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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

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

Grappone Conference Center  
70 Constitution Avenue  
Concord, New Hampshire  
March 10, 2016  
5:00 - 10:30 p.m.

1 MR. HONIGBERG: Good evening, ladies and  
2 gentlemen. Welcome to a Public Hearing of the  
3 New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee.  
4 Specifically, this is a subcommittee forum to  
5 consider the Joint Application of Northern Pass  
6 Transmission LLC and Public Service Company of  
7 New Hampshire which does business as Eversource  
8 Energy, seeking a Certificate of Site &  
9 Facility.

10 Before we go any further, I'm going to ask  
11 the people up here to introduce themselves.  
12 Starting to my left.

13 SPEAKER: William Oldenburg from the  
14 Department of Transportation.

15 SPEAKER: Christopher Way from the  
16 Department of Resources & Economic Development.

17 SPEAKER: Craig Wright with the Department  
18 of Environmental Services.

19 SPEAKER: Martin Honigberg with the Public  
20 Utilities Commission.

21 SPEAKER: Kathryn Bailey with the Public  
22 Utilities Commission.

23 SPEAKER: Rachel Whitaker. Alternate

1 Public Member.

2 SPEAKER: Patricia Weathersby, Public  
3 Member.

4 SPEAKER: Tom Wagner, Forest Supervisor,  
5 White Mountain National Forest.

6 SPEAKER: Brian Mills with the Department  
7 of Energy.

8 MR. HONIGBERG: This is actually two  
9 hearings in one. A Site Evaluation Committee  
10 hearing is going on concurrently with  
11 proceedings by the Department of Energy. As you  
12 heard, a member of the Department of Energy  
13 staff is here as well as someone from the Forest  
14 Service. Before I go any further, I will ask  
15 them to make their remarks and I will ask them  
16 and everyone else who reads something tonight to  
17 read slowly and clearly so the stenographer can  
18 get it.

19 MR. MILLS: Hi. I'm Brian Mills with the  
20 Department of Energy. Thank you for taking your  
21 time to attend this hearing. I work for the  
22 Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy  
23 Reliability. I'll be the Hearings Officer for

1 the Department of Energy. The reason we are  
2 here is Northern Pass LLC or Northern Pass is  
3 proposing to construct an international  
4 transmission line. Northern Pass has asked the  
5 Department of Energy for a Presidential permit.  
6 A Presidential permit is needed before any  
7 transmission line can be built across U.S.  
8 international border. The Department of Energy  
9 determined that an Environmental Impact  
10 Statement would be the appropriate level of  
11 analysis for this Presidential permit. This is  
12 a public hearing on the Northern Pass  
13 Transmission Line Draft Environmental Impact  
14 Statement or simply the Draft EIS.

15 Once we begin the hearing, we will hear  
16 from you in the order you have signed up. If  
17 you wish to speak but have not signed up, you  
18 can get signed up at the registration table.  
19 For those of you who may not be familiar with  
20 the process we go through in preparing an  
21 Environmental Impact Statement, and where we are  
22 for this particular project, I'll cover the  
23 steps.

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

14           The next step in the process is to prepare  
15 a Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analyzes the  
16 foreseeable environment impacts that might  
17 result from granting the permit. The Draft EIS  
18 also identifies steps that might be needed to  
19 mitigate impacts. For this project, we issued  
20 the Draft EIS in July 2015. After we issue a  
21 Draft EIS, we asked the public to comment on it  
22 during a public comment period.

23           The EPA or the Environmental Protection

1 Agency opens the comment period by publishing a  
2 notice of availability in the Federal Register.  
3 The EPA notice for this Draft EIS was in the  
4 Federal Register, July 31st, 2015.

5 The comment period gives you the  
6 opportunity to tell us any changes you'd like to  
7 see in the final EIS, what you think is wrong  
8 about the document and how you think we should  
9 fix it. We are also looking for issues you  
10 think we missed or didn't cover as well as we  
11 should. If you ask questions as part of your  
12 comment, we will not be able to answer your  
13 questions today, but we will do so in the final  
14 Environmental Impact Statement. It's also very  
15 helpful for your comments to site specific  
16 sections or page numbers from the document  
17 itself. None of this is required, but it will  
18 help us to understand your comments.

19 Posters with an abbreviated Draft EIS table  
20 of contents are in the hall. During the  
21 hearing, the hearings officer may ask questions  
22 to allow you to clarify points you are making.  
23 Whether you choose to speak or not, you are

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1 invited to submit written comments.

2 Instructions to do so are provided on another  
3 poster in the hallway. All comments, whether  
4 written or oral, are treated the same and have  
5 equal weight. For this Draft EIS we will  
6 continue to accept comments until April the 4th,  
7 2016. To the extent we can, we will also  
8 consider your comments submitted after that  
9 date. After the close of the comment period, we  
10 will write the Final Environmental Impact  
11 Statement. The Final Environmental Impact  
12 statement will contain a Comment Response  
13 Document that addresses comments received on the  
14 Draft EIS.

15 When completed the Environmental Protection  
16 Agency will issue a notice of availability of  
17 the Final EIS in the Federal Register and again  
18 we will post the document on the EIS website and  
19 send it out to the mailing list.

20 I hope that very general outline process is  
21 helpful to you. I would also like to mention a  
22 couple other things about the Draft EIS and this  
23 project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the

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1 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S.  
2 Forest Service and the New Hampshire Office of  
3 Energy Planning are all cooperating agencies in  
4 the preparation of the Draft Environmental  
5 Impact Statement. DOE is evaluating the  
6 application requesting issuance of a  
7 Presidential permit for the proposed Northern  
8 Pass Transmission line border crossing.

9 While DOE has authority to issue a  
10 Presidential permit for the border crossing, DOE  
11 does not grant rights-of-way, issue easements,  
12 issue building permits, regulate utilities or  
13 site transmission lines in the State of New  
14 Hampshire. The State of New Hampshire Site  
15 Evaluation Committee has authority to site  
16 transmission lines in the State of New  
17 Hampshire.

18 This hearing is a joint hearing with the  
19 State of New Hampshire, SEC, on the EIS and the  
20 Draft and the Northern Pass Transmission line  
21 project. Comments on the Draft EIS expressed at  
22 any of our hearings including the joint hearings  
23 or provided to us by email or letter will be

1 considered equally. Thank you.

2 MR. WAGNER: Good evening. Brian has  
3 covered the process so I won't repeat the  
4 process. It's the similar process for us in the  
5 Forest Service to listen to your comments here  
6 and your comments in other venues and written  
7 comments, but let me just quickly cover our role  
8 in the siting process within the State of New  
9 Hampshire.

10 Good evening. I'm Tom Wagner, Forest  
11 Supervisor on the White Mountain National  
12 Service. The Forest Service is the cooperating  
13 agency working with DOE to ensure the Final EIS  
14 meets the needs of all involved agencies with  
15 jurisdiction. Northern Pass has applied to the  
16 Forest Service for a special use permit  
17 authorizing Northern Pass to construct, operate  
18 and maintain an electric power transmission line  
19 crossing portions of the White Mountain National  
20 Forest. As the forest supervisor, I am the  
21 agency official responsible for deciding whether  
22 to issue such a permit. My decision will  
23 consider whether the project is appropriate

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1 based on the White Mountain National Forest Land  
2 and Resource Management Plan and the laws  
3 guiding the management of your federal public  
4 lands. My decision will be documented in a  
5 Record of Decision which would come out after  
6 the Final EIS. Thank you.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: Thank you. Before talking  
8 more about the process we're going to follow  
9 tonight, there is an introduction that I need to  
10 read, unfortunately, but I'm going to introduce  
11 a couple of other people who are here. Sitting  
12 to my far left is the attorney who represents  
13 the Site Evaluation Committee, his name is Mike  
14 Iacopino. Also somewhere either in this room or  
15 out in the hallway is Pam Monroe. Behind me is  
16 Pam Monroe who is the administrator for the Site  
17 Evaluation Committee. She is the SEC's only  
18 employee.

19 Also here this evening is a representative  
20 of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office  
21 who has appointed Peter Roth to serve as public  
22 counsel. Peter, if you could stand up and wave.

23 On October 19th of 2015, Northern Pass

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1 Transmission LLC and Public Service Company of  
2 New Hampshire which does business as Eversource  
3 Energy submitted an application to the Site  
4 Evaluation Committee for a Certificate of Site  
5 and Facility to construct a 192-mile  
6 transmission line. The line is proposed to have  
7 a capacity rating of up to 1090 megawatts and is  
8 proposed to run from the Canadian border in  
9 Pittsburg down to Deerfield, New Hampshire.

10 On November 2rd, pursuant to statute, I as  
11 the Chair of the SEC appointed a subcommittee to  
12 consider the application. Some of the state  
13 officials who serve on the SEC pursuant to their  
14 statutory authority designated members of their  
15 staffs to serve on this subcommittee.

16 On December 7th the subcommittee met to  
17 review the status of the application. At that  
18 time, the subcommittee determined that the  
19 application contained sufficient information to  
20 satisfy the application requirements of each  
21 agency having jurisdiction under state or  
22 federal law to regulate any aspect of the  
23 construction or operation of the proposed

1 facility. The subcommittee also made an  
2 independent determination that the application  
3 contained sufficient information to carry out  
4 the purposes of RSA Chapter 162-H.

5 On December 22nd, the subcommittee issued a  
6 procedural order setting forth deadlines for  
7 motions to intervene and scheduling public  
8 information sessions in Franklin, Londonderry,  
9 Laconia, Whitefield and Lincoln. All of those  
10 meetings were held in January as scheduled.

11 The subcommittee has received over 150  
12 motions to intervene in this docket. Many of  
13 the people who would like to intervene are here  
14 this evening. An order will be issued on the  
15 motions to intervene in the near future.

16 On February 3rd, the subcommittee issued an  
17 order and notice scheduling public hearings in  
18 Meredith, Holderness and Deerfield for March  
19 1st, 14th and 16th respectively. Also on  
20 February 3rd, a second notice was issued  
21 scheduling public hearings in Colebrook which  
22 took place on Monday, and Concord which is being  
23 held right now. As we indicated earlier, the

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1 hearing in Colebrook and this hearing are being  
2 done concurrently with hearings by the U.S.  
3 Department of Energy and the Forest Service.

4 The subcommittee is required to hold at  
5 least one public hearing in each county in which  
6 the project is to be located and public hearings  
7 must be held within 90 days after acceptance of  
8 the application for a certificate. In addition  
9 to the five required hearings, one in each  
10 county, we will be holding two additional  
11 hearings for people to comment on supplemental  
12 information that the Applicants filed in late  
13 February.

14 As was required by statute, notice of this  
15 hearing was served upon the public by  
16 publication in the New Hampshire Union Leader on  
17 February 10th, 2016.

18 This evening we will proceed as follows.  
19 We will first hear a presentation by the  
20 Applicant. Following that presentation, the  
21 subcommittee or other agencies represented here  
22 this evening will have an opportunity to pose  
23 questions to the Applicant. Often the

1 subcommittee does not have questions for the  
2 Applicant at this stage of the proceedings. We  
3 have had an opportunity to review the filings of  
4 the Applicant and other parties. We will have  
5 further opportunities to question the Applicant  
6 and ultimately probably later this year there  
7 will be a hearing on the merits at which all of  
8 the company's representatives will be under oath  
9 and other parties will be there to present their  
10 cases to us. That said, we may also ask  
11 questions.

12 Thereafter, the public will be permitted to  
13 pose questions to the Applicant. If you have a  
14 question for the Applicant, we ask that you  
15 write your question down and give it to someone  
16 representing the committee, either Attorney  
17 Iacopino or Administrator Monroe, using one of  
18 the green forms. As noted by the federal  
19 agencies, they will not be accepting and  
20 answering questions. Our subcommittee may or  
21 may not answer questions that are directed to  
22 us. The substantive questions this evening  
23 should be directed to the Applicant.

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1           We will try to organize the questions by  
2           subject matter and present them to the Applicant  
3           in an organized fashion. Once all of the  
4           questions have been asked, we will take public  
5           statements or comment on the application. If  
6           you would like to make an oral comment, we ask  
7           you to fill out one of the yellow forms which  
8           can be gotten in the back, handed in. If you  
9           would just like to submit a written comment, you  
10          can do that on one of the blue forms. All the  
11          written comments will be posted on the SEC's  
12          website.

13           At the time when we start taking oral  
14          public statements we'll make some judgment as to  
15          how many people have signed up to speak and how  
16          long it's likely to speak and whether to impose  
17          reasonable time limits. I will tell you that  
18          what we've done in the first two events in  
19          Meredith and Colebrook we were asking people to  
20          limit their comments to four minutes at  
21          Meredith, and three minutes in Colebrook. What  
22          that means for three minutes for those who were  
23          there, is that once you got to four and a half

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1 minutes, I asked you how much longer you had to  
2 go, and if you said you could wrap up quickly,  
3 you could wrap up quickly. If you need more  
4 time than that, we're going to ask you to stop  
5 talking then and wait until everyone else has  
6 had a chance to speak before you continue and  
7 we've had people do that, and that's just fine.  
8 But we're going to ask everyone here to be  
9 reasonable regarding how long they intend to  
10 speak. I believe that is all the process I need  
11 to alert you to.

12 We will ask everyone to be polite and  
13 respectful. Everyone who speaks here this  
14 evening deserves your full attention and  
15 respect. If you feel you are unable to give  
16 full attention and respect to the people who are  
17 speaking, we're going to ask you to leave. Now,  
18 with that I will turn the microphone over to the  
19 Applicant. I believe Mr. Quinlan will be  
20 speaking first.

21 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. Thank you. My name is  
22 Bill Quinlan. I'm the President of Eversource  
23 New Hampshire. I want to thank everyone for

1 being here tonight. Also I want to thank SEC  
2 Chairman Honigberg and Mr. Mills from the  
3 Department of Energy for the opportunity to make  
4 just a short presentation, and I'm going to  
5 cover in the presentation a couple of important  
6 areas. One, the role this project can play in  
7 helping to lower and stabilize energy costs for  
8 New England and New Hampshire. Two, the  
9 important role that this project as a clean  
10 source of energy can play in helping us meet our  
11 environmental goals. Three, and particularly  
12 important in New Hampshire, is the balance we've  
13 attempted to strike to make this project more  
14 acceptable to the State of New Hampshire, and  
15 fourth and finally, the benefits that we  
16 anticipate delivering to the State of New  
17 Hampshire through this project, and you'll see  
18 they're quite unique and substantial.

19 So first, to understand what's going on in  
20 the energy market, we've come up with a simple  
21 depiction. This is a bucket and it's intended  
22 to reflect the power pool for the 6-state New  
23 England region. I think many of you know that

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1 all six states of New England are interconnected  
2 electrically. This is one grid. We all  
3 participate in one market. So on any given day  
4 on any given hour we all essentially pay the  
5 same price for electricity, regardless of where  
6 it's generated, and the way that price is set is  
7 based upon matching customer demand with supply.  
8 So every hour of every day, the Independent  
9 System Operator looks at that customer demand  
10 and dispatches generation units until there's  
11 sufficient supply to meet that demand.

12 At that point, you've got the supply that  
13 you need, those are dispatched from the lowest  
14 cost plant to the plant just sufficient to meet  
15 that customer demand, and once you've got  
16 everything you need, it sets the clearing price  
17 for every unit in that stack. That's preferred  
18 to as the bid stack. Okay? So it's a simple  
19 supply/demand balance. That last unit sets the  
20 clearing price. And you'll see there are a  
21 number of different types of units as you go  
22 from lower cost to higher cost. You know,  
23 renewables, nuclear, large scale hydro,

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1 relatively low cost. For most hours of most  
2 days, natural gas generated power plants set the  
3 market clearing price, and I'll explain to you  
4 why, and then you get to some of the higher cost  
5 unit.

6 So what's happening today. What's  
7 happening today is plants that we've relied on  
8 for quite a long time have been retiring across  
9 New England. Here's a depiction of the last  
10 five years and the five-year projection and  
11 you'll see many power plants, large baseload  
12 power plants, coal-fired, oil-fired, nuclear  
13 plants that have retired or are at risk of  
14 retiring. So essentially, when you retire those  
15 units, you have to dispatch a higher cost unit  
16 to meet customer demand and therefore prices go  
17 up. Okay?

18 The role that a Northern Pass could play if  
19 you go back to that bid stack, is as a  
20 relatively low cost unit, if you insert a large  
21 amount of hydropower into that bid stack, the  
22 market clearing price comes down. Okay?

23 So here's the situation we're facing.

1 Retirements have already occurred, some are  
2 about to occur. You know, Vermont Yankee is a  
3 good example relatively nearby where a large  
4 baseload, noncarbon emitting power plant retired  
5 and essentially created upward pressure on price  
6 as well as upward pressure and emissions. Okay?  
7 So what's replacing that fleet. And here's the  
8 dependence I was referring to on natural gas.  
9 Over the last 20 years as coal, oil and nuclear  
10 plants have retired, virtually all the new  
11 generating capacity in New England is fueled by  
12 natural gas. There's a lot of reasons for that.  
13 It's a domestic supply, it's relatively low  
14 cost, it's relatively clean, and there's a lot  
15 of good reasons why we in the country and we as  
16 a region are becoming more dependent on natural  
17 gas. This is a very significant change in our  
18 dependency. In 2000, we were 15 percent  
19 dependent on natural gas. Today we are 50  
20 percent. Five years from now we've expected to  
21 be 70 percent. So we're becoming very dependent  
22 on a single fuel source, and we don't have that  
23 fuel diversity that we've had a region

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1 historically. So big move towards natural gas.

2 Here's an example of what has happened as a  
3 result of that dependency. So if you look at  
4 this, this on an annual basis, what is the price  
5 of power in New England. Broken out between  
6 winter in blue and summer in yellow. Okay? So  
7 you see in 2008, they are about even. You would  
8 expect that New England because our peak loads  
9 are in the summer that prices would be a little  
10 higher in the summer and that was actually true  
11 in 2008. And then in 2009, hydraulic fracking  
12 has become commercially feasible so the price of  
13 gas came way down. As a result, all of those  
14 market clearing prices came down.

15 This is the phenomena I really want you to  
16 focus on. 2013 through 2015. The spread  
17 between the winter price and the summer price  
18 has widened dramatically. Why is that. Because  
19 we've become so dependent on natural gas that in  
20 the winter, when folks are using natural gas to  
21 heat their homes and their businesses, there's  
22 not enough fuel to power a generation fleet. So  
23 we're dispatching higher and higher cost assets.

1           These are dramatic differences. Seasonal  
2           differences in the price of electricity. If we  
3           had ubiquitous gas supplied to the region you  
4           would anticipate prices to be in that 20 to \$40  
5           a megawatt hour year-round. That's what most of  
6           the country is seeing. When you have price  
7           spikes up to \$140 a megawatt hour period, that's  
8           a 6-month period, that's a dramatic impact on  
9           the New Hampshire and New England economy.

10           Just to illustrate that, these are across  
11           New England, three or four billion dollar  
12           increases during those winter periods. So the  
13           difference between that yellow and blue, that's  
14           probably two and a half billion dollars.  
15           Difference between this yellow and blue, almost  
16           five billion dollars. The difference between  
17           these two, 3 to 4 billion dollars. That's the  
18           additional cost that businesses and residential  
19           customers across New England are paying as a  
20           result of our dependence on natural gas for  
21           generating fuel and power as well as the  
22           scarcity that we see in the winter. Okay? So  
23           that's what's happened over the last three

1 years. That's one of the problems that in  
2 Northern Pass can help us address.

3 You project out for the next three years.  
4 This is an illustration that the problem is  
5 going to, in essence, worsen as you look out  
6 over the next three years. So this is a graph  
7 of the capacity. These are payments made to the  
8 generation fleet to ensure that they're  
9 available to generate those powers. These  
10 markets clear three years in advance so we know  
11 the value of these markets. For the last  
12 decade, for New England, the total cost of  
13 capacity market value, the capacity market has  
14 been about a billion dollars. When we look into  
15 2017 and beyond, it's a tripling and a  
16 quadrupling of the capacity markets. That's  
17 just to ensure we have sufficient generation  
18 capacity to keep the lights on before we even  
19 generate electricity.

20 It's an indicator to those who follow these  
21 markets that this problem is going to continue  
22 to get worse unless and until we bring in large  
23 new supplies of power that are not gas

1 dependent. If you are following this closely,  
2 you'll know that a couple years ago the  
3 Governors of the six New England states  
4 recognized this issue. They saw this coming.  
5 They see where capacity markets are going, and  
6 they came to an agreement among the six New  
7 England states to say we really need to bring  
8 more gas pipeline capacity into the region to  
9 support the generation fleet that we've got, but  
10 we also need to provide some fuel diversity  
11 through new large power supplies that are not  
12 reliant on natural gas.

13 That's where Northern Pass comes into the  
14 equation. Northern Pass is ideal from this  
15 perspective. It looks like a large baseload  
16 power plant delivering power right into the New  
17 Hampshire grid in Deerfield, and it's clean.  
18 It's not dependent on natural gas. So that's  
19 what Northern Pass can do to address the region  
20 and New Hampshire's energy challenges is to take  
21 out that volatility and stabilize prices for  
22 businesses and residential customers.

23 For the last year and a half we've been

1 working to develop a balanced approach to this  
2 project that meets the needs of New Hampshire.  
3 We've been working to build support here in New  
4 Hampshire. It's the result of a lot of  
5 listening that we've done over that 18-month  
6 period. We've listened to all types of  
7 stakeholders; environmental organizations,  
8 businesses, residential customers, elected  
9 officials, municipalities, wide range of  
10 stakeholders in an effort to develop a balanced  
11 project that worked for New Hampshire, and by  
12 balance what I mean it fundamentally has to work  
13 as a matter of physics. It's got to get power  
14 from where it's being generated in Canada to  
15 Deerfield, New Hampshire, and it's got to do  
16 that reliably. It's got to be affordable or  
17 economically viable meaning we can't design and  
18 engineer a project that is so expensive that no  
19 one will pay for it.

20 And then here in the State of New  
21 Hampshire, and with the Department of Energy at  
22 federal level, we need a project that meets the  
23 siting criteria so we need a balance and in

1 striking this balance we've been keenly focused  
2 on input from stakeholders here in the state of  
3 New Hampshire as well as the Department of  
4 Energy. The plan we announced last August is  
5 referred to as the Forward NH Plan. I'm going  
6 to outline that for you in a moment. That is  
7 the balance that we have struck. We worked very  
8 hard to achieve this, and we think we've got it  
9 right and that's the project we've put in front  
10 of the SEC and Department of Energy.

11 I think it's important to understand how  
12 this project has evolved since its inception in  
13 2010 in an effort to meet New Hampshire  
14 feedback. So if you started in 2010 when  
15 initially announced, this was the proposal. So  
16 you think about this. The hydroelectric dams  
17 are way up here in Canada. There's a line being  
18 built to the US border and then you cross into  
19 the United States at Pittsburg, New Hampshire.  
20 In the original plan and it's outlined in red,  
21 you went from that border crossing on a fairly  
22 direct route over the western part of the state,  
23 and that's outlined in red, that's 40 miles of

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1 new right-of-way through some of the more  
2 populated areas in the North Country. Okay?

3 You then at that intersection with the blue  
4 picked up an existing right-of-way and followed  
5 it all the way to Deerfield through the White  
6 Mountain National Forest. The original concept  
7 was that this was all going to be overhead  
8 construction. It was going to be 40 miles of  
9 new right-of-way in the north, there was going  
10 to be all overhead construction. That's the  
11 least cost alternative. It was going to be a  
12 1200 megawatt project and it was going to cost  
13 about 1.1 billion.

14 Many of you understand the feedback we  
15 received in the North Country in this initial  
16 proposal that led to these changes that were  
17 announced in 2013 and they were largely focused  
18 in the North Country. So if you think about  
19 that 40 miles from the crossing down to the  
20 existing right-of-way, 8 miles are now  
21 underground. They're depicted in yellow. What  
22 do these 8 miles allow us to do? They allowed  
23 us to move the entire route to the eastern part

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1 of the state into a less populated area. So you  
2 have 8 miles of underground construction in  
3 yellow, you have overhead construction in red.  
4 When we got to the eastern part of the state, we  
5 were able to acquire a lease or an easement  
6 through the Wagner forest so 24 of those 40  
7 miles of new right-of-way and it's this large  
8 segment in red, are in a working forest,  
9 referred to as the Wagner Forest. There's  
10 virtually no inhabitants in the area. It's away  
11 from any population center. It's a forest that  
12 is timber harvested routinely. So we were able  
13 to move that line to the east away from the  
14 population center. Still a 1200 megawatt  
15 project at that point. These changes added  
16 about \$300 million to the project cost. So it  
17 went from \$1.1 billion project to a 1.4 billion  
18 project.

19 2015, this is the announcement I was  
20 referring to. It was referred to as our Forward  
21 NH Plan. These were changes that we made,  
22 submitted to that were quite substantial, and,  
23 again, based entirely on feedback we received

1 from New Hampshire. At the time, universally,  
2 the feedback we were receiving was you need to  
3 address the White Mountain National Forest.  
4 Regardless of where I was in the State of New  
5 Hampshire, regardless of stakeholder, these  
6 conversations almost universally started with  
7 the White Mountain National Forest. That led us  
8 to these changes. So quite substantial and from  
9 a design perspective, we agreed to an additional  
10 52 miles of underground construction so this  
11 yellow segment is all underground and public  
12 highways and rights of way under existing  
13 roadways.

14 So what does that do? Now the White  
15 Mountain National Forest, the Appalachian Trail,  
16 Franconia Notch, the line will not be visible  
17 from those key advantage points which was  
18 important for us to do. We eliminated quite a  
19 number of structures and importantly, we also  
20 changed the cable technology. We went from a  
21 1200 megawatt cable to a cable that we felt  
22 comfortable with that amount of underground  
23 construction. So we actually had to reduce the

1 size of the project to make these design  
2 commitments. So the cable technology, converter  
3 technology all changed based on feedback from  
4 New Hampshire.

