

1 STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
2 SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

3 March 23, 2009 - 6:35 p.m.
4 Lancaster Town Hall
25 Main Street
5 Lancaster, New Hampshire

6

7 In re: SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:
SEC DOCKET NO. 2008-04:
8 Application of Granite Reliable
9 Power, LLC, for a Certificate
of Site and Facility for the
Granite Reliable Power
10 Windpark in Coos County, New
Hampshire. (Hearing to receive
11 public comments)

12 PRESENT: SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:
Thomas B. Getz, Chrmn. Public Utilities Commission
13 (Chairman of SEC Subcommittee - Presiding)

14 Donald Kent Dept. of Resources & Econ. Dev.
Glenn Normandeau, Exec Dir. Fish & Game Department
15 Robert Scott, Director DES - Air Resources Division
Christopher Northrop N.H. Office of Energy & Planning
16 William Janelle Dept. of Transportation

17 * * *

18 Reptg. Army Corps of Engineers: Richard Roach
19

20 * * *

21 Counsel for the Committee: Michael J. Iacopino, Esq.

22

23 COURT REPORTER: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52

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2 ALSO NOTED AS PRESENT:

3 Reptg. Granite Reliable Power, LLC,
and Noble Environmental Power:
4 Douglas L. Patch, Esq. (Orr & Reno)
Susan S. Geiger, Esq. (Orr & Reno)

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Reptg. Counsel for the Public:
Peter Roth, Esq.
Senior Assistant Atty. General
New Hampshire Dept. of Justice

Reptg. Appal achi an Mountai n Cl ub: Davi d Publ i cover

Kathlyn Keene, pro se

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PROCEEDINGS

CHAI RMAN GETZ: Okay. Good evening,
everyone. I'd like to open the public hearing in Site
Evaluation Committee Docket Number 2008-04. And, this is
concerning the Application of Granite Reliable Wind Power
for a Certificate of Site and Facility pursuant to RSA
Chapter 162-H. The proposed renewable energy facility
would be located in the Town of Dummer and in the
unincorporated places known as Dixville, Ervings Location,
Millsfield, and Odell. The Applicant seeks authority for
the construction and operation of 33 wind turbines, each
having a nameplate capacity of 3 megawatts, for a total
capacity of 99 megawatts. The 33 turbines would be built
on four strings along Dixville Peak, Mount Kelsey, Owlhead
Mountain, and a ridgeline known as "Fishbrook". The
Applicant also seeks authority to construct associated
facilities, including a 34.5 kV transmission line to
collect energy from the turbines, a 115 kV transmission
line to interconnect with the Public Service Company of

20 New Hampshire system, a switching station, and a
21 maintenance building.

22 My name is Tom Getz. I'm Chairman of
23 the Public Utilities Commission, I'm also Vice Chairman of
24 the Site Evaluation Committee, and I'm the presiding

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1 officer of the Subcommittee that has been formed to hear
2 this case. And, I'd like to have the other members of the
3 Subcommittee introduce themselves, starting on my far
4 left.

5 DIR. SCOTT: My name is Bob Scott. I'm
6 the Director of the Air Resources Division with the New
7 Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

8 DR. KENT: I'm Don Kent, with the
9 Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division
10 of Forests and Lands, Natural Heritage Bureau.

11 DIR. NORMANDEAU: I'm Glenn Normandeau,
12 Executive Director of the New Hampshire Fish & Game
13 Department.

14 MR. JANELLE: Bill Janelle. I'm the
15 Assistant Director of Project Development, with the New
16 Hampshire Department of Transportation.

17 MR. NORTHROP: Chris Northrop, Principal
18 Planner, with the New Hampshire Office of Energy &
19 Planning.

20 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Okay. Now, let me begin
21 by describing the way the public hearing will be conducted
22 this evening. I will start with some background on the
23 overall Site Evaluation Committee process, and what events
24 have occurred to date. And, then, we will turn to hearing

1 your comments about the Project. I think it may be clear
2 by now, but that sign-up sheets are available in the back
3 of the room. Our Counsel to the Committee, Mr. Mike
4 Iacopino, has presented me with the three sheets I've been
5 given so far. And, I'm just going to go down the sheets
6 in the order that I've been given them and in which people
7 signed up. You can also submit a written comment. There
8 are forms in the back of the room that will be reviewed
9 and kept on file. We have the podium down front. If you,
10 when I call your name, if you could come down and use the
11 podium, and then everyone should be able to hear you, and
12 our court reporter, Mr. Patnaude, will be able to
13 transcribe all of the proceedings tonight, and we'll have
14 a transcript that will be eventually put up on the Site
15 Evaluation Committee's website.

