4 megawatts of additional power to enter the New
5 England grid. This is not new development.
6 Rather existing power facilities such as
7 biomass, the biomass plant in Berlin and the
8 wind farms at Dixville, Millsfield and Berlin to
9 operate to full capacity. The timber industry
10 as well as local renewable industry producers
11 need this upgrade badly, and Northern Pass
12 agreed to do it.

13 The Northern Pass project will provide the
14 economic stimulus our state and this region is
15 so desperately seeking. They will do this by
16 supporting local businesses and helping our
17 traditional industries such as timber and
18 tourism prosper in the future. Thank you. And
19 I also have ten additional letters written by
20 business owners here in Coos County to submit
21 for the record as well as my letter.

22 MR. HONIGBERG: Give the letters to Ms.
23 Monroe, and you'd give your written statement to

1 the stenographer. Will Abbott followed by
2 Alexander Ritchie and Clifford Lane, Jr.

3 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Will
4 Abbott, and I'm here today representing the
5 Society for the Protection of New Hampshire
6 Forests where I serve as Vice Presidents for
7 Policy & Reservation Stewardship. I have
8 comments this evening for the Department of
9 Energy and Draft EIS. I also have comments on
10 here for the SEC on the proposed Northern Pass
11 application, comments to supplement those made
12 by our President/Forester Jane Difley last week
13 in Meredith. I'm going to offer my comments to
14 the DEIS now and respectfully request the
15 opportunity to present an additional three
16 minutes of comments on the SEC issues once all
17 others have had a chance to speak.

18 Concerning the Draft EIS, the Forest
19 Society sees one major flaw that must be
20 corrected in the Final EIS. We believe that the
21 DEIS fails to satisfy the legal requirements of
22 the National Environmental Policy Act because it
23 fails to study more than one international

1 border crossing. NEPA regulations require
2 federal agencies to, and I quote, according to
3 the regulations, identify and assess reasonable
4 alternatives to propose actions that will avoid
5 or minimize adverse effects of these actions
6 upon quality of the human environment. An
7 Environmental Impact Statement is the tool
8 provided by NEPA to study a range of
9 alternatives. The EIS is designed to inform the
10 federal permitting agency as to what the least
11 damaging environmental alternative is for the
12 project. NEPA does not require that the agency
13 choose the least damaging alternative, only that
14 it study a range of alternatives to inform the
15 agency's decision.

16 The DEIS before us today, the draft form,
17 does not study a range of alternatives for the
18 international border crossing. It only studies
19 one crossing alternative, the one presented by
20 the Applicant, and the Applicant's proposal is
21 the one presented by its customer, Hydro-Quebec.
22 We strongly urge the DOE to prepare a Final EIS
23 that studies at least one additional alternative

1 to the Applicant's preferred border crossing.
2 This would correct the flaw, and would better
3 inform the DOE's Presidential permit decision.

4 Given that the Northern Pass changed the
5 size of the facility and the cable technology
6 proposed for this project last summer after the
7 final original EIS work was completed, this is
8 another compelling reason to revisit the issue
9 of options for crossing the international border
10 in the Final EIS.

11 As just one example, if the Final EIS
12 studies an alternative border crossing at Derby
13 Line, Vermont, it could then consider a
14 completely buried facility from Derby Line to
15 either Hartford or Boston or even Deerfield, New
16 Hampshire. This would get electricity to the
17 southern New England markets that Mr. Quinlan
18 explained earlier is a primary objective of
19 Northern Pass.

20 Consider that a buried route along I-91 and
21 I-93, would avoid Coos County completely, and
22 all of the adverse impacts of the current
23 proposal on Coos County. Consider that a buried

1 transmission line down I-91 and I-93 between
2 Derby Line and Exit 40 off Bethlehem, New
3 Hampshire, is ten miles shorter than the current
4 serpentine route through Coos County. Consider
5 that a completely buried line from Derby Line to
6 Deerfield would avoid nearly all of the adverse
7 impacts of the 132 miles of overhead lines
8 currently proposed. Consider that an
9 alternative border crossing at Derby Line would
10 provide an alternative to the Coos County route
11 that may be rendered moot by a property rights
12 lawsuit that we have raised in Coos County
13 Superior Court concerning our land in
14 Clarksville, something which I will discuss
15 later.

16 The point here is that the Draft EIS does
17 not consider any border crossing except the
18 Applicant's proposed crossing at Hall's Stream.
19 In so doing, the EIS draft fails to meet the
20 primary statutory objective of NEPA and fails to
21 fully inform the DOE on the decision ahead of it
22 concerning the Presidential permit. This is
23 precisely --

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1 and throughout our efforts at Burgess BioPower
2 for over 8 years now we feel we have an
3 obligation and responsibility to the region, its
4 livelihood and its success. As a result, Cate
5 Street Capital is an intervenor in the Northern
6 Pass docket, and I am here to testify that we do
7 support the approval of Northern Pass's
8 application by the New Hampshire SEC. Given the
9 many measures the developer has taken in order
10 to minimize the significant adverse impact, we
11 believe that this project and the region can
12 both succeed in harmony.

13 More so, we are here to support the
14 approval of the Northern Pass Project as we
15 believe it is critically important to the
16 region's overall energy forecast. Almost 50
17 percent of New England's generation is currently
18 being produced from natural gas, as Mr. Quinlan
19 spoke to earlier this evening. Additionally,
20 approximately 8,000 megawatts of capacity is
21 scheduled to be retired from now to 2020. We
22 are in imminent need of significant
23 diversification of New England's overall energy

1 supply, and we believe that the Northern Pass
2 project is needed to help bridge both of these
3 fronts.

4 Further, Northern Pass will bring a large
5 and much needed investment to the North
6 Country's tax base. This investment will help
7 lessen the burden on existing taxpayers and
8 provide new revenues for local and county
9 services. Having developed the Burgess BioPower
10 project facility, we have seen the meaningful
11 impact that an anchor tenant, if you will, can
12 have on a community. The property tax agreement
13 that Burgess BioPower and the city of Berlin was
14 able to negotiate has allowed the city to
15 strategically plan for its future as a community
16 over the long-term, knowing that this tax base
17 will be available.

18 As part of the Northern Pass's proposal the
19 project has proposed an upgrade to a portion of
20 the Coos County loop which Burgess BioPower uses
21 to transmit its power to the grid. This portion
22 of electric infrastructure is critical to those
23 of us that operate energy generators in the

1 region, and, unfortunately, this transmission
2 line is currently limited and the ability to
3 transmit power is restricted on many days,
4 sometimes significantly. Very often, Burgess
5 BioPower and other New Hampshire electric
6 generators face significant curtailment because
7 of these ongoing issues, which has had and will
8 continue to have a significant economic impact
9 on anyone affected.

10 We do believe that the proposal put forth
11 by Northern Pass to upgrade a significant
12 portion of the loop is meaningful and is a much
13 needed near-term solution to this problem.

14 In closing, let's be honest. There's no
15 perfect project. I saw that firsthand 7 years
16 ago. There is no pleasing everyone 100 percent
17 of the time, but I have to compliment Eversource
18 and their Northern Pass team on the painstaking
19 effort they put into the development of this
20 project. They listened, they engaged with
21 surrounding communities, they explored
22 alternatives. They worked with neighbors to not
23 only try and find a way to bring this critically

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1 important product to New Hampshire, but to do so
2 in a responsible and collaborative way. So I
3 thank you for your consideration of our comments
4 and I encourage the Committee's support for the
5 Northern Pass. Thank you.

6 SPEAKER: My name is Clifford Lane, Jr. My
7 name is Butch Lane. Everybody knows me, my son
8 John and I own JML Trucking & Excavating in
9 Errol. I am here to support the Northern Pass
10 project. The project will provide much needed
11 upgrades to the Coos loop. Right now and in the
12 near future there is a surplus of biomass
13 available. Mills in Maine are closing down, ton
14 of biomass at a very cheap price. This is a
15 great chance for the biomass plant in Berlin to
16 run at full strength. I've worked around there
17 for the last month or so, and I've seen nothing
18 but trucks. Three months ago they couldn't get
19 enough, wondering, and now they're turning
20 trucks away. What a great place. They will
21 keep people in the woods going. Keep everybody
22 going. We need jobs for the woods industry,
23 believe me. The woods industry is failing fast,

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1 and the government's moving in from both sides.
2 That will only be possible when Northern Pass
3 comes through with these upgrades because we
4 need this Coos loop open. We have one windmill
5 farm that can't even operate. We have another
6 one that our tax dollars have built, \$130
7 million up there, and that's running at half
8 capacity. We've got to start getting some of
9 these places going.

10 The construction project will probably be
11 one of the largest that New England's ever had.
12 With this poor winter season we have just
13 experienced, we cannot just survive on tourism,
14 and I think a lot of the motels and restaurant
15 owners and people around here with rentals are
16 seeing that. This type of project will put a
17 lot of quick money into the local economy.
18 Motels and restaurants, parts stores, gravel
19 pits, small contractors and such and myself.
20 These people, contractors, I was in it for 30
21 years, make big and they spend fast. Puts quick
22 money into the area.

23 This will also help many local young men

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1 who have gone for training at linemen school
2 hoping to get a chance on the lines. As I look
3 around this room, there's not a lot of young
4 people. Young people are leaving the North
5 Country fast. We've got to put them back to
6 work.

7 So in closing, I sincerely hope this
8 agreement, the agreement can be done with
9 Northern Pass and we can put people back to
10 work. Thank you.

11 SPEAKER: Thank you. Kevin Kimball. I'm
12 Director of Research for the Appalachian
13 Mountain Club. Tonight, I will make my comments
14 focused to the DEIS. First on the alternative
15 analysis, at Section 1.1, the Draft EIS states
16 it was prepared to meet among several key
17 objectives describe and evaluate the range of
18 reasonable alternatives to proposed action in
19 the US including the no action alternative
20 number 3. The DEIS examined alternative routes
21 and burial operations in New Hampshire only.
22 However, DOE acknowledges that its role is not
23 to select the final route in New Hampshire.

1 Rather, DOE's jurisdiction for Presidential
2 permit is the international border crossing.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: I'm sorry, Mr. Kimball.
4 Just a second. Whoever is speaking over there,
5 you know, we can hear you. So please stop. He
6 deserves your respect and your full and
7 undivided attention.

8 MR. KIMBALL: Thank you. To date, DOE has
9 refused to look at any alternative international
10 crossing site other than the single one proposed
11 by the Applicant. DOE should consider
12 alternative international boarding crossing
13 locations. A much more direct and shorter route
14 with far less environmental impacts or costs for
15 this energy would be to cross in Vermont and
16 follow the buried route along I-91 south to the
17 intended markets Mass., Connecticut and Rhode
18 Island. This logical alternative route goes
19 directly to the Vermont Yankee nuclear power
20 plant in Vernon, Vermont, which is now being
21 decommissioned, and its bridge switch yard is
22 now without power. The Applicant claims the
23 need for Northern Pass is to fill the gap caused

1 by the Vermont nuclear power plant going off
2 line. The Governor of Vermont publicly stated
3 back in 2014 that Vermont stands ready to
4 consider this Vermont alternative. Variation on
5 this approach is burial along I-89 to I-91 to
6 I-93 as Mr. Abbott just spoke to. Both of these
7 alternatives should be studied and included in
8 the Final EIS.

9 Second, on the use of New Hampshire's
10 interstates. The Applicant's filing for both
11 the New Hampshire SEC and the US DOE, the
12 interstates in New Hampshire cannot effectively
13 be used for power line right-of-ways, has never
14 been publicly verified. The Applicant has never
15 asked the three parties that signed the MOU, the
16 Franconia Notch I-93 on those possibilities.
17 Its preference has been to cram more than 1100
18 more cheap transmission towers which will be 2
19 to 3 times tree height in Applicant's
20 right-of-way to increase short-term profits at
21 the long-term expense of the New Hampshire
22 landscape. Neither DOE nor the SEC should
23 accept without full documentation that can be

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1 publicly reviewed that burial and interstate
2 right-of-ways for electric power transmission is
3 legally or fiscally impossible.

4 My final comment goes to the visual impact
5 analysis in the DEIS. The DEIS correctly ranks
6 the North Country study region as having high to
7 very high scenic intrinsic visual quality in
8 contrast to convoluted visual assessments
9 submitted to SEC by the Applicant. The DEIS
10 appropriately acknowledges that overhead lines
11 above and below ground conversion stations would
12 impact the visual landscape whereas complete
13 burial would not. However, one component of the
14 Draft EIS visual component is problematic. When
15 it gets around to trying to understand the
16 visitor's perception and expectations, it can't
17 find readily available data so it resorts to the
18 US National Census Data which is based on the
19 population per square mile. It's obvious that
20 if you have a national landscape, there will be
21 few people there, whereas if you have urban
22 landscape, there will be a lot of people, and
23 that greatly skews that model when it is

1 actually implemented. The Final EIS needs to go
2 back and actually ask, what is the visitor's
3 expectation of this area. That includes not
4 only the residents but the second homeowners and
5 the tourists that come here. I think as you'll
6 see from many of the people sitting behind me
7 here today, their expectations are a little bit
8 different than just simply using census data
9 which really skews the results and this need to
10 be corrected in the Final EIS. Thank you very
11 much.

12 (Applause)

13 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Trevor
14 Lewis. I live and work here in Coos County, and
15 I'm here tonight to voice my support for
16 Northern Pass. While some people oppose this
17 project for reasons ranging from aesthetic
18 concerns to the importation of a foreign energy
19 source, I can understand and respect those
20 views. In saying that, I do believe there's
21 room for conservative responsible change and
22 growth for this county and state. As a
23 forester, I consider myself first and foremost a

1 conservationist, and with that, I feel there's a
2 balance that can be found between economic
3 growth with the development and the protection
4 and preservation of our environment. Northern
5 Pass has heard the concern of those individuals
6 that oppose this project as is evident from the
7 changes that have been made from the initial
8 proposal. I see that as a fair and balanced
9 compromise for both parties, and looking forward
10 in the future to grow economically while making
11 our community a stronger and more vibrant place
12 for the future. Thank you.

13 SPEAKER: Kevin McKinnon. I'm a
14 representative of the Headwater Subcommittee of
15 the Connecticut River Joint Commissions. We are
16 charged with the preservation and protection of
17 the resources of the Connecticut River Valley.
18 Slicing out a 32-mile wide scar starting out at
19 Hall Stream is a far cry from protecting and
20 preserving our national resources. 31 towns
21 have voted no to Northern Pass at their town
22 meetings. Shouldn't this be enough? If,
23 indeed, Northern Pass was serious about minimal

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1 impacts and utilizing existing corridors, they
2 would have come south on US Route 3, cutting the
3 mileage in half, minimizing the impacts both
4 ecological and aesthetic. This would eliminate
5 the horrific scarring of the countryside,
6 alleviate many concerns in terms of the
7 environment and aesthetics and bolster the State
8 of New Hampshire's economy.

9 As you are traveling north on US Route 3,
10 you will climb a large hill prior to the town of
11 Lancaster. At the top is a scenic pullover with
12 a spectacular view of the gateway to the
13 headwaters region we are in. This spectacular
14 view will be despoiled by over 80 towers set in
15 a broad swath of cleared land across the
16 countryside. This image is completely at odds
17 with the picture we set for our tourism
18 industry.

19 As our Chairman stated, the headquarters
20 committee has consistently opposed Northern Pass
21 project. Some reasons that have been cited at
22 many of our meetings are the effect of scenic
23 beauty, loss of work and forest land, impacts to

1 wetlands, reduction of property values, negative
2 effect on tourism, and the lack of any long-term
3 benefits of the region.