5 Here's what it now looks like. So the line  
6 has gotten longer. Now 192 miles. You'll see  
7 the area in the yellow now through the White  
8 Mountain National Forest is underground.  
9 Project cost has gone up again. So it went from  
10 \$1.4 billion to \$1.6 billion. Project size, we  
11 had to reduce it from 1200 megawatts to 1090  
12 megawatts. Again, based on feedback from New  
13 Hampshire.

14 Here's a table that summarizes that  
15 evolution, and if you look, we fundamentally  
16 have a different project today. I mean, it  
17 still essentially does the same thing which is  
18 to take a large amount of clean energy from  
19 Canada and deliver it to Deerfield, New  
20 Hampshire, but many of the key features of the  
21 project have been changed substantially based  
22 upon feedback from New Hampshire. It's a longer  
23 project, almost a third of it is underground.

1 It's smaller, and it uses entirely different  
2 technology. When you look at this from a cost  
3 perspective, the cost has gone up by about a  
4 half a billion dollars, and that was, again, in  
5 an effort to strike the balance that I referred  
6 to at the outset. So that's the balance we've  
7 struck. Beyond the balanced project, as part of  
8 our Forward NH Plan it's important for us to  
9 demonstrate clear and direct New Hampshire  
10 benefits.

11 The top line messages, those are almost \$4  
12 billion as a result of this project. So a very  
13 significant economic benefit to the state. It's  
14 comprised of several things. But \$800 million  
15 in lower energy costs. Those benefits flow to  
16 businesses and residential customers across the  
17 State of New Hampshire. 800 million. We've  
18 committed to establish quite a large fund to  
19 promote community investment. That's a \$200  
20 million fund. Again, targeted towards the host  
21 communities, these communities along the route  
22 where this line will run. About \$600 million in  
23 taxes. Quite a number of jobs. And other

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1 drivers of economic benefits.

2 I think the job portion is key. We got a  
3 lot of feedback about these being temporary  
4 positions. You're going to bring in a lot of  
5 out-of-state labor to construct this project.  
6 So we, working with our partners, have made a  
7 very firm commitment to a New Hampshire First  
8 approach to building this project. So if you  
9 think about this, it's a \$1.6 billion  
10 infrastructure project that's very complex and  
11 requires a lot of different skills and  
12 construction trades and support services.

13 Under our Forward New Hampshire, New  
14 Hampshire First commitment, we are going to  
15 source all of that locally to the extent  
16 possible, and we've gotten that commitment from  
17 every one of our major contractors so we are  
18 going to put many in the State of New Hampshire  
19 to work as a result of this project. And the  
20 second and third order benefits to communities  
21 along this route from hotels to restaurants and  
22 recreation are quite significant and that drives  
23 about \$2 billion in gross domestic.

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1           Separate and apart from the economics of it  
2           are the environmental benefits. I mentioned  
3           that we're retiring a lot of our historic  
4           plants. Some of these are actually nuclear  
5           plants that don't emit carbon. So Vermont  
6           Yankee, Millstone, Connecticut Yankee, Pilgrim.  
7           These are all baseload large noncarbon emitting  
8           plants that either have retired or will retire.  
9           Just replacing them with natural gas is not  
10          going to allow the region in New Hampshire to  
11          meet its environmental goals. We have some very  
12          aggressive goals to reduce carbon. We're not  
13          going to get there by replacing that with  
14          natural gas so we need projects like Northern  
15          Pass which are large baseload projects, bring in  
16          a clean source of electricity and they're  
17          noncarbon emitting. To the extent you could  
18          match those with wind power and solar power all  
19          the better. It helps us as a society meet  
20          environmental goals.

21                 So that's the high level overview of the  
22                 project. Those are the benefits we anticipate  
23                 delivering to the State of New Hampshire, the

1 balance that we've attempted to strike. So with  
2 that, I look forward to your questions. Thank  
3 you.

4 MR. HONIGBERG: Do members of the  
5 subcommittee have questions for Mr. Quinlan and  
6 his team? All right. We're going to turn to  
7 the public's questions. There are a variety of  
8 questions on a variety of topics. We will jump  
9 around quite a bit. The first question is a  
10 process question largely directed to the SEC and  
11 we will answer this question, and the question  
12 is will the SEC be doing site visits in  
13 Deerfield on Wednesday the 16th prior to the  
14 Rockingham County meeting. The answer to that  
15 is yes. An order will probably be issued  
16 tomorrow regarding that.

17 There's a series of questions, Mr. Quinlan,  
18 regarding who is paying for the review of the  
19 Applicant and the other permits that you need to  
20 obtain to get this project built. Can you  
21 outline what cost you money and what didn't in  
22 terms of the filings that you've had to make  
23 either with the federal government or the State

1 of New Hampshire?

2 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So the cost for this  
3 project thus far are all being paid for by  
4 Eversource and its shareholders as well as our  
5 partner Hydro-Quebec. So it's a joint  
6 obligation that the two of us had. Importantly,  
7 on this question of cost, and who's paying for  
8 this project, one of the commitments we've made  
9 at the outset and we've remained firmly  
10 committed to it is New Hampshire customers have  
11 not and will not pay for any of this project  
12 cost, either the development or the  
13 construction, and we've been able to honor that  
14 commitment through the Forward NH Plan that  
15 we've proposed. So, importantly, New Hampshire  
16 customers won't bear any of these costs, either  
17 during this phase or the future.

18 MR. HONIGBERG: Talk filing fees.

19 MR. QUINLAN: Filing fees are paid for,  
20 again, by Eversource and our partner  
21 Hydro-Quebec. For example, the cost of  
22 preparing the filing, making the filing, the  
23 fees associated with the filing that have to be

1           paid to the SEC, paid for by our shareholders as  
2           well as our partner Hydro-Quebec.

3           MR. HONIGBERG: Do you recall what the  
4           filing fee for the SEC was? It was more than  
5           \$500,000, but I don't remember the specific  
6           amount. \$626,000.

7           MR. QUINLAN: It's a voluminous filing.

8           MR. HONIGBERG: 17 boxes as I recall.  
9           Actually, I think that was one copy was that  
10          many. Other State permits also had filing fees  
11          associated with this, do they not?

12          MR. QUINLAN: They do. I know we have  
13          filings that are made with the New Hampshire  
14          Public Utility Commission. I believe there's a  
15          filing fee associated with that. I think that's  
16          true with the Department of Environmental  
17          Services as well.

18          MR. HONIGBERG: I'll correct one of those.  
19          Actually your filings with the PUC don't have a  
20          filing fee.

21          MR. QUINLAN: Oh, they don't.

22          MR. HONIGBERG: No. I think the Department  
23          of Environmental Services does, but the filings

1           that require PUC approvals I don't believe have  
2           filing fees associated with them.

3           Had you filed this two years ago or three  
4           years ago, would there have been a SEC filing  
5           fee. The answer to that is no.

6           MR. QUINLAN: Okay. You have to answer.

7           MR. HONIGBERG: There's a series of  
8           questions about who's paying for this review.

9           MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So the short answer is  
10          we are paying for the review. Any and all costs  
11          associated with the preparation or the filing  
12          are borne by the Applicant, and, therefore, we  
13          are the Applicant. We and our partners are  
14          paying for it.

15          MR. HONIGBERG: At the last meeting, there  
16          was a question regarding former members of the  
17          SEC who are now working on this project for the  
18          Applicant. Would you please identify those  
19          people for this crowd?

20          MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So we have Bob Varney  
21          who is with Normandeau Associates, formerly of  
22          DES.

23          MR. HONIGBERG: When he was the

1 Commissioner of DES, he would have chaired the  
2 Site Evaluation Committee.

3 MR. QUINLAN: Tom Getz from the McLane law  
4 firm, formerly of the New Hampshire PUC, and I  
5 believe he was also Chair of the SEC at the  
6 time.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: I actually think he was  
8 Vice Chair at that time.

9 MR. QUINLAN: Vice Chair.

10 MR. HONIGBERG: At the same time that the  
11 statute was put in requiring filing fees, the  
12 Chair of the SEC was switched from the  
13 Department of Environmental Services to the  
14 Public Utilities Commission, and the Vice Chair  
15 switched from PUC to DES.

16 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. Any others? I believe  
17 just those two.

18 MR. HONIGBERG: The question asked, the  
19 question asker wants to know if there is a  
20 conflict of interest in any of Mr. Varney or  
21 Mr. Getz's participation in this, and I guess I  
22 would broaden the question to ask if Mr. Varney  
23 and Mr. Getz are in compliance with New

1 Hampshire statutes regarding their activities  
2 post state employment.

3 MR. VARNEY: Yes.

4 MR. QUINLAN: Mr. Varney and Mr. Getz are  
5 both signifying yes so I suspect they're aware  
6 of the requirements and are compliant with them.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: The next question asks  
8 other than you and the people who are here to be  
9 part of your presentation and support your  
10 presentation, are any of your employees,  
11 Eversource's employees, being paid to attend  
12 this meeting?

13 MR. QUINLAN: No.

14 MR. HONIGBERG: Are you or any other  
15 Eversource employee or contractor going to  
16 receive a bonus of any kind if the project goes  
17 through, and, if so, how much?

18 MR. QUINLAN: So you know, Northern Pass is  
19 a strategically important project for us. I do  
20 not have a specific bonus that's tied to this  
21 project going forward, and I don't believe  
22 anyone from the Eversource management team has  
23 any bonus or incentive that's specifically tied

1 to success on Northern Pass. Now, it is  
2 strategically important, and when we make it a  
3 reality, we are successful in doing so, that  
4 will be certainly a positive in any executive  
5 review. It's an indirect answer to your  
6 question, but I do not have a specific incentive  
7 or bonus tied to Northern Pass being placed in  
8 service.

9 MR. HONIGBERG: Do you know if anyone else  
10 does?

11 MR. QUINLAN: I'm not aware that anyone  
12 else does.

13 MR. HONIGBERG: What is your estimate for  
14 the time it will take to bury the proposed  
15 section that will be buried under this proposal?

16 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to refer that  
17 question to Sam Johnson. Sam is with Burns &  
18 McDonnell. He's a project engineer and project  
19 manager.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Bill. Limitations  
21 from the Department of Transportation for  
22 construction are from the period of April to  
23 November. We anticipate that the entire

1 installation will take place over two full  
2 seasons of construction.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: More construction  
4 questions. Should the project be approved, how  
5 will specific types of features like horse  
6 pastures, fenced-in areas, be dealt with at the  
7 time when construction is going on near them.

8 MR. JOHNSON: Sure. So as some of you are  
9 aware, we have engaged a general contractor who  
10 will be managing the entire construction  
11 process. One of the items or duties of their  
12 contract is that they must reach out to everyone  
13 on the route to inform them of the construction  
14 process. This would include soliciting feedback  
15 regarding such exact things as horses, orchards,  
16 hay fields and things like that where there is  
17 potential for a construction to impact those  
18 operations. All considerations will be made  
19 during this process to ensure that there is  
20 limited impact to these people and to ensure  
21 things like gates remained closed once a vehicle  
22 has entered or exited the property.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Louder, please?

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1 MR. QUINLAN: Perhaps you could cover the  
2 steps we take on disturbed areas.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: Make sure you're close  
4 enough to the microphone so that as you move you  
5 don't fade in and out.

6 MR. JOHNSON: Is that better from the back?

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Little louder, please?

8 MR. JOHNSON: Sure. Okay. One other  
9 aspect of this is that if we do disturb areas  
10 and inevitably there will be roads constructed  
11 for access, et cetera, that these roads will be  
12 restored to their original condition, or the  
13 ground around it will be restored to its  
14 original condition either by hydroseeding or  
15 working with landowners to replant the areas  
16 back to where they were in their original  
17 conditions.

18 MR. QUINLAN: Thank you.

19 MR. HONIGBERG: Is it true that burial and  
20 having underground power lines requires less  
21 maintenance than overhead power lines in the  
22 long-term? Going to refer this question to Jim  
23 Muntz. Jim is our president of transmission.

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1           MR. MUNTZ: Well, there's a tradeoff  
2           between overhead and underground. Underground  
3           is less susceptible to damage certainly, but  
4           when you do have an issue of underground, you're  
5           usually into a substantially longer and more  
6           expensive repair.

7           MR. HONIGBERG: New topic. It has been  
8           suggested that Northern Pass has not  
9           communicated with towns. Can you explain what  
10          communications you have had with towns along the  
11          route?

12          MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So even predating my  
13          arrival on this project, I know the Northern  
14          Pass team has done extensive outreach with  
15          municipalities across the route and I know that  
16          outreach continues today. We periodically meet  
17          with each and every town along the route, and in  
18          some instances it's in an informal Town Hall  
19          setting. In other instances, it's with key  
20          leaders in those impacted towns, depending on  
21          their preference. So that's been a focus area  
22          for us. Certainly was prior to my arrival as we  
23          developed the Forward NH Plan that municipal

1 input has helped to shape the plan that we put  
2 to the SEC. Municipal feedback has been helpful  
3 in making that balance, striking that balance.  
4 We continue to work at a municipal level now on  
5 fine-tuning the route. Are there areas where we  
6 can place a structure at a different location or  
7 lower a structure or change a structure design  
8 so that it reduces the view impacts. So these  
9 are local decisions that have benefited greatly  
10 from municipal feedback so that outreach will  
11 continue and it's not just municipalities, it's  
12 abutting landowners along the route.

13 MR. HONIGBERG: This is a different topic  
14 but falls on something you just said. How many  
15 lines can actually be hung on one tower which  
16 might call on you to describe different types of  
17 towers that you'll have along the route.

18 MR. JOHNSON: So there are two primary  
19 types of towers that will be involved in this  
20 program. A DC structure which will have two  
21 conductors and two shield wires so two thicker  
22 wires and two very thin wires to basically stop  
23 lightning. The AC portion of the project will

1 have three conductors and two shield wires,  
2 again, three larger conductors and two small  
3 ones, again as protection from lightning.

4 MR. HONIGBERG: How many lines can go on  
5 each type of tower?

6 MR. JOHNSON: As currently designed, our DC  
7 portion of the project can only handle one  
8 circuit which would be the two major conductors.  
9 The AC portion of the project is also the same  
10 to be designed as one circuit and so therefore  
11 only three conductors.

12 MR. HONIGBERG: The next questions are on  
13 the same general topic. How many structures  
14 will be relocated as part of the construction of  
15 this project.

16 MR. JOHNSON: In total for the entire  
17 project, 635 structures will be relocated. In  
18 Merrimack County, that number is 286.

19 MR. HONIGBERG: Is it correct that there  
20 are roughly 900 new structures being put in  
21 place?

22 MR. JOHNSON: Actually, the number is a  
23 little bit higher than that. It's 1198.

1           MR. HONIGBERG: All right. There was an  
2           assumption in the next question that had 900  
3           there. So added to existing structures, with  
4           the new structures, what's the total number of  
5           structures that this project entails building or  
6           moving?

7           MR. JOHNSON: Just north of 1800  
8           structures.

9           MR. HONIGBERG: After the transmission  
10          lines enter Deerfield, actually it's when they  
11          exit Deerfield, what is the height of the towers  
12          that will go from Deerfield to Scobie Pond.

13          MR. JOHNSON: The new construction  
14          associated with the project actually ends at the  
15          Deerfield substation. There are ten structures  
16          that have to be adjusted in that corridor that  
17          goes down from Deerfield to Scobie Pond as part  
18          of the system uprights and that means that any  
19          time you build a new project you also have to  
20          assess the impacts of injecting that much energy  
21          into the system, and are there trickle down  
22          effects where you would have to increase or  
23          change the configuration of the lines in that

1           general area.

2           In this particular case, there are ten  
3 structures that have been identified in this  
4 corridor and of those ten structures, the  
5 average height will increase by about five feet.  
6 Those ten structures are spread throughout that  
7 entire corridor, and I believe the majority of  
8 them are in Deerfield itself.

9           MR. QUINLAN: Sam, you might want to share  
10 the numbers of structures in that existing  
11 corridor so it's ten out of?

12           MR. JOHNSON: Out of just close to 600.  
13 There are two circuits that go down in that  
14 corridor, just about over 300 each.

15           MR. HONIGBERG: This is following on what  
16 you just said. I'm just going to read it as it  
17 is, and if there are things in it that need to  
18 be corrected, go ahead.

19           The application shows work being done  
20 beyond Deerfield to transmit to Scobie Pond and  
21 other locations. Who will pay the cost of the  
22 necessary reconductoring and transmission lines  
23 to those locations?

1           MR. JOHNSON: Again, that is a cost that  
2 will be borne by Northern Pass.

3           MR. HONIGBERG: More about towers. Do you  
4 know how tall the tallest transmission tower  
5 currently in use in New Hampshire is?

6           MR. JOHNSON: Off the top of my head, I do  
7 not know. There are many, many miles of  
8 corridor in New Hampshire, and I'm basically  
9 familiar with the Northern Pass corridors.

10          MR. QUINLAN: Somewhere over 200 feet.

11          MR. HONIGBERG: What's the range of heights  
12 of the existing transmission lines in the state  
13 to your knowledge.

14          MR. JOHNSON: So the existing 115  
15 structures that are within the project's  
16 corridor range from 40 and just shy of 100 feet.

17          MR. HONIGBERG: And how tall will the  
18 Northern Pass Transmission towers be?

19          MR. JOHNSON: On the DC side, they will  
20 range from 60 to 130 feet, and on the AC side,  
21 they will range from 40 to 155 feet.

22          MR. QUINLAN: Just back on the question of  
23 the tallest existing structure in New Hampshire,

1 we'll get a precise number.

2 MR. HONIGBERG: The person actually wants  
3 to know where that tower is. Do you know?

4 MR. JOHNSON: I'm assuming that that would  
5 be in the Newington area where there is a large  
6 river crossing, but that, again, is conjecture  
7 on my part so we will look that up.

8 MR. HONIGBERG: The next couple of  
9 questions are about benefits of the project.  
10 Mr. Quinlan, some of this I think you covered in  
11 your presentation, but you're going to be asked  
12 to redo some of this.

13 MR. QUINLAN: Okay.

14 MR. HONIGBERG: How will the towers that  
15 you're building benefit the residents of New  
16 Hampshire when New Hampshire already generates  
17 more power than it uses.

18 MR. QUINLAN: So I did touch upon this in  
19 the outset which is we are part of one power  
20 pool, one integrated grid, one market. It  
21 almost doesn't matter where the physical  
22 generation assets are located. They all feed  
23 one grid and the electrons flow ubiquitously

1           around a 6-state region. The benefits of this  
2           project will certainly benefit all of New  
3           England, but in particular they'll benefit New  
4           Hampshire by lowering energy costs, by  
5           delivering the environmental benefits that are  
6           referred to, and then delivering all of those  
7           unique benefits that are specific to the host  
8           state whether it's jobs, taxes, the commitments  
9           we've made to the Forward NH fund, those  
10          benefits are unique to New Hampshire as a result  
11          of hosting the line.

12                 MR. HONIGBERG: How will customers of other  
13           utilities, the Co-op, Unitil or Liberty, how  
14           will they benefit from the construction of  
15           Northern Pass?

16                 MR. QUINLAN: So again, those customers are  
17           part of that very same power pool so to the  
18           extent the energy prices are reduced and  
19           stabilized for all of New England, the customers  
20           from those utilities, Unitil, Liberty and Co-op,  
21           will see a reduction and greater stability in  
22           their energy cost. They will also see the same  
23           environmental benefits that customers of

1 Eversource will see. Again, carbon doesn't know  
2 boundaries, doesn't know state boundaries,  
3 doesn't know utility boundaries. That's a side  
4 benefit that customers of those utilities will  
5 receive their share.

6 MR. HONIGBERG: What are the tax benefits  
7 to the New Hampshire towns from this project?

8 MR. QUINLAN: So our current estimate based  
9 upon the \$1.6 billion price is about \$30 million  
10 a year in annual tax benefits. The majority of  
11 that is municipal taxes. There are some state  
12 and county taxes as well, but approximately \$30  
13 million a year to the municipalities hosting the  
14 line.

15 MR. HONINBERG: For how many years will  
16 that \$30 million benefit be in place?

17 MR. QUINLAN: So the depreciable life of a  
18 transmission investment is a long one. They  
19 tend to be 40-year depreciation schedules so  
20 they go down, but they go down very gradually,  
21 like two and a half percent a year. That's  
22 assuming there are no other capital investments  
23 made. To the extent we are investing additional

1 capital in the line, that would increase the  
2 taxes. So start at about \$30 million a year and  
3 you depreciate it basically on a straight line  
4 over a 40-year period, other than additions will  
5 which tend to extend that life.

6 MR. HONIGBERG: I think the next question  
7 is one that I can answer. There's a study, a  
8 cost/benefit local economic impact analysis that  
9 is part of the application, correct?

10 MR. QUINLAN: Correct.

11 MR. HONIGBERG: And you filed a motion for  
12 confidential treatment of that report. Is that  
13 right?

14 MR. QUINLAN: That's right.

15 MR. HONIGBERG: That motion is pending and  
16 at some point will be ruled on so that answers  
17 the question on that page.

18 Back on the tax benefits, I'm going to read  
19 it as it's written. Will you attempt to abate  
20 your property taxes?

21 MR. QUINLAN: No. So the projection I just  
22 gave which is \$30 million at the outset and then  
23 straight line depreciation is an industry

1           accepted tax methodology. It's one we're very  
2           comfortable with. Assuming municipalities tax  
3           us on that basis, we're very comfortable with  
4           it. In fact, we have in our discussions with  
5           the municipalities offered to formally commit to  
6           that in writing.

7           MR. HONIGBERG: Are you in compliance with  
8           your Memorandum of Understanding with the New  
9           Hampshire Department of Historical Resources  
10          regarding this application?

11          MR. QUINLAN: To the best of my knowledge,  
12          we are, yes.

13          MR. HONIGBERG: Can you describe that  
14          Memorandum of Understanding and what it required  
15          you to do?

16          MR. QUINN: Yes. So I'm going to introduce  
17          Cherilyn Widell. Cherilyn is a historic  
18          resources expert. Cherilyn?

19          MS. WIDELL: Good evening. My name is  
20          Cherilyn Widell. I'm a historic preservation  
21          expert, and my company is Widell Preservation  
22          Services. The question is regarding a  
23          Memorandum of Understanding which has been

1 signed between Northern Pass and the Division of  
2 Historic Resources, and it commits to the  
3 Division of Historic Resources to complete above  
4 ground inventory forms and necessary archeology  
5 for as a bridge between the identification stage  
6 currently being done and the completion of an  
7 agreement document under the Section 106  
8 process, and Northern Pass is completely in  
9 compliance with that process.

10 MR. QUINLAN: Just one point of  
11 clarification. Those commitments are Applicant  
12 commitments, not DHR, and we're in compliance  
13 with those.

14 MR. HONIGBERG: Your presentation included  
15 claims that there will be regional price  
16 reductions, and the question is, and I'm going  
17 to read it as it's written, if the project were  
18 to increase prices, should the SEC deny the  
19 application?

20 MR. QUINLAN: So energy benefits are an  
21 important reason for this project. We feel very  
22 strongly that this project will increase power  
23 supply into the region as a new source into the

1 mix. We have an Expert Report who has  
2 determined the numbers I shared with you which  
3 is about an \$800 million a year energy cost  
4 savings from across New England. Our view is  
5 that this will certainly save customers on their  
6 energy costs, particularly New Hampshire  
7 customers who are not being asked to bear any of  
8 the cost of the project. Energy benefits are  
9 one part of the review process by the SEC and  
10 looking at the total benefit package so it would  
11 also be looked at, if somehow it were to create  
12 upward pressure on cost, but I don't believe  
13 that's possible here in New Hampshire since New  
14 Hampshire is not going to bear any of the cost.

15 MR. HONIGBERG: When you say that  
16 Eversource is paying costs, one of the questions  
17 on the sheet I'm looking at says doesn't that  
18 mean your customers and ratepayers are going to  
19 be paying?

20 MR. QUINLAN: No.

21 MR. HONIGBERG: Why don't you explain a  
22 little bit about that process works.

23 MR. QUINLAN: So the investments in this

1 project are being paid by Northern Pass which is  
2 a subsidiary of Eversource, but we are paying to  
3 build the line. We cover our costs through a  
4 contract we have with Hydro-Quebec, our partner.  
5 We are essentially receiving payments from them  
6 to use our lines so they can deliver their clean  
7 hydropower into New England. That's how we  
8 recover the cost. New Hampshire ratepayers will  
9 not bear any of those costs. It's all pursuant  
10 to the agreement between Northern Pass  
11 Transmission and Hydro-Quebec and that agreement  
12 has been submitted to the Federal Energy  
13 Regulatory Commission for review and they've  
14 approved it. So the cost recovery will not  
15 implicate New Hampshire customers in any way.

16 MR. HONIGBERG: How many customers does  
17 Eversource have in New Hampshire?

18 MR. QUINLAN: In New Hampshire, just over  
19 500,000.

20 MR. HONIGBERG: What is the significance of  
21 the effect on tourism in your view to this  
22 process? So please explain how you believe this  
23 project will affect tourism, if it will, and if

1           it were to have a negative effect on tourism, is  
2           that something that should cause the SEC to  
3           reject your application.

4           MR. QUINLAN: So certainly the effect on  
5           tourism is one of the factors the SEC can weigh  
6           in looking at the totality of the project. I am  
7           not a tourism expert, but I did hear just  
8           recently that our last hearing from some tourism  
9           experts, one from the ATV and snowmobiling  
10          community, who spoke quite eloquently and  
11          convincingly about the benefits that this  
12          project can deliver to that peak tourism sector,  
13          ATV and snowmobiling, through creating new  
14          rights-of-ways, creating new trails, and as many  
15          of you know that's a critical area of the  
16          tourism future in New Hampshire.

17          There was another expert who's currently  
18          developing, redeveloping the Balsams project,  
19          and I think he shared his views on the impacts  
20          on tourism. He doesn't see any negative  
21          impacts, and to the extent we can work with him  
22          to make his project a reality, it will be a  
23          substantial increase in tourism in that

1           critically important area of the North Country.  
2           So, again, I'm not a tourism expert, but we're  
3           hearing from some of the experts that the  
4           impacts on tourism are not significant in a  
5           negative way and will be quite positive.

6           MR. HONIGBERG: Following up on the issue  
7           of aesthetics, general question, can you explain  
8           how you conducted your visual impact assessment,  
9           and there's a specific question within that. So  
10          in explaining that, how did you select the key  
11          observation points generally. How did you  
12          select them specifically in the Concord area.