16 I also wanted just to note, so there's
17 no confusion, apparently there's a document that was in
18 the back of the room, near the sign-up sheets, that talks
19 about wind farm -- the wind farm in Lempster, New
20 Hampshire. And, I just want to make clear for the record,
21 that is not an official document of the Site Evaluation
22 Committee. That's just a document that someone has put
23 together who has a position about wind farms.

24 So, let me now talk about the overall

1 process for reviewing an Application for a Certificate of
2 Site and Facility. The Site Evaluation Committee uses a
3 formal judicial-style approach to reviewing Applications.
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4 The process begins when an Applicant submits specific
5 testimony and evidence that are required by statute and by
6 the Commission's rules. And, in this case, six volumes of
7 material were filed. And, in this case, and in all cases,
8 it's the -- the Applicant must prove by a preponderance of
9 the evidence that it has satisfied a number of standards.
10 And, we have to make specific findings: Whether the
11 Applicant has adequate financial, technical, and
12 managerial capability to construct and operate the
13 facility; we must find that the facility will not unduly
14 interfere with the orderly development of the region; we
15 must also find that the facility will not have an
16 unreasonable adverse effect on aesthetics, history sites,
17 air and water quality, the natural environment and public
18 health and safety; and we must find that the operation of
19 the facility is consistent with the state energy policy.

20 In this case, the Applicant filed its
21 Application on July 15. The first formal step by the
22 Committee occurred on August 14 of 2008, when Tom Burack,
23 the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental
24 Services, and the Chair of the Site Evaluation Committee,

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1 issued an order, finding that the Application was
2 complete, and designated the Subcommittee that you see
3 tonight to hear the case. In addition, in around that
4 time, the Attorney General appointed Peter Roth to serve
5 as Counsel for the Public. RSA 162-H:9 states that
6 Counsel for the Public "shall represent the public in
7 seeking to protect the quality of the environment and in
8 seeking to ensure an adequate supply of energy." And,
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9 Mr. Roth is here this evening, and in a few moments he'll
10 make a few remarks.

11 But, by accepting the Application and
12 finding it complete, the clock started for the
13 Subcommittee's review. RSA 162-H:6-a provides that the
14 Subcommittee has 240 days from August 14 to issue a
15 decision. And, that deadline would have run on April 6.
16 However, the statute also provides that the Subcommittee
17 may extend the time frame if it is in the public interest.
18 And, at the public hearing last week here in Lancaster, we
19 extended the time frame by 30 days, which would be out
20 till May 6th.

21 On August 27, 2008, an order was issued
22 providing notice of a public information hearing that was
23 held at Groveton High School on October 2nd, and a site
24 visit that was held on October 3rd. A procedural hearing

10

1 was held on September 18, for the purpose of receiving
2 Petitions for Intervention and for setting a procedural
3 schedule. A number of Petitions to Intervenor were
4 granted: For Clean Power Development; Sonja Sheldon and
5 Wayne Urso, Kathryn Keene, Robert Keene and Jon Odell, the
6 Appalachian Mountain Club, the New Hampshire Wind Energy
7 Association, and the Industrial Wind Action Group, and
8 subsequently intervention was also granted to the New
9 Hampshire Department of Fish & Game. By being granted
10 intervention, a person or an organization becomes a formal
11 party to the proceeding, and that person or organization
12 has the right to conduct discovery, to file testimony, to
13 cross-examine witnesses, to make a closing argument, which
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14 occurred last week, and to file briefs.

15 Pursuant to the procedural schedule that
16 was adopted back in September, discovery took place over a
17 period of four months, which gave the parties an
18 opportunity to ask questions about the Application, so
19 that they could prepare their cross-examination of the
20 Applicant's witnesses and to write testimony. In addition
21 to the Applicant, testimony was filed by Counsel for the
22 Public, by New Hampshire Fish & Game Department, the
23 Application Mountain Club, the Industrial Wind Action
24 Group, and Kathryn Keene.

11

1 As I said, hearings were held on seven
2 days, beginning on March 9, 2009, and ending with closing
3 arguments on March 19 in Lancaster. And, briefs have been
4 scheduled for April 6, 2009.