4 Member Tom Caron wrote, other regions of
5 New Hampshire do not rely so heavily upon their
6 natural resources and tourism in industry than
7 do the Great North Woods and White Mountain
8 regions of the state. While other regions to
9 the south have large industrial and
10 manufacturing sectors of their economies, the
11 Great North Woods and White Mountain regions do
12 not. All of our eggs are unfortunately in one
13 basket, tourism.

14 The fact that the transmission line as
15 proposed is buried along its journey through the
16 White Mountain regions for 52 miles and
17 similarly buried for only an 8 mile segment
18 along 145 in Clarksville in the Great North
19 Woods region is curious. If it can be buried
20 going through ecologically and tourism sensitive
21 White Mountain National Forest, why not be
22 buried in just as beautiful and sensitive a part
23 of New Hampshire the Great North Woods? A

1 better option is to bury the entire Northern
2 Pass project.

3 In the wetlands application under ENV-WT
4 302.04 #4, Northern Pass states, Work was not
5 performed outside of the proposed right-of-way.
6 The impacts are not known but are stated as the
7 proposed transmission line will have little to
8 no permanent direct impacts. This is a
9 tremendously leap of assumptions. Number 17.
10 Relocation of TS 1 and TS 5 to areas where it is
11 outside wetlands would be much preferred.
12 Burying the lines will eliminate these
13 structures all together. Section 6, Table 3.
14 Summary of wetlands, rivers, streams and vernal
15 pool impacts. Half the impacted wetlands are in
16 the North Country. This is not a good example
17 of avoiding/minimizing wetland impacts.

18 Table 4, Communities. Northern white
19 cedar, balsam fir swamp. Purchasing wetlands
20 and then proposing to develop the property is
21 not responsible, environmentally sensitive
22 aesthetically pleasing, and most importantly,
23 does not take into consideration minimizing

1 wetland impacts.

2 6.1.1.1. Route selection. Northern Pass
3 states, identifying the shortest route feasible,
4 end quote. The shortest route is traveling
5 south in the US Route 3 corridor. Northern Pass
6 has played connect the lots trying to develop an
7 alternate route that they would own.

8 This region is our home for us and our
9 future generations to come. We refuse to have
10 it maligned due to so-called progress, corporate
11 greed or the supposed needs of southern
12 neighbors. New Hampshire is and has been an
13 exporter of electrical power. There is no
14 demonstrated need for us to have this
15 transmission line. We, the Headwaters Committee
16 of the Connecticut River Joint Commission, stand
17 opposed to this Northern Pass project as
18 presented. Perhaps if a different approach had
19 been used rather than trying to shove the
20 project down people's throats, there may have
21 been a different outcome. Thank you .

22 (Applause)

23 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Bob

1 Baker, and I am an almost retired lawyer. I'm
2 living in Columbia, New Hampshire. I moved here
3 about 19 years ago or at least I acquired my
4 home 19 years ago. Because of the majestic
5 environment and Great North Woods. The beauty
6 and the serenity of this area is enchanting, but
7 it would not be the same if the Northern Pass
8 project is permitted and built as currently
9 designed. I say that I'm almost retired because
10 I still have a few active cases. They involve
11 the Northern Pass, and those clients are moving
12 to intervene in this proceeding and they will
13 tell their stories in the future assuming that
14 the interventions are permitted.

15 I speak tonight on my own power as a
16 resident of Coos. I find this project to be
17 ugly, unnecessary, commercial intrusion into a
18 region. It will damage, if not destroy, the
19 most significant assets that we all possess.
20 Those assets are our hearts, our souls which are
21 bound to this beautiful place. The very ethos
22 of people is at stake. If this project is built
23 with its above ground structures and

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1 transmission lines and strings of insulators
2 hanging over our land, we will not feel the same
3 about ourselves. We will never feel the same
4 way about who we are. I beg you to stop this
5 madness. It's been going on far too long. It's
6 not wanted in Coos County by our communities.
7 Don't the voices of the people count for
8 something? Do they matter at all? I ask you to
9 seriously consider that question. Do they
10 matter at all.

11 But it's not just impacting our New
12 Hampshire towns here in Coos County. Part of
13 our region, part of our souls, part of our
14 communities is across the river in Canaan,
15 Vermont. The towers that Northern Pass plans to
16 build in Pittsburg will be erected on
17 foundations of concrete poured high above the
18 Connecticut River 200 yards from the Canaan,
19 Vermont border. It will be visible. Highly
20 visible from the Beecher Falls section of
21 Canaan, Vermont, and in many other viewpoints in
22 Canaan, Vermont. Northern Pass will build a
23 road through forested mountain sides all the way

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1 from Halls Stream on the Canadian border to the
2 Connecticut River in order to pour those
3 foundations. The wetlands will be invaded there
4 and the water will run off. Where will it run?
5 Into Vermont. That's the downhill side of that
6 hill.

7 I have some questions for the DOE, not that
8 you're going to answer them tonight, but I'm
9 going to ask you this. Why hasn't Canaan in the
10 State of Vermont been involved in the Section
11 106 process? Why hasn't the Vermont Division
12 for Historic Preservation been contacted? Why
13 hasn't Northern Pass filled out required
14 applications in Vermont for the Section 106
15 process with the historic and cultural resource
16 people in Vermont. Mr. Quinlan said tonight
17 they don't have to. Are you sure? Why doesn't
18 someone pick up the phone and call Vermont and
19 ask the Historic Resources division if they
20 think an application might be needed.

21 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Baker. How much more
22 do you have?

23 MR. BAKER: I have just a few more

1 observations, and I can summarize them. I'll
2 turn in my handwritten sheet because these are
3 questions for the SEC.

4 Since the only way you can reach the Hall
5 Stream road area is by the roads in Vermont, I
6 would question, and I don't have the answer, I'm
7 not an expert in Vermont law, but I would
8 question whether or not the Department of
9 Transportation in Vermont needs to be contacted
10 for necessary permits to enter into a commercial
11 project that would use their highways, and I
12 don't know the answer to that, but I think it
13 should be done. Also I think that the wetlands
14 resources or the Department of Environmental
15 Protection in Vermont may be interested in
16 having an application done for this project
17 because of water flow off that hill into
18 Vermont, there's obviously going to be disturbed
19 water courses in wetlands in New Hampshire that
20 will have an impact on the water system in
21 Vermont. So I would ask that that be done
22 because in order for the application to be
23 complete, the Applicant must show required

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1 application permits that they have obtained or
2 at least started the process. At least my
3 understanding. So I look forward to having this
4 process continue, and I thank you very much for
5 your attention.

6 SPEAKER: Hello. I'm Rob Beland. I've got
7 land on both sides of the power line. I've got
8 gas line going by my house. The gas company
9 told me that, I told them why don't you put the
10 gas line underneath the power line and run it
11 through that way, and they says they can't
12 because it's got to be so far away from the
13 power line so they brought it close to my house.
14 24-inch main. So I had to live with that. I
15 asked them to put it on the other side of the
16 power line, and they said it cost too much, put
17 it on the other side of the power line so now
18 they're thinking about putting the transmission,
19 there's one there, they want to put another
20 transmission line there. You know, there's one
21 115 kV line going through there, something
22 happens, Berlin says that, you know, they're
23 unloaded, they've got to rehab that whole line.

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1 You know, they're not getting enough power
2 through there, so let's heat that baby up a
3 little bit more. If it's that bad, it should
4 have been done 15 years ago. Eversource knew
5 about it. They didn't do it since Northern
6 Pass. Eversource didn't say well, we'll just
7 throw that in. They knew about it. People in
8 Berlin are hurting. Eversource knew they were
9 hurting. You know, it's not a new thing. You
10 know? I believe that, I think it's really,
11 really, you ought to think about this because
12 them gas lines with the 24-inch mains that goes
13 a long ways to that right-of-way. When they put
14 that gas line in, they didn't plan on having
15 another line going through there. You know?
16 It's just, you know, it's a bomb waiting to blow
17 up. And I say bury it and be done with it. You
18 know what I mean? All we're doing now is
19 dragging our feet and having meetings and
20 dragging our feet. Just bury it. You know?
21 Thank you very much.

22 (Applause)

23 SPEAKER: Nancy Martland. Good evening.

1 I'm going to be addressing my remarks strictly
2 to the SEC because I think this is the only
3 chance I'm going to have to actually speak to
4 you face to face, and I've had a chances to
5 speak to the DOE. My name is Nancy Martland. I
6 live in Sugar Hill, New Hampshire, and I'm here
7 this evening partly because I'm be out of town
8 when my town has its hearing but also partly
9 because I live in a town that now has a buried
10 line, and I don't think it's right that some
11 towns are spared overhead lines and some towns
12 are not. I understand that this is a statutory
13 regulatory permitting process. However, I hope
14 that your decision will rest on more than
15 dotting the regulatory i's and crossing the t's
16 more than a process operated mainly so far as I
17 can see by lawyers for lawyers. As Bob Baker
18 said, do we matter? We're here. Do we matter?

19 The highly controversial nature of this
20 project requires that you who hold our futures
21 in your hands exercise extreme care as you weigh
22 the issues involved in this case. If I were in
23 your shoes, I think I might be wondering why

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1 people like me are fighting Northern Pass so
2 hard. So maybe I can help with that a little.

3 I cannot impress upon you strongly enough
4 that we know that the decision that you make on
5 Northern Pass is one we will have to live with
6 for the rest of our lives. Long after you've
7 returned to your homes and moved on, we will
8 still be here as will our children and their
9 children living with your decision. Allowing
10 this project to deface our land when there is a
11 perfectly reasonable low impact alternative
12 would be a travesty and that is why we fight.

13 It's impossible to grasp the notion of a
14 beach by looking at individual grains of sand,
15 and it's impossible to understand the full scope
16 and impact of Northern Pass by looking only at
17 its details. Fair judgment and your own rules
18 require you to comprehend the beach, not just
19 the grains of sand. For example, the big
20 picture is essential to your required findings
21 of impact on aesthetics and historic properties
22 which must include an examination of effects on
23 the landscape as a whole. So I'd like to talk

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1 to you in the time I have left about the concept
2 of cultural landscapes, and I believe Ms. Monroe
3 gave you some materials that I have taken from
4 the National Park Service. I'm going to speak
5 on it briefly, but you can look into it more
6 fully in the material.

7 Cultural landscapes are a class of historic
8 properties eligible for placement on the
9 National Register of Historic Places. According
10 to the National Park Service guidelines, and I
11 quote, cultural landscapes and range from
12 thousands of acres of rural tracts of land to a
13 small homestead with a front yard of less than
14 one acre. Like historic buildings and
15 districts, these special places reveal aspects
16 of our country's origins and development with
17 their form and features and the ways they were
18 used. Cultural landscapes also reveal much
19 about our involving relationship with the
20 natural world, and I believe on the bus tour
21 today, you got a glimpse of a number areas that
22 qualify as cultural landscapes.

23 Our landscape is so important that the

1 National Trust for Historic Preservation has
2 designated the scenic landscapes of New
3 Hampshire as a national treasure. The trust
4 notes regarding Northern Pass, and I'm quoting
5 again, if the transmission line is built, it
6 should not be at the expense of the character
7 and spirit of the Granite State's special
8 places. We live in an age of technology and
9 innovation. By making use of this technology,
10 surely a solution can be found that puts place
11 before power lines, end quote.

12 MR. HONIGBERG: Ms. Martland, how much more
13 do you have?

14 MS. MARTLAND: I can skip to my final. I
15 have another paragraph. Can I do that?

16 MR. HONIGBERG: Go for it.

17 MS. MARTLAND: Cultural landscapes are
18 distinct from other types of historic
19 properties, this is really important, such as
20 buildings or historic districts. They're of
21 great value but cannot alone define the
22 qualities of the North Country. What we have
23 here can not be reduced simply to discrete

1 building or sites. It involves the landscape
2 that is majestic and intimate and has drawn
3 people here from all over the world for close to
4 200 years. Our landscape defines us here in the
5 North Country. It is scenic, it is historic,
6 and it is culturally significant.

7 Please be certain that you consider the
8 integrity of the New Hampshire's landscape in
9 this context as you weigh the information
10 regarding aesthetics and historic properties
11 that will come before you as a result of this
12 decision. I believe that our cultural landscape
13 should be protected from the disfigurement that
14 overhead power lines would inflict upon them.
15 Of course, as everyone in this room knows,
16 damage could be avoided almost completely if
17 Northern Pass elected to bury all of its lines
18 rather than just segments. Thank you. Sorry I
19 went over.

20 (Applause)

21 SPEAKER: My name is Steve Adams. I'm the
22 President of PAR Electric Contractors, a Quanta
23 Services Company. I want to thank both the

1 Department of Energy and the New Hampshire Site
2 Evaluation Committee for coming here today. I'm
3 speaking in support of the project. We are the
4 selected general contractor for Northern Pass.
5 Quanta Services operates two construction
6 companies in New Hampshire. PAR Electrical
7 Contractors in Bow, New Hampshire, and JCR
8 Utility Construction in Raymond, New Hampshire.
9 We currently employ 200 people in New Hampshire
10 with the company dating back to over 30 years.
11 These employees live and work in New Hampshire
12 and raise their family here. With Northern
13 Pass, we plan on increasing the number of
14 employees, permanent and temporary.

15 An important aspect of Northern Pass is the
16 Eversource's New Hampshire First commitment. It
17 requires the general contractor to provide work
18 and job opportunities for New Hampshire citizens
19 and business. This local requirement includes
20 several Eversource transmission projects in New
21 Hampshire, including Northern Pass. While there
22 are certain aspects of this project that would
23 require specialty workers, there has been

1 considerable effort to work with locals and
2 local contractors to give them the best
3 advantage. Over 70 New Hampshire companies and
4 subcontractors have been met with to date.

5 Given Quanta's experience working with
6 large electrical transmission projects around
7 the country, I want to provide some information
8 on the economic benefits that these types of
9 projects will be bringing to New Hampshire.
10 While many people can see the jobs and economic
11 benefits that flow to electric linemen,
12 sometimes it's difficult to appreciate the
13 benefits and how they flow down to the rest of
14 the community. I think the best example is a
15 similar transmission construction project that
16 was just completed called the Maine Power
17 Reliability Project. So-called MPRP. It was
18 just completed in 2015. It was a five-year
19 project that totaled \$1.4 billion. 390
20 contractors were hired to build the project with
21 270 of those contractors coming from Maine. At
22 the height of construction of the project, it
23 created 2700 jobs for the state and supplied

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1 \$436 million to the Maine economy. There are
2 similar examples of these projects across the
3 country with widespread economic benefits
4 provided by these projects, but I would
5 encourage the committee to consider that MPRP
6 impacts due to the location and the schedule.

7 Several of the other contractors have spoke
8 about the various items used as far as wood and
9 gravel, but the economic flow down goes much
10 deeper when you get into lodging, landscaping
11 and waste management, salvage, aggregate
12 hauling, equipment hauling, transportation.
13 Let's not forget all the way down to retail
14 stores, restaurants, motels, campgrounds, all
15 the necessary services that will be required to
16 keep a large workforce moving, and the company
17 will continue to operate and reach out to New
18 Hampshire companies. We encourage all companies
19 to reach out to us if they haven't heard from
20 us. Quanta looks forward to continuing its work
21 with local contractors and others as we prepare
22 for this project. Thank you for the opportunity
23 to provide my comments. I encourage the

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1 Department of Energy and the New Hampshire Site
2 Committee to approve this. I also have a letter
3 for the Department of Energy.

