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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

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

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

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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

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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

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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

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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 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

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.

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.

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.

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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

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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  
20  
21  
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23

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