13          MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to refer that  
14          question to Terry DeWan. Terry is our visual  
15          simulation expert.

16          MR. DEWAN: My name is Terry DeWan. I'm a  
17          scenic assessment consultant from Yarmouth,  
18          Maine. We've been working on this project now  
19          for over two years. When we were on the tour  
20          with the SEC the last two days, we visited a  
21          number of the KOPs or the key observation  
22          points. As we described in the field, we looked  
23          at places where the general public has a right

1 to, people go to these key observation points  
2 because they are known for their scenic values.  
3 We, in identifying key observation points, we  
4 considered a number of factors, not the least of  
5 which is whether or not these are considered to  
6 be a scenic resource. Scenic resources are  
7 identified and defined in our visual impact  
8 assessment.

9 The methodology that we've used is a fairly  
10 standard one that's been prescribed by the SEC  
11 rules that starts out with a thorough  
12 investigation as to where scenic resources are,  
13 within a defined area, area of potential effect.  
14 We initially did a three-mile distance outside  
15 of the line. As you know, the recent revised  
16 rules call for us to go out ten miles. We've  
17 done that, we've done viewshed analyses,  
18 computer-based analyses. We did a substantial  
19 amount of field investigation. We looked at a  
20 number of factors relative to each of these  
21 sites we've identified. We've been to and  
22 identified over 600 sites within our study area.  
23 The final results of the work has been

1 identified and presented in the visual impact  
2 assessment which you have on file already.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: Do you know how many key  
4 observation points there are in Concord? There  
5 was a specific question about the stretch in  
6 Concord.

7 MR. QUINLAN: We can find that in a moment.

8 MR. HONIGNBERG: While you're looking for  
9 that --

10 MR. QUINLAN: Mr. Chairman, may I introduce  
11 Mitch Nichols who is our tourism expert? I was  
12 speculating on tourism impact and I didn't see  
13 Mr. Nichols here.

14 MR. HONIGBERG: Why don't we circle back to  
15 the tourism questions while you're looking for  
16 the answer regarding Concord.

17 MR. NICHOLS: Very good. Good evening. My  
18 name is Mitch Nichols from Nichols Tourism  
19 Group. We have spent the last year  
20 investigating the Northern Pass project, and  
21 we're very familiar with New Hampshire industry.  
22 We work across the country with destinations and  
23 states in strategic planning and development of

1 the tourism industry. We looked at five various  
2 elements and study areas investigating that  
3 question related to impacts to the tourism  
4 industry. In combination, all five of those  
5 areas develop a very similar finding that the  
6 Northern Pass project would not have an impact  
7 on the regional demand for visitation within the  
8 State of New Hampshire. That there are broader  
9 more powerful factors that influence that  
10 visitor demand decision to choose New Hampshire,  
11 and we do not feel that the project will vary or  
12 impact that overall visitor demand into the  
13 state.

14 MR. QUINLAN: Thank you.

15 MR. DEWAN: This is a very large document.  
16 So in the city of Concord we evaluated a total  
17 of 48 scenic resources. Of those we did photo  
18 simulations in our initial go-around. It was  
19 delivered back in October at Turtle Pond. That  
20 was a key observation point. Since then we have  
21 also done evaluations at Suffolk River and Oak  
22 Hill's trail. We've done others as part of the  
23 additional supplemental information we

1 presented.

2 MR. HONIGBERG: We have a number of  
3 questions about burial, and more are coming, I  
4 see. Under the current proposal, how many miles  
5 will be buried and how many will not be buried.

6 MR. QUINLAN: Roughly 60 miles will be  
7 buried. 132 will not be buried.

8 MR. HONIGBERG: What would it cost to bury  
9 the balance of the line?

10 MR. QUINLAN: Approximately one billion  
11 dollars of incremental costs.

12 MR. HONIGBERG: Can you tell us the per  
13 mile cost of burying the HVDC cable?

14 MR. MUNTZ: Our costs as we've confirmed  
15 with competitively bid contractors and cable  
16 suppliers are between five and \$10 million  
17 incrementally for each mile of additional HVDC  
18 burial.

19 MR. HONIGBERG: It sounds like some people  
20 didn't hear that answer so could you make sure  
21 you're close enough to the microphone so you're  
22 projecting to the entire room?

23 MR. MUNTZ: Our costs for burial of the

1 HVDC are about 5 to \$10 million incrementally,  
2 and that is based on actual bids from cable  
3 suppliers and contractors that do that work.

4 MR. HONIGBERG: Do you have the cost broken  
5 out for the various components of construction?  
6 Digging, trenching, refilling?

7 MR. MUNTZ: Yes, we do.

8 MR. HONIGBERG: Could you break out roughly  
9 the per mile cost of the various components of  
10 construction?

11 MR. JOHNSON: I'm doing the math in my  
12 head. I apologize. I'm doing the math in my  
13 head. The cable itself is going to range about  
14 three million dollars a mile with the remainder  
15 being the trenching and the trenchless crossing  
16 cost.

17 There are two components of the underground  
18 installation. There is the trenching where  
19 you're going along the road edge, and then  
20 there's the trenchless part where you have to go  
21 underneath rivers and/or environmentally  
22 sensitive areas. Those areas tend to be very  
23 expensive in relation to the actual trenching

1 activities so it, on average, is the cost that  
2 we're presenting to you.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: Can you estimate the cost  
4 of burying the line from Franklin to Deerfield?

5 MR. MUNTZ: Probably be about \$250 million.

6 MR. QUINLAN: That's incremental costs,  
7 correct?

8 MR. MUNTZ: Incremental costs, correct.

9 MR. JOHNSON: I'll just add to that that  
10 that component of the project is AC underground  
11 which is more expensive than the DC because  
12 there's a third phase that's involved or third  
13 conductor. So there are three underground lines  
14 and not two, I'm sorry, underground cables and  
15 not two in this case.

16 MR. HONIGBERG: Have you, I'm going to read  
17 it as it's written and it's a little hard to  
18 read so I may stumble on some of these words.  
19 Have you tried to reach out to the communities  
20 affected suggesting that perhaps some limited  
21 sections could possibly be buried and then  
22 develop an actual cost estimate for those  
23 sections to compare to the overhead cost.

1 MR. QUINLAN: So, again, we've had  
2 extensive discussions with municipalities four  
3 years or more up and down the route. Oftentimes  
4 the question of the possibility of additional  
5 underground construction is one that we are  
6 asked and we provide answers to. I'm not aware  
7 of any municipality who has asked for a specific  
8 cost estimate for the burial associated with  
9 that municipality. Sam, you've been involved in  
10 some of that? Am I correct?

11 MR. JOHNSON: That's correct. The  
12 inquiries to date have been general in nature  
13 and not specific to a particular town or route  
14 as proposed by municipalities.

15 MR. HONIGBERG: There are a number of  
16 questions, the essence of which is please  
17 explain your statement that it is not  
18 economically viable to bury the entire line or  
19 greater portions of the line than are in the  
20 current proposal.

21 MR. MUNTZ: Well, as Bill has said  
22 repeatedly, we've tried to strike a balance here  
23 where we actually have a viable project that the

1 supplies and the customers will find to be  
2 economic. We've had this discussion with  
3 Hydro-Quebec who needs to sell power into this  
4 market and recover enough money to pay for the  
5 line and to recover their costs, and, obviously,  
6 we consulted with them and we've put in a  
7 proposal to the Site Evaluation Committee. We  
8 looked at all the interests and all the feedback  
9 that we got in New Hampshire, it worked out and  
10 we feel that 60 miles of underground addresses  
11 some of the key points in New Hampshire that we  
12 have achieved the economic goal balancing point  
13 for all the parties.

14 MR. HONIGBERG: The next couple of  
15 questions have some assumptions in them that may  
16 or may not be correct. You're going to need to  
17 explain however you need to answer this  
18 question.

19 Would you consider replacing the lattice  
20 structures, all of the lattice structures with  
21 monopoles or would you consider increasing the  
22 number of monopoles and placing them closer  
23 together so as to lower the height of the poles

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1 and thereby lower the volume of noise about the  
2 project?

3 MR. QUINLAN: So these are the type of  
4 local design techniques that we are exploring up  
5 and down the route. For those of you who are  
6 not familiar with the difference between a  
7 lattice structure and a monopole, a lattice  
8 structure tends to be a more imposing structure.  
9 It has four legs. It looks like an erector set.  
10 A monopole is a single pole that looks more like  
11 a tall conventional telephone pole. We have  
12 already determined several hundred locations  
13 where we are going to bear the incremental cost  
14 of using monopoles in some of the areas that  
15 have been identified as scenically important.  
16 We're also working on pole location and height  
17 in an effort to minimize visual impacts.

18 As to the specific questions, these are  
19 discussions we are now engaged in up and down  
20 the route with municipalities and with  
21 landowners to strike a further balance at a  
22 lower level to the best of our ability to  
23 address these concerns through the design and

1 engineering and construction of the project.  
2 That will continue right on through the balance  
3 of the project.

4 MR. HONIGBERG: Why aren't you using the  
5 I-93 corridor through Concord; and the followup  
6 on that, why are you not considering burying the  
7 line on that corridor through Concord?

8 MR. QUINLAN: So I'm going to refer this to  
9 Mark Hodgdon. Please introduce yourself?

10 MR. HODGDON: Sure. My name is Mark  
11 Hodgdon. I'm a private attorney in Concord.  
12 Before going into private practice, I was in the  
13 Attorney General's Office for 24 years where I  
14 represented the Department of Transportation.

15 I-93 was looked at along with other routes  
16 when we started looking at underground burial.  
17 The first thing you have to understand is I-93  
18 is not a preferred option from DOT's point of  
19 view. It is the most important road in the  
20 state. It carries tens of thousands of cars a  
21 day depending on where you are. It can be in  
22 the 20 to 30 range or as much as 50 down on the  
23 border. But in the areas we're talking about

1           it's tens of thousands of cars a day at high  
2           speed. DOT does not want you using that  
3           corridor unless you have, in their policy terms,  
4           an extreme hardship, and one of the criteria for  
5           an extreme hardship is you have to have no other  
6           viable alternatives. The roads being proposed  
7           are viable alternatives.

8           In addition, if you look at I-93, DOT will  
9           not, even if you met the hardship criteria, DOT  
10          will not allow you to be in what we call the  
11          disturbed areas, meaning the road or the  
12          shoulder, and they also won't allow you to be in  
13          the median, and you can't impact traffic by  
14          entering and exiting the main line of the road.  
15          So you have to build, essentially, a parallel  
16          access road at the outside limits of the  
17          right-of-way where they're going to require you  
18          to locate the facility.

19          The impacts out there are enormous, both  
20          wetlands wise, tree removal wise, vegetation  
21          wise, and probably well water wise, and it would  
22          be unsightly. So even if we could meet the  
23          criteria, which we don't, it would not be an

1 appropriate alternative.

2 Furthermore, you have, not down in this  
3 particular area, I know your question was about  
4 Concord, but for the White Mountain region, it  
5 is not even remotely viable to go through  
6 Franconia Notch. Franconia Notch is an  
7 extremely narrow area with probably the highest  
8 concentration of environmental and cultural  
9 sites in the state in that small area. Just off  
10 the top of my head, they have Echo Lake, Profile  
11 Lake, you have numerous wetlands, you have the  
12 Pemigewasset headwaters. You have several  
13 small water courses. In addition, you have  
14 Franconia State Park, you have the historic Old  
15 Man site, you have enormous and very sensitive  
16 geological formations in the basin and Boise  
17 Rock and an extremely fragile rock face which  
18 unfortunately used to house the Old Man, but no  
19 longer does. That's a testament to how fragile  
20 it is, and that area is so sensitive it's  
21 governed by Federal Court consent decree which  
22 bars any further construction along the  
23 Franconia Notch Parkway, and that consent decree

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1 was after 20 years of litigation and required  
2 congressional approval to do it. So Franconia  
3 Notch area is simply off limits. You can't do  
4 the construction in there and not have massive  
5 impacts, and that accounts for the 24 miles  
6 around the White Mountain region.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: Related to burial, but  
8 specifically about employment, would burial  
9 require a larger workforce?

10 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

11 MR. HONIGBERG: The followup assumes that  
12 not many New Hampshire residents are certified  
13 to work on these types of lines. Wouldn't it  
14 increase the number of New Hampshire jobs if you  
15 were to go ahead with burial?

16 MR. QUINLAN: First as to the premise of  
17 the foundation of that question --

18 MR. HONIGBERG: That is the premise of the  
19 question.

20 MR. QUINLAN: I think it's false. I think  
21 there are many aspects of this project that will  
22 be sourced locally. It's true that some of the  
23 electrical work may require some skilled

1           craftsmen from outside of the state, but there  
2           are plenty of those skilled craftsmen here in  
3           the State of New Hampshire. We have a very good  
4           and solid contingent of electrical workers who  
5           are expert in this craft and they're going to do  
6           the vast majority of this work.

7           If you go beyond the pure electrical work,  
8           we expect to source much of this construction  
9           locally. Whether it's gravel suppliers,  
10          excavation crews, forestry folks who are going  
11          to clear rights of way. Our anticipation is  
12          we're going to put many hundreds of folks to  
13          work here in New Hampshire, and that's the  
14          majority of this work is going to be done  
15          locally.

16          Mr. Muntz mentioned the contracts we have  
17          executed for our general contractor. All of our  
18          contractors are now committed the maximum extent  
19          possible to use the local labor and services to  
20          build this project, and we're very happy about  
21          that commitment, and we think it's going to  
22          create some real opportunities for the citizens  
23          in this state.

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1           MR. HONIGBERG: If the total project costs  
2 increase with burial and you were to go ahead  
3 with burial and increase costs, would that  
4 translate into increased taxes collected, lower  
5 taxes collected or would it have no effect on  
6 taxes collected?

7           MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to introduce Lisa  
8 Shapiro. Lisa's an economist.

9           MS. SHAPIRO: My name is Lisa Shapiro. I'm  
10 an economist and I worked on the tax estimates  
11 for the project. So the way taxes work in New  
12 Hampshire, as you all know, is the higher the  
13 value of your property, the more taxes you pay.  
14 So if the project costs more, the tax bill will  
15 be higher, but if the project costs so much more  
16 that there's no project there's no taxes.

17          MR. HONIGBERG: All right. We have some  
18 new topics. In past winters, Hydro-Quebec has  
19 stopped exporting power to the US because they  
20 needed to meet Canadian demand. How can we be  
21 sure that the power will in fact come when we  
22 need it.

23          MR. QUINLAN: So two things. One of the

1 things that's unique about this project is  
2 Hydro-Quebec is actually making a firm delivery  
3 commitment to New England which doesn't exist  
4 today. Right now, Hydro-Quebec with the two  
5 lines that interconnect their grid with the New  
6 England grid, they have very few commitments to  
7 deliver energy to New England. They essentially  
8 do it when the market is favorable. They have  
9 the ability to move it to New York, go to  
10 Ontario, wherever the prices are best. That's  
11 today's situation.

12 Under this project, and their proposal to  
13 the New England, they're actually making a firm  
14 delivery commitment which is a binding  
15 contractual obligation to deliver power to New  
16 England during peak periods during the months of  
17 the year when we need it the most. So they now  
18 have a firm contractual obligation. The  
19 reliability of these lines is very, very high.  
20 Reliability of their generation fleet is very,  
21 very high. So our full expectation and I think  
22 history proves this out, they've been a very  
23 reliable partner in New England. They've been

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1 delivering hydro power to New England markets  
2 for decades quite reliably, and now they'll have  
3 a firm contractual obligation to get it to us  
4 when we need it most.

5 MR. HONIGBERG: If the project does not go  
6 through, is there a chance that over the next 20  
7 years there will be brownouts or blackouts in  
8 the region?

9 MR. QUINLAN: So technically this is not  
10 what's referred to as a reliability project  
11 today, meaning today it's not a project that's  
12 necessary to keep the lights on, but I showed  
13 you some graphics which reflected the  
14 retirements of the New England generation fleet  
15 and our increasing dependence on natural gas.  
16 Over the last couple of winters we've had  
17 instances where there just wasn't enough gas to  
18 run the fleet, and we were very, very close to  
19 situations where we would have to do what we  
20 refer to as curtail load. In essence, brownout  
21 customers. And not only were prices high and  
22 volatile but supply was very, very tight. If  
23 you project that out into the future, and we

1 don't bring in new baseload supply, we'll  
2 continue to retire the coal plants and nuclear  
3 plants in this region, you could envision  
4 instances where we have to make that very  
5 difficult decision which is to curtail load,  
6 essentially shut off customers, generally during  
7 the worst possible time of the year which is the  
8 coldest days of the winter. The challenge with  
9 becoming so dependent on one fuel supply,  
10 natural gas, is you're dependent on one fuel  
11 supply, and if you look at the history of  
12 natural gas, it's quite a volatile fuel in  
13 quantity and price.

14 So fuel diversity to me is a very important  
15 thing. This would be a very diverse fuel  
16 source, very reliability fuel source and would  
17 be there when we needed it. So technically  
18 today, no, it's not a reliability project, but  
19 our supply/demand balance is becoming very  
20 tight, and the surplus that we once enjoyed as a  
21 region is largely evaporated.

22 MR. HONIGBERG: Will Northern Pass in  
23 addition to paying local property taxes be

1           paying state taxes as well? State property tax,  
2           business profit tax, et cetera?

3           MR. QUINLAN: And I'll refer this to Ms.  
4           Shapiro.

5           MS. SHAPIRO: Hi, the statewide utility  
6           property taxes, utilities pay directly to the  
7           state and then that money goes into the  
8           education trust fund and that's used for  
9           distribution to communities. In the first year,  
10          I'd estimate that's about \$10 million, and then  
11          with the depreciation schedule, that would  
12          gradually go down. At the state level, the  
13          property tax rate is fixed at \$6.60 per thousand  
14          so it doesn't change each year like what you see  
15          at the local level.

16          The project will also be subject to  
17          business profits tax and business enterprise  
18          taxes, and the business profits tax in the first  
19          year will likely be over \$10 million and, again,  
20          that would go down over time as the assets  
21          depreciate and the earnings decline with the  
22          depreciation of the assets.

23          MR. QUINLAN: Thank you.

1           MR. HONIGBERG: Will the construction use  
2 best environmental methods available.

3           MR. HONIGBERG: So I'm going to refer this  
4 to Lee Carbonneau. Lee Carbonneau is an  
5 environmental expert with Normandeau Associates.

6           MS. CARBONNEAU: Thanks, Bill. Lee  
7 Carbonneau. The project has committed to using  
8 what we call best management practices. That's  
9 a common root word. There are many different  
10 best management practice manuals available.  
11 There's some that have been put out by the  
12 state. There are other practices that some of  
13 the construction companies and engineering firms  
14 have also developed.

15           In addition to that, there have been a  
16 number of commitments that the project has made  
17 above and beyond the typical best management  
18 programs that will be employed to help minimize  
19 and avoid impacts to particularly sensitive  
20 species of wildlife or rare plants and these are  
21 been included in our mitigation report. They  
22 include a variety of things like seasonal  
23 restrictions on working in certain sensitive

1 areas during particular breeding seasons, using  
2 protective fencing in areas where we definitely  
3 don't want any mechanical equipment to stray off  
4 a path and into a sensitive area, using mats  
5 along sensitive plant locations so that they are  
6 more easily restored, and having environmental  
7 monitors out in the field during construction to  
8 make sure that the commitments are obeyed, that  
9 the permit conditions are adhered to and that  
10 all of the other best management practices are  
11 used and maintained and done according to all of  
12 the plans and commitments.

13 MR. HONIGBERG: Don't put the microphone  
14 down. Do your considerations of the environment  
15 include consideration of the carbon impact of  
16 the flooding of the lands up in Quebec that  
17 occurred to generate the power that will come  
18 down through these lines?

19 MS. CARBONNEAU: The carbon issue is not  
20 part of our state and federal permit  
21 applications that we're doing for the siting of  
22 the project in New Hampshire. So although the  
23 project is aware of carbon issues associated

1 with the project up in Canada which someone else  
2 can speak to more generally than I can, it is  
3 not part and parcel of the application  
4 materials.

5 MR. QUINLAN: So one of the expert reports  
6 that you referred to earlier prepared by London  
7 Economics which is pending consideration of a  
8 protective order, they evaluate the emissions  
9 impact. They determine there's about three  
10 million tons a year in carbon reduction across  
11 the region. So that analysis is embedded in  
12 that Expert Report.

13 MR. HONIGBERG: In construction, will you  
14 be using nonreflective wires along the towers?

15 MR. MUNTZ: I believe that is the type of  
16 wire that we will be using.

17 MR. HONIGBERG: Are buildings in the fall  
18 zone of the towers that are being proposed?

19 MR. JOHNSON: So I think what the question  
20 is is if a structure were to fail and fall  
21 outside of the right-of-way, would it  
22 potentially have an opportunity to impact a  
23 residence or a business of some sort. In

1           general, when towers fail they don't fall  
2           outside of the zone. They're specifically, over  
3           the right-of-way they're specifically designed  
4           so that does not happen. It's to do with the  
5           way that the wire's tension and structures  
6           themselves so if one were to fall it would  
7           either crumble in place or fall along the way  
8           the lines are built. There are always worst  
9           case scenarios, I'll say, but those are  
10          extremely rare, and to my knowledge, I have  
11          never encountered one of these situations.

12           MR. HONIGBERG: Along some portions of the  
13          route, towers are in the same right-of-way as  
14          gas pipelines. If a tower were to fall on top  
15          of a gas pipeline, would that be a problem?

16           MR. JOHNSON: Again, there are strict codes  
17          that govern the installation of electric lines  
18          within or coexisting with high pressure gas  
19          pipelines, the Natural Energy Safety Code, and,  
20          again, there are rules about how far away those  
21          must be, and we are adhering to those standards.

22           MR. HONIGBERG: The next one is really  
23          directed to the Department of Energy's EIS. I'm

1 just to read it and this will be considered as a  
2 comment for DOE. Will the Department of Energy  
3 issue the Final EIS and Record of Decision  
4 before the Section 106 historic review process  
5 is complete. If yes, how will the project  
6 complete its historic review process before  
7 permits are finalized or before beginning  
8 construction.

9 The next question is probably also directed  
10 at DOE, but if the company wants to answer this,  
11 how will the project impact greenhouse gas  
12 emissions in New Hampshire. You may have  
13 answered that question a moment ago.

14 MR. QUINLAN: I did. So it's a regional  
15 number. It's approximately \$300 million tons  
16 per year in carbon dioxide emissions that will  
17 be reduced. Just for frame of reference, that's  
18 the equivalent of removing approximately 600,000  
19 cars from the highways. Again, a regional  
20 number.

21 MR. JOHNSON: I'm sorry, Bill. Three  
22 million, not 300 million.

23 MR. QUINLAN: I'm sorry. Three million per

1 year.

2 MR. HONIGBERG: If there's a contractual  
3 disagreement between Hydro-Quebec and Northern  
4 Pass or Eversource, will the ratepayers of New  
5 Hampshire be liable for damages or other costs  
6 of litigation?

7 MR. QUINLAN: No. No. Again, ratepayers  
8 of New Hampshire are not a party or in any way  
9 implicated in any of the contractual  
10 arrangements between Hydro-Quebec And Northern  
11 Pass Transmission. These are contracts that  
12 exist between a limited liability company,  
13 Northern Pass Transmission, under Eversource, a  
14 wholly owned subsidiary totally insulated from  
15 our regulated businesses like Eversource, New  
16 Hampshire. Formerly, Public Service of New  
17 Hampshire.

18 MR. HONIGBERG: I'm going to read the  
19 question that's on this sheet as it's written  
20 that does not have a town associated with it.  
21 So the question may not make quite as much sense  
22 without that, and you'll understand why when I  
23 read it.

1           Per the town selectmen, Northern Pass has  
2 not done any presentations. The Town Manager  
3 states, quote, Northern Pass is not coming here,  
4 close quote. Can you explain why?

5           MR. QUINLAN: No. Without identification  
6 of the town, I can't answer the question. I  
7 will say, however, that we have been in  
8 continuous contact with each and every  
9 municipality hosting this line so to the extent  
10 there's any municipality that's interested in  
11 such a meeting, we'd be happy to participate.

12           MR. HONIGBERG: Are there benefits to a  
13 landowner that has the right-of-way already on  
14 his or her property? Monetary benefits in  
15 addition to what that property may have received  
16 when the right-of-way was originally granted?

17           MR. QUINLAN: So an existing landowner,  
18 existing right-of-way. There's no incremental  
19 benefit through use of the property directly to  
20 that landowner. Lease payments or payment to  
21 acquire the already existing line. However,  
22 those customers and those adjoining landowners  
23 will benefit similar to all other New Hampshire

1 customers from lower energy costs, job  
2 opportunities, reduced emissions. Those are  
3 universal benefits that inure to each and every  
4 citizen in the State of New Hampshire. There's  
5 nothing new or specific for the use of a  
6 right-of-way.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: If a property is a historic  
8 property that has the right-of-way on it, is  
9 that treated differently from other pieces of  
10 property along the route?

11 MR. QUINLAN: I'll refer this to Cherilyn  
12 Widell.

13 MS. WIDELL: Historic properties which are  
14 properties defined by the Park Service as those  
15 that are on or eligible for the National  
16 Register of Historic Places are afforded  
17 protection under Section 106 of the National  
18 Historic Preservation Act and also need to be  
19 taken into consideration for the SEC  
20 application. So the effects of the project on  
21 historic properties are considered as part of  
22 the application and as part of the Section 106  
23 process.

1 MR. HONIGBERG: If a property owner can  
2 prove that the project has lowered the property  
3 value, will that person be entitled to any  
4 payment from you for any part of this project?

5 MR. QUINLAN: In addition to the outreach  
6 we've done with municipalities along the route,  
7 we've also conducted extensive outreach to  
8 landowners along the route, and we're working  
9 with those landowners on a case by case basis,  
10 either to do what we can to mitigate any adverse  
11 consequences or to address specific questions or  
12 concerns that they may have, and it's really a  
13 case by case determination that we engage in  
14 with the landowners. It's something we've been  
15 focused on for quite some time now, and it's  
16 going to continue right on through the  
17 permitting and construction phase.