4 MR. HONIGBERG: You can submit it to the
5 DOE down at the end or give it Ms. Monroe.

6 SPEAKER: Good evening. I want to thank
7 your for the opportunity to be here. I'd like
8 to give this young lady my correct spelling. It
9 will be easier. Bruce Beaurivage. I'd like to
10 from a contractor's point of view.
11 Specifically, an electric contractor's point of
12 view, which I am. Seventeen years I spent with
13 Public Service. I helped wire and build,
14 construct Deerfield's substation where this
15 electric is ultimately going to enter the New
16 England grid in the late '70s. That's from the
17 point of view, from electrician's point of view
18 and jobs, this is a very unique type of
19 electrical work. It's limited to linemen and it
20 does provide jobs, but I don't want anybody to
21 be misled here about the apprenticeship program
22 and how it work in the State of New Hampshire
23 for a licensed electrician.

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1 The utilities have their own training
2 facilities and their own requirements for hours
3 worked and for education. It is not recognized
4 totally by the New Hampshire State Fire
5 Marshal's office in licensing of electricians in
6 the State of New Hampshire. The State of New
7 Hampshire requires an apprentice to do 2000
8 hours of work a year for four years, 8,000
9 hours, and 600 hours in school. It's up to the
10 Licensing Board of the State of New Hampshire
11 electricians to decide how much credit will be
12 given to an apprentice in the program for the
13 utility to build the power line, and he would
14 still have to attend 600 hours of school before
15 he can even take the test to become a journeyman
16 electrician in the State of New Hampshire.

17 So building a power line does not allow the
18 10,000 current electricians licensed in the
19 State of New Hampshire to do residential,
20 commercial or industrial work in the State of
21 New Hampshire. I'll make it quick because I
22 know we don't have much left here.

23 Basically, as far as reliability point of

1 view, with my background in electricity for the
2 years that I've been involved and among other
3 things, this is very simple. That bury it is a
4 lot more reliability as we all watched back in
5 the ice storm of 1997 when the towers toddled in
6 Canada and they had to milk the cows by hand
7 because they had no power for a month in some of
8 the provinces of Quebec. So from reliability
9 point of view, I realize it's more money, but it
10 makes a lot more sense to go underground. Thank
11 you very much.

12 (Applause)

13 SPEAKER: My name is Harry Brown, and I'm
14 currently the President of New Hampshire Off
15 Highway Vehicle Association, but I'm not
16 representing them tonight. I'm speaking on
17 behalf of my wife and myself. We live in
18 Stewartstown and have not taken a position pro
19 or con on the project, but we feel the majority
20 of the testimony given thus far seems to be on
21 balance. We want to also take this opportunity
22 to express our concern over the behavior of some
23 of our North Country neighbors that have

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1 exhibited at previous hearings. They have
2 hissed, they booed and they shouted out
3 derogatory remarks to individuals that expressed
4 neutral or supporting views of this project.
5 This behavior is and will remain unacceptable to
6 us and is just another form of bullying.
7 Respecting the process is as important as having
8 the supporting, opposing or neutral views.

9 The Society for the Protection of New
10 Hampshire Forests campaign has stated that the
11 above ground transmission lines will have a
12 negative impact on tourism and recreation. In
13 our opinion, this has no factual base from any
14 studies, and it's pure hype. A scare tactic.

15 Coos County economy relies heavily on OHRV
16 and snowmobiling and will not be affected by the
17 Northern Pass Transmission lines. We're
18 presently allowed many miles of trails under
19 power lines throughout New Hampshire, the rest
20 of the United States and throughout Canada.
21 This is without any negative effects to the
22 participants concerning these types of
23 recreational pursuits. Quite the opposite. It

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1 allows them access to trails that would not
2 otherwise be available. The State of New
3 Hampshire clearly recognizes that the sport is
4 greater than a half million dollar a year
5 industry, especially in Coos County, and it has
6 lived a new life for many current and new
7 business owners and economic stimulus when many
8 could not see any light through the tunnel
9 previously. We want to recognize without land
10 owners giving us permissions to utilize their
11 problems for our trails there would be no Ride
12 the Wilds or snowmobiling in Coos County or
13 throughout the state. Northern Pass is one of
14 those landowners allowing the sports on the land
15 that affects ten measured trails. Without them
16 being good neighbors, this would virtually shut
17 down the entire northern Coos County.

18 Yes, we voted at the Stewartstown meeting
19 on March 3rd, 2011, to oppose the 1200 megawatt
20 high voltage direct current transmission line as
21 presently proposed. This was almost five years
22 ago. Since the project has been downsized to
23 the 1090 megawatts and is being buried in

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1 Stewartstown except for on the land that
2 Northern Pass owns. Susan and I are retirees
3 and are living on entitlements such as Social
4 Security. If the latest route is accepted, this
5 will afford us nearly 50 percent in tax relief.
6 Many of my fellow citizens in Stewartstown are
7 economically challenged. This will provide
8 significant relief for taxpayers. Just think.
9 Northern Pass will pay huge property taxes and
10 annuities without any buildings so we don't have
11 to provide fire, EMS or police, and oh, by the
12 way, no kids. No bigger schools. These are
13 examples of the positive side of project.

14 Finally, neither Susan nor I are OHRV
15 enthusiasts. Actually, through the OHRV
16 initiative, we just wanted to help our neighbors
17 to be able to raise their standard of living.
18 We're also concerned that in the end result, all
19 the conservation groups that oppose Northern
20 Pass will cash in like they always do in
21 projects like this and that will not help our
22 economic initiative in Coos County. Quite the
23 contrary. They will do whatever they can to

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1 curtail OHRVing and snowmobiling. We hope that
2 the SEC will deliberate fully on all the facts.
3 Thank you.

4 SPEAKER: For the record, Jason Balint.
5 I've just got a couple statements, and I have a
6 story to tell Bill. You guys stopped up to my
7 camp today on Diamond Pond Road. I saw many of
8 you out there. Appreciate you stopping by.
9 Hopefully, it made a difference when you could
10 see the view from that portion of the road that
11 approaches Coleman State Park.

12 A comment about the logging. Maybe the
13 pictures were wrong that I saw that you guys
14 were out there, but the swath of land that I saw
15 cut that those towers were on wouldn't have
16 enough wood to fill a pickup truck. So the
17 pictures were wrong, or maybe I'm wrong. So now
18 my story.

19 My wife and I bought property which is
20 located on Diamond Pond Road in Colebrook about
21 one half a mile from where the proposed
22 transmission line would be going aerial and
23 about one mile from the entrance of Coleman

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1 State Park. We had dreams of building a camp in
2 this area that as of now has some of the most
3 beautiful views in the North Country. Someday
4 we hoped to hand the keys over to our daughter
5 Ayla so she could also have a chance to enjoy
6 what we have come to love. But as of now, the
7 tools have been put down and the building has
8 stopped and our dreams and aspirations are being
9 replaced with anger and disgust. The view from
10 where the deck would be is exposed to about two
11 miles of transmission towers and lines if the
12 project were approved and it ripped through the
13 valley near Heath Road and on the side of Sugar
14 Hill. Who would have ever thought that six
15 years since the original proposal that Northern
16 Pass would still be insisting to install aerial
17 transmission towers over 90 feet tall so close
18 to a New Hampshire State Park and tourist
19 attraction. My immediate neighbors along with
20 everyone at Diamond Pond Road share the same
21 level of disgust, frustration and anger.

22 A couple statements: There were roughly
23 143 petitions for intervention recently

1 submitted to the Site Committee. The Northern
2 Pass was quick to submit their response and
3 objections to many of these petitions. In the
4 document entitled 2015-06 that was submitted to
5 the SEC, Northern Pass states that any property
6 owner not within 100 feet of the affected area
7 do not qualify for any sort of intervention.
8 The 100 foot rule would be shorter than the
9 height of the proposed towers.

10 My wife and I attended the first SEC
11 meeting in Meredith last week. While we were
12 there, a real estate expert who was apparently
13 on the Northern Pass payroll stated that
14 transmission lines such as those proposed by
15 Northern Pass would have no adverse effects on
16 property values. The reaction by two realtors
17 in the room and many others would lead one to
18 believe that this is a fictitious statement. My
19 question would be, and it was asked earlier and
20 not answered, Will Northern Pass be prepared to
21 sign off on and except all monetary damages that
22 will occur from the loss of our property values
23 if the project were to go through as currently

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1 proposed.

2 The Northern Pass speaks of job creation
3 for New Hampshire which is false and misleading.
4 This is nothing more than short-term highs and a
5 stimulus package for the benefit of the Northern
6 Pass and its associated unions which most likely
7 have millions of dollars investigated in
8 lobbying. Wouldn't total burial of the
9 transmission line create more jobs.

10 I question why we're all here in the first
11 place. To intelligently and thoroughly evaluate
12 a proposed route for the transmission line,
13 there must be one. To my knowledge, the project
14 is blocked in two locations north of where the
15 project is proposed to go aerial in the area of
16 Bear Rock Road and the Washburn Family Trust.
17 Are we here to have a discussion about the maybe
18 route?

19 I leave you with these thoughts. In fact,
20 beg you, the Site Evaluation Committee, come to
21 our homes and properties and see the impacts
22 that this project would have on our homes, towns
23 and our state in general, from our point of view

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1 and not that of Northern Pass. We cannot allow
2 our beautiful landscapes to be subject to the
3 kind of project that has been proposed by an
4 organization that has little to no regard for
5 the State of New Hampshire or its residents and,
6 in particular, those in the North Country. If
7 the Northern Pass truly valued what we as
8 residents and many state officials have voiced
9 over and over for six years, they would have
10 mentioned entirely burying this line. It's not
11 that they can't. It's that they don't want to.
12 This project is clearly more about profit and
13 less about power. Please consider what is ours
14 and do not allow a for profit organization to
15 capitalize on what we have worked so hard to
16 preserve for generations to come. From what I
17 can see, the only supporters of the Northern
18 Pass are those who will profit from it.

19 (Applause)

20 SPEAKER: Tara Bamford. The Planning
21 Director at North Country Council. North
22 Country Council is the state designated regional
23 planning commission for the Northern Pass

1 corridor from the Canadian border all the way to
2 the Plymouth/Bridgewater line. In the interest
3 of time, I'm just going to focus on one point.
4 My role of planner is to look for the solution
5 that pleases the highest number of residents of
6 our region. Just a quick look at the summary of
7 the November supplement, if you take another
8 look at alternatives 4 and 6, you'll see that
9 burial of the line increases all of the benefits
10 that the Applicant has listed for the project.
11 You'll see that burial reduces all of the
12 negative impacts, not just the scenic impacts,
13 but loss of property values, loss of property
14 tax income for towns, archeological impacts,
15 wetland impacts, CO2 uptake that's lost. Prime
16 farmland that's lost. They're all lessened by
17 burial. All of the benefits, again, that the
18 Applicant missed are increased with burials.
19 Both the short-term and long-term economic
20 benefits are higher than alternatives four and
21 six where it's buried throughout our region.
22 The number of jobs, which we're hearing on both
23 sides of the conversation, the number of jobs in

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1 both the short-term of construction and
2 long-term with maintenance are higher with
3 burial. Energy costs would be reduced by the
4 same amount so that benefit doesn't change.
5 Only the cost of construction to the Applicant
6 is higher with burial. Not by orders of
7 magnitude, not by an unreasonable amount. By 33
8 percent in the case of alternative 6 A. Thank
9 you for listening. I know it's a long hearing.

10 (Applause)

11 SPEAKER: Good evening. Stephen Tracy.
12 I'd like to make a couple comments about the
13 presentation tonight with the words clean and
14 carbon. In Canada it's nowhere near clean, and
15 it really increases the carbon issue. Flat
16 lands up there flooded make rotten smelling
17 swamps that flood out an entire nation of
18 indigenous people and changed their lives
19 forever like what would happen here. Did you
20 enjoy your warm heating bill this winter. When
21 you have a bug reflecting the sun, absorbing the
22 sun, it raises the temperature of the earth
23 where it used to be white snow, trying to

1 reflect it back up. Now to what I was going to
2 say.

3 In history when my native ancestors were
4 discovered, Turtle Island was considered a
5 paradise even though millions of people have
6 lived here for a very long time. In a
7 comparatively short-term since then has been
8 destruction.

9 Our Mother is very ill. Her temperature is
10 rising. She's panting with strong winds.
11 Droughts in California, floods in the southern
12 midwest. The radioactive waste from the
13 Manhattan Project buried near St. Louis is now
14 spewing out of the flooded farmlands of the
15 midwest. Where does your food come from? Our
16 Mother is trying to heal herself but we need to
17 stop hurting her. Projects like Tar Sands
18 pipeline, fracking and injecting chemo-like
19 poisons causing seizure-like earthquakes, and
20 the Northern Pass and many others are not
21 helping her.

22 Like a nursing mother on crack, like when
23 we use GMOs and poisonous insecticide, what we

1 put into our Mother she gives back to us. We
2 keep getting mind-bending propaganda telling us
3 that we need fracking, we need pipelines, we
4 need towers. But we really don't. We could
5 turn off a couple of lights in here and wouldn't
6 be blinded and we wouldn't be using so much.

7 If as much time, money and effort was put
8 into solar and wind power as is put into the
9 propaganda, we and our Mother and our children's
10 futures will be better off. In history, before
11 the Europeans came, if an important decision had
12 to be made, our elders would gather and discuss
13 the situation with the admonition, conduct your
14 actions in respect for the next 7 generations.
15 Nowadays, an overpaid Board meets with the
16 admonition, how will this decision affect our
17 stockholders, oh, and our jobs and pay three
18 months from now. Greed, not love of our Mother,
19 determines everything now.

20 If you let this Northern Pass towers or
21 buried happen, you will be continuing the path
22 of destruction of our Mother in killing our
23 children by handing them a nonlife sustaining

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1 earth. The blood of their suffering and deaths
2 will be on your hands. Don't kill our Mother.
3 Don't kill our future.

4 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Brad
5 Thompson. I live at 599 Noyes Road just off
6 Bear Rock Road in Stewartstown. My wife Daryl
7 and I built our retirement home in 2008 and 9.
8 Prior to that we had a camp in Clarksville since
9 '75. The last five and a half years of fighting
10 Northern Pass has been an ongoing battle and
11 certainly not what we envisioned with
12 retirement. We have a direct view from our
13 front deck of the transition point area number 4
14 which is where it comes out of the ground on
15 Bear Rock and East Road. From there, the
16 90-foot tall towers pop out of the ground and
17 head out away from us. Twelve hundred feet of
18 our property borders on Bear Rock Road where the
19 buried cables are proposed. For the record, my
20 wife and I are adamantly against this project
21 and will not rest until complete burial along
22 state right-of-ways have occurred.

23 I have two points I'd like to make. At

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1 meetings that you, the Site Evaluation
2 Committee, held prior to December 18th, 2015,
3 you had to ask the question, do you, Northern
4 Pass Transmission and Eversource, have a
5 complete defined route that you own or have
6 right-of-way over or have leased for the
7 190-plus miles of DC and then AC current to
8 travel. If the answer for Northern Pass was
9 yes, then you, the Site Evaluation Committee,
10 were grossly misled.

11 In the summer of 2015, Northern Pass
12 realized that they had a serious problem. Their
13 planned overhead loop from Clarksville and
14 Stewartstown was in serious trouble. There
15 existed local folks who would not sell their
16 land that Northern Pass desperately needed in
17 order to fulfill the requirement by SEC. Out of
18 desperation, Northern Pass resorted to Plan B.
19 They announced they would go underground along
20 Old County Road, Creampoke Road, Northhill Road
21 and State Highway Bear Rock Road to satisfy the
22 Site Evaluation Committee requirements of having
23 a clearly defined route.