5 Now, the formality of the structure
6 extends to the members of the Committee as well. We are
7 required to act like judges in any civil case would act.
8 Which means that we cannot talk about the merits of the
9 case with any of the parties or with the public or the
10 press. The only conversations that we can have are in a
11 formal, noticed proceeding, like this, where we will hear
12 the comments from the parties or like the hearings, when
13 we heard the argument and the evidence and the
14 cross-examination. Otherwise, we are subject to ex parte
15 rules, just like judges are. And, we will be scheduling
16 public deliberations in this proceeding that will occur in
17 the weeks following the submission of briefs in this case.

18 If you're interested and want to get a
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19 better idea of the process and how the Committee works, I
20 would suggest you take a look at the decision that the
21 Site Evaluation Committee issued previously in the
22 Lempster case. In addition to understanding the process,
23 I think it will give you an idea of how seriously the
24 Committee takes its duties and how thoroughly it does its

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1 work. And, you can find the decision on the Lempster case
2 on the PUC's website by going to puc.nh.gov and following
3 links to the Site Evaluation Committee, or by going
4 directly to nhsec.nh.gov, which will also have all of the
5 materials that have been filed in this case.

6 Now, the purpose, as I said, of the
7 hearing tonight is for us to hear what you think about the
8 proposal. The statute governing the process requires that
9 we issue a certificate, deny a certificate, but we also
10 may issue a certificate with conditions. So, for our
11 purposes tonight, it would be very helpful if you could
12 indicate whether you support the proposal, whether you
13 oppose the proposal, or whether you support the proposal
14 with conditions. And, if you could explain why you've
15 come to the position you have, and then we can take --
16 then we can review that and have a good feel for what the
17 basis of the public comment is tonight.

18 We have quite a few folks who have
19 signed up. And, most people have indicated less than --
20 that they intend to speak for less than five minutes, a
21 couple of people haven't. I would just ask that, if we
22 could keep it under five minutes, then I think that would
23 be very helpful to the process, and we'll make sure that

24 everyone gets a chance to be heard tonight. And, we have

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1 certain physical limits on Mr. Patnaude, around a couple
2 hours, we may need to take -- he may need to take a break,
3 but we'll see where we are and how many people have signed
4 up and if more people come in.

5 I also note that the other day, at the
6 end of the hearings, there was a question from some of the
7 parties whether there would be an opportunity for them to
8 speak tonight. And, what I indicated then, and will be
9 the case now, is that our primary concern tonight, our
10 primary objective is to hear what the public thinks. At
11 the end of the evening, if the parties, if any of the
12 parties are here and want to say something, then they will
13 be given an opportunity and be subject to the same five
14 minute time period. But we'll deal with that and we'll
15 see how that goes at the end of the evening.

16 I did note, though, that early in the
17 process we're going to give Mr. Roth, from the Attorney
18 General's Office, an opportunity to speak. Counsel for
19 the Public has a very different role that he will explain
20 briefly about. And, so, I guess at this point then I'd
21 just ask Peter, if you could speak somewhat about the
22 Counsel for the Public's role. I don't know if you would
23 prefer to -- it might be easier for you to face everyone,
24 rather than us.

14

1 MR. ROTH: There, I'll turn the podium

2 around, so to speak, since I'm not talking to them.
3 Although, it's probably bad form to have your back to the
4 Judge.

5 My role in this case was to understand
6 and attempt to get a balance of the Project's impacts,
7 between the environmental impacts and the energy value
8 that it claims to produce. And, to take a position
9 ultimately, after reviewing the evidence and hearing the
10 case and participating in the case. That doesn't make me
11 a judge, that makes me a participant in the case. And,
12 because I represent everybody in New Hampshire, the people
13 who like it and the people who don't like it, it puts me
14 in kind of a strange position. Although, it also means
15 that I can talk to everybody and I don't have to tell
16 anybody else what they told me, which is kind of nice.

17 This case has been really quite large
18 and has consumed the better part of my time since I
19 started on it. Really, the first I heard of it was in
20 January of last year, when people from the Project visited
21 me. And, then, we really got into it in earnest late
22 summer. And, we've had numerous witnesses, hundreds of
23 documents, thousands of pages, and hours and hours and
24 days and days, unfortunately, of hearings. Lots of maps

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1 and pictures. I've got, you know, very early on when the
2 Application came to my office, it included a roll of plans
3 of this facility, and I now have something like three sets
4 of them, and that was, you know, this big around, and
5 weighed about 60 pounds.