18 MR. HONIGBERG: That answers part of the  
19 question that's on this sheet, but the other  
20 part on the sheet I'm looking at right now has  
21 to do with existing rights-of-way. Are existing  
22 rights-of-way going to be widened along the  
23 route. Obviously, we're in Concord, and this

1 person is in Concord and wants to know about  
2 Concord rights-of-way, but will right-of-ways  
3 have to be widened and will the towers be  
4 higher? I think we already know that the towers  
5 will be higher.

6 MR. QUINLAN: Towers will generally be  
7 higher but the rights-of-way will not be wider.  
8 One of the things our engineers are working on  
9 is a design that will in essence allow us to  
10 collocate the existing transmission line with the  
11 new line in the same right-of-way. Therefore,  
12 the rights-of-way will not have to be wider.

13 MR. HONIGBERG: What percentage of the time  
14 will the line be at full capacity and are there  
15 times when it won't be used at all?

16 MR. MUNTZ: The commitment that HQ has made  
17 is to flow the line a minimum of 67 percent of  
18 capacity. Basically, what's known in the  
19 industry as 7 days a week, 16 hours a day during  
20 the peak period. As a reference point, existing  
21 line that HQ has into the US has run at over 90  
22 percent capacity over the last five years and  
23 that includes all outages, weather, maintenance

1 outages, what have you, so we expect that 67  
2 percent at a minimum.

3 MR. QUINLAN: That's a minimum. It's  
4 during the peak periods. So the price pressures  
5 that I was alluding to earlier occur during  
6 these peak hours, and that's why their  
7 commitment to deliver during those periods is so  
8 important.

9 MR. HONIGBERG: You've made a proposal in  
10 response to the New England Clean Energy RFP.  
11 If you are not selected is your project still  
12 viable and will you proceed?

13 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. We believe that the  
14 project is viable as proposed to the SEC with  
15 Hydro-Quebec funding the project. We also  
16 believe the project is viable as proposed into  
17 the RFP where Hydro-Quebec has made other  
18 significant commitments about the timing and  
19 extent of delivery and in exchange for that has  
20 asked for assistance in paying for it.

21 MR. HONIGBERG: You may have answered this.  
22 How much electricity is estimated to flow  
23 through the line in a given year?

1           MR. MUNTZ: About as a minimum, 7.2  
2 kilowatt hours each year is 7.2 million  
3 megawatts.

4           MR. QUINLAN: 7.2 million megawatt hours.  
5 That's the minimum commitment.

6           MR. HONIGBERG: If you were to bury the  
7 line and incur the additional one billion in  
8 cost, and you amortize that cost over 40 years,  
9 what would the annual cost increment be?

10          MR. MUNTZ: When we look at the cost to  
11 this line right now, the first year revenue  
12 requirements, if you will, for customers are  
13 about and for Hydro-Quebec will be about \$240  
14 million and that would decrease over the life of  
15 the line down to about \$50 million which is sort  
16 of our ongoing O&M costs. If we were to add  
17 another billion dollars to it, that would add  
18 \$145 million to the first year cost.

19          MR. HONIGBERG: I think I'm going to ask  
20 all the questions on this at once. What is  
21 Northern Pass's and Eversource's expected return  
22 on its investment for the current proposal.  
23 What would the return be on the investment if

1 the line were completely buried. And what  
2 portion of the projected New England energy  
3 costs would come to Northern Pass/Eversource?

4 MR. QUINLAN: Jim, why don't you answer the  
5 first two.

6 MR. MUNTZ: Could you please repeat the  
7 question.

8 MR. HONIGBERG: Sure. This is the first  
9 two questions. What is Northern  
10 Pass/Eversource's expected return on its  
11 investment for the current proposed line and  
12 what would its return on investment be if the  
13 line were completely buried.

14 MR. MUNTZ: Okay. Basically this is a  
15 \$1.65 billion investment, 40-year anticipated  
16 life. The return is linked to the New England  
17 transmission, regional transmission rate of  
18 return that's approved by FERC. We would expect  
19 to make about \$90 million in the first year and  
20 that, again, declines over the life of the line.

21 If we were to add another billion dollars  
22 to that and there was someone willing to pay for  
23 that, we would actually make more money if the

1 line was buried. The problem we run into is the  
2 line is not economical, and there aren't folks  
3 willing to pay for it either to deliver their  
4 power in the case of HQ or receive the benefits  
5 of that power in the three states that have  
6 indicated interest. They would pay for it. At  
7 some point the cost of the line becomes  
8 prohibitive.

9 MR. HONIGBERG: I'm going to read this one  
10 just as it's writing, Mr. Quinlan. What portion  
11 of the projected New England energy costs,  
12 parens, three billion plus, close parens, would  
13 come to Northern Pass/Eversource?

14 MR. QUINLAN: So the short answer is none  
15 of it. Our return on this investment is through  
16 the mechanism Mr. Muntz just described. We  
17 invest capital to build the line. Our earnings  
18 and our return come from the use of the line and  
19 the repayment and it's subject to approval by  
20 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and  
21 purely based on the capital investment. Has  
22 nothing to do with what's going on in the  
23 markets. Those costs and those benefits flow to

1 customers. Ours is a capital investment with  
2 return on the investment.

3 MR. MUNTZ: Return on investment is 11.17.

4 MR. QUINLAN: Just over 11 percent. Return  
5 on equity portion of the investment.

6 MR. HONIGBERG: How are you establishing  
7 the right to build this project in all of the  
8 various places that you're proposing to build  
9 it? So if you could go through the different  
10 types of relationships you have to the land  
11 that's being used, I think that's what this  
12 question is getting at. In particular, this  
13 questioner also wants to know what the situation  
14 is in Bear Brook State Park so if you could hit  
15 Bear Brook State Park as part of this answer,  
16 that would be helpful.

17 MR. QUINLAN: So for the vast majority of  
18 this line, we have an existing right-of-way with  
19 an existing transmission line. In that existing  
20 right-of-way, we have the property rights  
21 necessary to construct and own this line.

22 In areas that we are using the public way,  
23 meaning we're going to build under an existing

1 state roadway, we have requested approval from  
2 the Department of Transportation for use of  
3 those corridors.

4 In the far northern portion of the state,  
5 those 40 miles that I was referring to, there's  
6 one 24-mile segment that we have leased, the  
7 Wagner Forest. So we have a lease that allows  
8 us to construct and own the line in that leased  
9 area. And then we acquired parcels, generally  
10 we bought them, in some cases we've leased them,  
11 to essentially bring us over, so it's a  
12 combination of lease arrangements, purchase  
13 arrangements, that far northern part, use of the  
14 state highway is where we're going to the  
15 Department of Transportation and then our  
16 existing corridor.

17 Bear Brook State Park. Sam?

18 MR. JOHNSON: In Bear Brook State Park, we  
19 have an existing easement that goes through the  
20 park. We will be maintaining our construction  
21 within that easement.

22 MR. HONIGBERG: What is the current status  
23 of the Seabrook power plant? Didn't PSNH used

1 to own that and lose it in the bankruptcy?

2 MR. QUINLAN: No. So it's true that  
3 Seabrook was partially owned by Public Service  
4 of New Hampshire, I think with a minority  
5 ownership interest, but it was owned by  
6 utilities across New England. I think in early  
7 2001, many of those utilities under industry  
8 deregulation were required to sell their  
9 generation equipment. In New Hampshire we were  
10 required to, PSNH was required to sell its  
11 ownership interest in Seabrook and we did so  
12 it's currently owned by NextEra which is a  
13 Florida-based company and to the best of my  
14 knowledge, it's operational. It's been running  
15 since 2001 when we sold it.

16 MR. HONIGBERG: Does New Hampshire get some  
17 of its power from the Seabrook plant today?

18 MR. QUINLAN: I'm not certain what the  
19 contractual arrangements are that NextEra has  
20 for its output. Again, we are one grid of one  
21 power pool. It really doesn't matter where  
22 those plants are located. For example, they  
23 could have a contractual obligation to deliver



1           MR. HONIGBERG: The first thing we're going  
2 to do is Mr. Quinlan has asked for the  
3 opportunity to clarify something that was said  
4 in response to one of the questions. I don't  
5 even know what the question or answer was, but  
6 they need to clarify something so Mr. Quinlan?

7           MR. QUINLAN: I'd like to provide some  
8 information on the tallest transmission tower in  
9 New Hampshire. It's actually 340 feet tall.  
10 It's in the Seacoast area in Portsmouth, New  
11 Hampshire, and it is part of a river crossing.  
12 And also to provide clarity on the using the low  
13 reflective conductor, we are not using the low  
14 reflective conductor on this project.

15           MR. HONIGBERG: We're now ready to start  
16 with the public comments. We have over 50  
17 people who have signed up to speak. It is  
18 really in everybody's best interest for you to  
19 be concise and if at all possible limit yourself  
20 to 3 minutes. If you're not able to do that, we  
21 will ask you to stop and come back at the end in  
22 a second round with those who need more time.

23           If someone before you said what you would

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1 have said, or essentially what you would have  
2 said, please don't just repeat what someone else  
3 has done. Please say I agree with what an  
4 earlier speaker said regarding X, Y or Z and  
5 everyone behind you will be ecstatic.

6 There are some people who signed up online  
7 through the Department of Energy's process. We  
8 have a bunch of yellow sheets. We have a  
9 handful of elected officials. We're going to  
10 call the elected officials first. I hope we got  
11 them all. Is Senator Lou D'allesandro back from  
12 his earlier meetings? No. Not yet. All right.  
13 So we'll put Senator D'allesandro aside, and  
14 we'll start with Senator Andrew Hosmer followed  
15 by Representative Howard Moffett and then Les  
16 Otten, a Dixville selectman.

17 SPEAKER: Good evening and thank you. I'm  
18 State Senator Andrew Hosmer. I represent  
19 District 7 which is 8 towns and two cities. One  
20 of those cities being the city of Franklin which  
21 is where the converter station is proposed to be  
22 built. Franklin is a city that's struggled over  
23 the past few decades with the closure of mills

1 and the depreciation of its tax base. It's also  
2 a place that's quite beautiful. Its citizens  
3 are proud and hard working, and I know that the  
4 ones that I speak with are hopeful that the  
5 future will hold economic opportunity for them  
6 as well as for future generations.

7 The Northern Pass project will be  
8 transformational for the city of Franklin. The  
9 project will provide a \$400 million investment  
10 in the city's tax base, approximately \$6 million  
11 a year in new tax revenues and more than 500  
12 jobs coming to that city during the construction  
13 phase. The benefits to the city will both be  
14 short-term and long-term, and the residents of  
15 the city are eager to see this project move  
16 forward.

17 I have followed this project for many  
18 years. No one will dispute the fact that  
19 Northern Pass got off to a bad start and was  
20 poorly designed and presented. However, the  
21 project has continued to reach out to  
22 communities, has listened to concerns from  
23 residents and has made changes that address many

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1 of the concerns raised. Because of this, the  
2 project deserves your support.

3 I recognize that these types of projects  
4 have impacts, and many residents have very  
5 legitimate concerns. The Site Evaluation  
6 Committee can play a positive role in helping  
7 address those concerns and encouraging Northern  
8 Pass and abutting landowners to continue to  
9 discuss opportunities to reduce the impact of  
10 the project.

11 In conclusion, New Hampshire must pursue  
12 long-term energy strategies that balance the  
13 interest of its citizens, lowers the cost of  
14 energy and helps create a vibrant economy. This  
15 project allows the citizens of Franklin to look  
16 into the future and know that the city they love  
17 has a future filled with opportunity.

18 Thank you very much. I appreciate the  
19 opportunity to speak.

20 MR. HONIGBERG: Senator Hosmer, if you have  
21 something in writing if you could give it to the  
22 stenographer, that way she'll get your remarks  
23 exactly as you intended to deliver them. That's

1 a ground rule for all of you, if you are going  
2 to be reading something, if you could read it  
3 just the way Senator Hosmer read his statement,  
4 that would be great, and if you could provide a  
5 copy to the stenographer, that would be very  
6 helpful. Also if you could spell your last name  
7 if there's any ambiguity in your last name that  
8 would be helpful as well.

9 So next up we have representative Howard  
10 Moffett, followed by Dixville Selectman Les  
11 Otten.

12 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and  
13 members of the committee. I thank you  
14 especially for the time and attention that  
15 you've given to this docket. My name is Howard  
16 Moffett. I represent Canterbury and Loudon.  
17 I'm also among the 68 state legislators who have  
18 filed jointly a Petition to Intervene in this  
19 docket. Little before 4 o'clock on Monday  
20 afternoon, I was passing through Franconia Notch  
21 on my way to the Colebrook Elementary School.  
22 As I went by Profile Lake, I looked up to the  
23 left to the spot where the Old Man used to be.

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1 I always do that when I go through the notch.  
2 The cloud cover was low but not too low. I  
3 could see where he used to be. Keeping watch  
4 over the Pemigewasset River Valley, and it  
5 reminded me of something that Daniel Webster  
6 once said. He said men hang out their signs  
7 indicative of their respective trades.  
8 Shoemakers hang out a gigantic shoe, jewelers a  
9 monster watch, and the dentist hangs out a gold  
10 tooth, but up in the mountains of New Hampshire,  
11 God Almighty has hung out a sign to show that  
12 there He makes men. We lost the Old Man in  
13 2003, but he still serves as the symbol of the  
14 Granite State, and I'd like to think that he  
15 still watches.

16 So what would he think of Northern Pass,  
17 which now proposes to hang out its own signs,  
18 two signs, up there. Two chains of steel  
19 towers, 100 feet high, strung with wires from  
20 Pittsburg to Bethlehem and from Bristol to  
21 Deerfield to show that there, high above some of  
22 New Hampshire's most valued landscapes, Northern  
23 Pass wants to transmit high voltage electric

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1 power made somewhere else for the benefit of  
2 consumers in Massachusetts and Connecticut and  
3 for the profit of Eversource shareholders. I  
4 believe I know what he would think.

5 The first thing to be said about Northern  
6 Pass is what you heard earlier from Mr. Quinlan.  
7 It's not a reliability project. It's an  
8 economic project. It's not needed to keep the  
9 lights on. So I want to suggest that it  
10 behooves you to weigh very carefully the  
11 benefits, the alleged benefits of the project  
12 against the cost, because I think if you do  
13 that, you will find that compared to some of the  
14 alternatives, the benefits of the project end up  
15 being rather modest compared to the costs  
16 because unless the line is buried, the cost to  
17 the public, the costs to the state of New  
18 Hampshire are going to be incalculable.

19 Mr. Chairman, I'm going to go a little over  
20 three minutes and I'm happy to come back at the  
21 end.

22 MR. HONIGBERG: You're already over three  
23 minutes.

1 SPEAKER: Why don't I come back at the end.

2 MR. HONIGBERG: Thank you, Representative  
3 Moffett.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. HONIGBERG: Next up is Dixville  
6 Selectman Les Otten.

7 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Les  
8 Otten. I'm the developer of the Balsams Resort  
9 in Dixville, New Hampshire, and a Selectman of  
10 that unincorporated town. Thank you for the  
11 opportunity to speak tonight. Our business has  
12 received a two million dollar investment from  
13 what will become the Forward NH Fund established  
14 to help lift one of the poorest economies in the  
15 northeast. This investment was made with no  
16 strings attached. Northern Pass may make a more  
17 substantial investment in our project in the  
18 near future as their process continues.

19 Our North Country community is suffering  
20 from decades-long job losses. Drugs have  
21 invaded our schools and communities and there  
22 has been a dramatic and continuing decline in  
23 our wood products industry. On a positive note,

1           our communities have already embraced renewable  
2           power now for decades with hydrogeneration  
3           stations on the Androscoggin River and 33 wind  
4           towers sited along our ridgelines. These dams  
5           release water on schedules that have enhanced  
6           the recreation rafting industry. Seven of these  
7           wind towers are located on our property and do  
8           not negatively impact the viability of the \$143  
9           million investment my company is attempting to  
10          make in its first phase of development adding an  
11          estimated 1700 long-term jobs and 600  
12          construction jobs.

13                 I've been involved with resorts from  
14          California to Maine, including three resorts in  
15          New Hampshire, none of which have been  
16          negatively affected by transmission lines to my  
17          knowledge. Our resort will benefit from the  
18          reduced power cost we expect as bulk power  
19          buying becomes possible from the proposed DC  
20          power line. My staff has estimated that that  
21          will save our company over \$200,000 a year. We  
22          are attempting to build a green farm to table  
23          renewable reliant resort which will be favored

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1 globally as a vacation destination.

2 It's long past the time for us to  
3 acknowledge there is no silver bullet for  
4 solving the effects of fossil fuels in our  
5 environment. Northern Pass is one positive step  
6 that will reduce our dependence on the sources  
7 of power generation that are harming our  
8 environment.

9 Since 2008, I have been investing in clean  
10 renewable energy in New Hampshire. My company  
11 Maine Energy Systems has been the leading  
12 installer of clean renewable central heating  
13 pellet boilers and has been delivering fuel  
14 produced in Maine, New Hampshire and Canada to  
15 New Hampshire residents.

16 Finally, my father was born in 1886. He  
17 was 63 when I was born. If my son lives as long  
18 as his grandfather, he will live until 2079. In  
19 that 193-year time span we will have consumed  
20 the vast majority of all the fossil fuels  
21 created on our planet in a 6 to 7 billion year  
22 history. Releasing that CO2 into the atmosphere  
23 is understood to have devastating effects on the

1 ecosystem of our planet. It is also shameful  
2 for us not to make every reasonable effort to  
3 move to renewable resources like the hydropower  
4 we are discussing. I support renewable energy  
5 locally and globally, and I therefore support  
6 Northern Pass. Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. HONIGBERG: Next up, Robert Werner to  
9 be followed by Gail Matson. Those are the only  
10 other elected officials that I'm aware of who  
11 are here. If you are an elected official and  
12 would like to move up in the queue, if you could  
13 come up and tell Mr. Iacopino, that would be the  
14 best way to do that. Mr. Werner.

15 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name  
16 is Rob Werner. I represent Ward 5 here in  
17 Concord and also chair the Concord Energy and  
18 Environment Subcommittee. Many of us know in  
19 this community that we had a subcommittee of  
20 Concord City Council work very diligently for  
21 many hours and many days and the recommendation  
22 was to bury the lines of the Northern Pass  
23 project within Concord.

1           It was stated earlier by Mr. Quinlan that  
2           we needed to address the impact of this project  
3           on the White Mountain National Forest. Time to  
4           take a step back and to address the impacts of  
5           this project on the city of Concord which is  
6           highly significant. Some of the towers have  
7           been described as much as 120 feet, 125 feet  
8           high. Very large impact in terms of sight  
9           lines.

10           The lines on the projects are really quite  
11           contrary to our vision of a city in terms of how  
12           we generally look at power lines, whether it be  
13           downtown Concord or, whether it be in other  
14           areas of the city, whether it be new  
15           developments where it would require lines to be  
16           buried. So what we have before us is actually a  
17           scar on our city that we highly recommend to  
18           look at other options that have less impacts,  
19           not only in the city of Concord but on our  
20           wildlife, on our forests and our other impacts  
21           of our culture and life here in New Hampshire.  
22           And Councilor Matson, my colleague who chaired  
23           the subcommittee, will talk in a bit more detail

1 about some of these impacts.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. HONIGBERG: Councilor Matson to be  
4 followed by Beth Campbell who is representing  
5 Representative Kathy Rogers tonight.

6 SPEAKER: My name is Gail Matson. I'm the  
7 Ward 8 City Councilor. Also the chair for the  
8 subcommittee for Northern Pass here.

9 Our subcommittee gathered information from  
10 Eversource and other stakeholders to determine  
11 the impact of the proposed project in Concord.  
12 The report submitted to Council, they voted  
13 unanimously to file a Petition to Intervene and  
14 recommend burial of the lines in our city. We  
15 request for burial of the lines is based upon  
16 the project's current proposed aerial path and  
17 subsequent impacts to character, property values  
18 and as well as visual and audio impacts due to  
19 the close proximity to residences.

20 Concord has spent nearly two million to  
21 bury utility lines in the downtown area of  
22 Concord and is considering burial of the lines  
23 on South Main Street. Currently, our city

1 regulations require that new subdivisions bury  
2 title lines. The proposed route of the Northern  
3 Pass passes through 31 communities using the two  
4 2010 census, slightly more than 117,000 people  
5 live in those communities. Concord's population  
6 is 42,695 which is slightly more than 36 percent  
7 of the entire affected population.

8 There are 8.1 miles of overhead lines  
9 proposed for Concord; approximately, 6 percent  
10 of the total overhead route, and per the  
11 Northern Pass, the most common height of the  
12 existing structures in the right-of-way in  
13 Concord are 43 feet. The height of structures  
14 being relocated for the project will increase  
15 from 43 to 88 feet. The October 14th Northern  
16 Pass project map indicates that there are 120  
17 structures over 90 feet in Concord. Sixty of  
18 those 120 will be between 100 and 125 feet. For  
19 perspective, the Capitol dome is 150 feet.

20 Northern Pass claims the average scenic  
21 impact is 1.79 on a scale of 0 to 5 which is low  
22 to very low. However, for the southern section  
23 which includes Concord, the impact rises from

1 1.92 to 2.92 with additional 6 square miles of  
2 the viewshed rating high or very high. The view  
3 from roads will increase from low to moderate to  
4 moderate to high. In the DOE draft  
5 Environmental Impact Statement in July 2015,  
6 sites two areas in Concord with strong aesthetic  
7 visual impacts. Loudon Road increases from  
8 moderate to severe. And Turtle Town Pond  
9 increases from moderate to strong. Clearly, the  
10 visual impact to Concord will be significant.

11 In our subcommittee meetings, Brian Bosse  
12 of Eversource has told us that the cost of  
13 aerial installation was approximately three  
14 million per mile and the cost of underground  
15 installation was between 8 to 13 million per  
16 mile which is quite a range. The subcommittee  
17 councilors asked on varying occasions for cost  
18 estimate breakdowns due to a variety of soil  
19 conditions and this information was never  
20 provided.

21 Citizens of Concord have been clear and  
22 consistent in their position on the Northern  
23 Pass. Aerial installation will have lasting

1 negative effects on individuals and the city as  
2 a whole with respect to quality of life and  
3 economic development. Therefore, we request  
4 burial of lines throughout the city of Concord.  
5 Thank you.

6 MR. HONIGBERG: Next up is Beth Campbell  
7 for Representative Rogers to be followed by  
8 George Dzjuna, a Franklin City Councilor, and  
9 then Ellen Schaefer.

10 SPEAKER: Good evening. Speaking for  
11 Katherine Rogers: Good evening. My name is  
12 Katherine Rogers. I am a New Hampshire  
13 representative who lives here in Concord. I am  
14 speaking out in favor of this project because of  
15 my constituents. As a state legislator, I work  
16 to balance sometimes competing interests of  
17 issues like this. Two areas in which we all  
18 agree is that a number of older power plants  
19 retiring and going off line requires this  
20 conversation, and if we don't embrace projects  
21 like this, we will not make any progress in  
22 lowering electric rates which remain among the  
23 highest in the country.

1           My constituents tell me their electric  
2 bills are way too high. Many of the people I  
3 represent are low income families who struggle  
4 with their monthly payments. They need help. I  
5 also have heard from businesses who tell me  
6 their utility costs are too expensive. They  
7 need relief, too. We can't forget about these  
8 folks.

9           Eversource has repeatedly explained this  
10 project is estimated to lower residential  
11 electric rates by 5 percent. Businesses are in  
12 line to save substantially more. That is on top  
13 of the \$80 million in property tax revenue for  
14 the communities along the route. Those are real  
15 savings for the people who live in our  
16 communities, and I can't ignore that type of  
17 savings.

18           In addition, as a representative of a  
19 working class neighborhood, I have heard from  
20 many people who celebrate the fact that this  
21 proposal means well over 1,000 jobs with  
22 training opportunities available to actually  
23 participate in the economic benefits of Northern

1 Pass in direct ways. Some of my constituents  
2 are members of the International Brotherhood of  
3 Electrical Workers, and they are clear and  
4 unanimous in their unwavering support for this  
5 project and the jobs that will be created by  
6 allowing it to proceed.

7 This project has become demonized by many  
8 in this debate, and I feel like we have lost  
9 sight of why we are talking about Northern Pass.  
10 Are there 77 new towers going up to sustain the  
11 line? Yes. There are also 122 poles that are  
12 being relocated to lessen the impact on  
13 visibility so there is positive response based  
14 on resident feedback, and I keep coming back to  
15 this reality. Every inch of this line through  
16 this area is in a utility right-of-way which was  
17 designed many decades ago to be the acceptable  
18 pathway for power lines. Perhaps there are ways  
19 to keep lowering the heights, but if we want new  
20 energy resources, we have to be willing to  
21 connect them. I'm not saying I wholeheartedly  
22 and enthusiastically endorse every detail of  
23 this project, but I know major progress when I

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1 see it and I know a proposal that resolves  
2 constituent concerns when I see it and this does  
3 both.

4 What I see is a plan that will lower  
5 electric rates, provide new jobs and it will  
6 produce clean energy that can actually take a  
7 bite out of our carbon footprint. These are  
8 good things. I fear that absolutes in this  
9 debate, that all in or nothing sentiment,  
10 jeopardizes the many benefits a project like  
11 this can bring to New Hampshire. I urge the  
12 members of the Site Evaluation Committee to find  
13 the common ground to move this project forward  
14 so our state can enjoy the benefits it would  
15 bring. Thank you.

16 MR. HONIGBERG: George Dzujna.

17 SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Chairman and  
18 Panel. My last name is Dzujna. I'm a City  
19 Councilor in Franklin, and I concur with what  
20 Senator Hosmer has said. He hit the nail on the  
21 head so I'm not going to go on about all the  
22 benefits. I guess the biggest thing that I just  
23 wanted to, statement I wanted to make is back in

1 January when we had the meeting in Franklin,  
2 somebody said oh, I don't blame Franklin for  
3 taking the money and running, but that's not  
4 what it's about. It's not taking the money and  
5 running. It's taking the money and doing  
6 something with our city. We're in the process  
7 of revitalization and I know, being a City  
8 Councilor for the last four years, I know some  
9 of the challenges that we had with our budget  
10 from the challenges from the state downshifting  
11 to us, and where else can we find some money to  
12 do the projects that we're doing for our  
13 revitalization and for our mill districts. And  
14 thank you very much.