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1 The new route when announced was justified
2 by Northern Pass as, we hear what the people of
3 the North Country are saying and we've reacted.
4 Northern Pass really had no choice. Plan B was
5 their only choice. Northern Pass does not have
6 the permission to use the roads in Stewartstown.
7 They blatantly misled you when they said they
8 did in their application. For this reason, the
9 Site Evaluation Committee needs to seriously
10 consider delaying these hearings until a
11 completed route is defined. We, the abutters,
12 on four town roads own to the centerline of
13 those roads subject to the easements of the
14 public in the roads over the land. The general
15 rule is that the abutting landowner owns to the
16 centerline of the road unless there's clear
17 language to the contrary or if the town of
18 Stewartstown or the State of New Hampshire took
19 a fee interest to the roads. The town of
20 Stewartstown has publicly stated that they do
21 not hold fee title interest in those roads, and
22 the property owners have legal property rights
23 to the roads.

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1 Northern Pass should have addressed this
2 issue with property owners prior to claiming
3 they had an approved route. They did not. I,
4 with some professional help, found four New
5 Hampshire Supreme Court cases that strongly
6 support this position of land ownership, and I'm
7 listing them on the sheet that I passed in to
8 the stenographer. In all four cases, the court
9 upheld for the landowner. He owns the dirt
10 under the right-of-way.

11 At a meeting that I requested in early
12 2015, I met with Jim Wagoner and Sara who are
13 associated with Northern Pass. I asked Jim how
14 he could justify digging up my dirt. His
15 response was the transporting electricity along
16 these town rights-of-ways is part of the
17 definition of a right-of-way. I do understand
18 that inherent to the right-of-way in addition to
19 the, in addition to the road being built on it,
20 are overhead or underground electric, telephone,
21 cable TV, and gas lines. However, I will argue
22 that these lines are intended to serve the homes
23 and properties that the town roads serve. The

1 intention of the right-of-way is not to allow a
2 for profit, stock held corporation to transport
3 a product, electricity, from where it's
4 manufactured, Quebec, Canada, to its ultimate
5 marketplace, southern New England.

6 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Thompson, how much more
7 do you have?

8 MR. THOMPSON: Half a page.

9 MR. HONIGBERG: How many pages have you
10 gone through so far?

11 MR. THOMPSON: Three.

12 MR. HONIGBERG: Finish up, please.

13 MR. THOMPSON: Along the whole 6.1 miles of
14 proposed buried electric line in Stewartstown,
15 Eversource has zero customers. We are all
16 serviced by, New Hampshire Electric Co-op
17 services all of the properties. Eversource and
18 Northern Pass have no need or right to be
19 overhead, on or be under the right-of-way and
20 certainly no right to dig up our land without
21 permission.

22 My second point is quick. If burial is
23 allowed, Northern Pass to begin construction by

1 digging up our land would be a clear case of
2 taking our land by eminent domain. Our State of
3 New Hampshire legislature has sent the very
4 clear message that taking our land by a for
5 profit, stock held corporation is illegal.

6 In closing, my wife and I feel no
7 compassion for a for profit business to deeply
8 scar our beloved North Country. Mr. Quinlan, I
9 say to you, it's time to pull the plug and bury
10 it. Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 SPEAKER: Luke Wotton. All right. I'm
13 here. I see you're already smirking. You may
14 have recognized me from before, but I'm against
15 the project in a whole, buried or overhead,
16 because it's just really nasty. Like that guy
17 before, he's not here anymore, but it's really
18 gross what Hydro-Quebec has been doing up in
19 Hydro-Quebec, all of those dams, and it's beyond
20 me. And then let's talk about you're going to
21 upgrade the Coos loop. Now, I have a question
22 for you, and I called the SEC, whatever you guys
23 are over there, and you guys kind of blew me

1 off, but my question was if you upgrade the loop
2 but you don't upgrade the export of the loop,
3 you're just going to upgrade it so there's more
4 power flowing there but then that power is not
5 going to be even being used so you're going to
6 go back to it's going to have too much power in
7 it so you have to upgrade the exportation of
8 this power, correct? Correct. So I don't know.
9 You guys just need to grow up and like listen to
10 the folks that are like right in front of you
11 like saying go away, go away. And goddamn it,
12 I'm going to take live free or die, and I'm
13 going to fucking live by that. I'm going to
14 live free.

15 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Wotton.
16 Would you please clean up your language?

17 MR. WOTTON: You've been warned.

18 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for
19 allowing me to leave the meeting earlier and
20 moderate a school meeting and then come back.
21 For the record, my name is Richard Rick Samson.
22 I live at 804 Piper Hill Road, Stewartstown, New
23 Hampshire, and I am the Coos County Commissioner

1 for District 3 which begins in Groveton and runs
2 to Pittsburg and Errol to the Maine border to
3 the Connecticut River separating New Hampshire
4 and Vermont.

5 I have just a couple of thoughts that I'd
6 like to mention before I read my testimony, and
7 one question my constituents have asked me is
8 why was this meeting and tour scheduled for the
9 night before town meeting in New Hampshire. Who
10 decided the site visit tour and why did it not
11 include the real visual impacts of our most
12 scenic area. The Coos loop has been mentioned
13 here several times tonight, and the Coos loop
14 upgrade will not benefit the public, but will
15 benefit Bayroot LLC, Wagner, Eversource, and
16 Hydro-Quebec, and the reason would be for
17 Wagner's plan to put wind towers on their
18 property. Eversource is challenging utilities
19 all over the state of the assessments that are
20 being put on them, and they're asking for
21 abatements on utility structures. So the
22 promise of tax benefits to communities, I
23 believe, is false.

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1 The towns of Pittsburg, Clarksville,
2 Stewartstown, Columbia, Stratford and Groveton
3 have all voted at their town meetings in the
4 past several years to oppose the proposed
5 Northern Pass project. It is also in the Stark
6 2016 town warrant, article 16, to oppose any
7 further overhead development of alternating
8 current or direct current high voltage
9 transmission lines within the borders of the
10 town of Stark.

11 In Stark, all such future electric
12 transmission lines must be placed underground
13 within power line rights of ways or within yet
14 to be established power line corridors and
15 installed in a manner approved by the State of
16 New Hampshire Public Utility Commission and/or
17 the Department of Transportation.

18 At this time there are no, there are no, no
19 transmission lines in Pittsburg, Clarksville or
20 Stewartstown. The only thing there is
21 transbution lines. As Northern Pass shown
22 disregard and disrespect for upper Coos County
23 by a lack of communication with local elected

1 officials? No Northern Pass officials or
2 representatives have contacted the Coos County
3 Commissioners which serve as the Selectboard for
4 the unincorporated places. According to RSA
5 162-H: 16 IV (b) requires the committee to
6 consider the views of municipal governing bodies
7 on the project's impact on the ordinary growth
8 of the region and economic impacts as well.

9 Would the Site Evaluation Committee require
10 Northern Pass to identify who Northern Pass
11 feels are the stakeholders? The residents,
12 landowners and business owners in my district
13 that are negatively affected most by this
14 proposed project have not been given due
15 consideration or input. Northern Pass's refusal
16 to meet with the above-mentioned parties and
17 opponents to honestly and openly discuss this
18 proposed project shows a lack of concern for the
19 residents of upper Coos County.

20 I would respectfully request the Site
21 Evaluation Committee require Northern Pass to
22 have open, honest and sincere discussions with
23 any elected and affected local officials and

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1 affected opponents. If Northern Pass is to be
2 built, let us do what is right and honest for
3 all the residents of our state and benefit our
4 state and not corporate greed. Enough false
5 information has been generated by proponents of
6 this ill-conceived proposed project.

7 The Site Evaluation Committee required that
8 the Coos Wind Park have their financing in place
9 and a decommissioning fund set up before
10 approval. The Coos Wind Park is now 75 percent
11 owned by Brookfield Power of Toronto, Canada.
12 The total decommissioning fund is \$875,000 for
13 33 high elevation wind turbines. The fund will
14 not begin to decommission the 33 turbines.

15 If permitted, will Northern Pass remain
16 owned by Northern Pass or will it eventually be
17 sold to Hydro-Quebec as was the case with the
18 Wind Park?

19 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Samson, just how much
20 more do you have? Excellent.

21 MR. SAMSON: Is it the responsibility and
22 obligation of the Site Evaluation Committee to
23 protect not only the Applicant but also to

1 protect the residents and our state? We the
2 people are the caretakers of New Hampshire and
3 included is the Site Evaluation Committee.

4 My closing comment would be, I respectfully
5 request that Mr. Quinlan meet with the Coos
6 County Commissioners and representatives to
7 discuss Dixville and Millsfield which you
8 intended to go through. The smart way to keep
9 people passive and obedient is to strictly limit
10 the spectrum of acceptable opinion or to allow
11 very lively debate within that spectrum. And is
12 that what is being done here? I ask. Thank
13 you.

14 (Applause)

15 SPEAKER: Good evening, Mr. Chair and
16 members of the committee. My name is Ted Tichy.
17 I live in Milan, New Hampshire. I'm here
18 tonight representing the North Country Forestry,
19 Incorporated, and the local forest industry. We
20 currently run two log and pulpwood concentration
21 yards in New Hampshire. One is in North
22 Stratford and one is in Woodsville, New
23 Hampshire. We currently employ 6 employees in

1 New Hampshire and contract with many logging
2 contractors which are suppliers in this state.

3 We would like to purchase the forest
4 products that the right-of-way cutting of the
5 Northern Pass Project will produce. The wood
6 that is harvested will provide many jobs, not
7 only for the loggers, truckers and wood buyers,
8 but for the entire forest products industry as
9 well as supporting businesses; i.e, equipment
10 suppliers, fuel suppliers, grocery stores. The
11 list goes on and on.

12 One thing above all others that would help
13 out New Hampshire families and business would be
14 a guaranteed rate cut. The electric rates in
15 New Hampshire are killing our economy and our
16 industry. This winter has been very mild. Fuel
17 prices are the lowest they've been in years, and
18 my wife told me the electric rates just went up
19 again this month. There's one big reason that
20 we have fewer sawmills in this state. Just ask
21 the mills that we have left what their biggest
22 operating expenses are.

23 The reason I say guaranteed is that

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1 promises don't keep. We still, we were promised
2 Seabrook would lower are rates. They did not.
3 We'll still paying for that one. I am sure
4 Eversource has a long-term agreement with
5 Hydro-Quebec. Why not make a long-term contract
6 with the ratepayers for a lower rate for ten
7 years. We can make processing of wood products
8 an industry once again in New Hampshire if our
9 rates were reasonable. You folks on the
10 committee can make this happen, and being one of
11 later speakers I have a few observations that I
12 have the benefit of doing. You know, if the
13 people are really concerned with the
14 environmental impacts, they would not be calling
15 for the burial of this pipeline. The impact
16 would be far greater on all lands, not just the
17 wetlands. Having to dig a pipeline, a power
18 line through a wetland, instead of going over it
19 with lines in the air is a much, much greater
20 impact on everything.

21 My wife and I have ridden our horses on the
22 VELCO line over in Vermont many, many times.
23 The trails over there provide spectacular views

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1 that would otherwise not be available to the
2 general public. They allow the Vermont Horse
3 Council to use these trails, and we're members
4 of that. So it is a very good recreational
5 activity and a very good tourist industry over
6 there using those pipelines. Thank you very
7 much for your time.

8 SPEAKER: My name is Carl Martland. I have
9 previously submitted detailed comments to DOE
10 concerning the Draft EIS, and in particular the
11 visual impact analysis. I just wanted to hit
12 the highlights of those just so other people
13 might hear them. One, the literature review is
14 one of three parts of the visual analysis. The
15 visual literature review and the Draft EIS is in
16 my opinion of limited use at best and misleading
17 and erroneous at worse. I documented this the
18 same as I would review an article for a
19 professional journal.

20 Second, the summary that is often cited by
21 Northern Pass is very misleading. They say that
22 the average visual impact increased from, I
23 think it's 1.61 to 1.79. An increase of 10

1 percent. That's like someone saying that a
2 river was flooding, the flood level was up only
3 10 percent, but the area flooded had increased
4 by one and a half or two times which is the case
5 with the visual impact.

6 Third, the photo simulations and key
7 observation point analysis is outstanding, and
8 everybody should look at that, but the problem
9 is that the results interpretation are dispersed
10 throughout the document. There are 15 points,
11 and I will get into that a little later. So my
12 comments, main comments, today are addressed to
13 the Site Evaluation Committee concerning the
14 unreasonably adverse impacts of the proposed
15 towers on the scenic byways, and I know we
16 traveled today on the byways. You'll see more
17 tomorrow. I hope you'll stop in Stark. Walk
18 the byway a little bit and go up toward
19 Christine Lake and Georgia farm lands, and
20 you'll see many more of what my wife calls the
21 cultural landscapes of the North Country.

22 So I'm here as the Chair of the North
23 Country Scenic Byways Council. We have

1 submitted comments previously, and the main
2 point of these comments is that the towers will
3 obstruct the views for people using the byways,
4 going off the byways on local roads to see the
5 kinds of sites that we saw today and you will
6 see tomorrow. Coleman State Park is a wonderful
7 spot. You go another two miles down the road,
8 you would have seen it. On the way down and on
9 the way back, you would have noticed that view
10 where we stopped, and then you would have gone
11 under the lines and then you would have gone out
12 on the lake and gone fishing and seen the towers
13 over the hills. The photo simulations in the
14 EIS differ from the ones you saw today because
15 they also had visual experts interpret the
16 views. They call it contrast/dominance rating.
17 I'm not sure what is, but it goes from zero
18 which is no towers to 45 if there's one right
19 here. Every place the towers cross the road
20 there's a tower within a hundred feet or so of
21 the road. The visual impact is severe, which
22 the experts call, not me, the experts call
23 unreasonably adverse. Every tower that is

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1 within 750 feet according to the EIS would have
2 an unreasonably adverse impact. Every tower
3 that is within 750 to 1800 feet we would have an
4 adverse impact, and depending on the situation,
5 it would be unreasonably adverse. We're in the
6 North Country. You've heard about the scenic
7 landscape. You've seen it. That is the
8 location where it would be unreasonably adverse.

9 There are locations up to two miles. We
10 saw some today where it was a mile away. The
11 impact there might be strong or it might be
12 moderate. We've heard in previous sessions, we
13 saw a picture. We couldn't see those pictures
14 because the lights prevented you, but it was
15 like those we saw today. A mile away. That
16 impact, according to the EIS methodology, could
17 be moderate. What does moderate mean?

18 Well, it might be considered adverse by a
19 casual observer. So moderate is probably not
20 what you were thinking.

21 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Martland, how much more
22 do you have?

23 MR. MARTLAND: I've got a picture and one

1 paragraph. Basically saying the North Country
2 Byways Council knows that these impacts would be
3 eliminated if the lines were buried. The
4 picture is this. Even in the back of the room
5 you can probably see the red, these are the 15
6 key observation points. Red means it was
7 severe. This color means it was moderate.
8 Every point in the group has in that picture and
9 I have a longer statement that I will leave with
10 you. Thank you very much.

11 (Applause)

12 SPEAKER: My name is Jon Wilkinson. It's
13 actually spelled kind of funny. It's actually
14 spelled J-O-N. I was supposed to be Jennifer 57
15 years ago. Didn't happen. It's all my fault.
16 My last name is spelled W I L K I N S O N. I'm
17 a resident of Lancaster. I'm spoken many times
18 at these hearings over the past five years so
19 I'm going to make mine real brief. Normally, I
20 prepared something to say. I don't have
21 anything prepared to say. Just want to touch on
22 a couple of quick points. We've heard a lot
23 about feasibility. I'd like to talk about

1 sensitivity, and that's talking to you guys, the
2 Site Evaluation Committee. Quickly, too, I want
3 to welcome you here to the North Country and
4 hope you can see what is so near and dear to all
5 of us that live here and all of the people that
6 come here.