6 I hired through the process, and with

7 funding provided by the Applicant, and at least, in part,
8 against their -- over their objection, I hired experts to
9 help me with this case. I hired two gentlemen, two
10 doctors, Dr. Sanford and Dr. Mariani, from a Massachusetts
11 wetlands consulting firm, to help look at the wetlands and
12 some of the engineering impacts of the project. I also
13 hired, from the same consulting firm, an expert on birds,
14 because of the potential impact of the Project on both
15 migrating birds, nocturnal migrants that you may have
16 heard about, resident raptors that may live at or near the
17 site, bats and migrating raptors, as well as breeding
18 birds, the non-migrating birds that live there. And,
19 we've all heard, I'm sure, a lot about the Bicknell's
20 thrush. But, you know, it has also come to light that the
21 State Bird of New Hampshire, the purple finch, is known to
22 nest on the Project site.

23 We had a fairly lengthy process
24 throughout the autumn and the winter of discovery. And,

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1 in that discovery process, I read every page of the
2 documents that were provided to me, the six volumes, and I
3 wrote something like somewhere between 300 and 400
4 questions and document requests to the Applicant. And,
5 the Applicant was cooperative and helpful in responding to
6 those requests. So, there were a lot of questions. The
7 other parties, you know, the other intervening parties
8 also wrote a number of questions, and I reviewed all of
9 those questions and responses.

10 We had three or four, and sorry if I
11 can't remember precisely how many, but three or four

12 meetings to discuss the discovery and the information
13 where the Applicant presented its experts and its people
14 who wrote the Application documents and who are developing
15 this Project. And, we sat, for the better part of a day
16 on each occasion, most of the time or at least half of the
17 time up here in Coos County and Berlin, I believe, and
18 perhaps here in Lancaster once. There were numerous
19 pleadings and filed testimony from other parties.

20 And, one of the things that I did early
21 on, in fact, right after the hearing in Groveton, back in
22 October, I filed a motion with the Site Evaluation
23 Committee to require them to hold all of their hearings
24 here in Coos County. And, while the discovery meetings

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1 were here and the closing arguments were here, and this
2 meeting is here, the rest of the adjudicatory hearings
3 were at their order, which denied my motion for the most
4 part, held in Concord. And, I hope that didn't
5 inconvenience people too much. But I firmly believed,
6 when I filed that motion, that this proceeding should have
7 been done here. And, the Applicant opposed that, except
8 for some -- essentially, except for the parts of it that
9 were actually held here. I submitted testimony of the
10 experts that I hired. Dr. Sanford and Dr. Mariani filed
11 testimony on the wetlands and the high-elevation habitat
12 issues. Dr. -- Mr. Lloyd-Evans filed testimony about what
13 he expected to be the effects on birds and raptors and
14 bats or what he observed as the deficiencies in the
15 information that was accumulated.

16 I also hired a financial expert. I used

17 my contacts and I located an investment banker in New
18 York. And, you would think, you know, it wouldn't be that
19 hard to find an investment banker in New York these days,
20 they're hopefully all unemployed, but these guys are busy.
21 But I was able to locate an investment banker in New York,
22 a Mr. Sundstrom, who has a considerable amount of
23 expertise in financing wind power projects. The financing
24 of these projects is something only Wall Street bankers

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1 can really appreciate and understand. And, until
2 recently, it was done, in large part, to generate, in
3 addition to the money that is used to build the Project,
4 but generate tax credits that flow out of the generation
5 of the electricity, and are then used to -- for large
6 companies, like AIG, were using the tax credits to offset
7 their tax responsibilities. And, now, they don't really
8 need tax credits, so that market has dried up, and now
9 there's sort of this empty space where there used to be a
10 financing market for this kind of project. And, there's a
11 lot of talk about the Stimulus Package being perhaps
12 something that's going to bring the financing market, but
13 that's not clear. And, it's not clear when that's going
14 to happen or what it's going to look like. And,
15 Mr. Sundstrom, my investment banker, he provided some
16 testimony about that, and he was subjected to
17 cross-examination by the Applicant's attorneys.