15 (Applause)

16 MR. HONIGBERG: Ellen Schaffer, followed by  
17 Taras Kucman and Jane Difley.

18 SPEAKER: Hello. My name is Ellen  
19 Schaffer, and I'm a resident of Concord. I am  
20 speaking tonight as a citizen of New Hampshire  
21 and more specifically of Concord. I do not want  
22 the Northern Pass at all, but because our  
23 neighbors in the south need more electricity,

1 I'm willing to support a compromise as long as  
2 it is not at the expense of destroying the  
3 beauty and tranquility of our beautiful state  
4 and its capital city. This is what will happen  
5 if the line goes above ground or through the  
6 right-of-way. The destruction of so many trees  
7 and the humming of the lines will ruin the  
8 surrounding areas, especially in Concord which  
9 has the most new towers of any area.

10 Seventy-seven new towers are scheduled to be  
11 built in Concord, destroying farmland, Turtle  
12 Pond, and passing way too close to homes. For  
13 this reason, it must be buried along roads and  
14 not in the right-of-way.

15 When I heard Bill Quinlan's comment that he  
16 wasn't hearing much opposition from people in  
17 central and southern New Hampshire, I contacted  
18 my neighbor, Sue Woodard, and who had a sign  
19 saying Stop Northern Pass in her yard, and we  
20 started the following Petition which states: We  
21 support burying the Northern Pass Transmission  
22 lines through the entire state but especially  
23 through Concord where they will be in close

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1           proximity to many homes. We have gathered 1102  
2           signature on this Petition and I have to say we  
3           only had maybe 2 or 3 dozen people in Concord  
4           that would not sign it in all the people we  
5           spoke to. So I would like to have this entered  
6           into the record. Thank you.

7                           (Applause)

8           SPEAKER: My name is Taras Kucman. I'd  
9           like to thank the DOE and I'd like to thank the  
10          SEC for allowing me to speak this evening. I'm  
11          wearing orange, and it comes as no surprise that  
12          I am opposed to the project as it is stated.  
13          I'm a 20-year resident of Concord and I live on  
14          the right-of-way. I've been a resident and  
15          engineer and I've been a US Army engineer in the  
16          past. I was commissioned back in 1983. And I'm  
17          glad that the Corps of Engineers is represented  
18          this evening also. My point is that what's  
19          rarely brought up is the national security risk  
20          of what's being proposed here this evening.

21                   Right now it's a very simple right-of-way.  
22          It's got two sources of energy on an east and on  
23          the western boundary. They're 115,000 volt

1 lines. They're separated by about 150 feet, and  
2 they're about 55-foot towers so if they fall  
3 down in either direction, it makes no risk or  
4 impacts nobody.

5 However, if this project proceeds as it is  
6 planned, they will crowd that right-of-way,  
7 simply 250 feet wide, the western boundary  
8 service will be moved 40 feet closer to the  
9 residences, and the towers are going from 55  
10 feet to 85 feet, and then the artery, the 345 kV  
11 will go right down the middle and that's where  
12 the rub is.

13 To put it in context, I'd just like to say  
14 that we recall the blackout of 2003. You may  
15 recall that the blackout went clearly from  
16 Massachusetts up through Minnesota and way into  
17 Ontario. What caused that. That was a simple  
18 event. It was heat in the summer, August.  
19 Closed plants put additional plants on other  
20 wires. Wires sagged, shorted out the ground,  
21 blacking out power supplies. Further blackouts.  
22 The rolling blackout lasted three hours. So  
23 that by 4 o'clock everything was blacked out but

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1 the blackout stopped. Luckily, it was not a big  
2 deal.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Kaufman, it actually  
4 works better if you speak to the microphone.  
5 People in the back will hear you better if you  
6 speak to the microphone.

7 MR. KUCMAN: Okay. Will do. The repairs  
8 were made and within a week everybody even out  
9 in Ontario had power back. But now I would ask  
10 that you consider in that context we had Y2K.  
11 In that context we had 9/11 and then we had this  
12 blackout. There was a lot of fear and anxiety  
13 as to what was going on. So now I would ask you  
14 to consider that in today's environment, what if  
15 someone were compelled to create a spectacular  
16 event like blowing the outside towers inward  
17 towards the Hydro-Quebec line and take the  
18 Hydro-Quebec line and then blow it so that it  
19 falls in either direction. I guarantee you as  
20 someone that's been qualified in building  
21 bridges or blowing them up, knocking down poles  
22 is not a problem. Anybody hell-bent on doing  
23 that could do it.

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1 I would ask that DHS consider what the  
2 impact of such a catastrophe would be, not in  
3 August but on a coldest evening in February.  
4 Eversource and Northern Pass may go ahead and  
5 say that hey, this has never happened. There  
6 are much greater targets, say, in Gary, Indiana,  
7 or in Toronto. I don't know if you've driven  
8 through the QEW in Toronto or if you've ever  
9 been to Gary, Indiana, but having towers like  
10 that come through New Hampshire would probably  
11 be the biggest dream that Bill Quinlan and Tom  
12 May could ever have. I just do not understand  
13 how they can rely on '20s and '30s technology so  
14 use that as a justification for increasing the  
15 return on their investment. There's no excuse  
16 for it. Automobiles replaced --

17 MR. HONIGBERT: Mr. Kucman, how much more  
18 do you have?

19 MR. KUCMAN: Half a minute. Automobiles  
20 replaced horse drawn carriages, cassettes  
21 replaced 8-tracks. Buried transmission lines  
22 will replace monopoles and towers. Your  
23 competitors have figured it out. Why haven't

1           you.

2           In closing, while TSA continues to grope  
3           women and children looking for explosives and  
4           box cutters that are not there, and the FBI is  
5           still struggling with constitutional  
6           ramifications of breaking into terrorists'  
7           Facebook accounts, terrorists are looking to  
8           astonish us again within the next spectacular  
9           event. It takes no imagination to conclude that  
10          the casualties from such an event as I have  
11          described would make 9/11 look like a fireworks  
12          celebration gone wrong.

13          Regardless, I still believe in the premise  
14          that the key to adult learning is repetition,  
15          and in that spirit I say to you again, bury the  
16          Northern Pass completely. Aside from that, I  
17          have no strong opinion. Thank you.

18          SPEAKER: Thank you for holding these  
19          meeting this evening. I appreciate it. My name  
20          is Jane Difley, and I'm here this evening  
21          representing the Society for the Protection of  
22          New Hampshire Forests where I serve as the  
23          President/Forester. Last week at the hearing in

1 Meredith, I summarized the Forest Society four  
2 concerns with the Northern Pass project as  
3 proposed. In Colebrook, Will Abbott reviewed  
4 concerns we have about the project's impacts on  
5 two of our largest forest reservations. Tonight  
6 I would like to address a basic concern before  
7 the SEC. That is, how you determine whether  
8 this project serves the public interest.

9 The Forest Society protects land because of  
10 the public benefits such conservation provides.  
11 We hold conserved lands in the public trust. It  
12 is our duty to defend these conserved lands from  
13 interests that would adversely affect the  
14 conservation values inherent in these lands.  
15 Similarly, the state holds land in public trust  
16 and has similar stewardship obligations for  
17 state parks, state forests and state wildlife  
18 conservation areas.

19 Eversource is a private company with a  
20 fiduciary obligation to its shareholders.  
21 There's nothing inherently wrong with this, but  
22 the interests they bring to this table are very  
23 different from the interests of those who

1           steward the public trust. When Mr. Quinlan says  
2           that he believes that the Northern Pass project  
3           as proposed is balanced, he is using a scale  
4           where money is the primary counterweight. What  
5           Eversource has proposed is a project that its  
6           customer, Hydro-Quebec, says that it is willing  
7           to pay to build.

8           The scale that the SEC must use to assess  
9           whether the project serves the public interest  
10          is very different. The counterweight on your  
11          scale is the public interest in protecting  
12          public lands, water resources, private lands  
13          conserved for public benefit and the scenic  
14          landscapes that New Hampshire advertises around  
15          the globe to visitors to support our tourism  
16          economy. In a nutshell, the resources held in  
17          this public trust should not and cannot be for  
18          sale, nor be made available for long-term lease.

19          The State's wetland resources are a  
20          critical piece of water resources held in public  
21          trust. The State's wetland protection law, RSA  
22          482-A, requires an Applicant for a wetland  
23          permit to demonstrate that it has studied

1 alternatives that would avoid any adverse  
2 impacts to the maximum extent practicable. Only  
3 then can the Applicant look to minimize or  
4 mitigate impacts.

5 The Northern Pass application asks the New  
6 Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
7 to issue wetland permits for disturbance of an  
8 astounding 142 acres of wetland from Pittsburg  
9 to Deerfield. In the 27,000 pages of the  
10 application, we see no evidence that the  
11 Applicant has actually studied any alternative  
12 that would avoid any of the wetland impacts.  
13 Rather it appears to suggest that they simply  
14 need to write a large check to the state's  
15 wetland mitigation fund for the 142 acres of  
16 damage proposed without considering any  
17 alternative that would significantly avoid these  
18 impacts. Our preliminary analysis suggests that  
19 there are reasonable alternatives that would  
20 allow Northern Pass to be built in a way that  
21 substantially reduces the wetland impacts.  
22 The point is that Northern Pass should be  
23 required to present information documenting that

1 they have actually considered alternatives that  
2 would avoid the wetland impacts in the current  
3 application. The statute requires it so the  
4 public interest requires it.

5 As you begin your review of the Northern  
6 Pass application, we ask that you consider the  
7 public interest finding that you are charged to  
8 make in a manner that fully values the public  
9 trust and the resources that it is intended to  
10 protect. Thank you.

11 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the  
12 Committee for this opportunity. I do know my  
13 statement is closer to four minutes so I'll just  
14 say that from the outset.

15 MR. HONIGBERG: We won't cut the mike off.

16 SPEAKER: Thank you. Appreciate that. I'm  
17 Susan Arnold, the Vice President for  
18 Conservation for the Appalachian Mountain Club.

19 The AMC is the oldest conservation and  
20 recreation organization in the country with more  
21 than 100,000 members and supporters from Maine  
22 to Washington, DC, including more than 12,000  
23 here in New Hampshire. In our 140-year history,

1 AMC has helped to protect this region's open  
2 spaces, including from poorly sited energy  
3 projects such as Northern Pass which is  
4 requesting to use high impact old technologies  
5 to maximize profits at the expense of New  
6 Hampshire's iconic landscape. Yes, parts of  
7 this proposed project use an existing  
8 right-of-way where current tower structures are  
9 less than tree height. This project will  
10 congest that right-of-way with over 1100 new  
11 towers that are more than 2 to 3 times tree  
12 height and cut a new swath for 40 miles through  
13 northern New Hampshire. This is not state of  
14 the art, and this is the unnecessary impact that  
15 has brought out so many people in opposition to  
16 this project as proposed.

17 I will reference but not repeat here AMC's  
18 comments provided earlier in other meetings by  
19 Dr. Kimball in Meredith in Chris Thayer in  
20 Waterville. The first point is that the choice  
21 before the SEC and the DOE is far from Northern  
22 Pass or nothing. It is whether you will allow  
23 the use of yesterday's technologies with their

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1 high environmental impacts at the expense of New  
2 Hampshire's landscape. You know that other  
3 competing projects are completely buried, using  
4 21st century technology and that different  
5 energy alternatives exist. Both the SEC  
6 application and the DEIS fail to acknowledge or  
7 appropriately examine competing or other  
8 reasonable alternatives to meet regional energy  
9 needs. The need for Northern Pass and its  
10 impacts must be reviewed within a broader  
11 framework.

12 Along with Northern Pass, other competitive  
13 projects have been bid into the newest New  
14 England Clean Energy RFP. These projects  
15 include solar, battery storage, offshore wind  
16 and more, and, ironically, one of these RFP  
17 projects, the Vermont Green Power Line, even has  
18 Hydro-Quebec power as part of its bid and it is  
19 a totally buried transmission proposal. Much of  
20 the future energy need Mr. Quinlan discussed in  
21 his opening presentation will be met with or  
22 without Northern Pass, but New Hampshire's  
23 landscape will be permanently scarred if

1 Northern Pass is approved as proposed.

2 Mentioned but downplayed in Mr. Quinlan's  
3 presentation and distributed energy and energy  
4 efficiency. These alternatives are clearly ways  
5 to help meet future energy need without the  
6 negative environmental impacts and increased  
7 foreign trade deficit of Northern Pass, and in  
8 fact, they would create more New Hampshire jobs  
9 than Northern Pass. Energy efficiency and  
10 distributed generation are emphasized in New  
11 Hampshire's 2014 update of our ten-year energy  
12 strategy, but it's not even sited in the DEIS or  
13 the SEC application. Why not. It should be.

14 Paradigm shifts for meeting energy needs  
15 are happening at an accelerating rate. On  
16 Tuesday night, the town of Lancaster voted for  
17 solar arrays to reduce the town's total energy  
18 cost by 25 percent. Ironically, Franklin's plan  
19 to build a much larger solar project can't  
20 proceed until more people are allowed to net  
21 meter though it would halve that city's electric  
22 bill. Big utilities like Eversource are  
23 blocking efforts to increase net metering.

1 Eversource and its ilk are themselves the  
2 primary barrier to getting more distributed  
3 generation online faster.

4 Northern Pass's presentation discussed the  
5 New England region's Forward Capacity market and  
6 argues that prices will be going up in the  
7 short-term because of the scarcity situation,  
8 but Moody's most recent analysis this last month  
9 states this market is expected to be further  
10 depressed, i.e., prices lowered, because of the  
11 amount and variety of resources that will be  
12 available. From demand side commitments from  
13 big energy users to the nation's first offshore  
14 wind farm off Block Island to two large fuel  
15 cell facilities, and, finally, the first  
16 long-term forecast for solar growth that shows  
17 small scale New England solar reducing demand by  
18 390 megawatts in 2020. That's 50 percent of the  
19 tower going off line because of the Pilgrim  
20 nuclear power retirement. The DEIS's analysis  
21 of these alternatives is absent or much out of  
22 date and needs to be included and updated in the  
23 FEIS, and these are factors the SEC should

1 consider when it determines the overall public  
2 benefit or lack thereof of Northern Pass as  
3 proposed. Thank you for your time and your  
4 consideration.

5 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Tom  
6 Colgan. I work for Wagner Forest Management, a  
7 company based in Lyme, New Hampshire, with an  
8 office in Errol, New Hampshire. Wagner Forest  
9 Management owns and operates 100,000 acres or  
10 more of working forest in Coos County, much of  
11 which was depicted upon an earlier slide this  
12 evening that Mr. Quinlan showed of where the  
13 proposed route of the project would go through  
14 the Northern Pass.

15 We employ many local residents who harvest  
16 a sustainable supply of raw materials used in  
17 wood businesses based in northern New Hampshire.  
18 I'm here tonight in support of the Northern Pass  
19 project. Twenty-four miles of the proposed  
20 route will be over our land. When we were first  
21 approached by the Northern Pass folks about a  
22 right-of-way over our land, we spent an enormous  
23 amount of time talking to them, working with

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1           them, using our firsthand local knowledge of the  
2           property to ensure that it was going to cross  
3           our land in the most environmentally friendly  
4           way possible. That location you see on the map  
5           is where we wanted it as much as and more so  
6           than where Northern Pass wanted it.

7           You've heard and will continue to hear many  
8           people espousing the importance of and necessity  
9           to bury the entire line through the entire 192  
10          section miles of the proposed project. Our  
11          24-mile section is proposed to be above ground,  
12          and that's exactly where we want it. In a  
13          working forest, you want to be able to see the  
14          obstacles that might be in your way. I can see  
15          a power line above the ground. I can't see one  
16          buried. With all the skidders, the harvesters,  
17          trucks, bulldozers, the excavators that work  
18          every day, that's the last thing I want to do is  
19          be worried about any issues that occur with the  
20          equipment that we use. And for the comments  
21          that it's an incalculable, I think, quote of  
22          disturbance of the aesthetics of the property,  
23          it's a perfectly compatible use with a working

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1 forest. It's compatible with all the  
2 recreational uses that go on on our land, and  
3 it's a privilege that we offer the local public.

4 Our company believes that climate change is  
5 real, and we do more than just believe the talk  
6 about it. We walk the talk. We have been a  
7 developer of a wind project and we still manage  
8 a wind project in Maine. We're been an investor  
9 in Granite Reliable project in northern New  
10 Hampshire. We used to be a part-owner of the  
11 largest wood pellet business based in Jaffrey,  
12 New Hampshire, New England Wood Pellets.

13 So we walk the talk. And when I look at  
14 this project, it will bring renewable energy.  
15 Baseload hydropower. We also have solar panels  
16 on our property, on our office, that we put up  
17 with our own money, and I can tell you if I had  
18 to live with only the power it generated every  
19 day I would be cold and dark, and my computer  
20 would not work. It's as simple as that. It's a  
21 laudable cause, but it's not always the answer.  
22 It's part of the big choices that one should  
23 have.

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1 Technology Committee and as a member of the New  
2 Hampshire Clean Tech Council, I have always been  
3 interested in the intersection of design  
4 aesthetics, power production, environmental  
5 protection and economic profitability.

6 My work today continues to combine these  
7 four components in what I hope are balanced and  
8 practical, yet beautiful, solutions. The  
9 Northern Pass is a challenging project to  
10 consider when these requirements are applied to  
11 it. Yet I believe that there is a way to  
12 balance all and do that in harmony. This  
13 project will be a long enduring source of power  
14 for many years to come, and for that reason we  
15 should take the long view and make sure that it  
16 over time does nothing to diminish the  
17 aesthetics of our beautiful state. That long  
18 timeline also enables us to recoup its profits  
19 and to spread out the costs over time as well.

20 For these reasons I rise to contribute my  
21 voice to these who would like to see the line  
22 buried for the entire distance through the North  
23 Country. The economics have been proven,

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1 feasible in our neighboring states of Vermont  
2 and Maine. Burying the line would lead our  
3 wilderness a pristine wilderness without the  
4 imposition of horrendously ugly towers cutting  
5 across the landscape and would minimize the  
6 environmental impact. Over time, perhaps a  
7 little longer than has originally been planned,  
8 revenue would be recouped and profits would not  
9 diminish to unacceptable levels.

10 At the same time, I believe that the  
11 developers should show a commitment to New  
12 Hampshire's ability to self-generate power,  
13 renewable power in the North Country, and  
14 provide a way to help it get to market in the  
15 southern tier of the state. I know there is  
16 talk of Northern Pass providing economic support  
17 for the upgrade of the Coos loop which would  
18 enable the green power produced in the North  
19 Country to make its way south. I encourage the  
20 commitment of support to be realized and for the  
21 sake of our local economy and our commitment to  
22 our natural habitat. It is a small price to pay  
23 that will enable our great State of New

1 Hampshire to self-generate power using its own  
2 resources. This will make us less reliant on  
3 energy from over our border. It will enable us  
4 to produce a greater economic churn from every  
5 dollar spent on energy that is spent within our  
6 state borders, in some cases generating economic  
7 activity over six times its original value.

8 The New Hampshire Clean Tech Market report  
9 dated in February of 2015 states on page 15  
10 that, quote, if New Hampshire could achieve the  
11 kind of relatively more efficient relationship  
12 between total energy expenditures and the  
13 economic activity as Massachusetts, which  
14 happens to be one of the leaders in New England  
15 and in the nation in clean tech, then New  
16 Hampshire citizens and businesses would have  
17 spent \$2 billion less on energy in 2012 for the  
18 same level of economic output, and where would  
19 that \$2 billion have gone? Mostly back into the  
20 state's economy in other areas, boosting  
21 producers of other goods and services and  
22 incentivizing job creation, end quote.

23 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Swett. How much more

1 do you have?

2 MR. SWETT: Fifteen seconds. Northern Pass  
3 can help make this happen through support of  
4 that upgrade of the Coos loop. In conclusion,  
5 let me say that the beauty of our natural  
6 environment is central to our economic  
7 well-being as we share it with all who come to  
8 visit our beautiful state. We need to protect  
9 our environment and at the same time allow for  
10 utilization of our natural resources for the  
11 generation of power that creates more than light  
12 in the night. It creates employment for the  
13 many more people, far more people than will be  
14 employed by Northern Pass long after it's been  
15 built. The balancing of these points will allow  
16 profits to be realized by all parties concerned,  
17 the economy will be strengthened, and the future  
18 of our state will remain bright. I encourage  
19 the burial of the Northern Pass line and the  
20 upgrade of the Coos loop for these reasons.  
21 Thank you very much.

22 (Applause)

23 SPEAKER: I'm Fred Brownson from Wentworth,

1 New Hampshire. I'm here to speak to the  
2 question of the adequacy of the Environmental  
3 Impact Statement and the SEC evaluation on  
4 local, region and national security. Five  
5 points to be made.

6 First, the failure of a grid for more than  
7 3 or 4 days extending into weeks or months would  
8 be a catastrophic impact on the people, tens of  
9 millions of people, who are served by the grid.

10 Number two, a rather tightly veiled secret  
11 for decades with penetrations from time to time  
12 from retired utility executives and retired  
13 government officials is the vulnerability of our  
14 electric grids to attack from those who would do  
15 harm to us, whether they be rogue nations like  
16 Korea and the iso call fate to more mature  
17 nations like Iran, China, Russia. They all have  
18 the capability to take down our grid. The  
19 amateur hacker could probably do it one day, but  
20 the vulnerability is there.

21 Number 3, as to New England, that  
22 vulnerability becomes greater the more power we  
23 import from a foreign nation with a massive

1 transmission and transformer infrastructure that  
2 is vulnerable to attack in an area that our  
3 government cannot defend.

4 Fourth, the very existence of increasing  
5 dependence upon Canadian power and the economic  
6 stake that the utilities have in that creates a  
7 major barrier to the ultimate solution to  
8 security which is microgrids. And, finally, the  
9 EIS and I suspect the SEC evaluation have failed  
10 completely to address these issues. Fortunately  
11 for us, and this is my written submission this  
12 evening, Ted Koppel, who was at the top of the  
13 ABC news network for years, a terrific  
14 investigative reporter, released last year a  
15 book that made it to the New York Times  
16 bestseller list titled Lights Out. Ted examines  
17 these issues in great depth and pulls the veil  
18 of secrecy back off of this subject in a way  
19 that had not been previously been accomplished.

20 I thank you for the opportunity to say  
21 these words this evening, and I hope you will  
22 take this Koppel book and where is the DOE?  
23 I've already sent one to the head of the SEC,

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1 and, hopefully, they'll pay some attention to  
2 it.

3 SPEAKER: Thank you, especially for the  
4 correct pronunciation of my last name. My name  
5 is Greg Rahe, and I've worked for Eversource New  
6 Hampshire for 14 years. As an account executive  
7 I worked with Eversource's large commercial  
8 industrial customers in the greater Seacoast  
9 area. The Seacoast is growing at twice the rate  
10 of the rest of the state and is expected to  
11 represent approximately 25 percent of New  
12 Hampshire's electrical by 2020. The growth is  
13 due in part to business expansion. Several of  
14 the largest industrial customers on the Seacoast  
15 are multi-national concerns with corporate  
16 offices located in Europe and Asia. When  
17 deciding where to expand, Seacoast businesses  
18 are often competing against their counterparts  
19 in other US locations or abroad. The talent  
20 pool companies can draw from is abundant which  
21 strengthens the argument to expand here.  
22 However, many of these customers have stated  
23 that the high cost of utilities, especially

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1 electricity, is a prime concern. They tell that  
2 electric rates for their businesses in New  
3 Hampshire are nearly double the national average  
4 for manufacturing and almost 40 percent higher  
5 for the commercial segment. These are energy  
6 intensive businesses that consume a lot of  
7 electricity, and any opportunity for them to  
8 reduce their variable costs is very beneficial.

9 To give you some perspective, a large  
10 business on the Seacoast consumes three million  
11 kilowatt hours a month. That's 6000 times more  
12 than the average home. To equate those figures  
13 to cost, that business would pay \$255,000 a  
14 month for energy, not including transmission and  
15 distribution charges. A five percent reduction  
16 in energy cost would save the business upwards  
17 of \$108,000 annually. Those are funds that they  
18 could use to hire additional staff, expand their  
19 product line and give back to the communities.

20 I support Northern Pass because it's a  
21 renewable energy source which will reduce energy  
22 prices, help mitigate the price volatility we've  
23 witnessed over the last several winters and help

1 business and industry thrive and expand in New  
2 Hampshire. Thank you.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: For those paying a  
4 babysitter at home, we're about a third of the  
5 way through the pile.

6 SPEAKER: Committee members, my name is  
7 Susan Percy. I'm going to make this very easy  
8 for you. You have a great job in front of you.  
9 Hard work. I encourage you to either deny the  
10 project as it's presented or insist that the  
11 line be buried. My testimony is included.  
12 Thank you very much.

13 SPEAKER: Thank you. I'm Frederick Fitts,  
14 a property owner in Whitefield, and I teach  
15 courses in environmental history. My ancestors  
16 showed up in New Hampshire in the 1600s and now  
17 responsibility for the land is on our watch just  
18 as it was earlier on theirs. So I speak with  
19 some reference for tradition. The decisions  
20 that you make here will have a huge impact on  
21 the legacy that you bestow to our state. Think  
22 well on it. Nothing is lost by taking time to  
23 reflect on the degradation of a transformed

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1 landscape. When you walk out of here tonight,  
2 when you meet to make siting decisions, you will  
3 see and feel the power provided by electricity.  
4 We use it, we need it, we appreciate its  
5 advantages as it lights our world, and you may  
6 also turn out those lights at times, perhaps  
7 when you read your child a bedtime story. I'd  
8 recommend *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss.

9 All across this state, thousands of  
10 citizens are dependent on the power this company  
11 provides, but what my neighbors and I in the  
12 North Country resist is the transformed power of  
13 the landscape you have the power to prevent.  
14 The issue here is not about jobs, not about  
15 individual rights to the land or corporate  
16 rights to provide services, nor about individual  
17 preferences.