7 As far as the sensitivity, one of the
8 things I'd really like you to look at and one of
9 you kind of actually highlighted it is when you
10 have the time, please look at the first section
11 of the Northern Pass proposal, how it enters
12 into the United States, and what it does. How
13 it goes underground, above ground, underground,
14 above ground, and kind of question yourself, I
15 think, about what is the reason. I know the
16 reason. It has to do with accessibility. But
17 just looking at the direction of it, too,
18 chicaning around, heading way to the east when
19 it had already entered into Route 3 which it is
20 what, a north/south corridor. It should really,
21 really be accessed. That said, the other thing
22 I'd like to do is, I believe it was one of you
23 on the committee, had asked the question about

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1 comparing the project over Vermont to this one.
2 All I want to tell you is I urge you to try to
3 get more information beyond the source of
4 Northern Pass because like any salesman, they
5 want to sell you their car even though other
6 dealerships have cars for sale that are maybe
7 just as good and maybe even better. Thank you.

8 SPEAKER: Good evening, folks. My name is
9 Landon Placey. My wife and I own an antique
10 shop in the area, and we deal with tourists, and
11 we haven't heard anything from any of them
12 saying that they're opposed to power towers or
13 windmills or solar panels that we already have
14 in the area, and in fact, some of them use
15 windmills as a place to go in the summertime on
16 their tours, but the number one complaint that I
17 get from the tourists is that we should have
18 some cell towers up there because in the area
19 I'm in and that's Stewartstown that we don't
20 have any cell service. Now, I think everybody
21 wants cell service, and if we didn't have any
22 power or didn't have any affordable power,
23 everybody would want power towers, but seeing as

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1 we have power now they think well, don't make
2 any difference how much it costs, but some folks
3 it does. We need affordable power and we need
4 the jobs. Because I've seen a change in how
5 many tourists that come into the area now so the
6 jobs would certainly help that. I hope you
7 folks on the Site Evaluation Committee will vote
8 in favor of this plan, and the only time I hear
9 the opposition to the plan is at these meetings.
10 It's the same people over and over again. On
11 the outside, the everyday people in the area,
12 aren't opposed to this plan. Well, that's my
13 say and thank you very much for hearing me out.

14 (Applause)

15 MR. HONIGBERG: Every speaker up here
16 deserves your respect. Every single speaker,
17 whether you agree or disagree. Thank you.

18 SPEAKER: My is Allen Bouthillier. I was
19 born and brought up here in Colebrook. I'm the
20 owner of AB Excavating in Lancaster, New
21 Hampshire. I employ approximately 30 employees.
22 We do excavating and logging, and we provide
23 other types of construction services. We've

1 also been involved in developing the wind energy
2 projects in this region. I'd like to say that I
3 was initially opposed to this project. Like
4 many other examples of misinformation that swirl
5 around this project, I was told that this
6 project would hurt the local logging industry.
7 However, I took the time to research this
8 project and the benefits involved, and I changed
9 my mind. I am now in full support of the
10 project. This is exactly what the county needs,
11 major investment that will support local jobs
12 and the economy and bring critical support for
13 our tax base.

14 A critical piece of the past project is its
15 proposed upgrade to portions of the Coos loop.
16 Rebuilding the Coos loop will bring long-term
17 help to landowners and logging alike. With the
18 closing of the paper mills, biomass becomes more
19 important to setting the price of wood for
20 loggers and landowners alike. The proposed
21 upgrade for the Coos loop will mean that
22 existing renewable energy plants will be able to
23 run more often and produce more wood industry

1 based jobs and produce more local energy.

2 By increasing the amount of electricity
3 that can be exported out of the county to the
4 New England grid, the current biomass plants can
5 run at full capacity, increasing demand for
6 chips.

7 Finally, I think it is important for this
8 committee to understand how critical the route
9 agreements are that Northern Pass has developed
10 with large timberland owners. These large
11 industrial timberlands are the backbone of our
12 economy and revenues from projects like Northern
13 Pass help to ensure they were remain viable and
14 in private ownership.

15 Keeping these properties viable for private
16 ownership ensures they stay open to access by
17 ATVs, snowmobiling and other recreational uses.
18 In Coos, much of the industrial timber land that
19 we have had historical free access to recreate
20 on has been bought by federal and state agencies
21 and environmental groups. Once land comes under
22 the control of some of these groups, access is
23 usually limited. It is hard to hunt a

1 40,000-acre piece of land which no longer has
2 access to wheeled vehicles or camp on over
3 night. There is a push right now in Coos County
4 to expand the Conti Refuge which if that happens
5 you'll see restrictions put on that property and
6 those acres will no longer be available for
7 historical use and access.

8 Northern Pass will not harm our economy.
9 In fact, this project will be a huge benefit to
10 our economy in many ways. Local construction
11 jobs, massive new tax revenues for towns and the
12 county, and critical support for our existing
13 economy include forestry, recreation and
14 tourism. It is important that this committee
15 look beyond the vocal minority and do what is
16 best for the majority of people in Coos County
17 and the State of New Hampshire. Please support
18 the project. Thank you.

19 SPEAKER: Hello, my name is Randy Perkins.
20 I'm an employee of Eversource Energy and I've
21 been with the company for 30 years. My current
22 job is an account executive in which I provide
23 services to the largest companies and businesses

1 within the service territory covering all of
2 northern New Hampshire. Serving these large
3 companies, I consult on energy efficiency
4 projects to cost-effectively lower their
5 electric bills, respond to power quality issues,
6 assist in construction, and offer advice on
7 energy and many other topics.

8 The number one concern from my customers
9 are the high energy costs and the need to
10 stabilize energy prices and avoiding the
11 volatile energy prices we've been seeing in
12 recent years. In New Hampshire, electric rates
13 for the industrial and commercial sector are
14 nearly double the national average. Commercial
15 business electric rates in New Hampshire are 40
16 percent than the national average. These are
17 critical issues for the future well-being of our
18 state's businesses and industry.

19 Electricity is a large part of the budget
20 for business and industry including those in our
21 New Hampshire tourist industry. For instance,
22 ski areas use the bulk of their energy in the
23 winter months making snow, although this year

1 hasn't been quite so good, but they still make a
2 lot of snow and they use a lot of electricity.
3 Most of my ski areas see their electric bills
4 soar from about December to February to 100 and
5 \$250,000 per month. It is important to remember
6 that Northern Pass will reduce yearly energy
7 costs by approximately 80 million dollars which
8 is roughly 5 percent off their electric bills.
9 That may not seem like much to some of you, but
10 keep in mind that 5 percent could represent
11 between 5000 and \$12,500 each month for the ski
12 industry which is very important to the New
13 Hampshire economy.

14 It's for these reasons that I support the
15 Northern Pass Project. I believe it can help
16 reduce energy prices for the state's businesses
17 and industry that I serve every day. It's
18 important to keeping New Hampshire businesses in
19 New Hampshire so they don't relocate elsewhere
20 and at the same time introducing more green
21 power into our state and region. Thank you.

22 MR. HONIGBERG: I'm told that the next one
23 has left. All right. Ms. Menard, do you want

1 to speak right away? I can see you came from
2 Deerfield so you may want to speak before the
3 break. We'll take the break after Ms. Menard.

4 SPEAKER: Jeanne Menard. Thank you for
5 your consideration. I actually will not want to
6 miss a single word of any of the comments here
7 tonight. These are very special proceeding
8 taking place here. So members of the SEC, DOE,
9 and counsel for the public, Deerfield is in a
10 very unique situation regarding the Northern
11 Pass project. We're the substation at its
12 terminus. Since the project's announcement in
13 2010, we have been concerned not only about the
14 increased incoming electricity but also the
15 distribution of it. Residents and Deerfield
16 have wanted details regarding the right-of-way,
17 not just as it pertains to the Northern Pass
18 project, but the reconfiguration of our
19 substation, the poles and the lines, as to how
20 this would affect future projects that may
21 impact our community. What is the buildout plan
22 for this right-of-way and for the many
23 right-of-ways in our town. We cannot consider

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1 Northern Pass Transmission Project as an
2 isolated project. What is the ten-year plan,
3 what is Eversource's ten-year plan, 20-year
4 plan, 30-year plan. As a company, Eversource
5 must have such a plan, and we are asking that
6 there be a conversation about that, and this
7 needs to be revealed to our Selectboard, our
8 planning board and the residents of our town so
9 that when we're evaluating the Northern Pass
10 project, we can also evaluate the capacity for
11 what may come in our future.

12 Northern Pass has only answered questions
13 about their proposed route. We have had no
14 information from the Applicant regarding any of
15 the alternative routes, several of which site a
16 converter station in Deerfield. Back in 2013,
17 Eversource bought a 38-acre parcel of land near
18 35 North Road in Deerfield. Why did they buy
19 it? For the last three years, at every
20 opportunity, I have asked for possible reasons
21 for this purchase. As I've already mentioned,
22 several alternatives for the Northern Pass
23 project listed in the DOE, Draft EIS, happened

1 to identify this same site as possible for
2 converter station. The fact that neither
3 Northern Pass nor Eversource will answer this
4 question about the purchase is alarming in
5 itself, but the possibility of a converter
6 station in Deerfield, within a half a mile of
7 our town center, is also alarming. The last
8 attempt for me to get an answer to this question
9 was a month ago, and I did receive an email back
10 saying they're working on it. Will the answer
11 or reason impact the orderly development of
12 Deerfield.

13 Who paid for this parcel? Ratepayers?
14 There has been has been line reconductoring
15 referred to as upgrades in Deerfield since this
16 project's announcement. Who is paying for this?
17 Northern Pass or New Hampshire ratepayers?
18 Should these Eversource distribution costs be
19 factored into the cost of the project,
20 especially in the cost/benefit analysis. For
21 several years Northern Pass has proclaimed the
22 project stops in Deerfield. Why then did
23 Northern Pass do wetlands study on an outgoing

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1 line to Scobie Pond in Londonderry.

2 Ask any resident within a mile of the
3 existing substation what life in their
4 neighborhood has been like the last few years.
5 Construction noise, lights, steady traffic. The
6 relationship between the Hydro-Quebec's project
7 and Eversource's upgrades is extremely murky.
8 I'm asking the SEC for some oversight to look
9 back and ensure that this Northern Pass project
10 isn't pushing ahead of the local process.

11 MR. HONIGBERG: Ms. Menard, how much more
12 do you have?

13 MS. MENARD: Two short paragraphs.

14 MR. HONIGBERG: Okay.

15 MS. MENARD: Since Eversource is a
16 coapplicant to this project, it is my hope that
17 the SEC process will solicit and require honest
18 answers to questions that reflect our concerns
19 about the long-term plans of Eversource for
20 Deerfield. In Whitefield, Mr. Quinlan referred
21 to Deerfield as robust. I am sure that not
22 everyone would agree with Deerfield being
23 characterized in this way, excepting maybe

1 during the Deerfield Fair.

2 So for southern New Hampshire, we are
3 quiet, rural and extremely community oriented.
4 The threat of loss of our landscape weighs very
5 heavy on us and every town along the right of
6 way. Undisturbed soil, undisturbed view.
7 Undisturbed soil, undisturbed view. Thank you
8 very much.

9 MR. HONIGBERG: With that, we're going to
10 take a break and return as close to 5 minutes
11 after nine as we can.

12 (Recess taken)

13 SPEAKER: Martin Kaufman. I don't know
14 about you, but I'm exhausted. K A U F M A N.
15 First name Martin. You folks on the tour didn't
16 make it up to where I was waiting for you on
17 Heath Road, Bear Rock Road, Paul Hill. So I
18 hope you get up there because what I'm about to
19 read is really related to that area and a group
20 of us, 43 of us, have signed a petition and
21 submitted it to you, the Site Evaluation
22 Committee, asking to intervene. This is not the
23 intervention argument, but we call ourselves the

1 Dixville Notch/Harvey Swell location, and we
2 identify ourselves as a neighborhood. All of
3 our 43 signatories will be able to, are able to
4 see the Balsams Resort at Dixville Notch to
5 their south and would be able to see the
6 proposed Northern Pass Project of towers along
7 the hills to the north. At least 10 of the 43
8 are abutters, some within the width of Heath
9 Road and some, myself included, have easements
10 traversing the 120-foot wide, what I prefer to
11 as a dead zone on the proposed HVDC line. We
12 submitted our application to be intervenors, and
13 within literally hours after we requested the
14 committee to accept our petition to intervene,
15 lawyers from Northern Pass petitioned the SEC to
16 reject or diminish our request based on various
17 arguments.

18 Some of us spoke with Governor Maggie
19 Hassan in Errol a while back where we asked the
20 following question. Since money is power, and
21 the combined wealth of Hydro-Quebec owned by the
22 provincial government of the Quebec and
23 Eversource is probably greater than the wealth

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1 of the State of New Hampshire, can our elected
2 officials really say no to this project, even if
3 they wanted to. Governor Hassan answered that
4 she had a great deal of confidence in this Site
5 Evaluation Committee and would pay attention to
6 their recommendation. Now, I like Maggie Hassan
7 because she always makes me feel like she cares,
8 but she is a politician. So I balance what I
9 feel against what I think, and what I think is
10 that Northern Pass lawyers are sharks in an
11 ocean in which we're swimming and we really are
12 looking to the Site Evaluation Committee for
13 protection. By now, everybody knows or should
14 know that the North Country is working towards
15 becoming a vacation/hospitality industry area,
16 and we welcome efforts like the Balsams Resort
17 renewal project and recoil with anger and
18 disgust at environmentally unfriendly projects
19 like Northern Pass.

20 Northern Pass claims that burying the line
21 is too expensive. \$5 million a mile, they say,
22 and going online, I found that that figure is
23 repeatedly mentioned. While online, I also did

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1 the following.

2 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Kaufman, how much more
3 do you have?

4 MR. KAUFMANN: Oh, not much. We'll
5 survive. So I went online and what I looked at
6 was the real estate value around Sunday River
7 and a comparable distance and view of Sunday
8 River as we see the Balsams if that project
9 succeeds that which we all hope it will, and
10 what the land is going for up there is 40 or
11 \$50,000 an acre. Sounds like a lot but for a
12 house it comes down to about 10, \$20,000. The
13 land that you folks didn't see today on the
14 hill, Paul Hill, Holden Hill, looks out at the
15 ski area of the Balsams. That land is very
16 comparable to what I saw online around Sunday
17 River. Now, they're going to put towers on that
18 hill. The towers traverse that hill and it's
19 going to parallel Heath Road, the road you folks
20 didn't get to today. If you just take a small
21 percentage of that hill and turn it into real
22 estate property instead of having towers, it
23 comes out like, I did the math, it's simple.

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1 You can do it, you know? Eight or \$10 million
2 for just --

3 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Kaufman, please bring
4 your remarks to a close.

5 MR. KAUFMAN: So it's more than the cost,
6 the value then increases more than the cost of
7 burying the line. So they may have this notion
8 that they can't afford it, but they don't look
9 at it in a small direct way like this.

10 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Kaufman, if you want
11 to, you have more you want to say, I'll call you
12 up again after Mr. Abbott is done.

13 MR. KAUFMAN: I'm going to give this to
14 this wonderful woman would does this magical
15 thing.

16 MR. HONIGBERG: All right. Thank you.

17 SPEAKER: Donald Bilodeau. I'm an abutter
18 in Clarksville. There are 25 towers going
19 through Clarksville for a total of 2.4 miles.
20 Next to Wiswell Road there are two lattice
21 towers on the south side next to each other,
22 transition towers, and they have one tower,
23 lattice tower again, on the north side of

1 Wiswell Road. It appears to me as though these
2 towers are going to be in a wetland. The
3 remaining 22 monopoles may also cross some of
4 the other wetlands that I have hunted and seen
5 while hunting in that area. I don't know
6 exactly the proposed route is actually where it
7 is, but I don't know. The SEC today did not
8 even stop at Route 45. At least 8 towers plus
9 will be seen from this scenic byway from the
10 cemetery just south of Wiswell Road where the
11 rest area is located as well by the cemetery on
12 the west side of this road. It would seem to me
13 the additional cost to bury these 2.4 miles for
14 25 towers in wetlands and ruining the beautiful
15 views would be worth it. Bury the entire, still
16 better, bury the entire line in this beautiful
17 state and connect all the dots. Thank you.