18 Ultimately, as you may know from reading
19 the newspapers or if you were at the closing argument last
20 week, I couldn't get real comfortable that the Project
21 struck the right balance, and as presented in the

22 documents and at the hearings. I wasn't comfortable that
23 these developers were qualified and ready to do this
24 Project here and now, and, in legalese, that they had met

19

1 their burden of proof. Now, I'm not going to repeat my
2 entire closing argument, which lasted 25 minutes. But,
3 suffice it to say, I thought on several major issues, on
4 the energy policy, the aesthetics, the environmental
5 impact, the effect on the orderly development of the
6 region, their managerial and technical expertise, and
7 especially their financial capability, I didn't think this
8 Project was right for construction here. And, that's the
9 view that I presented and that's the view that I stand by.

10 My last comment about this is to, and
11 I'm glad to hear that there's a lot of people that have
12 signed up for public comment. And, I've been reading, you
13 know, I read the stories in the paper, and I read the
14 blogs that -- where people write their comments about it,
15 and I read the letters that people file with the Site
16 Evaluation Committee. And, they read it, too. I can't
17 say that they read the blogs or the newspaper stories, but
18 I know that they read the public comments that are filed
19 in letters, and they listen to you when you speak here.
20 So, don't think that, because it's simply public comment,
21 that it's somehow entitled to less weight than anything --
22 than testimony of a witness. What people think about this
23 Project in Coos County matters, and it's part of the
24 process. And, I encourage everyone to speak and speak

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1 your mind. Thank you.

2 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Thank you, Mr. Roth.

3 And, I'd also like Richard Roach, from the Army Corps of
4 Engineers, to say a few words about the role of the Corps
5 with respect to this Project.

6 MR. ROACH: Thank you. I'm Richard
7 Roach, with the Army Corps of Engineers. If this Project
8 is to be built, these people will need an Army Corps of
9 Engineers permit. So, the reason I'm here is to take
10 advantage of this opportunity to hear what you have to say
11 about the Project. Thank you for the opportunity to
12 listen.

13 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Thank you. Okay. The
14 first person on the list is Dr. Annamarie Pennucci. And,
15 I hope I don't mangle too many folks' names tonight before
16 we get through the evening.

17 DR. PENNUCCI: Sorry about going first,
18 folks, I think I got here because I come from Raymond, and
19 you can't judge how far Coos County is from the southern
20 half of the state, so I got here early. Kind of
21 critically concerned with a number of things. I'm a
22 scientist, self-employed, which, as most of you probably
23 realize by now, means I'm not employed at all. Have lots
24 of time to devote to this, but, unfortunately, come from

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1 the bottom half of the state where we use energy, but we
2 also have Seabrook and a lot of other pending projects.
3 I'm concerned that several things have not been met here.
4 One, you hear about impact from birds and from fish and
5 game, but has anyone done a wild flower/shrub/tree

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6 inventory? Has anyone looked at rare or endangered or
7 threatened species? We have quite a few of them here in
8 the state. There's only one that's truly endangered,
9 whose likelihood -- or, likelihood of being found is very,
10 very good in the area of Cape Horn and parts north of Cape
11 Horn, which is partly where this site is going to be.
12 It's also a high-elevation and wetland plant. Critically
13 important that we keep it alive in a small area of the
14 White Mountain National Forest and nowhere else.

15 So, have we hired anybody to look at
16 this? Is the New England Wild Flower Volunteer Corps been
17 up here to look at this? Has anyone paid them to come
18 through and do a huge site evaluation that lists
19 everything that your wetland people did not? We have an
20 awful lot of other plants that are critically important.

21 Two, I'm a pathologist. What impacts
22 does this have for the rest of the forest? Are we
23 introducing things? We're bringing materials, we're
24 bringing a tremendous amount of infrastructure from

22

1 somewhere else. Are we going to sterilize it all? Are we
2 going to have invasive species looking at us? Are we
3 going to do something more than just throw up an awful lot
4 of stuff? And, have we looked at all the things that go
5 into that, the trucks, the tires, the people, the waste?
6 Have we considered all of the rest of the equation,
7 instead of just the very, very small benefit.

8 Two, we watched Seabrook, all of you and
9 all of us, every one of us is paying for Seabrook; (1) to
10 be built, and (2) to be decommissioned, if you've ever

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11 read your electric power bill. Are we going to pay to
12 decommission this as well? Do we even know that? What
13 are we going to pay and when are we going to pay it, in
14 terms of infrastructure constraints and infrastructure
15 management and its eventual dissolution?