18 The one issue in front of you is your  
19 responsibility to our common birthright. An  
20 environment preserved from selfish and greedy  
21 assault and scarred by corporate muscle. The  
22 lands around our community, the vistas we see  
23 are not the provenance of the powerful and the

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1           wealthy and the greedy. The scar that enormous  
2           towers represent stands as emblematic of a  
3           willingness to give privilege to profit over  
4           preservation. To prioritize speedy development  
5           over assured safety and to declare that all  
6           progress is good progress.

7           So I rise here and ask that you embrace the  
8           precautionary principle and oppose a project  
9           whose electromagnetic health risks are yet  
10          unknown, and I rise here to ask that you reject  
11          the project whose negative transformation to the  
12          environment is known and would be visible to  
13          every community as long as steel shall stand  
14          against sky.

15          I am asking you to stand against these  
16          towers. Bury them if this project is, in your  
17          judgment, essential, but deny the right to  
18          degrade our state. You will leave a legacy to  
19          your children and to my children and to the  
20          children of power company executives. You will  
21          decide if enormous towers that can be buried are  
22          worth degrading our communities. I am asking  
23          that you not allow this company's proposed scar

1 to be tattooed onto our common landscape. Thank  
2 you.

3 (Applause)

4 SPEAKER: My name is Bill Felling. I'm  
5 here tonight to urge you to look very closely at  
6 the entire path of construction that  
7 Hydro-Quebec and its partner Eversource plan to  
8 wreak on our state, the great state of New  
9 Hampshire. New Hampshire is famous for  
10 mountains, forests and natural beauty. Over the  
11 years its citizens have been careful stewards of  
12 land across the state to ensure a quality of  
13 life unparalleled now and for future  
14 generations. Whole swaths of forests have been  
15 preserved from development through easements,  
16 pastures are protected, entire mountain ranges  
17 cover the state with extraordinary majesty.  
18 Lakes, rivers and streams are enjoyed by people  
19 and wildlife existing together.

20 The Northern Pass project as proposed  
21 threatens what New Hampshire residents have  
22 prized, all for the sake of greed. Billions of  
23 dollars are projected to be realized by private

1 companies at our expense. Our citizens will not  
2 have long-term jobs. Our electric rates will  
3 not go down. We the residents of New Hampshire  
4 cannot win anything.

5 I'm here to speak for the members of Percy  
6 Summer Club whose properties are located on the  
7 western shore of Christine Lake in Stark.  
8 According to the Society for the Protection of  
9 New Hampshire Forests, Christine Lake is the  
10 closest thing to a wilderness lake in the state.  
11 The lake is open to the public, is a trout  
12 fishery and hosts nesting loons. Ospreys and  
13 bald eagles are often seen.

14 Almost 30 years ago, members of the Percy  
15 Summer Club worked with the state of New  
16 Hampshire and the Forest Society to ensure that  
17 the water and watershed of Christine Lake would  
18 be permanently protected, preserving the unique  
19 area for future generations. Easements on  
20 Percy's Summer Club land combined with state  
21 management of the Nash Stream tract and longtime  
22 club member John Kauffmann's donation of the  
23 nearly 2000-acre Kauffmann Forest surrounding

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1 the lake have made that vision a reality.

2 Until today, that is, when Northern Pass  
3 proposes to erect a series of towers over 100  
4 feet in height, using the existing PSNH  
5 right-of-way which runs along the ridge on the  
6 entire southern shore of the lake. Unlike the  
7 current towers in the right-of-way, these new  
8 towers will be visible from the lake itself as  
9 well as from the surrounding trails and  
10 mountains. Whether swimming, fishing, boating  
11 or hiking, the transmission towers will become a  
12 permanent part of the experience of Christine  
13 Lake. The right-of-way runs directly through  
14 the Kauffmann Forest making a mockery of John's  
15 lifelong efforts to secure the viewshed.

16 When the right-of-way was originally  
17 granted to Public Service New Hampshire, there  
18 was in fact a public service involved, the need  
19 to provide reliable electricity to the residents  
20 of Coos County. While no one is busy taking  
21 sunset photos of the existing power lines, we  
22 all understand their purpose and the fact that  
23 they serve a legitimate local need. Not so with

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1 Northern Pass. While it can be argued that this  
2 project will benefit energy markets in southern  
3 New England, that should not be a license to  
4 permanently mar the precious landscape of  
5 northern New Hampshire. Especially when  
6 Northern Pass has already acknowledged that the  
7 technology exists to bury this new and intrusive  
8 power line. They are, after all, proposing to  
9 do exactly that in some few sections. Clearly,  
10 the transition from PSNH to Eversource has  
11 removed public service from more than their  
12 name.

13 I urge you to deny this project as  
14 presented. The SEC through our RSA 162-H:16  
15 must find that this project will not have an  
16 unreasonable adverse effect on aesthetics,  
17 historic sites, air and water quality, the  
18 natural environment and the public health and  
19 safety. There is nothing reasonable in any  
20 portion of the proposal by Northern Pass. There  
21 is nothing natural about the proposal running  
22 from Canada to New Hampshire. This project  
23 simply does not meet the tests of the Site

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1 Evaluation Committee, and, importantly, the  
2 citizens of New Hampshire. Do the right thing  
3 for the residents. Deny this application.  
4 Thank you.

5 (Applause)

6 SPEAKER: Good evening. Thank you. My  
7 name is Bob Clay. I'm a businessman, former  
8 senator, and I'm here tonight speaking on behalf  
9 of the Small Business and Small Industry  
10 Association in New Hampshire. One of our  
11 biggest issues facing small businesses is the  
12 cost of electricity. New Hampshire pays on the  
13 average 50 percent more for electricity than  
14 other regions of the country, mainly due to our  
15 lack of an adequate supply. This is a make or  
16 break issue for my members, many of whom are the  
17 Mom and Pop's operations that still drive a big  
18 piece of New Hampshire economy. When I look at  
19 a project like Northern Pass offering clean  
20 hydropower from Canada, with most of it  
21 constructed underground or in existing  
22 right-of-ways and driving down energy costs to  
23 consumers and businesses, to me it's a

1 no-brainer. New Hampshire should be doing  
2 everything it can to move the project forward.

3 As I look around the room and as I've  
4 looked at other places that I've testified, I  
5 see the loudest opponents of the project are  
6 group likes New England Power Generators, the  
7 Appalachian Mountain Club, the Forest Society,  
8 groups that seem to make the most noise but  
9 certainly don't represent my interests, the  
10 interests of my members or majority of the New  
11 Hampshire people who support this project.

12 The power generators have an interest in  
13 providing power at the highest price possible  
14 because that's what their supporters and their  
15 company is expected to do. Groups like AMC and  
16 the Forest Society, which neither provide many  
17 jobs where I come from in the southern tier,  
18 still consider that under no circumstances  
19 should this project go through unless its lines  
20 are buried because of the views. I'd like to  
21 remind everybody that the North Country  
22 valiantly fought that the views were worth  
23 anything. In the statewide property tax they

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1 demanded that they not be included in the  
2 assessment because they had no real value. So  
3 today to listen that suddenly their view has a  
4 value is surprising to me and maybe it's time  
5 that we revalued them for the statewide property  
6 tax. We all know that burial of the lines is  
7 meant to do nothing more than stop the project.  
8 It's not economically feasible and it will shut  
9 it down. But I can tell if we don't provide  
10 more power, then we won't have any more jobs.

11 I also partner in a business that provides  
12 an awful lot of commercial and industrial space.  
13 When we lost Seabrook nuclear power plant in  
14 1999, we lost a lot of companies that were going  
15 to move in. Right now we're starting to lose  
16 businesses who provide jobs because they can no  
17 longer afford the cost of electricity. If we  
18 don't allow the hydropower to come in, and we  
19 continue to make gas the major source, we will  
20 soon be a state with no jobs, not even the  
21 service industry jobs. Thank you very much.

22 (Applause)

23 SPEAKER: Okay. It's Welch, W E L C H.

1 First name Don. In the spirit of town meeting  
2 here in New Hampshire, I was going to call the  
3 vote, but I get this isn't the meeting for that  
4 so I'll move on with my remarks. Thank you for  
5 the opportunity to speak.

6 I'm a resident of Bow. I'm a native of New  
7 Hampshire. I'm also very fortunate to serve as  
8 the President of Globe Manufacturing Company in  
9 Pittsfield, 20 minutes from here. Global is a  
10 127-year-old family business, been in New  
11 Hampshire since the early 1900s and we employ  
12 about 300 folks here in New Hampshire. We also  
13 have smaller plants in Maine and Oklahoma.

14 We're fortunate to have a wonderful,  
15 wonderful workforce in Pittsfield, but we're in  
16 a very competitive business. As I said, we're  
17 selling fire suits so from small municipalities  
18 that we are very proud of like in the North  
19 Country to very large cities like Washington,  
20 DC, Atlanta, Dallas, you name them, and it's a  
21 competitive business. Costs are important to  
22 us. We're the largest employer in the  
23 Pittsfield area. As you probably know,

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1           Pittsfield is a region with a long and very  
2           proud history of manufacturing, but it's seen  
3           that manufacturing base crumble dramatically in  
4           the past few decades. We're the largest  
5           employer as I mentioned by far and we have great  
6           benefits and very good pay to our employees.  
7           We're an important cog in the local economy.

8           As a manufacturer, rely on power for almost  
9           everything that we do. Electricity. When we  
10          start up the machines in the morning to cut the  
11          high tech fabrics that go into the garments we  
12          make, they're powered by electricity. The  
13          sewing machines that join the panels are powered  
14          by electricity. Even our customer service  
15          people who are communicating with our customers  
16          are doing it our computer terminals and need  
17          electricity.

18          So one of our basic needs is low cost  
19          reliability power. It's simple, right? I can't  
20          run my operation without those things. As we  
21          all know, electric costs in New Hampshire are  
22          among the highest in the country. As I compare  
23          my costs in New Hampshire to my plant in

1 Oklahoma, my costs are about double what they  
2 are in Oklahoma. So we have other issues in New  
3 Hampshire. It's not just about electric power,  
4 and I understand that. Labor costs are lower in  
5 other markets. Housing costs are lower, medical  
6 costs are lower, but electricity is a big part  
7 of it as the gentleman before me noted, and I  
8 hear this from other manufacturers so I'm not  
9 necessarily a small business or manufacturing  
10 business, I communicate with other manufacturing  
11 companies. They struggle with many of the same  
12 issues about as I want to grow and make my  
13 business better, do I do it in New Hampshire or  
14 do I look to other places in the country.

15 The challenge is, you know, we in this room  
16 think ah, people aren't going to leave. We have  
17 options, and, you know, I'm not threatening, but  
18 businesses have to make those choices.

19 The bottom line is we've got to find ways  
20 to lower electricity costs. If we want to  
21 continue to see businesses grow and thrive in  
22 New Hampshire, which I think is important to our  
23 economy, then we need to address the energy

1 crisis. I think the Northern Pass project will  
2 bring reliable, lower cost energy to New  
3 Hampshire which will begin to address our  
4 region's economic competitiveness. I don't  
5 believe Northern Pass is the end-all solution.  
6 I understand we need other energy development  
7 projects. I'm in support of all those, whether  
8 it's natural gas pipelines, solar energy  
9 development, wind farms, and I fully support  
10 energy conservation. I know businesses, many,  
11 myself included, are doing a lot of work in that  
12 area because it makes economic sense, but I  
13 believe in the future we're going to need the  
14 additional power that Northern Pass will  
15 generate. I think it's a wonderful opportunity,  
16 and I don't want to see us let it slip by.

17 One other point. The scenic vistas. As a  
18 New Hampshire native, as I mentioned, I spent a  
19 lot of time in the North Country since I was a  
20 little boy camping, hiking, snowmobiling, in the  
21 winter skiing, I enjoy the North Country and I  
22 enjoy our whole state so I appreciate your  
23 concerns about scenic vistas, but I also have to

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1 balance those with the economics. I think the  
2 Northern Pass folks have done a good job  
3 addressing the key scenic vista areas, and I  
4 recognize that others have concerns about this,  
5 but most of the lines near as I can tell are in  
6 existing right-of-ways, under roadways, et  
7 cetera, so I think we just need to be able to  
8 look forward without increasing the costs that  
9 we're all going to pay.

10 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Welch, can you bring it  
11 to a close, please?

12 MR. WELCH: Yes. In closing, as a  
13 long-term manufacturer and large employer in the  
14 state, I want to voice my support for the  
15 project. Manufacturing companies in the region  
16 need lower cost, reliable power. I think  
17 approval for the Northern Pass project is  
18 important to move us toward this goal. Thank  
19 you very much.

20 (Applause)

21 SPEAKER: Hi, my name is Lance Clute. I'm  
22 the Vice President of Operations for PAR  
23 Electrical Contractors, and we were recently

1 selected as the general contractor for the  
2 Northern Pass project.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: Can you spell your last  
4 name for the record, please?

5 MR. CLUTE: C L U T E. First and foremost,  
6 I want to thank the Site Evaluation Committee  
7 and the DOE for allowing me the opportunity to  
8 speak in support of the project.

9 I personally been involved with our  
10 operations here in New Hampshire and throughout  
11 New England for the past six years. Over that  
12 time frame we have constructed and maintained a  
13 large portion of the transmission lines that  
14 bring power to really everyone here in the room.  
15 We also have played a major role in restoring  
16 power during recent storm events. An example,  
17 we provided thousands of workers for Hurricanes  
18 Irene, Sandy and the October snowstorm.

19 We have an office located in Bow, and we  
20 currently employ approximately 200 people in New  
21 Hampshire. These employees live, work and raise  
22 families here in the State of New Hampshire, and  
23 you can be sure that all of them are looking

1 forward to working on the Northern Pass project  
2 staying here in New Hampshire. Some of these  
3 current employees are part of a program that  
4 Eversource and us started last year. The goal  
5 is to find New Hampshire residents that want to  
6 join the apprenticeship program. We hire these  
7 candidates, put them into the program, and  
8 approximately three and a half years later they  
9 become fully qualified line workers. We plan on  
10 continuing this program throughout Northern Pass  
11 and into the future. What that does is allows  
12 these men and women to be able to stay and work  
13 in New Hampshire even long after the Northern  
14 Pass project is finished and completed.

15 Based on my experience on past projects,  
16 Northern Pass will add thousands of jobs to the  
17 New Hampshire economy, and only a small portion  
18 of those jobs will be those line workers. The  
19 larger portion and the greatest portion will be  
20 from local road builders, excavation companies,  
21 lumber mills, loggers, landscapers, waste  
22 management companies, aggregate hauling,  
23 equipment maintenance, trucking and I could go

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1 on and on.

2 I also wanted to give you an order of  
3 magnitude of some of the legal spend that we  
4 occur from the project. With our experience in  
5 the past projects, I put together an estimate of  
6 these spends for the local now. We expect to  
7 spend \$7 million on gravel. Upwards of \$10  
8 million on concrete. \$27 million on conduit and  
9 other items for the construction of the duct  
10 banks and substations. Our lodging and means  
11 from all of the people working in this project  
12 we would expect to be \$20,000,000 and above.  
13 Fuel costs alone for our equipment, not  
14 including the folks that drive to and from work,  
15 will add up around \$10 million. And believe it  
16 or not we will spend over a million dollars on  
17 ice, water and Porta-Potties. Keep in mind  
18 these are just a few of the direct spends that  
19 we will bring to the project. There are far nor  
20 indirect, some of the trickle down spends that  
21 will have a large impact on the economy.

22 In closing, I would like to urge the  
23 committee to approve the application. The

1 State's workforce, economy and well-being is  
2 best served by building Northern Pass. Thank  
3 you.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. HONIGBERG: I will note for the record  
6 that many years ago, more than ten years ago, I  
7 did legal work for one of Mr. Rubin's  
8 enterprises.

9 MR. RUBIN: Thank you, members of the  
10 Committee. This is amazing testimony to civil  
11 society in America that an issue that has been  
12 tense and divisive for this long can result in  
13 the civilized comments on both sides here, but  
14 it's no secret that American faith and  
15 confidence in our governing institutions has  
16 reached a historic low, and there is basis for  
17 this, and here, there is a lack of confidence in  
18 this process, the SEC and the DOE process here.  
19 People feel that this process is slanted in  
20 favor of the Applicant, and there is basis for  
21 that, and I'll just give you two examples for  
22 the basis for the sensation that this is a  
23 slanted process which has a known outcome or

1           predictable outcome.

2           Number one, the Applicant has testified  
3           this evening that they have requested use, quote  
4           unquote, requested use for a portion of the land  
5           on which the project is to be built. They don't  
6           control that then. They've testified as such  
7           this evening. I'm a real estate developer and  
8           if I had gone before a Planning Board with a  
9           project and I were to build a shopping mall as I  
10          have in the past and I would say I requested use  
11          of the land in your town over which you have  
12          oversight to build this project, the project  
13          would never have even received a hearing. So  
14          that's problem number one. They don't control  
15          the land, and, therefore, you should delay this  
16          entire process until the Applicant proves to you  
17          that they own or control the land.

18          Item number 2, that is a very substantial  
19          basis for the perception this is a slanted  
20          process. You hear claims that this will save  
21          money. And there are numbers associated with  
22          these claims as to the amount of money that will  
23          be saved, and yet we also hear that there is no

1 business relationship with numbers attached.  
2 The Power Purchase Agreement has either not been  
3 disclosed or does not exist. However, these  
4 numbers that are a basis for the projected  
5 savings must by definition be predicated on the  
6 at least assumptions as to the power purchase  
7 price and the prevailing price of electricity  
8 otherwise without the project. Let's see those  
9 numbers. Again, a basis for the lack of public  
10 confidence in this process. And there's  
11 reasonable basis for not trusting the Applicant.  
12 This applicant projected to us that their  
13 Merrimack station, their Bow power plant  
14 conversion with the scrubber was going to a big  
15 savings, and the cost would be X. The cost  
16 turned out to be 2X, and the ratepayers got  
17 stuck with that added cost. So, again, there's  
18 a basis for lack of confidence in the process.

19 So an idea, a solution idea. Obviously,  
20 people would much more readily accept this  
21 project if it were entirely buried. The  
22 incremental cost for that burial could be paid  
23 for, this is just an idea, creative idea, the

1 Applicant could voluntary go to FERC and say we  
2 will take a market rate of return, a risk  
3 appropriate market rate of return on the  
4 project, and that would compensate for all or a  
5 good deal of the incremental cost of burying the  
6 power line. What would be a market rate for the  
7 appropriate risk associated with this? Because  
8 it's a guaranteed return? 6 or 7 percent. Not  
9 11.07. Thank you very much.

10 (Applause)

11 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Lynn  
12 Woodard, W O O D A R D. I live in Concord, New  
13 Hampshire. I am in opposition to the Northern  
14 Pass proposed plan to construct overhead  
15 transmission towers and distribution lines  
16 through the city of Concord for the following  
17 reasons, and these reasons are part of the  
18 statutory requirement that you review and  
19 consider. Aesthetics, safety, and economics,  
20 and I'll be brief on these three subjects.

21 First, aesthetics. If this project with  
22 its proposed overhead lines is allowed to go  
23 forward, it will establish a visual blight on

1 the city of Concord for the next 40 years or the  
2 foreseeable future. New Hampshire's capital  
3 city will no longer be known as the fair city it  
4 is. It will be known as the city with the ugly  
5 125-foot towers in multiple lines. Due to the  
6 level of the topography of the Heights area,  
7 these towers will be visible for an extended  
8 distance.

9 Now, safety. Relocation of existing  
10 distribution towers from the center of the  
11 right-of-way to its western boundary will place  
12 private homes within the fall zone of these  
13 towers. It will place Concord citizens in  
14 direct danger should they fail due to weather  
15 conditions or other factors. For an excellent  
16 example, you have to look no further than the  
17 1993 ice storm that raced up the New England's  
18 east coast into Canada. There is a picture  
19 taken from the May 1998 issue of the National  
20 Geographic which I have here and I've included  
21 it in my letter to you. You can readily see how  
22 the 4 to 6 inches of ice totally collapsed the  
23 giant steel towers. A future storm of this type

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1           could cause power failures resulting in death  
2           and destruction, and I'm not kidding because we  
3           have a lot of homes that are very close to the  
4           right-of-way line now that these things are  
5           going to be relocated to the western edge. This  
6           is a health and safety issue that must be  
7           addressed and certainly you're here to hear this  
8           and hopefully you'll take into consideration.

9           Economics. Construction of the proposed  
10          towers and lines will diminish not only property  
11          values of adjacent property owners but also the  
12          22 percent of property owners who will be within  
13          the direct view of these towers. It will  
14          further inhibit residential development and  
15          recruitment of business and industry to this  
16          area of the city. No one wants to pay good  
17          money to view massive towers and electric lines.

18          For example, I refer you to the February  
19          22nd, 2016, issue of Concord Monitor where the  
20          Concord City Manager was speaking concerning the  
21          redevelopment of downtown Main Street and  
22          basically said, the short distribution towers on  
23          South Main Street should be buried. These short

1 distribution lines, these are only 20 to 30 feet  
2 high, okay? And it would have a greater  
3 potential for development if the city would take  
4 these wires underground.

5 Now, keep in mind the distribution poles on  
6 South Main Street, like I said, are only 20 to  
7 30 feet tall. The proposed Northern Pass towers  
8 will be five to six times this height at about  
9 125 feet or higher and have multiple  
10 transmission and distribution lines.

11 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Woodard, how much more  
12 do you have?

13 MR. WOODARD: I'm concluding right now.  
14 Thank you. I would like to conclude by saying  
15 the proposed overhead towers and wires will  
16 create aesthetic, safety and economic problems  
17 for the city of Concord if allowed to be  
18 constructed. It is, therefore, recommended if  
19 this project is to go forward these lines must  
20 be buried through the entire 8 miles of the City  
21 of Concord. Thank you for your consideration.

22 (Applause).

23 SPEAKER: My name is Joe Casey. I'm the

1 international representative for the IBEW,  
2 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.  
3 Lifelong resident of the State of New Hampshire.  
4 And you know I, too, love the beauty and  
5 everything about everything that New Hampshire  
6 has, and that's why I've decided to spend my  
7 life here and raise my family here. But there's  
8 also the issue, and I come from a blue collar  
9 family, and people have to make a living to work  
10 and reside in this state, and I look at, I have  
11 a 21-year-old daughter that's a senior at UNH,  
12 and the other day on the front page of our  
13 newspaper were a couple of friends that she went  
14 to high school with that had been arrested in a  
15 heroin sting in our town, and these were good  
16 kids. These were good kids, good, they were at  
17 my house all the time. I asked my daughter what  
18 happened, what's going on with them. And she  
19 told me that they've given up. In passing, she  
20 said that they've given up and walked off.

21 There is not a heck of a lot of  
22 opportunity, I can tell you that right now, and  
23 we also have to look at our children and the

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1 opportunities that we're providing for them.  
2 There's no debate that we have a flight of kids  
3 that are leaving the state to find employment  
4 elsewhere. We at the IBEW, we put people to  
5 work. We put people to work in the construction  
6 industry. Construction projects have to be  
7 approved. I've been working on construction  
8 projects my whole life trying to get approval so  
9 that we can put our people to work, and in the  
10 State of New Hampshire, I can tell you right  
11 now, I'm not very successful. It's very  
12 difficult to site something or get something  
13 approved here in the State of New Hampshire.

14 And we have to take a look, we take people  
15 in that have a high school degree or a GED  
16 equivalent and we train them and give them a  
17 trade in the electrical industry that they can  
18 use for the rest of their lives, and I've seen,  
19 the best part of about my job is in the  
20 apprenticeship training program when you can see  
21 a kid that comes in with no other place to go,  
22 and he's able to make a career out of the  
23 electrical industry, whether it be the line

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1 industry or where I represent, the electricians.

2 We need to have projects, we need to move  
3 forward. You know, these projects will create  
4 an atmosphere for lower electrical rates here so  
5 other industries can come in and people can go  
6 to work. We have to be able to take care of our  
7 families, take care of the needs of our people  
8 so that we can enjoy the beautiful State of New  
9 Hampshire.

10 And I ask you, you know, this has been six  
11 years. Ten years ago I sat on a committee to  
12 upgrade the Coos loop. We're still waiting for  
13 that to happen. Six years ago we started this  
14 endeavor. We need to put people to work. I  
15 have 240 IBEW linemen and electricians that are  
16 New Hampshire residents that are currently  
17 working elsewhere.

18 This whole country, this electrical system  
19 needs to be upgraded. There's going to be  
20 plenty of opportunity for these people to make a  
21 living for the rest of their lives. Let's put  
22 people back to work. Let's get our people in  
23 the state back to work, and let's create new

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1 opportunities for our children. Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. HONIGBERG: We're going to do three  
4 more speakers before we take a break.

5 SPEAKER: Good evening and thank you for  
6 the opportunity to say a few words. My name is  
7 Phil Bilodeau. When I first sat down this  
8 evening and the chairman began to speak and then  
9 Mr. Quinlan spoke about from Canada to  
10 Deerfield, my heart's pounding. It was pounding  
11 every time Deerfield was mentioned. I'm going  
12 to reduce this conversation right now from  
13 global energy and jobs and all that, and I'm  
14 going to bring it to a personal note. The  
15 project ends in Phil and Joan Bilodeau's  
16 backyard at 140 Nottingham Road. We filed  
17 intervenor status. We were disappointed that  
18 the Applicant challenged that so we filed a  
19 letter and objections to the objection and I  
20 don't know. I guess I can't say anymore. I'm  
21 too emotionally involved. But I am disappointed  
22 and I'll say disappointed in Mr. Quinlan this  
23 evening to say that you reached out to all the

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1 abutters that may have been in some situation or  
2 some hardship, and I want to honestly say to  
3 this crowd and for the record to say that Public  
4 Service has never reached out to Phil and Joan  
5 Bilodeau. Thank you.

6 (Applause).