18 (Applause)

19 MR. HONIGBERG: Just so people know, there
20 were two buses out today. As we drove along
21 parts of the route, one of the buses got stuck
22 so that's why some of the things that were
23 planned ended up not happening.

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1 SPEAKER: Pam Frizzell. I'm from Pittsburg
2 and Colebrook. So this whole power line project
3 is kind of like I don't like cake. I don't care
4 if you like frosting on it, I don't care if it's
5 chocolate, I don't care if it's white, I don't
6 like cake. I don't like the power line. Bury
7 it, don't bury it, lie to us, don't lie to us,
8 we don't want it. We don't want cake. We don't
9 want your power line.

10 We hear about the current high cost of
11 electricity. Who sets those rates? Who is
12 responsible for our current high cost of
13 electricity. It's these folks. The Balsams,
14 we've heard people refer to how wonderful that
15 is. We'll see how that pans out at the end the
16 night after their testimony. I agree with the
17 woman from Sugar Hill. She spoke very well.
18 Years ago we heard almost the same arguments for
19 the gas pipeline and what has that economically
20 put impact been. It hasn't been positive.

21 Another woman questioned earlier what the
22 taxes will be. We know what they'll be.
23 They'll try and negotiate the hell out of them,

1 it will be down. Talk about reduced emissions
2 in New England. What about the environmental
3 impact in Canada. Does anybody even care? The
4 jobs, New Hampshire First? Have you checked out
5 the unemployment rate? It's pretty low. Where
6 are you going to get the workers. Would any of
7 you buy a property that abutted this proposed
8 power line. We hear you talking about I-93 you
9 can't go to the lanes or on to the side because
10 of the environmental impact. What about the
11 environmental impact up here? Is that
12 different? Is 93 more special? And I think
13 it's interesting earlier that Harry Brown
14 referred to bullying and in appropriate actions
15 at previous meeting. Apparently, he doesn't
16 apply the same standings to his postings on line
17 that he does to the people that attend these
18 meetings.

19 I'm asking you to oppose the Northern Pass.
20 Period. We don't want it buried, we don't want
21 it overhead. We want it to go away. We want
22 these people to go away. We want never to have
23 this conversation again. Thank you.

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(Applause)

SPEAKER: Julie Moran. Thank you. I want to thank Senator Shaheen for calling you up here. Shame on you for not coming up here in the first place. This is the first place that the SEC should have had hearings because we are the most affected. I'll read my testimony. So time to be real. Since well before the initial announcement of Northern Pass and throughout its permitting process the New Hampshire officials, regulators, governors, legislators have allowed the rape of our citizens and our land by the Northern Pass. It's time to take the process and the people seriously and stop the proposed rape of our pristine state and its people by a foreign country and its private business. There's absolutely enough evidence for the governor, the legislature, and with DOE and SEC, to stop this assault that will continue to assault us every second of every minute of every hour and every day of every year for the rest of our lives. We will have to live with this.

It's shameful enough that a foreign country

1 has mated with our own energy company to assault
2 us, but for the past five years our governing
3 bodies have failed us causing great exacerbation
4 of our poverty, loss of our business, property
5 values, house sales, and time and energy that
6 you call us to come to these meetings year after
7 year after year to fight this again. I don't
8 even like the color orange. Please hear us.
9 Please hear us.

10 The last governors have both failed to
11 protect us from this impending assault. Our
12 senators and legislators have tried, but they
13 haven't stopped the assault. We've asked for
14 burial. We've asked for you to go away. All we
15 get is more meetings to say the same exact thing
16 or we're balanced. But it's not true. It's not
17 balanced.

18 The SEC and DOE are basically the only ones
19 left that can save us from this assault. The
20 process has included far too many back door
21 sessions, incomplete applications, the site tour
22 that was hastily put together on a snowy day
23 when visibility was low on a road that is not

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1 even open in the winter. I'm sorry you got
2 stuck, but we could have told you you would be
3 stuck if you asked us.

4 This whole process has put our lives on
5 hold, waiting for the rape to occur. That's the
6 reality. And I'm sorry I have to use that word.
7 I didn't write that, but I apologize now. We
8 can't continue to live like this, and please
9 don't continue to put us through it. Our
10 complaints have been laughed at and scorned.
11 Would you laugh at the rape of your sons and
12 daughters? Of course not. If that's the case,
13 then the SEC and DOE must stop the towers here
14 and now. Whoever has the power to stop this,
15 and doesn't stop it, is going to have blood on
16 their hands every second every minute of every
17 day. Ours. It's got to be stopped. Therefore,
18 I hope you will make the right decision and deny
19 Northern Pass its plan to dissect New Hampshire
20 with its towers so that you'll have clean hands
21 and a healthy heart for the rest of your lives.
22 Please, tell Northern Pass to bury the line
23 completely. Thank you.

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1 (Applause)

2 SPEAKER: Let me introduce myself. I'm
3 Harley Mason. I'm from the town of Milan, and I
4 own and operate Mason Enterprises which is an
5 excavating and trucking company. We build
6 roads, subdivisions, complete site work for
7 homes and businesses. We also process and sell
8 gravel. We support the Northern Pass as this is
9 a project much needed in Coos County creating
10 around 300 jobs and bringing in millions of
11 dollars for the workers, all the small
12 businesses and giving the economy a big boost.

13 We were involved with the Portland natural
14 gas pipeline which came through Coos County in
15 2000, 2001, as we supplied gravel, sand and
16 trucks. This project put many people to work
17 and brought thousands of dollars to the small
18 towns of Coos County which was great.

19 Next came the windmills on Dixville Peaks,
20 Kelsey, Owls Head, Blue Mountain. A total of 33
21 towers were installed. Our construction crew
22 doubled in size and we worked 12 to 14 hours a
23 day. Seven days a week we trucked gravel, stone

1 and burial sand up into the mountain. We
2 produced and delivered a total of 54,000 yards
3 of material to the top of those mountains. This
4 project had a couple hundred people working,
5 again, bringing millions of dollars into the
6 area for local businesses. This was a great
7 project for Coos County, great project for the
8 workers and our economy.

9 The Northern Pass is a much larger project
10 which will take 2 to 3 years to complete with
11 around 300 workers. We are very lucky to have
12 this great project and should be overwhelmed to
13 have the work and large amounts of money that
14 will be put into our community. We are ready to
15 challenge this project. We the workers and the
16 contractors of Coos County have the knowledge
17 and ability to start and complete the Northern
18 Pass. We have the ability and knowledge to do
19 it in a professional and safe manner. We will
20 do this project and do it successfully as a
21 team. I encourage the SEC to approve this
22 project. Thank you.

23 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is David

1 Van Houten. I have lived in Bethlehem since
2 1972. We have a small farm consisting of a
3 house and outbuilding situated in a field with
4 adjacent wood lot. The view is a field, trees
5 and sky in all directions. The place has a
6 bucolic character. This pleasant setting
7 defines the quality of our daily lives and also
8 contributes a great deal to the real estate
9 value of the property. It also represents no
10 small investment on our part.

11 The Applicant proposes to erect tall poles
12 bearing power lines approximately 1500 feet to
13 the west of our house. There is a distinct
14 possibility that the structures will arise above
15 the tree line and be visible from the homestead.
16 The result would be a transformation of a rural
17 landscape into one that gives a more industrial
18 impression. We have no doubt that it would
19 lower the market value of our property. The
20 Applicant has not contacted us to inform us of
21 this change to our place, either to seek our
22 opinion, work with us to mitigate the impacts in
23 their plans, or offer compensation for lost

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1 value. They propose this development in order
2 to make money, and if it goes through it will
3 cost us tens of thousands of dollars, and they
4 can't even be bothered to call us to talk it
5 over. I hope you don't wonder why we are angry.

6 The Applicant proposes to site the project
7 on an easement conveyed to PSNH in 1947 and 1953
8 which cut through our property identified as Lot
9 40 on Bethlehem tax map 404. There is no
10 mention of Northern Pass, Hydro-Quebec or the
11 right of PSNH to assign their easement
12 privileges to a third party. We conclude that
13 the Northern Pass proposal falls outside the
14 terms of the original deeds and suggest that the
15 Applicant withdraw any route across out land
16 from consideration.

17 I see from the long list of petitions to
18 intervene that this is a common concern for New
19 Hampshire landowners. I am compelled to point
20 out that the Site Evaluation Committee should
21 not have judged this application to be complete
22 until there was further clarity concerning the
23 Applicant's legal right to the land. Rule

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1 301.03(c)(6). A dispute between a landowner and
2 the Applicant is a legal matter and would have
3 to be resolved by the courts. I request that
4 this proceeding be suspended until this issue
5 has been decided.

6 In following the site evaluation record of
7 decision on appeals of a similar nature, I
8 notice that such appeals have been pretty much
9 brushed aside, and I suppose this one will be
10 treated in a similar manner. Surprise me. Is
11 there anybody who isn't opposed to Northern
12 Pass?

13 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Robert
14 Martin. M A R T I N. I'm an elected official.
15 In addition to that, I'm the emergency
16 coordinator for Coos County. I spoke at the
17 meeting at the DOE EIS meeting last time and I
18 submitted a paper which was in their database.
19 I suggest very strongly that you take a look at
20 that because I raised some points relative to
21 what I consider to be potential serious issues
22 and emissions from the towers that would affect
23 radio communications here. On that point I'm

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1 not in agreement with the gentleman from the
2 Northern Pass. Nor was the FCC when they fined
3 the power transmission line in California for
4 repeated interference with communications.
5 Similar events took place in Texas. So it's a
6 potential serious issue. A lot of the people
7 here have spoken on some of the points that I
8 wanted to raise so let me make very brief
9 comments about a few point here.

10 I feel Mr. Quinlan is a bit disingenuous
11 when says he has spoken to folks up here. I
12 know he hasn't spoken to my town, Pittsburg, and
13 Stewartstown and he hasn't spoken to any of the
14 towns down below, and that's unfortunate because
15 we have a few points to make for sure.

16 With regard to the comments about the real
17 estate, you can't look at the real estate and do
18 a comparative on it. It's like doing a
19 comparative on an island in the middle of the
20 ocean. There's nothing to compare it with. We
21 don't have sales up here. How can you do
22 comparisons on it. I know of at least ten
23 pieces of property that have been on the market

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1 for years because of Northern Pass. Signs are
2 up and nobody will buy them. They could
3 probably dump it and lose a lot of money, but to
4 do a comparative on property that doesn't even
5 enter into the lists that the gentleman is using
6 as a comparative is ridiculous.

7 We have a serious problem with evaluation
8 of the property to the point that you cannot
9 sell property anywhere around this area here.
10 People just won't buy it. So you can't say that
11 there's no impact when you don't have a sale
12 because people can't sell them, and that I think
13 is an important point.

14 I'm a little bit concerned about Northern
15 Pass with another issue. That is a
16 bidirectional line. Power doesn't only go down
17 from Canada. It can go back to Canada.
18 Somebody commented about a thousand towers in
19 Canada. The actual number from the Canadian
20 reports was 3101 towers. 526 or 36 structures
21 were damaged in that ice storm. Canada was in
22 very serious problems. They were not exporting,
23 and to think that they don't have any serious

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1 needs of power down from Canada we could have
2 serious impact in terms of getting it, and we
3 may in fact be sending power back up to Canada
4 and that would be unfortunate.

5 The other comment is about the cheap
6 electricity. During that storm and in other
7 periods of time when there have been shortages
8 in the wintertime Canada has been charging us
9 50, 60, 70 cents a kilowatt hour. No cheapness
10 there. That's 3 or 4 times what we're paying,
11 five times what we're paying here. That's not a
12 good thing. So some of those arguments are a
13 little bit flaky as far as I'm concerned.

14 The other issue I'm very concerned about is
15 this whole thing about taxes. How much money
16 we're going to be getting from taxes. And we've
17 got to be careful. Power companies and the gas
18 companies with the power lines and everything
19 else come in with the all these things about tax
20 savings. First thing their accounting
21 department is going to do is to apply
22 accelerated depreciation on those assets, and
23 they're going to drop the value significantly.

1 This is a 40-year project. Five or ten years
2 out in the project, we're going to have that
3 stuff devalued to a point where it's not going
4 to have any significant tax advantage at all,
5 and I want to be very careful about that. I
6 don't like the canons about how much money we're
7 going to be saving on our taxes and all that. I
8 think that's not reasonable to expect.

9 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Martin, how much more
10 do you have?

11 MR. MARTIN: Well, I think if you could
12 probably close it up if you give me a chance. I
13 know it's getting late. I'm sorry. Thank you
14 for listening to me and I appreciate your
15 efforts. That's it.

16 SPEAKER: Bill Schomburg. I imagine the
17 SEC is here tonight so that the record might
18 show that this permitting agency has at least
19 listened to the people of New Hampshire
20 regarding the Northern Pass project. Has the
21 Site Evaluation Committee read the master plans
22 of the 31 towns presently under attack by
23 Northern Pass? Has the site Evaluation

1 Committee found anything in our master plans
2 that justify the Northern Pass or do our master
3 plans created by New Hampshire citizens
4 contradict the economic master plans of
5 Hydro-Quebec and Eversource. New Hampshire RSA
6 674:1 states that the master plan will, quote,
7 guide the development of the municipality and
8 that it shall contain a set of statements which
9 articulate the desires of the citizens affected
10 by the master plan, not only for their locality
11 but for the region and the whole state. It
12 shall contain a set of guiding principles and
13 priorities. That's the end of the quote.

14 The master plan is the resource document
15 helping to determine whether proposals of change
16 are consistent with the views of the
17 townspeople. It serves as a guide for the
18 community to use in shaping its future. If the
19 Site Evaluation Committee is really trying to
20 capture the beliefs of our citizens, read these
21 master plans and then act on them for the people
22 who created them, not for Northern Pass.

23 That was my prepared couple of paragraphs.

1 During this procedure, I became aware once again
2 of what Ray Burton said two months after this
3 scheme was hatched, and I trust Ray Burton. He
4 said Northern Pass should fold its tents and get
5 out of town, and I think he said it correctly.
6 And I also know that Governor at that time John
7 Lynch who was a part of this scheme, he did say,
8 quote, if the people of New Hampshire don't want
9 this, it will not happen. Thank you.

10 SPEAKER: I'd like to thank you, both
11 committees, for coming tonight and I'd like to
12 read a statement I have.

13 MR. HONIGBERG: Before you do, can you
14 pronounce your last name and spell it for the
15 record, please?

16 MR. HONIGBERG: Yes. My name is Bruce
17 Brekke. My wife and I are property owners in
18 Whitefield. Our concern is the effects that the
19 proposed overhead towers will have on property
20 values and the tourist industry in the State of
21 New Hampshire, the North Country, the town of
22 Whitefield and specifically our property value
23 in way of life. Recently, and new to us, the

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1 word viewshed has appeared in print and in much
2 of the documentation referencing the Northern
3 Pass. Interestingly, Wikipedia comments
4 regarding the viewshed as, quote, in urban
5 planning, for example, viewsheds tend to be
6 areas of particular scenic or historic value
7 that are deemed worthy of preservation against
8 development or other change, end quote.