7 SPEAKER: Good evening, Members of the  
8 Committee. My name is John Dumais, and I'm  
9 President of the New Hampshire Grocers  
10 Association. I'm not here to tell you how you  
11 should decide this particular proposal. In  
12 fact, our associate has not taken a position on  
13 this project. However, we are concerned about  
14 electricity. I am here tonight to appeal to the  
15 Site Evaluation Committee to redouble your  
16 efforts to find a balance between environmental  
17 concerns over new energy projects and the clear  
18 economic benefits they would bring to our entire  
19 state and its business community. If you say no  
20 to this project, please be prepared to say yes  
21 to something that will meaningfully start to  
22 lower electric rates.

23 The food industry is a profession that

1 lives with narrow profit margins. The grocery  
2 store business is not easy one. One of their  
3 biggest expenses is electricity, and we have  
4 minimal ways to reduce the operating expense on  
5 our own. I'm sure your own power bills  
6 skyrockets in the summer when the temperature  
7 rises and you have to increase your air  
8 conditioner uses. Imagine having to pay to keep  
9 freezers and coolers operating all year long,  
10 and that doesn't include the power required for  
11 the rest of the store's functions. The cost  
12 runs into many millions of dollars statewide.  
13 These expenses can threaten operations of  
14 grocery stores which is partly why several of  
15 the big chain stores have closed stores and  
16 scaled back their operations in the state in  
17 previous years, and if they are having a hard  
18 time doing this, the challenges have multiplied  
19 for the several smaller independent operators.

20 When any operating expense, especially  
21 electricity, is too high, the added cost has to  
22 be passed on to the consumers as higher costs  
23 for their groceries. This is a significant

1 financial burden to lower income households in  
2 our state. It is also a major concern for the  
3 New Hampshire grocers' out-of-state consumers  
4 who are about 45 percent of all of our annual  
5 sales. That's 45 percent come from out of  
6 state. They come here regularly to shop,  
7 seeking lower prices. When higher electricity  
8 costs come that trend may not continue.

9 Needless to say, in a competitive business  
10 such of ours, we are always looking for ways to  
11 save money. We are glad the region's leaders  
12 are starting to do the same. The New Hampshire  
13 Grocers Association applauds the six New England  
14 governors for working on a collaborative attempt  
15 to identify and fund new and cheaper energy  
16 resources for residents. Our current rates are  
17 the highest anywhere in the United States and  
18 relief seems far away. This process will take  
19 years before a new project is up and running.  
20 We hope you recognize that this, that as every  
21 month passes, more grocers' profits are being  
22 diverted to pay for higher electrical costs  
23 without any expectation of seeing lower rates.

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1           Our message to you is simple. Please do  
2 something to provide some relief as soon as  
3 possible. Utility regulators have clearly  
4 stated our region needs to develop new energy  
5 resources totaling more than 6000 megawatts by  
6 2020 to make up for the plants that are shutting  
7 down. Even if Northern Pass is approved, that  
8 would provide only a thousand megawatts. We  
9 aren't even close to filling the gap. The New  
10 Hampshire Grocers Association understands there  
11 are sharp divisions between those who want  
12 cheaper power from the Northern Pass versus  
13 those who worry about the impacts of the power  
14 lines in the North Country, thus opposing the  
15 plant. We respect the views of both and hope a  
16 compromise can be found to move the project  
17 forward in a meaningful consensus. For those  
18 who say no to every new energy option, we  
19 respectfully ask, what is your alternative. We  
20 know that the demand for power is too great  
21 simply to conserve our way to cheaper rates and  
22 lower demand. We need new resources and we need  
23 them now. Thank you very much.

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(Applause)

MR. HONIGBERG: We're going to take a ten-minute break. When we come back the first three speakers will be Brian Sullivan, David Gustafson and Dr. Deborah Warner.

(Recess taken)

SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Commission. My name is David Gustafson. My permanent residency is in Hanover, Connecticut, and I drove the two and a half hours up here for this hearing as my chance to put my two cents in, I guess. As a property owner on Spooner Hill overlooking Lake Francis in Pittsburg for 40 years, I have to tell you that we go up to Pittsburg for the view, for the woods, because we love it. It's a five and a half hour drive each way, and we do it as often as we can.

From everything I've heard here night, the biggest difference between the views from the White Mountains and the views from Pittsburg are economic. It would seem that the tourists are much more affluent in the White Mountains than the snowmobiles, hunters and ATVers up in

1           Pittsburg, and I guess also that I know that  
2           there's no permit required from the Forest  
3           Service to run towers in Pittsburg as in the  
4           White Mountains. I don't know if there's more,  
5           obviously, there's more observation points from  
6           the White Mountains and scenic resources other,  
7           I can only think of Mt. Magalloway in Pittsburg,  
8           but I can tell that you the view from the roller  
9           coaster of Route 145 in Clarksville where you  
10          can see to the Mt. Washington and the  
11          Presidential Range are going to have a lot less  
12          people pulled over on the side of the road to  
13          take fall foliage pictures if all they can see  
14          are towers.

15                 My wife and I have actually discussed what  
16                 we're going to do if the signs go from the Great  
17                 North Woods to the Great North Towers because we  
18                 really don't want to end up continuing to making  
19                 that trip when we could stay in Connecticut to  
20                 see towers. I have to ask, Mr. Quinlan, and the  
21                 other members here, and not quite the same  
22                 comparison but if Verizon announced that they  
23                 were going to put cell towers across the street

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1 from your homes, would it be comforting to know  
2 that they were going to put monopoles 20 feet  
3 shorter than lattice poles 150 feet tall? The  
4 result would be the same.

5 As the ultimate, probably the ultimate  
6 flatlander in the room, from the North Country,  
7 I know that the North Country needs the work,  
8 but I would hope that you would decide to put  
9 all these people to work burying the line rather  
10 than putting up the towers. Thanks.

11 (Applause)

12 SPEAKER: Hello. Can you hear me all  
13 right? I'm Dr. Deborah Warner. I have our own  
14 Vanna White here to help us out. Thank you.

15 I'm Dr. Deborah Warner from Littleton, and  
16 I have a handout for you. On page 2 I'd like to  
17 start there with a study that I did in 2012 as  
18 this whole project was developing, and the chart  
19 as you see and is being held by Jean shows the  
20 results of a study conducted in 2012 that  
21 surveys studies more than a 100 attendees at  
22 public events in Coos County, New Hampshire,  
23 which is where I'm from, right on the border on

1 land right there. The spontaneous answers to  
2 the question, what do you like about the North  
3 Country. I heard they love the North Country.  
4 As you can see in here -- show it to them. The  
5 top line there is two thirds of people asked,  
6 what do you like about the North Country,  
7 spontaneously said, it's the mountains and the  
8 forests that they like, and, in fact, as I  
9 listened to them, they also said well, I like  
10 the people here, I have a family here, I have  
11 relations and such. Half of them talked about  
12 the people. Two thirds talked about the  
13 mountains and forests. They talked about nature  
14 activities, about 30 percent. Quiet and daily  
15 quality of life and so on. You can see the  
16 items on this grid.

17 But as I listened to them I could hear that  
18 they weren't just talking about gosh, you know,  
19 Exit 43 or Exit 29, it's convenient because  
20 there's a store right there. They're talking  
21 about the mountains and the forests, and I'm a  
22 psychologist so I listen to how people talk, and  
23 the way they talked about these things were not

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1 talking about inanimate objects. They were  
2 talking about the mountains and the forests like  
3 they are family members. Their loved ones.

4 So when Northern Pass came on the scene and  
5 said we're going to strike these things and  
6 we're going to slash the woods, that's what we  
7 heard. They're going to scar the landscape.  
8 They might as well have said they're going to  
9 take our children and do medical experiments on  
10 them. It's that profound a feeling inside the  
11 people in the North Country who live there.

12 And people live there. There's an economic  
13 cost to living in the North Country, and if I  
14 might indulge with going to page 1, I will go  
15 over here. This is a quick lesson in economics.  
16 There's the external market where goods and  
17 services are made here, and they're sent away  
18 and money comes back. You have a destination  
19 market where people come here and they enjoy our  
20 beautiful lands which we're happy to share with  
21 them and they leave their money here with us.  
22 The local market, we buy from each other. And  
23 money we have just goes, changes hands among

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1           ourselves, and there's the drain market where  
2           outside business comes in, uses our resource and  
3           the money goes somewhere else.

4           Northern Pass fits into the drain market  
5           category of economics. They're coming in from  
6           afar, they're not local, they are taking our  
7           resources, and in our case, it's the mountains  
8           and forests' value that they are taking. If  
9           Mr. Clay, I might correct, we actually are taxed  
10          on the view. It has economic value. You have a  
11          regular property tax based on the market value  
12          of your house and then on top of that you have a  
13          view tax. Many, many people pay that, and many,  
14          many places are going under because the view is  
15          in jeopardy with Northern Pass. We have the  
16          Owl's Nest Golf Course and huge development in  
17          Campton that went under just because of this  
18          coming in, and no one would invest anymore and  
19          they were thriving before that.

20          There are many, many people as you just  
21          heard the gentleman speak from Connecticut who  
22          have retirement homes, who come here to live who  
23          buy the view and they buy it for the next

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1 generation, and that's what they want. And  
2 they're not the big spenders necessarily, but  
3 they are coming and we do appreciate their  
4 business, and we appreciate their love of the  
5 area that we're very, very happy to share with  
6 them.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: Dr. Warner, how much more  
8 do you have?

9 DR. WARNER: I'm probably summing up. Now  
10 that you mention it. Thank you very much. I do  
11 have one point to make. I do dispute something  
12 that Mr. Quinlan has stated supposedly as fact  
13 that they have reached out to every municipality  
14 along the way. My husband served on the  
15 Littleton Selectboard for four out of the past  
16 five years, and we never heard anything of it.  
17 I haven't seen any Town Hall meetings. The only  
18 meetings that we have heard of and been to are  
19 the large meetings that are required by this  
20 Board that happened at some of the larger  
21 places, the venues like Mountain View Grand.

22 I would prevail upon the Board to please  
23 ask Mr. Quinlan to provide you with an entire

1 list of the these contacts and the notices given  
2 for these meetings, and I certainly would hope  
3 it would go onto the notification list because  
4 I'd like to see that.

5 I recommend burial. It is done in other  
6 states and we should have that as well. Thank  
7 you.

8 (Applause)

9 SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Susan Seitz from  
10 Deerfield, New Hampshire, and I'm asking a favor  
11 of you. Don't worry. No one will know if you  
12 do this or you don't. On Wednesday, when you  
13 take your bus tour of Deerfield, please put  
14 yourself in our shoes. As you pass the  
15 Deerfield Community Church, imagine how you  
16 would feel if that's the church you had attended  
17 all your life, and suddenly there's 130-foot  
18 tower towering behind your church.

19 And then consider how lucky you were when  
20 you got your mother into the elderly housing  
21 complex next to the church until your mother  
22 calls you up crying because she can't sleep  
23 because of the noise from the line.

1           It's Old Home Days. Many small towns in  
2 New Hampshire hold these. You're at the gazebo,  
3 but behind our historic town hall, a friend  
4 calls your name and you turn to look, and you  
5 see the towers engulfing the historic district.  
6 And please consider the Bilodeaus. Nobody has  
7 talked to them. The project ends in their  
8 backyard. And nobody cares.

9           Please consider the human aspects of this  
10 project and not use New Hampshire as a thruway  
11 for power to the New England grid. Thank you.

12                           (Applause)

13           SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Greg  
14 Averill. I'm a resident of Canterbury, New  
15 Hampshire. People today are moving towards  
16 supporting local farms, businesses, permaculture  
17 and community projects because they see value in  
18 it. All involved have an vested interest in  
19 their business as well as the well-being of their  
20 community and natural environment. We are tired  
21 of being told half-truths and lies by large  
22 corporations with no interest in the local  
23 communities so they can make higher profits. We

1 do not appreciate being told this project has to  
2 happen with scare tactics about the future when  
3 most or even all of the electricity from these  
4 lines will not go to New Hampshire residents but  
5 we will be left with the scar on the land and  
6 the towers in the sky.

7 Eversource has investors and shareholders  
8 to please and show profit. Community members  
9 have each other to work together and show value  
10 in the community, not the almighty dollar.  
11 Eversource will have you believe large scale  
12 utilities are the only option for the future.  
13 Evolving solar, wind and geothermal energies are  
14 allowing individuals to provide power for  
15 themselves and their communities. It is local,  
16 responsible and everyone in the community knows  
17 how things are working. More and more people  
18 are looking to move away from the grid and as  
19 the technology for homeowners continues to  
20 advance and become available, there will be even  
21 more options. I'm strongly opposed to the  
22 Northern Pass project. Thank you.

23 (Applause)

1           SPEAKER: Thank you very much for the  
2           opportunity to speak. My name is Pentti Aalto.  
3           I live in Pembroke, New Hampshire, couple  
4           hundred yards from where the line will go  
5           through.

6           I guess what I'd like to do first is  
7           recognize that there have been major  
8           improvements in this project in the last years.  
9           I remember one of the early meetings in this  
10          room. Since then, quite a bit has changed and I  
11          thank and recognize the efforts of the company  
12          in moving things forward. Key word I guess  
13          comes out of is balance and I guess that's where  
14          some of my issues come out.

15          We seem to have chosen a rather expensive  
16          path to do this work. Clearly, the power could  
17          tend to reduce the price in New England. On the  
18          other hand, some of the other paths that have  
19          been chosen by other companies seem to have been  
20          a lot cheaper and lot more easily achieved. DC  
21          line under water seemed to go in much more  
22          quickly in a few months instead of six years.  
23          Operations in Maine seem to be doing the same

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1 type of thing.

2 The concern I have is that ultimately the  
3 cost of this will be borne by business and  
4 people in New England if the unthinkable happens  
5 and the price of energy drops. Ten years ago,  
6 it would have been very difficult to think of  
7 price of natural gas delivered to Boston at  
8 \$2.10 on the 11th of March of this year,  
9 tomorrow. That reflects a locational price for  
10 electricity in New Hampshire of about 1 and a  
11 half cents a kilowatt hour as the primary cost.

12 If we get much more development of  
13 renewables that somehow could get into that  
14 market here, some of these investments that we  
15 make today may be in difficulty and that leads  
16 to the question of who are the counter parties  
17 to buy this power. Something as expensive as  
18 this has to have someone willing to sign a  
19 long-term contract to buy power. If that's a  
20 competitive entity, that's on their heads. If  
21 it's a regulated utility that buys the power for  
22 the default service customers, then quite likely  
23 those customers are going to end up paying that

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1 bill even if they choose to leave that service  
2 at some point as we've recently seen with the  
3 divestiture process where we as customers  
4 probably will end up paying a half a billion  
5 dollars.

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

8 MR. AALTO: Just about done. If we do  
9 build this facility, perhaps we could try to  
10 make it as flexible as possible. By that I  
11 mean, as the renewables develop, maybe we need  
12 to make sure that power can go both ways over  
13 this wire as a way of getting maximum benefit  
14 for our own investments in renewables making use  
15 of the storage capability in Canada. Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 SPEAKER: Good evening. Jean Menard from  
18 Deerfield. To the women and men of blue in this  
19 room, the work that you do to keep the lights on  
20 is appreciated. My comment tonight is not  
21 intended on pitting small business against big  
22 business. A 2015 New Hampshire economic  
23 development study by the Regional Planning

1 Commission announced that New Hampshire ranks  
2 number two in the nation for being small  
3 business friendly. I am a small business owner.  
4 A driving argument for the Northern Pass project  
5 has been to meet the need of low cost power for  
6 businesses. I would like to respectfully  
7 request that the SEC be open to further rigorous  
8 discussion of the factors and criteria that  
9 quantifies the number two high ranking of small  
10 business in New Hampshire to ensure that this  
11 project does not undermine a very healthy small  
12 business environment. Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 SPEAKER: Members of the Committee,  
15 representatives of the Department of Energy,  
16 thank you very much for the opportunity to speak  
17 tonight. My name is Melissa Birchard, and I  
18 represent Conservation Law Foundation.

19 Conservation Law Foundation is a regional  
20 membership-based organization that uses the law,  
21 science and the markets to develop innovative,  
22 pragmatic solutions to some of New England's  
23 greatest challenges. Consistent with its

1 mission to promote thriving resilient  
2 communities, CLF is dedicated to advancing  
3 solutions that strengthen New England's and New  
4 Hampshire's environmental and economic vitality.

5 CLF and its members are concerned that the  
6 Northern Pass transmission line as currently  
7 proposed has far too many negative impacts on  
8 the State of New Hampshire, its landscapes, its  
9 communities, and an energy future that is built  
10 on efficiency and clean local renewables. At  
11 the Department of Energy, CLF has advocated for  
12 a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement  
13 that would assess regional need and the various  
14 projects proposed or under development that  
15 could serve the same or similar goals that this  
16 project purports to serve. CLF continues to  
17 believe that there are sound alternatives to the  
18 project as proposed and that the National  
19 Environmental Policy Act and the Site Evaluation  
20 Committee's review process necessitate the  
21 rigorous and objective consideration of such  
22 alternatives.

23 Conservation Law Foundation is particularly

1 concerned that New Hampshire needs to focus its  
2 energy and resources on the development of local  
3 renewable technologies. We are disappointed  
4 that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
5 has given energy efficiency and renewable power  
6 such short shrift, and we are also dismayed that  
7 utilities like Eversource here in New Hampshire  
8 seek to undermine lesser-impacting energy  
9 alternatives like rooftop solar while claiming  
10 that large cross-border high voltage  
11 transmission lines are an inevitability that we  
12 must accept.

13 As for the Draft Environmental Impact  
14 Statement, although it is excessively narrow in  
15 its consideration of alternatives to the  
16 project, it does consider a range of feasible  
17 aerial options. Conservation Law Foundation is  
18 concerned that absent such burial, the proposed  
19 project remains fatally flawed by the inequity  
20 that it imposes on the State of New Hampshire.

21 While the project Applicants suggest that  
22 climate change, unit retirements and  
23 overreliance on natural gas necessitate the

1 project as proposed, that is not the case.  
2 There are alternatives to this project as  
3 proposed, and, importantly, there are  
4 alternatives with lesser impacts on the State of  
5 New Hampshire and on the region of New England.  
6 Thank you very much.

7 (Applause)

8 SPEAKER: Thank you all for letting me  
9 giving me the opportunity to speak tonight. My  
10 name is Ammy Heiser. I'm from Pembroke. I'm  
11 the Chairman of the Conservation Commission in  
12 Pembroke, and I was authorized by the Board of  
13 Selectmen to, they authorized me to act as the  
14 intervenor for the town of Pembroke. Our Board  
15 of Selectman are a pretty conservative group and  
16 so I was quite surprised that they gave,  
17 authorized me to speak and have Pembroke be an  
18 intervenor to the Northern Pass. Twice we went  
19 to town meeting and the town overwhelmingly  
20 voted in preference of burial of the lines, and  
21 the first time was at the March meeting in 2011  
22 and then March meeting 2014, and I will give you  
23 the wording of that article, and I just wanted

1 to make sure I went on record that the town has  
2 been opposed.

3 This impacts the town. It basically  
4 divides our town right in half. 6.2 miles of  
5 transmission wires through our town and a lot of  
6 them, the 54 new ones in our town, a lot of them  
7 are going to be 130 feet in height. I just, for  
8 all the reasons that people have so eloquently  
9 discussed why they're opposed to this project,  
10 my hat's off to all of them and I hope you will  
11 consider burying this project. Thank you very  
12 much.

13 (Applause)

14 SPEAKER: Thank for the opportunity to  
15 speak this evening. My name is Lee Lajoie. I  
16 live in Concord on Mountain Road. Native of  
17 Concord, by the way. I am an abutter to the  
18 Northern Pass project as the existing  
19 right-of-way cuts across the back of my property  
20 so I do have skin in the game.

21 I purchased my home in 1990, and one of the  
22 things that actually made the property  
23 attractive to me was the fact that the

1 right-of-way was there. I knew that no one  
2 would be building behind me, and I have direct  
3 access to a snowmobile trail. In the  
4 intervening 26 years, I've yet to purchase a  
5 snowmobile, but I still have hope.

6 As I expected, the presence of the  
7 right-of-way has prevented further development  
8 directly behind my home, despite numerous houses  
9 and developments being constructed in my  
10 neighborhood. The City of Concord has never met  
11 a development they didn't like. I've attended a  
12 number of these public hearings and one of the  
13 common themes I have heard is that the Northern  
14 Pass will decimate the value of adjacent  
15 properties. In addition to the original  
16 purchase, I've refinanced my property 2 or 3  
17 times, and I can tell that you not one of the  
18 appraisers mentioned the transmission lines, not  
19 one of the comparison properties evaluated had  
20 rights-of-way, and my property value is in line  
21 with simpler properties in the city of Concord.  
22 So my personal experience does not correlate  
23 with the opinions expressed by others, although

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1 based on testimony by one of our city councilors  
2 earlier, I guess I can expect a giant refund of  
3 all those taxes I paid over the years. I guess  
4 I'm not going to hold my breath for that.

5 I'm an engineer by training. I am an  
6 admitted and unabashed geek. My wife used to  
7 give me a hard time because I came back from  
8 Switzerland with pictures of transmission lines  
9 climbing over the top of the Alps, and from  
10 Hawaii with photos of lines climbing up and over  
11 the top of extinct volcanos. To my knowledge,  
12 neither place has had a collapse of their  
13 tourism industries, another common theme I have  
14 heard in these forums.

15 I also confess to liking creature comforts.  
16 When it gets hot in the summer, I like to have  
17 air conditioning. When I go home at night, I  
18 like to flip the switch and have the lights come  
19 on. I play hockey at the rink in Laconia and  
20 I'm well familiar with the need for electricity  
21 to keep the ice frozen.

22 For these and many other reasons, I fully  
23 support having adequate supply of electricity in

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1 the region based on a variety of fuel sources,  
2 and with the changing landscape of the power  
3 supply in New England, I understand the need for  
4 additional sources such as the Northern Pass.

5 I've also heard numerous times that New  
6 Hampshire is an exporter of electricity. Well,  
7 I'm not an economist, but I fail to say how this  
8 argument makes a case against Northern Pass. If  
9 the state is an exporter of a commodity, in my  
10 mind that means you have jobs in the state  
11 producing that commodity which is good, and are  
12 getting money from someone out of state which is  
13 also good, and there is nothing more New  
14 Hampshire than trying to get money from people  
15 out of state.

16 In closing, I do not envy the task you have  
17 in front of you. I wish you all the wisdom of  
18 Salomon in balancing the various positive and  
19 negative aspects of the project, and I hope  
20 you're able to put aside emotions and carefully  
21 weigh the facts while making your decision.  
22 Thank you.

23 (Applause)

1           SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and you  
2 pronounced my name correctly. My name is  
3 Elizabeth LaRocca, and I'm a native of New  
4 Hampshire and I've worked at PSNH, now  
5 Eversource, for 35 years. I work in community  
6 relations, but I also held positions in  
7 accounting and in regulatory affairs.

8           In 1988 I traveled with other New England  
9 utility representatives and various state  
10 officials to Quebec, and we toured the  
11 hydroelectric complex in James Bay. Northern  
12 Utilities had just negotiated two separate  
13 energy agreements with Hydro-Quebec. Hopes were  
14 high that this power would be as economical as  
15 the power New Brunswick had been selling to the  
16 region since 1971. The first HQ agreement was  
17 signed in '83 and involved 52 miles of new line  
18 in Vermont, 7 miles in New Hampshire, and a new  
19 converter station in Monroe, New Hampshire. The  
20 line went operational in '86, and allowed  
21 Northern to buy hydropower for 11 years.

22           Second Hydro-Quebec agreement signed in  
23 1985. That one extended that transmission line

1           133 miles through the center of New Hampshire  
2           into Massachusetts, expanding the line capacity  
3           from 690 megawatts to 2000. The purchase power  
4           agreement covered a ten-year period from 1990 to  
5           2000. The line stands today in communities like  
6           Hopkinton, Dunbarton and Bedford which are all  
7           considered very scenic and desirable places to  
8           live.

9           Given the undisputed success of these  
10          energy agreements, why the controversy today.  
11          What has changed? Well, part of the answer lies  
12          in the deregulation of the power generation  
13          sector which began about 20 years ago in New  
14          England and elsewhere in the United States.  
15          Most of the power plants serving the region of  
16          New England today are owned by merchant  
17          generators who participate in the competitive  
18          marketplace overseen by ISO New England but  
19          governed by the economic principles of supply  
20          and demand.

21          To those who doubt that Northern Pass will  
22          lower electricity prices for New Englanders, I  
23          point to the New England Power Generators

1 Association's fierce opposition to the project.  
2 It seems that they object to their most  
3 expensive generators being displaced by lower  
4 cost hydropower since this will lower the  
5 wholesale market clearing price paid to all the  
6 market participants. Although this will also  
7 lower electric costs for consumers, the  
8 generators appear to be steadfast in their  
9 opposition to lower profits and united in their  
10 effort to keep the New England energy  
11 marketplace one of the most lucrative in the  
12 United States. Thank you for your time and  
13 attention.

14 (Applause)

15 SPEAKER: Mary Lee. Thank you for the  
16 opportunity to speak to this committee and to  
17 the USDOE. I've been here before since 2011.  
18 Here I am again. I am still convinced that the  
19 best action for me, for my property in  
20 Northfield and for the State of New Hampshire is  
21 no build. As currently proposed, the Northern  
22 Pass plans to keep the originally proposed steel  
23 H-frame towers and the steel monopoles.

1           2. The aesthetics of my conservation land  
2 and other properties along the 192 miles would  
3 be permanently blighted by the proposed  
4 aboveground structures that are to be taller  
5 than the surrounding treetops and built of steel  
6 rather than the wooden poles. Once the steel  
7 structures are put up, there is irreparable  
8 damage to our landscape. The placement would be  
9 wrong, the dimensions would be disproportionate  
10 to our rural beauty.

11           3. I and my neighbors live near the  
12 right-of-way easement that Northern Pass will  
13 alter. I and we are used to the small scale and  
14 the camouflaged wood poles that are currently in  
15 place. In my neighborhood we can walk out or we  
16 can stay indoors and see the wood poles.  
17 Especially in the winter. Right now. There  
18 would be no camouflage for steel structures that  
19 are taller and built as a tower. My neighbor is  
20 further away from my property and sees in a long  
21 perspective view from her windows more of the  
22 stretch of transmission poles and lines than I  
23 do. The discussion regarding the 100 foot or

1           100 feet distance to the proposal in order to be  
2           considered as an intervenor during the review of  
3           Northern Pass should consider the eyesore to  
4           those whose viewshed is greater distance than  
5           just outside my yard. So, in other words my  
6           neighbors see more of the line out of their  
7           windows than I do when I look directly out my  
8           dining room table, picture window or over my  
9           sink. So they have a right to be here as  
10          intervenors even if they're within what is  
11          called the list of nonabutters.