9 My wife and I spend most of the days of the
10 year at home and many hours of those days
11 enjoying our backyard. Northeast facing view
12 both inside and outside. We can see it when
13 it's storming in Lancaster at Mt. Prospect or
14 when it's sunny in Jefferson near Mt. Waumbek.
15 Our viewshed has become our lifestyle. We
16 praise it and we thank God for it every day.
17 Our land abuts the existing right-of-way in
18 Whitefield where three of the 40-foot wooden
19 structures are visible only during winter months
20 when the trees are bare. The view from the rear
21 of our house is stunning. We have clear sight
22 of the Mountainview Grand Hotel even though it's
23 over four miles away. The panorama includes Mt.

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1 Waumbek, Mt. Cabot, Mt. Prospect, Mt. Pleasant
2 and Dalton Mountain, with the Pliny range and
3 Kilkenny range and the Percy Peaks beyond, to
4 the north. Now, and for the last four years our
5 lifestyle has been threatened. Four of these
6 steel towers as high as a hundred feet are
7 planned to be placed along the 3000 foot of our
8 property that abuts the existing right-of-way
9 visible from our rear house windows and back
10 yard. Another 19 towers would be very visible
11 looking northeast into Whitefield. The proposed
12 Northern Pass towers would dominate the view and
13 if built as proposed according to the
14 information provided by the DOE Northern Pass
15 Section 106 documents, we would see 25 of them,
16 and we would see the value of our property
17 permanently diminished never to recover until
18 the trees go to the heights that we will never
19 see.

20 Our ability to sell our property has been
21 diminished by the current Northern Pass
22 proposal. Approval of this proposal will
23 certainly decrease our property value. Although

1 we realize that there's a need for additional
2 electric energy in Massachusetts, Rhode Island
3 and Connecticut, installing the lines
4 underground is a viable and sensible compromise
5 which will address the interest of all parties
6 and leave New Hampshire's views intact. After
7 the initial impact of construction and
8 underground lines, the scenery will revert back
9 to its former beauty over time as nature takes
10 hold and heals the scars. Unfortunately, even
11 nature can't do anything about ugly overhead
12 towers.

13 When I look past my property at the
14 mountains in the sky, I do not think of the
15 value of my house and land. I take in the
16 natural beauty what is there. That is why many
17 people have stayed here in New Hampshire,
18 settled here, and more importantly, visit here.
19 We cannot ruin what we have. This magnificent
20 country for any reason, especially a reason that
21 is not necessary. The Northern Pass
22 representatives say that they are listening to
23 the people, but they are not. We want the

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1 entire project underground, not just part of it.

2 Now, listening to the comments tonight, for
3 the most part, it looks like Northern Pass, yes
4 or no, is not the question. The issue is
5 towers, and the issue is an issue because of
6 Northern Pass's stubborn refusal to spend the
7 money to completely bury the lines. Thank you.

8 SPEAKER: Good evening. Thank you for
9 allowing me to speak tonight. My name is Les
10 Otten. I own a renewable energy company and
11 I've been doing business in New Hampshire since
12 2008, wood pellet industry. I've long supported
13 replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy.
14 In fact, that's what my company has been doing
15 and we're a leader in the state. We deliver
16 efficient wood pellet boilers and heating
17 systems so residents and businesses can stop
18 burning oil and propane. I'm also for jobs and
19 growing the North Country economy. I spent the
20 last two and a half years creating a plan for
21 the Balsams Resort that you've heard about
22 tonight that could lift the entire region, if
23 successful. The fulfillment of that plan is my

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1 first responsibility.

2 I also believe that climate change is real.
3 It's our responsibility to mitigate the most
4 potentially damaging activity that man has
5 inflicted on our planet, but this is again also
6 about jobs and the economy. In Dixville, in
7 particular, was where manufacturing, power and
8 tourism thrived for decades. Power has been a
9 central component of the North Country's
10 history. People resist change and they fear the
11 unknown. Many times in my life, I have resisted
12 change and feared it as well so I understand.

13 We have currently a Hydro-Quebec line that
14 is taller than the proposed Northern Pass line
15 which was built in 1986. That line runs
16 directly through major tourism areas without
17 negative impacts. And 33 wind towers were built
18 on the mountain ridges above Dixville, and
19 depending on your perspective and where you are
20 at night, you can see blinking red lights on
21 over 100 spaces on the hilltops over the State
22 of New Hampshire. To some of us, those
23 represent progress. They represent clean

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1 energy, and we like to see them. So often
2 vision is in the eye of the beholder.

3 From a lifetime of developing resorts in
4 New Hampshire, California and Maine, I've never
5 seen tourism negatively affected by low cost
6 renewable energy and the systems derived and
7 built to create them. Views are important. The
8 North Country is also facing serious social and
9 economic issues. The highest unemployment
10 rating is in the North Country of New Hampshire.
11 It's caused our young workers to leave. Our
12 high school graduates can't find professions.
13 We've invested significant dollars in our
14 community only to watch these great assets leave
15 because there are no jobs. We have a drug
16 addiction epidemic in all of the northeast and
17 especially in the rural communities in New
18 Hampshire that many of us don't recognize, but
19 it's there.

20 Northern Pass while not loved, clearly, has
21 created a Forward New Hampshire fund that has
22 invested \$2 million in the project at the
23 Balsams without strings. We're discussing a

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1 potential increased investment with them as the
2 Pass progresses. This will help us fulfill our
3 commitment of restoring the Balsams Resort and
4 revitalizing the North Country's economy. When
5 we reopen with Phase 1, and at its completion,
6 we will employ 1700 people. 600 people will be
7 used over the next ten years in construction.

8 We will also save significantly in our
9 annual energy cost. Those costs are something
10 that a businessman really needs to pay attention
11 to. The price that we're currently paying for
12 power is the highest in the nature and in the
13 continental United States. The possibility of
14 keeping those costs in line and of stopping
15 pollution of our land, our water, our air with
16 hydrocarbons that are being put there from
17 fossil fuels is an important part of our future
18 and may well be the key to preserving our lakes,
19 trees, our ground that we grow our food with.

20 Northern Pass is helping the North Country
21 in a very significant way. Approving the
22 project will bring more investment to our
23 region. The fund for the future is real. It's

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1 \$200 million that's going to be spent in the
2 North Country. That is a significant investment
3 and commitment.

4 In closing, let me say that let there be no
5 doubt that I favor the rebirth of the North
6 Country, and I favor Northern Pass and the
7 opportunities it will create. I hope these
8 opportunities will endure for the next century.
9 I thank you for your time.

10 MR. HONIGBERG: Every speaker up here this
11 evening deserves your respect, and you will not
12 make any more disparaging comments about any
13 speaker here this evening. Thank you.

14 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Jeff
15 Stevens, and I am a construction manager working
16 on the Balsams renovation. I live in Dixville
17 and have built large resort projects all over
18 the world. Infrastructure is a necessary
19 component of all development projects, and the
20 Balsams project is no exception. In fact, there
21 are many good aspects to the Balsams project and
22 the Northern Pass including the fact that they
23 will use clean renewable hydroelectric power and

1 will help Coos County to grow rather than
2 shrink.

3 Exactly 30 years ago I helped to build the
4 Pontook Hydroelectric Project in Dummer, and
5 that has been a boon to Coos County and New
6 Hampshire in terms of its economic,
7 environmental and recreational opportunities
8 with minimized visual impact from the
9 infrastructure and transmission lines. I look
10 forward to doing the same with the Balsams
11 redevelopment. Thank you.

12 MR. HONIGBERG: Andy Pearson. I have been
13 connected to the Balsams property for the
14 majority of my life and have worked at the
15 resort for upwards of 27 years. During this
16 time, I've worked for different owners and
17 several management companies, each of whom
18 brought varying degrees of change, both to the
19 resort's operation as well as the staff and
20 guests. The biggest change and the one with the
21 most impact still to this day was the decision
22 in the fall of 2011 by our then owner, Tillotson
23 Corporation, to close the resort.

1 Now I'd like to speak briefly about
2 opportunities. Specifically, the opportunities
3 that I've witnessed as countless students all
4 from surrounding communities have experienced
5 working at the resort during their high school
6 and often college years. For decades our local
7 youth have had the privilege of having a wide
8 range of employment options allowing them to
9 acquire skill sets, work alongside others from
10 different parts of the world and recreate at the
11 resort throughout the seasons. This unique
12 opportunity was in their backyard, and for many
13 had the enormous positive impact on their lives.
14 On more than one occasion I received a copy of
15 college papers written bring past employees of
16 the resort on their experience and the
17 importance of that experience during that time
18 in their life.

19 We are now coming to the end of our fifth
20 winter season at the Balsams and the Balsams
21 remains closed. To my point, that represents
22 five graduating classes or half a decade of kids
23 who did not get to experience those types of

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1 opportunities. This is a real concern of mine.
2 I have a 13-year-old who wonders what her future
3 will look like over the next 8 or 9 years.
4 We're very close to realizing the tremendous
5 opportunities that the rebirth of the resort
6 will bring area wide, the opportunity to share
7 in Forward New Hampshire fund to allow
8 especially our local kids the chance to
9 participate in and experience the many
10 attributes and skills that will come with such
11 employment options is a future that I've looked
12 forward to.

13 There is a quote that used to hang in most
14 offices at the resort, it came about from
15 talking to employees about their feelings
16 working at the Balsams, not management. It
17 read, the Balsams is your highest priority. By
18 serving its interests first and for the
19 long-term, you and its guests, staff and
20 community will all benefit the most.

21 SPEAKER: Monique Petrofsky. Thank for the
22 opportunity to speak. I actually have a
23 statement that my son wrote, and he represents

1 the future of the area. He currently lives in
2 Washington, D.C., has bought land here and has
3 dreams and hopes of returning here, and I have
4 to say that my daughters worked at the Balsams,
5 but my son was not able to get a job there
6 because they were hiring foreign workers. So I
7 just don't know how I feel about that. I think
8 everybody deserves a job, but I don't think it's
9 always the local kids anymore.

10 So this is an open letter that he wrote for
11 Governor Hassan. Governor Hassan, we should not
12 have to put our faith in the courts to uphold
13 the public's will, not to mention our property
14 rights. It is clear that the public stands
15 against this project. The vast majority of
16 those communities most affected by the project
17 have taken a stand against it, but I fear our
18 political system continues to fail us. Bills
19 that would have offered common sense solutions
20 have been tabled. The project continues to inch
21 forward. It's time for you to take a stand
22 against Northern Pass. Forcefully speak out
23 against any version of it that does not bury it

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1 entirely under public roadways, and with
2 landowners permission, which you will get if it
3 is buried. You can help shepherd a bill through
4 the House that will protect our property rights
5 and our landscape. This will go a long way
6 towards reaffirming the belief that New
7 Hampshire is still a place where government
8 works for the people, a place worth fighting
9 for. I, for one, have dreams of bringing my
10 business back to the area. As my mother, who I
11 am, I'm his mother, his grandparents, and he
12 forgot to mention his great grandparents, were
13 born in this area. If I do this, it will be for
14 one reason: that the North Country is one of the
15 most beautiful places on earth, and if Northern
16 Pass goes through above ground, I fear I will
17 never come back.

18 So this is a young man who I'm very proud
19 of, who went away, got an education and wants to
20 return to the area. And he would bring, he
21 would offer a lot, and, respectfully, going away
22 from my son's statement, I would like to add to
23 my son's statement that I myself have been away

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1 for 30 years. I was active duty, just retired.
2 I worked all over the world in different areas.
3 I worked in hardship areas, I've worked in very
4 challenging areas, unsafe areas, to protect our
5 nature's health. I spent most of the last 20
6 years working in West Africa, East Africa,
7 throughout southeast Asia, and this is where I'm
8 retired to. This is my home. This is where I
9 wanted to come back to, but I have to say that
10 if it goes above ground, I really don't believe
11 that Northern Pass can afford to bury it. If it
12 goes above ground, I really would start thinking
13 where else have I lived in the country that I
14 would like to retire to and not have to look at
15 really awful power lines, and I think the power
16 of the North Country is its beauty. It sounds
17 simplistic, but it's its beauty. Thank you.

18 (Applause)

19 SPEAKER: Hello. My name is June Coulombe,
20 and I live in Clarksville, New Hampshire, and I
21 understand that they really want this power line
22 to go through. A lot of the loggers are
23 desperate for work, but guess what, guys. Don't

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1 put your hopes up on logging. You remember when
2 the mill closed down in Berlin, New Hampshire,
3 and a bunch of guys lost their jobs? Well, the
4 government is thinking of putting a moratorium
5 on all wood cutting because of the environmental
6 impacts of clearcutting and all the flooding
7 down, you know, lower parts of the states
8 because of the environment being changed. Not
9 because just global warming but El Nino and all
10 kinds of other calamities. So there's a good
11 possibility that they're going to stop everybody
12 from cutting wood so don't get your hopes up on
13 that. Find some other line of work. Maybe you
14 can get hired replanting trees. So that is a
15 possibility for jobs.

16 And I'm sick and tired of seeing old growth
17 trees get cut down. 2 or 300-year-old beautiful
18 maples that they cut recently in the town of
19 Stewartstown and other places for clearing for
20 the power line. I asked last year at the
21 Whitefield meeting at the resort that they don't
22 cut any more trees out of old growth and beauty
23 for scenic purposes, and it's like, go ahead and

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1 cut all the trees because they did just the
2 total of opposite of what I asked, and that's
3 Eversource that cannot be trusted. It will tell
4 you one thing and do the other. So if you're
5 going to deal with these people, get it all on
6 paper and have lawyers because I have proven
7 time and time again they cannot be trusted.
8 That's why I want to put an application in to be
9 on the site committee and as an intervenor, I
10 would like to intervene. I know it's late, too
11 late maybe, but they should give an extension of
12 time because they did for everything else. So
13 why not give people in towns that don't have an
14 intervenor a chance to intervene, and my husband
15 recently passed away so I'm a little up tight
16 right now and I can't speak well, and I think
17 that this project, you know, made him weak. He
18 was worried about, you know, his property and
19 stuff, and it just killed him. He just couldn't
20 take anymore. Five years of this. Come on.

21 I think maybe Donald Trump said the wrong
22 border that he should be closing off if he
23 becomes president. Maybe he should close the

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1 border of New Hampshire and Canada on this line
2 of the line. If they have no respect for us in
3 New Hampshire, and they can't talk to us in a
4 decent manner, they won't, you know, allow us to
5 speak to them at meetings. They cut us short.
6 They don't listen to our ideas, our feelings,
7 how can we work with them. How can they be
8 trusted.

9 I mean, I used to like Canada. My
10 grandparents came from Canada. They were good
11 farm families, but the government doesn't listen
12 to its people either. Look what they did to the
13 natives that lost all their native lands, just
14 to put in these dams that they dammed up all the
15 rivers and, you know, the people had no place to
16 go. So they became very displaced. That's what
17 causes friction.

18 Geez, folks, you think I'm going to stay in
19 New Hampshire if those power lines go up? No,
20 sir. I'm going where the grass is green and the
21 trees are tall. And one more thing. I have to
22 say that you should try to work with the people.
23 If you can't do that, pack up and go home

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1 because the border is going to be closed and
2 I'll make sure of it. I'm make sure that the
3 right people get into politics and I'm not
4 taking about Donald Trump either. There's other
5 people that are environmentalists and they will
6 become president. I'm assured of that. I'm not
7 saying names at this time, but I'll make sure
8 that they get into office, and I'll make sure
9 that they put Canada on its side of the line
10 because there's ways and means of doing these
11 things if you will not cooperate with us. We're
12 sick and tired of it.

13 So I mean, either I'm going to be an
14 intervenor or I'm going to become your worse
15 nightmare, and, believe me, I can do it. So
16 have a good day.