12                 Number 4, since 2011 I have attended  
13          hearings before the New Hampshire legislature  
14          and the US Department of Energy. Thousands of  
15          New Hampshire citizens have voiced concern about  
16          the suitability of Northern Pass. Visitors to  
17          New Hampshire have come here to enjoy our  
18          natural beauty and have remarked that our state  
19          is, quote, still beautiful. I hope you will  
20          decide to protect and cherish the environment,  
21          and I want to make an addendum to this remark  
22          because Mr. Quinlan is here and you mentioned  
23          outreach by the Northern Pass to landowners.

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1 And I'm hoping you didn't say out of reach, you.  
2 Said outreach by Northern Pass to those of us  
3 who are landowners and I have made the outreach  
4 to Northern Pass mainly because I didn't believe  
5 that it should be built and I don't believe it  
6 should be built today so I still have many  
7 opportunities to outreach to you all to find out  
8 what exactly going is to be coming up the pick  
9 if it's approved. Just to correct the record.  
10 Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 SPEAKER: My name is Ruth Niven. I live in  
13 Franklin, New Hampshire. I went to the New  
14 Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee website.  
15 There I found the Executive Summary for the  
16 Northern Pass Transmission Project, and under  
17 potential impacts and proposed mitigation  
18 measures, I'm going to quote: Northern Pass  
19 will not have an unreasonable adverse effect on  
20 aesthetics. The project will not have an  
21 unreasonable adverse effect on archeological  
22 measures. The actual adverse effects from the  
23 project will be minimal on the project's

1           avoidant and minimization efforts. The project  
2           will not have a significant effect on aquatic  
3           resources. The project will also not have  
4           significant effects on wildlife or wildlife  
5           habitat. There will be no unreasonable adverse  
6           effects on public health and safety. Any  
7           potential effect on land use will be minimal.

8           There is no basis in the published  
9           literature or in the New Hampshire research to  
10          expect that the project would have a discernible  
11          effect on property values or marketing times in  
12          local or regional real estate markets. The  
13          Northern Pass would not have a measurable effect  
14          on the New Hampshire tourism industry.

15          I was amazed to find that this 192-mile  
16          project would be so low impacted on the State of  
17          New Hampshire. I also don't believe it. And I  
18          really would like you all to consider the source  
19          of this Executive Summary Statement and try to  
20          discern the reason why it would be to the  
21          benefit of Hydro-Quebec and Eversource to  
22          minimize the impact on the State of New  
23          Hampshire of the Northern Pass project as

1 proposed. I do not believe there would be such  
2 opposition to this project if there wasn't an  
3 impact. You've all heard testimony, this is  
4 affecting people's lives and their businesses  
5 and their homes and their recreation, and you  
6 know what? Despite the fact that at the end of  
7 the summary it says, in a manner that's  
8 respectful to the voices of the New Hampshire  
9 residents. Northern Pass has taken very  
10 thoughtful steps to reduce the project's  
11 potential impact. Well, you know what? There  
12 has not been enough of an effort. This project  
13 as proposed should not be allowed. If the  
14 Northern Pass project must be constructed, it  
15 should be buried. Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and  
18 Members of the Committee for investing your time  
19 in this process. My name is Edward Craxton. I  
20 and my wife are residents of the town of Dalton,  
21 New Hampshire, where we retired from Louisville,  
22 Kentucky. There were no mountains in  
23 Louisville, Kentucky. It is my understanding

1           that a major part of your role is to determine  
2           if the issuance of a certificate to Northern  
3           Pass will serve the objective outlined in  
4           RSA-162-H:16 which include giving due  
5           consideration to the views of municipal  
6           governing bodies and to ensure that the site and  
7           facility will not have unreasonable adverse  
8           effect on aesthetics, historic sites, air and  
9           water quality, natural environment and public  
10          health and safety. Regarding the views of towns  
11          and governing bodies, Dalton, like Pembroke,  
12          which was previously mentioned tonight, is one  
13          of around 30 towns in New Hampshire which has  
14          registered a vote against Northern Pass. While  
15          such a vote is not binding, it clearly indicates  
16          the will of the people with regard to this  
17          project. The will of Dalton, our Selectboard,  
18          and many other towns have said a resounding no  
19          to Northern Pass and its proposed overhead  
20          transmission lines.

21                 I'd like to comment on the unreasonable  
22                 adverse effects on aesthetics and natural  
23                 environment. As we all know, the natural

1           landscapes are significant assets to New  
2           Hampshire, attracting hundreds of thousands of  
3           tourists to this part of our state every year.  
4           Over the past few years I have intentionally  
5           engaged many tourists in conversation while  
6           riding up the ski lifts together or encountering  
7           them on mountain trails. The vast majority of  
8           them had not heard of the Northern Pass project,  
9           and as I described the proposed route of these  
10          overhead transmission lines, to a person they  
11          were incredulous. Why would you scar this  
12          beautiful country in that way. That's one  
13          illustration of an unreasonable adverse effect  
14          on the aesthetics and natural environment of the  
15          area, not to mention the adverse effect on the  
16          economy of the area when those tourists seek  
17          more pristine destinations.

18                 Regarding public health and safety, some of  
19                 my neighbors in Dalton live in a community of 45  
20                 homes. That neighborhood, according to the maps  
21                 that Northern Pass provided to us, would be  
22                 within 75 feet of the proposed new overhead  
23                 transmission lines. This is within the fall

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1 zone. This same neighborhood is one in which  
2 many children reside. I and the town are  
3 concerned for the public health and safety of  
4 the families living in such close proximity to  
5 proposed power lines.

6 In the July 20, 2015 Public Health and  
7 Safety Technical Report for the Draft  
8 Environmental Impact Statement, it notes the  
9 following, and I quote. Under normal operating  
10 conditions, public safety hazards associated  
11 with high voltage transmission lines include  
12 electric shocks. These can occur by working and  
13 recreating under or near transmission lines.  
14 Electrical shocks can occur from touching  
15 transmission towers or other large metallic  
16 objects near power lines.

17 It goes on for a few more paragraphs like  
18 that, and then continuing the quote, another  
19 potential public safety hazard associated with  
20 transmission lines is arc flashes. Arc flashes  
21 occur when electricity from a high voltage line  
22 travels between conductors through the air. The  
23 gap distance varies according to the voltage.

1           These occur in normal conditions, but can also  
2           be caused by smoke from fires. Arc flashes can  
3           produce intense heat and light. If individuals  
4           get too close to energized power lines without  
5           touching them, an arc of electricity can form  
6           between the power line and the person and result  
7           in serious burns.

8           MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Craxton, how much more  
9           do you have?

10          MR. CRAXTON: Two more paragraphs.

11          MR. HONIGBERG: How long are the paragraphs  
12          you've been reading?

13          MR. CRAXTON: I'll just be 30 seconds. In  
14          addition, while studies over the past 20 or more  
15          years on exposure to EMF, electromagnetic  
16          fields, from overhead power lines and  
17          demonstrated health effects have been  
18          inconclusive, some studies do show a weak  
19          association between such exposure and childhood  
20          leukemia. These above-referenced conditions  
21          created by overhead high voltage transmission  
22          lines are unacceptable in a community where  
23          adults and children live and play. In

1 conclusion, for these and many other reasons I  
2 will not take time to enumerate, I ask that the  
3 SEC disapprove of this project. However, in the  
4 spirit of common ground and compromise, at the  
5 least, I ask the SEC to require that the entire  
6 transmission project be buried along an  
7 appropriate transportation corridor. If  
8 developers of high voltage transmission line  
9 facilities in New York, Vermont and Maine can  
10 totally bury their facilities, we can, too.  
11 Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 SPEAKER: Laura Bonk. I live in Concord,  
14 New Hampshire, and I'm here to speak for the  
15 southern half of the state in this project.

16 The proposed high voltage transmission  
17 line, Northern Pass, will pass through a few  
18 thousand feet of Bear Brook State Park in  
19 Allenstown, New Hampshire. This proposed  
20 project will create an unreasonable adverse  
21 effect on the aesthetics and the natural  
22 environment of Bear Brook State Park.

23 Furthermore, the proposed Northern Pass will

1 violate the original transfer deed from the  
2 federal government. For these reasons, I am  
3 opposed to this project as currently presented.

4 Bear Brook State Park is the largest  
5 developed State Park in New Hampshire. It is  
6 currently more than 10,000 acres and lies within  
7 both Merrimack and Rockingham Counties. The  
8 park contains pond beaches, 40 miles of trails,  
9 a 101-site campground, group picnic areas and a  
10 museum complex. The Civilian Conservation Corps  
11 within the State Park is listed on the National  
12 Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, this  
13 large state park lies within 15 miles of  
14 Manchester, New Hampshire, the state's largest  
15 city. It provides nearby recreational access to  
16 our large population centers, and it's a very  
17 busy place as families can easily access this  
18 State Park. I encourage you to visit it on a  
19 warm summer weekend.

20 The proposed towers will be significantly  
21 above the current tree line. They will be  
22 visible from numerous places within the park  
23 including both Catamount and Hall Hills, popular

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1 day hikes. The view of these towers will  
2 undoubtedly disturb the visitor's experience to  
3 this natural environment. The proposed towers  
4 negatively impact the enjoyment of this state  
5 resource. Bear Brook State Park is of no less  
6 importance than the White Mountain National  
7 Forest. It provides much of the same amenities  
8 for our citizens and is much closer to our  
9 population centers.

10 In 1943, in the middle of World War II, the  
11 State of New Hampshire accepted the Bear Brook  
12 land from the federal government with the  
13 following conditions in the original deed.  
14 Provided always that this deed is made upon the  
15 express condition that the State of New  
16 Hampshire shall use this property exclusively  
17 for public park, recreational and conservation  
18 purposes.

19 The proposed Northern Pass project is not a  
20 recreational or conservation project. It is a  
21 project to benefit the shareholders of  
22 Eversource Energy. As such, it violates the  
23 original deed in which the State of New

1 Hampshire accepted these lands. Thus, it should  
2 not proceed as currently proposed.

3 This Saturday, March 2nd at 10 a.m. please  
4 meet me in the snowmobile parking lot, Bear  
5 Brook State Park, Deerfield Road in Allenstown.  
6 I'll be very happy to walk you through the park  
7 and show you the impact of this proposed project  
8 on our state's treasured natural resource.  
9 Please be prepared for mud. Thank you.

10 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Martin  
11 Kimbell. I have had a business in the State of  
12 New Hampshire for 30 years now. For 24 years my  
13 power has come from -- excuse me. In Ashland.  
14 Bridgewater Power has been a-wood fired  
15 generating plant for the entire time I've been  
16 there for 24 years plus. New Hampshire's number  
17 one economic resource is recreation. My  
18 business is involved in recreation. I also  
19 started a second business in recreation in  
20 Campton, and I have been living in Campton, New  
21 Hampshire, for the last 24 years. For 14 years  
22 I've been living on Route 3, and Eversource came  
23 to visit me and put forth a proposed project on

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1           what the impact on Route 3 would be having  
2           buried this transmission line. Well, that's my  
3           front yard. I was living on Route 175 and that  
4           was my backyard. I didn't want it in my  
5           backyard and now I don't want it in my front  
6           yard.

7           When they proposed this project, I asked  
8           them, I said, so what is it going to look like?  
9           Is it going to be on my property? Is it going to  
10          be on my neighbor's property or is it going to  
11          be right in the middle of the road, under the  
12          road, under the river. I have 75 feet of  
13          frontage on Route 3. Not a whole lot. But I  
14          own 1500 feet of river up to the thread of the  
15          river. Now, this river that flows along my  
16          property and goes underneath Route 3 is only  
17          about 10 feet higher than the thread of the  
18          brook. I don't see any room for what they  
19          propose is a three foot by three foot concrete  
20          conduit going underneath the highway or side by  
21          side to the highway or underneath the bridge.

22          In the springtime we have ice falls that  
23          come down through these rivers, all up and down

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1 the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and the  
2 highest recorded ice fall since I've been there  
3 has been over 14 feet and run right into the  
4 bridge and flooded out my property. What a  
5 transmission line would look like buried in New  
6 Hampshire going underneath the Pemigewasset  
7 River in the White Mountains and all of these  
8 smaller brooks/rivers throughout our area is in  
9 question.

10 So I asked the Eversource team if there was  
11 a transmission line buried that we could observe  
12 and observe how they were constructed with  
13 bridges in the area. They said that that didn't  
14 exist here in the United States. That we could  
15 take a trip to Europe where lots and lots of  
16 transmission lines are buried successfully. I  
17 said, if you guys would like to buy us all plane  
18 tickets and go to Germany or Austria or  
19 Liechtenstein or otherwise, we're be glad to  
20 take a trip and view those transmission lines  
21 underground.

22 If they would construct one here in New  
23 Hampshire, we could take a field trip and look

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1 at such a construction. My concern personally  
2 is not in my front yard. With transmission  
3 lines overhead we hear of the snap, crackle, pop  
4 and arcing electromagnetic forces. What is it  
5 underground? What is the impact of that buzz  
6 going to be on my property and my value.

7 Lastly, I would just like to say that since  
8 my energy at my shop does come from a wood-fire  
9 generated plant, it has been said that a number  
10 of wood-fired generated plants in the State of  
11 New Hampshire would belly up if Northern Pass  
12 were to come through the state. I would not  
13 want to see the jobs for the people I know in  
14 Ashland, New Hampshire, be taken away due to  
15 another energy source coming through the state  
16 that was only passing through us to power yet  
17 another energy grid south of here. That would  
18 be all I have to say. Thank you very much.

19 (Applause)

20 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and  
21 Members of the Committee. My name is Walter  
22 Palmer. I'm from Franconia, New Hampshire. I  
23 wasn't planning on getting up and making a

1 comment here tonight, but I feel like somebody  
2 has to get up and say this. I'm reacting to a  
3 statement made by Mr. Quinlan earlier this  
4 evening. Mr. Quinlan stated several times that,  
5 quote, New Hampshire residents are not being  
6 asked to bear any of the costs of this project.  
7 This is one of the most outrageous and  
8 incredibly insensitive statements I've heard so  
9 far in this proceeding. New Hampshire residents  
10 are asking to bear the brunt of the cost of this  
11 project in terms of major visual impacts, loss  
12 of property values, damage to the tourism  
13 economy, crushed dreams and ruined lifestyles.  
14 That's why we're all here protesting this  
15 project and have been doing so for the last five  
16 years.

17 Northern Pass brings out so-called experts  
18 who assert that the visual impacts, property  
19 value impacts, tourism impacts somehow all will  
20 negligible with this project. But New Hampshire  
21 residents know that this is ridiculous. We've  
22 already heard many testimonies here tonight of  
23 people here in New Hampshire who are already

1           experiencing negative economic and other impacts  
2           just from the threat of Northern Pass. How much  
3           more so once Northern Pass, if Northern Pass  
4           were to be built.

5           Your experts are like performing magicians.  
6           They pull a little bit of misdirection based on  
7           dubious studies, and, presto, somehow serious  
8           impacts of the project seem to magically  
9           disappear, but we all know it's just a trick.  
10          You can't make the very real and serious  
11          negative impacts of this project just disappear  
12          by waving your hands at them. If you really are  
13          so eager to make the impacts disappear, why not  
14          try listening to the will of the residents of  
15          New Hampshire and propose to bury the  
16          transmission line along interstate corridors or  
17          not build it at all.

18          Mr. Quinlan, I'm afraid your statement that  
19          New Hampshire resident are not being asked to  
20          bear any cost of the project reveals how little  
21          you think of New Hampshire residents and the  
22          real cost of this project. Northern Pass would  
23          externalize all of the serious visual property

1 values and economic costs so you don't even  
2 recognize these costs exist. To us, these costs  
3 mean everything. To our way of life, quality of  
4 life, to our lifestyle.

5 So please, Mr. Quinlan, I ask you that you  
6 be good enough not to make that statement at  
7 future meetings like this. You are asking us to  
8 bear onerous and massive costs, and you would do  
9 well to acknowledge that. The only way New  
10 Hampshire residents will not bear any cost to  
11 this project is if the project is not permitted  
12 and not built as proposed. Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 SPEAKER: I'm Lawrence Phillips. I'm from  
15 Canterbury. My family has operated a business  
16 in New Hampshire for 37 years. It's constantly  
17 a challenge controlling cost and increasing  
18 profit to stay in business. A lot of the costs  
19 of doing business are not controllable. It's  
20 the cost of doing business. But a lot of those  
21 costs are controllable where you have to make a  
22 decision, whether to do the ethical thing for a  
23 customer or not. You're not required by any

1 kind of a law or anything like that. And we  
2 always make the ethical decision, even though it  
3 costs us money in the business to make an  
4 ethical decision, and we do that, and what I'm  
5 asking is for Eversource to make the ethical  
6 decision and to bury the line. Even though it  
7 would cost more, it's the ethical decision  
8 because it affects so many people in New  
9 Hampshire. Thank you very much for your  
10 attention.

11 (Applause)

12 SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Craig Pullen. My  
13 wife and I own a 140-acre farm, equestrian  
14 facility, bed and breakfast in Canterbury, New  
15 Hampshire. It's a historic farm. We rely on  
16 tourism. We have allowed trees to grow on our  
17 property to hide the existing 40-60 feet towers  
18 that are on our property right now, less than a  
19 quarter mile from our buildings. Eversource's  
20 proposing up to 130-foot towers on our property.  
21 There's no hiding these. They're towers. We've  
22 allowed these trees to grow at the expense of  
23 our hay fields. They're shading them out.



1 to answer them.

2 SPEAKER: Right. So if Northern Pass was  
3 approved, would Hydro-Quebec open any more  
4 additional big hydro dams to increase supply  
5 based on increased demand over time? How many  
6 dams are there now? How many dams are planned  
7 in the future and over what time frame? Who are  
8 all the current and future customers for  
9 Hydro-Quebec/Eversource. Now I'll start my  
10 comments.

11 Big hydro is not technically clean due to  
12 the permanent damage it does to the environment.  
13 Who pays for the external cost due to the  
14 environmental damage. US citizens and humanity  
15 in general. Not Northern Pass. It costs a huge  
16 amount to build dams in terms of resources and  
17 concrete and CO2 emissions. Pristine forest and  
18 valleys are flooded in Canada, destroying  
19 wildlife and displacing people and as well as  
20 recreational and economic opportunities. The  
21 rivers are no longer reaching the ocean or only  
22 as a trickle of its former self. This has  
23 negative impacts on the sensitive ecosystem of

1 the oceans worldwide. It contributes to the  
2 warming of water temperatures of the ocean and  
3 advances climate change and global warming. The  
4 cost of big hydro is too much to bear when there  
5 are better alternatives such as solar power and  
6 wind that can be developed in New Hampshire.  
7 Wind and solar would allow New Hampshire to be  
8 self-reliant and live free of foreign power  
9 sources. New Hampshire should invest in itself,  
10 not be a passive consumer of private, foreign,  
11 for-profit enterprises.

12 Rivers are like gold in Canada. Canada is  
13 known for having the most fresh water in the  
14 world. Canada doesn't have a problem destroying  
15 their own pristine land to be to create big  
16 hydro dams so why the hell would they care about  
17 New Hampshire's scenery. Why can't New  
18 Hampshire generate its own sources of power that  
19 are truly clean and don't cause global damage.  
20 Don't approve Northern Pass. If is it approved,  
21 bury all lines.

22 (Applause)

23 SPEAKER: Good evening. Brian Tilton. I'm

1           opposed to Northern Pass. No secret to many of  
2           you on the panel and for those in the back. I  
3           wear the orange shirt. I attended a round of  
4           SEC sessions previous to this round, and in that  
5           round and this is for the DOE's benefit to  
6           understand, not a single person that spoke in  
7           favor of the project was a disinterested party.  
8           Everybody had some sort of financial gain. And  
9           tonight, we've heard from everybody that's in  
10          favor of the project, except for maybe one or  
11          two people, again, stand to have a direct  
12          financial benefit if the project were to be  
13          built as proposed. So I do want to add to both  
14          the DOE and SEC in response to the claims about  
15          supermarkets leaving the state, in full  
16          disclosure I do work for a supermarket chain in  
17          New Hampshire, Market Basket. I'm not speaking  
18          on their behalf. I'm not speaking in any way to  
19          represent them. I'm just speaking as myself.

20                 Companies like Market Basket are actually  
21                 expanding in this state despite the claims that  
22                 were made earlier about higher electricity  
23                 driving them out. The reason why our

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1 competitors have been driven out is because of  
2 their business model. Inefficiencies and  
3 extremely high cost. We excel in selling a  
4 product that's 15 percent cheaper on average  
5 than our retail competitors and our employees  
6 are paid quite well. So as one of those proud  
7 employees, I can say that is certainly the case.

8 Any of the claims that have been made about  
9 the financial benefits to New Hampshire  
10 ratepayers, how much cost savings that we'll  
11 have, again, without a Power Purchase Agreement  
12 in place, all those numbers you see on those  
13 screens are meaningless. They don't mean a darn  
14 thing because without a signed Power Purchase  
15 Agreement, there is nothing, absolutely nothing,  
16 to base those numbers on. So until that is in  
17 place, I think you guys are just completely  
18 wasting your time. Thank you.

19 (Applause)

20 SPEAKER: Howard Moffett. Thank you,  
21 Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to take another  
22 couple of minutes to talk about one issue that I  
23 didn't get chance to talk about, and it's one

1           that seems to have been relevant to a number of  
2           people who have spoken tonight.  It's the  
3           question of whether and to what extent Northern  
4           Pass is actually going to reduce electric rates  
5           in New Hampshire and New England.  I think  
6           there's a case to be made that it will have or  
7           could have a modest effect in terms of reducing  
8           electric rates, but I think it's going to be  
9           very important for the committee if they want to  
10          get a handle on this to really look carefully at  
11          these claims.  Mr. Quinlan has told you that  
12          Northern Pass hydropower would displace higher  
13          cost generation in the ISO New England bid stack  
14          resulting in \$800 million in annual savings for  
15          New England, and that New Hampshire's share of  
16          those savings would be ten percent or \$80  
17          million based on our 9 percent share of New  
18          England's electric load.  He calls this the  
19          market suppression effect.

20                 What he didn't tell you or at least he  
21                 hasn't emphasized is that Hydro-Quebec plans to  
22                 sell Northern Pass power at prevailing market  
23                 rates, meaning it will charge as much as the

1 market will bear. So yes, Northern Pass could  
2 in theory displace the most expensive thousand  
3 megawatts of the 16 to 20,000 megawatts that New  
4 England uses in an average winter day, but that  
5 doesn't mean that electric rates paid by New  
6 Hampshire ratepayers would be cut by five  
7 percent. Not even close.

8 The effect of Northern Pass on the average  
9 ratepayer's monthly electric bill will be much,  
10 much smaller than some of the figures you've  
11 heard tonight. I heard a figure of five  
12 percent, and, frankly, I don't know where that  
13 could come from if Hydro-Quebec is going to be  
14 charging prevailing market rates. Mr. Quinlan  
15 also mentioned a beneficially priced Power  
16 Purchase Agreement, Mr. Tilton referred to it  
17 earlier, for ten percent of Northern Pass's  
18 power, but as you've heard before, Eversource  
19 has been talking about that for several years,  
20 but we have yet to see the contract.

21 You don't have to take my word for this.  
22 Okay? I'm not an expert on electric rates, but  
23 you have available to you some people that are

1 experts on electric rates, and I would suggest  
2 that if you want to get a sense of how to weigh  
3 the potential effects of the Northern Pass  
4 project would have on reducing electric rates,  
5 you might want to look carefully at another  
6 project that is coming before your committee,  
7 that's the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Project, the  
8 Northeast Energy Direct Project. Because  
9 members of the PUC staff in an investigative  
10 study that they did last year in IR 15124,  
11 coming out of that study they have, they've  
12 concluded that the Northeast Energy Direct  
13 Project would actually reduce electric rates in  
14 New England by somewhere between 7 and 11  
15 percent. That's not 7 to 11 cents. It's 7 to  
16 11 percent. And I don't think there's any other  
17 project on the drawing boards anywhere that  
18 comes close to that. Certainly not the Spectra  
19 AIM project, and I don't think Northern Pass is  
20 going to come close to it either.

21 My point is, if you really care, if you  
22 really think that this project is going to  
23 benefit New Hampshire ratepayers by

1 significantly reducing electric rates, I would  
2 ask you, I would urge you do your homework.  
3 Take advantage of the expertise you have in the  
4 PUC and find out because I don't think it makes  
5 sense. That's all I'll say. No, it's not all  
6 I'll say. I'm going to say a couple more  
7 things. It's the cost to the public that really  
8 make this project unacceptable unless it's  
9 buried. You can't quantify those costs.  
10 Because if Northern Pass is hung from  
11 hundred-foot towers, the damage to the state's  
12 most treasured natural landscapes would be in  
13 incalculable. You've heard countless people  
14 testify about that tonight. New Hampshire's  
15 sense of itself would be in irretrievably  
16 compromised, and as for the state's symbol and  
17 welcome sign, you would be asking us to trade  
18 the Old Man for 130 miles of overhead  
19 transmission lines. Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MR. HONIGBERG: I believe I have called  
22 everyone who signed up to speak. Did I miss  
23 anyone? All right. I will ask the

1 Administrator and Counsel if there's anything  
2 else we need to do?

3 PAM MONROE: No.

4 MR. HONIGBERG: Seems like there is nothing  
5 so we will adjourn this hearing. Thank you all  
6 for your participation.

7 (Hearing ended at 10:24 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

14 I further certify that I am a disinterested  
15 person in the event or outcome of this cause of  
16 action.

17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my hand and  
18 affix my Certified Shorthand Reporter seal this 28th  
19 day of March, 2016.

20  
21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 CYNTHIA FOSTER, LCR, RPR  
23

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