17 SPEAKER: David Chappell. I want to thank
18 you for coming. I would not be able to, if I
19 were you, I would not be able to live with
20 myself if I made a decision without seeing the
21 whole route so I would take the time tomorrow to
22 do that. How about Boy Scouts are in here that
23 have learned leave no trace. Not many. I

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1 suggest also you look at Boy Scout handbook and
2 see what it is because Boy Scouts are taught to
3 leave no trace, and if this was true with these
4 towers, imagine what it would do to our young
5 people that are taught that.

6 I live in Clarksville, I'm David Chappell.
7 In my town, at least 17 pieces of property were
8 bought by affiliates of Northern Pass, and three
9 of those properties were over \$10 million which
10 would lay the line all the way through the town
11 of Clarksville was spent on all of these
12 properties. Seems like they came in, just
13 bought and bought and bought and they bought the
14 route, couldn't go through so they backed up and
15 bought by the cemetery and route 145. There
16 were some people there that balked. Don was one
17 and couple of other, three other of his
18 neighbors that wouldn't sell to them so they
19 just backed and bought another piece.

20 When Northern Pass first came in, they came
21 to our town halls to meet with the Selectmen,
22 and when people got wind of it, our Town Hall in
23 Clarksville was packed with people. I went to

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1 the Pittsburg meeting and the Town Office was
2 packed with people. But Northern Pass would
3 have got along a lot better if they hadn't come
4 in and be so underhanded. They tried to put
5 things over on people that woke up quick, and
6 all it takes is one and boy, it doesn't take
7 long to spread the word.

8 I'm fifth generation in my family. I live
9 on the Pittsburg side of the hill which is about
10 a mile from where the Northern Pass bought a
11 piece of property next to the cemetery, and I
12 have a good, pretty close to a quarter of that
13 cemetery is my family that had lived here
14 previously. When I talk to, one of the Northern
15 Pass meetings and I talked to them and I said
16 how much area, how big a swath do you have to
17 have to lay the line, and he said 30 feet. And
18 at that time, 150 feet to have the towers. Now,
19 it's five times the width that has to be
20 disturbed. A 30-foot swath is not a lot, like a
21 road, but I had a good friend who told me that
22 he went up where the windmills are up by the
23 Balsams and he said there was a disgrace to the

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1 roads up there that they built where he used to
2 hunt. He says it used to be old wild land and
3 they built these roads and cleaned the property
4 right up off.

5 Also, the towns, I believe they said was 20
6 towns in the area that voted for Northern Pass
7 not to go through their towns and that would be
8 another consideration. I know Mr. Samson was
9 the one that brought that up, and I want to
10 thank you for your time and hopefully really do
11 think a lot of thought in your decision you make
12 and know that you have to live with it over the
13 years. What you do can hurt people in the area.
14 Thank you.

15 SPEAKER: Mullen, first name Thomas. I
16 want to, first thing I want to do is apologize
17 to the people from Coos County. I'm an
18 interloper from down south, down around Campton,
19 where there was an announced not so long ago
20 that the Northern Pass was going to go
21 underground. Now, I have a very clear picture
22 of why Northern Pass decided to go underground
23 down through southern Grafton County. One of

1 them is the gentleman sitting at the table over
2 there, Tom Wagner, who has the White Mountain
3 National Forest, and I don't know what went on
4 there, but I have a pretty good idea that Tom
5 Wagner wasn't about to let the Northern Pass go
6 overhead through the White Mountain National
7 Forest.

8 Secondly, there are a lot of people who own
9 property in and around the area where I live.
10 North Woodstock, Campton, Thornton, Plymouth,
11 Ashland. They had deeds that go way back, and
12 in those deeds, it's quite specific what they
13 were deeding those right-of-ways for, and in
14 many, many cases those right-of-ways were deeded
15 in order to electrify the North Country for the
16 people that lived up here, not to enrich the
17 pockets of Public Service Company of New
18 Hampshire. So if you think for a moment that
19 going underground through my neck of the woods
20 was done out of the goodness of Eversource's
21 hearts, forget it. That's not what happened.
22 And Mr. Muntz knows this is true, and
23 Mr. Quinlan knows this is true and they will not

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1 argue this because they know of what I speak.

2 Couple of other things. The Northern Pass
3 project is absolutely in terms of how it's
4 designed is defying the Federal Energy
5 Regulatory Commission in terms of putting lines
6 too close together and rights-of-way that are
7 too narrow. FERC has weighed in on these types
8 of lines and has said that they are the wrong
9 thing to do, and the problems that come from
10 storms and related events cause huge blackouts
11 in areas where these towers are so tall that
12 when they fall, they fall on other towers and
13 knock out the whole grid, number one.

14 I happen to think that it would be in all
15 of our interests to support the Northern Pass
16 project. I don't think at this stage that
17 there's any reason why if they go underground we
18 should not support them. It's a solution to our
19 nightmare. It stands to end the difficulties
20 that we're all going through with our businesses
21 and with our property values. So I challenge
22 the SEC and the Department of Energy to require
23 this project to go underground and will tell you

1 that the cost of undergrounding this project
2 works out to about 1/1000th of the income stream
3 that flows in to Eversource on an annualized
4 basis. 1/1000th of the income stream represents
5 what their costs would be of going overhead, and
6 I'll bet that that's probably not anybody in
7 this room that wouldn't pay some sort of a
8 surcharge on their electric bill to see this
9 thing go underground. I would, and I know many
10 businesses that would. And it's time that as a
11 community we step up and have this dialogue,
12 have it with the Northern Pass people and let's
13 get this thing out of the public clamor that's
14 been going on. It's a terrible process that
15 we've been going through, and it damages
16 everybody's values. Thank you very much.

17 MR. HONIGBERG: Is there anyone else who
18 has submitted a yellow sheet that hasn't been
19 called? After Cindy-Lou Amey, we'll circle back
20 to Will Abbott.

21 SPEAKER: Good evening. For the record, my
22 name is John Amey. I'm from Pittsburg, and
23 before I start my written comments which will

1 only take two minutes, we haven't heard anything
2 from Brian Mills since I got here. I'm so happy
3 to see Brian Mills back. I suspect we might see
4 you back next spring the way things are going.
5 It's so nice to see you.

6 I would like to welcome the representatives
7 of the Site Evaluation Committee to the North
8 Country. Thank you for coming all the way to
9 Pittsburg today to better understand our
10 concerns with this application of Northern Pass,
11 and I hope that you will return so you can see
12 the rest of what you missed today. You did see
13 the signs down near the ground, but you didn't
14 see the viewshed.

15 I'm a direct descendant of the Indian
16 Stream Republic when Pittsburg was its own
17 country from 1832 to 1840. I have friends and
18 relatives here tonight that share this honor.
19 All of Pittsburg is a historical town, the
20 largest in our country, and much of which was
21 part of Canada before it declared its
22 independence from Canada and New Hampshire. The
23 epicenter of the former Republic is where I live

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1 and where my family has lived since that time.

2 For those that may be unaware of the
3 geography of our town, there are two primary
4 routes as well as two secondary roads entering
5 our town. All four of these roads are directly
6 affected by this proposal from Northern Pass.
7 In fact, three routes will have transition
8 towers besides roadways as the project moves
9 from above to underground.

10 It is important to note that I and the
11 people I represent believe that the residents of
12 our town as well as the thousands of people who
13 vacation here deserve no less than the residents
14 nearby and vacationers that travel each year to
15 the White Mountain National Forest. Our economy
16 in Pittsburg is very dependent on the millions
17 of dollars that our visitors bring here. While
18 we are promised significant tax revenues, those
19 will be a mere pittance when compared to our
20 history and our recreation industry. It is for
21 these reasons and others that we, the residents
22 of Pittsburg, and the descendants of the Indian
23 Stream Republic respectfully ask you, the Site

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1 Evaluation Committee, to deny approval of this
2 application as presented until such time that we
3 are granted the same concern that has been
4 granted to the White Mountain National Forest.

5 Furthermore, we request that the complete
6 analysis be made public regarding burial of the
7 entire project in the State of New Hampshire
8 transportation corridors. In closing, thank you
9 in advance for addressing our concerns.

10 (Applause)

11 SPEAKER: Thank you for visiting with us
12 again, Mr. Mills. You must really like it, but
13 you're getting to see it before the towers are
14 built. What will you think of it when they are
15 built.

16 I'm Cindy-Lou Amey. Wanted to thank you
17 for hearing the questions and comments coming to
18 you and at you from both sides of this very
19 divisive issue. There's a particular concern
20 troubling me. While well educated, I know that
21 I'm not an expert in the field of energy. In
22 our state, it is the office of the Site
23 Evaluation Committee that will weigh in on this

1 application submitted by Northern Pass LLC. As
2 yours is the body charged with proving or
3 disapproving this application, I wish to inform
4 myself as to the process. Therefore, I spent
5 considerable time on the New Hampshire Site
6 Evaluation Committee website. There, I
7 discovered that you are have quite onerous
8 responsibility. Under the section Title XII,
9 the terms public safety and welfare is in bold
10 print. While reading this material it became
11 obvious that your committee must rely on the
12 Applicant and a host of experts to provide you
13 with unbiased, detailed technical information
14 which you must sift through and analyze in order
15 to come up with a fair and equitable response to
16 your application. This is to be done all the
17 while ensuring that you have kept faith with
18 delivering on your obligation to ensure that the
19 public is kept safe and their welfare secured.
20 What failsafe mechanisms are in place to guard
21 against your lack of expertise in ascertaining
22 the truthfulness of the information presented to
23 you. I mean no disrespect in asking that

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1 question. It's just that when entities as large
2 as Eversource and Hydro-Quebec put together a
3 business plan such as Northern Pass which
4 promises shareholders an unusually robust return
5 on their investment, how can you be certain that
6 they haven't skewed the information provided to
7 us in order to help you feel confident that a
8 finding in favor of their application is a sound
9 decision. Sound decisions can only be made from
10 sound information. My concern is that you will
11 not even be able to recognize whether or not
12 you're being manipulated.

13 I respectfully submit that we depend upon
14 you to sincerely fulfill the duties of the
15 position you hold in this process. It is my
16 hope that after all is said and done, you are
17 able to find that this project, if it must be
18 built in New Hampshire, is required to be built
19 along state byways with an equitable payment
20 schedule to the State of New Hampshire which
21 cannot be set aside.

22 I really appreciate that you've come this
23 far, and I hope tomorrow's tour brings you

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1 further good information. Thank you.

2 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Abbott.

3 SPEAKER: I'm not sure what I bargained for
4 when I agreed to do this earlier, but I thought
5 it was important to share with the subcommittee
6 a couple of concerns the Forest Society has with
7 two parcels of land that we own in Coos County
8 that are directly impacted by Northern Pass.

9 Our 2000-acre Washburn Family Forest in
10 Clarksville has 6 miles of frontage on the
11 Connecticut River. You didn't get a chance to
12 see it today because the skies weren't clear,
13 but this is part of a truly exceptional scenic
14 gateway as you've heard many others talk about
15 into the town of Pittsburg. It would truly be a
16 shame to allow this gateway to be scarred.

17 Furthermore, Northern Pass proposes to
18 build its power line below part of our land and
19 you actually drove over the green steel bridge
20 today as part of the tower, and you drove over
21 land that is part of the Washburn Family Forest
22 where Northern Pass proposes to build the power
23 line 50 to 70 feet below the surface of the

1 land. Now, it so happens that the state holds a
2 transportation easement over this land by virtue
3 of road layout approved jointly by the selectmen
4 of Pittsburg, Stewartstown and Clarksville in
5 1931.

6 We believe Northern Pass does not have the
7 legal right to build the project through our
8 land as they propose. Without our permission,
9 this would constitute an unconstitutional
10 taking. We are, therefore, defending our
11 property rights in the only legal setting where
12 the New Hampshire Constitution provides for such
13 relief. In the Coos County Superior Court. If
14 the court rules in our favor, Northern Pass
15 can't dig in our dirt. If Northern Pass can't
16 dig in our dirt, it's likely that the entire
17 corridor currently proposed for Coos County will
18 be in some jeopardy. When we suggested that the
19 SEC under its rules, that this issue rendered
20 the application incomplete, you chose to decide
21 otherwise, but the legal dispute is real. No
22 case with such a set of facts has been decided
23 before by a New Hampshire court. The Forest

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1 Society continues to believe that it's
2 inappropriate and a waste of resources for all
3 of us to be investing so much time and money
4 into this matter while the court is considering
5 our case.

6 Finally, I'd like to bring your attention
7 to the concerns we as a landowner have with the
8 proposed use of the PSNH right-of-way through
9 more than a mile of our Kaufmann Forest in
10 Stark. In this 150-foot wide right-of-way held
11 by PSNH and the Portland Natural Gas Pipeline
12 Company, there is presently a 115 kilovolt
13 overhead transmission line on wooden poles well
14 below tree line and a 24-inch natural gas
15 pipeline buried four feet below the ground.
16 Northern Pass proposes to remove the existing
17 above ground transmission facility and replace
18 it with an entirely new set of steel structures
19 well above tree line to post a new enhanced AC
20 transmission line. Northern Pass also proposes
21 to erect a second set of structures within the
22 150 foot right-of-way to host the new HVDC
23 line, also well above the tree line. Many of

1 the individual towers for both facilities will
2 be above 150 feet in height. As Mr. Beland of
3 Stark noted earlier this morning, there's a very
4 practical question as to how many transmission
5 facilities can be safely located within this
6 150-foot right-of-way. There's a question about
7 whether a consequence of what Northern Pass
8 proposes represents an unreasonable adverse
9 impact on aesthetics, and there's a question
10 about just how safe it is to collocate all three
11 of these facilities in the existing
12 right-of-way.

13 If Northern Pass is built in Stark as
14 proposed, the natural landscapes of the town of
15 Stark will change dramatically. If Northern
16 Pass as proposed in Stark were built, will
17 private property be harmed if any of these new
18 towers fall outside of the right-of-way or if
19 they fall on each other or fall in a way that
20 disrupts the gas pipeline. We thank that what
21 Northern Pass proposes for our land in Stark is
22 not only an unreasonable adverse impact on
23 aesthetics, but also an unreasonable adverse

1 impact on public safety.

2 As the SEC subcommittee contemplates the
3 Northern Pass application, we ask that you
4 consider these questions about property rights,
5 aesthetics, public safety, and natural resources
6 much more comprehensively. New Hampshire only
7 has one chance to get the decision on this
8 application right. To make a well-informed
9 decision on the Northern Pass application, the
10 SEC needs to set a very high bar for the
11 substance of its review. Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MR. HONIGBERG: All right. Thank you,
14 Mr. Abbott. That's probably the last word. I
15 have no other cards and no one else is signed up
16 to speak. Ms. Monroe or Mr. Iacopino, is there
17 anybody else we need to do before we adjourn?
18 This meeting is adjourned. Thank you all very
19 much.

20 (Hearing ended at 10:23 a.m.)

21 C E R T I F I C A T E

22 I, Cynthia Foster, Registered Professional
23 Reporter and Licensed Court Reporter, duly authorized

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1 to practice Shorthand Court Reporting in the State of
2 New Hampshire, hereby certify that I reported in
3 machine shorthand the above-entitled Public Hearing
4 conducted in conjunction with the U.S. Department of
5 Energy, held on March 7, 2016, in the matter
6 indicated on the title sheet, and that the foregoing
7 is a true, complete, and accurate transcript of
8 public comments as appears from my stenographic notes
9 so taken to the best of my ability and transcribed by
10 me.

11 I further certify that I am a disinterested
12 person in the event or outcome of this cause of
13 action.

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my hand and
15 affix my Certified Shorthand Reporter seal this 22nd
16 day of March, 2016.

17
18 _____
19 CYNTHIA FOSTER, LCR, RPR
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21
22
23

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