16 Last, but not least, I think there are a
17 lot of places we can put wind power. I don't think the
18 far reaches of the North Country, where nobody can live,
19 and you guys have been living in a depressed area a lot
20 longer than I have, many of you have been out of work
21 longer than I have, many of you have tighter budgets than
22 I have. Although, in three years' time, if you've ever
23 come as close as I came to zero, you're not going to like
24 it either.

23

1 But, let's be honest, 44,000 houses are
2 not going to go up in Coos County; not this year, not next
3 year, and not in the next ten years. Bretton Woods may
4 wish to build a thousand houses around Mount Washington,
5 but even they don't have the impact for that. Loon
6 Mountain may wish to build 650 houses, but they can't do
7 it either. So, who are these people that are going to be
8 served by this wind farm? They're not going to be here.
9 They're going to be somewhere else on the grid. Well, if
10 somewhere else on the grid can accept the power, let's put
11 the wind towers somewhere else.

12 I'd like to offer the Site Committee a
13 suggestion. I'm all in favor of bringing -- I'd love to
14 see us go with wind. Why don't we use our ski areas? We
15 have ski areas with lift towers, access roads, facilities

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16 already built, why can't you put a turbine on top of every
17 one of the chairlift towers? Three seasons of the year
18 those areas sit there doing absolutely nothing. One
19 season out of year they consume an immense amount of
20 power. How about if they pay some of it back? And, if
21 Granite Reliable Power would like to join in that effort,
22 I'd love to see them use infrastructure that already
23 exists. That's my big suggestion for the day. Thanks for
24 listening.

24

1 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Thank you. Mark
2 Armstrong.

3 DR. PENNUCCI: Although, in answer to
4 the question, you said "could we specify are we opposed,
5 for, or with considerations?" As it stands right now, I'd
6 have to state that I'm opposed. Thank you.

7 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Thank you. Mark
8 Armstrong.

9 MR. ARMSTRONG: May I submit written
10 comments to you?

11 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Please. Thank you.
12 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you. For the
13 opportunity to address this Committee. My name is Mark
14 Armstrong. And, I'm a forester with Wagner Forest
15 Management in Errol. These are my personal opinions. I'm
16 not a professional public speaker. I work in the woods,
17 and have done so for 35 years. Everyone's familiar with
18 George Santayana's famous quotation "Those who do not
19 remember history are condemned to repeat it." I recently
20 heard something that's better than that: "We learn from

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21 history that we do not learn from history." The President
22 of the United States said, and I quote, "Our decision
23 about energy will test the character of the American
24 people and the ability of the President and the Congress

25

1 to govern. This difficult effort will be the moral
2 equivalent of war." President Carter said that on
3 April 18th, 1977. That was almost 32 years ago. How many
4 times have we been over a barrel since then? "We learn
5 from history that we do not learn from history." Does
6 anyone remember the Arab oil embargo of 1973? How about
7 the second oil crisis in 1979, when the Shah of Iran was
8 displaced by the Ayotollahs? I remember gas stations
9 posing a \$3.00 limit on gas purchases. You had to make
10 multiple stops in the morning at different gas stations to
11 get enough fuel to get to work and home again.

12 During the past 32 years since President
13 Carter declared the moral equivalent of war on our effort
14 toward energy independence, oil and energy prices have
15 been an up-and-down roller coaster depending on the shaky
16 political situation of the oil-rich regions of the globe
17 and the performance of our own aging refinery
18 infrastructure. Let's face it. Nobody wants an oil
19 refinery in their backyard.

20 As a result, demand for alternatives,
21 such as fuel-efficient cars, wood and pellet stoves, waxes
22 and wanes with the whims of dictators and despots in the
23 Middle East and Latin America. When gas prices are up,
24 small cars are in high demand; as soon as it goes down,

1 people go back to their gas-guzzlers. Yet, we're only one
2 hurricane away from a return to \$3.00 a gallon gas. But
3 "we learn from history that we do not learn from history."

Affordable and reliable electrical energy is critical to us, especially here in the Northeast. How many hours can you go without electricity in your house in January before you have to worry about frozen pipes? Do you know anyone who is dependent on an oxygen ventilator for their next breath? I know a couple people who are. And, they can get by on battery power for a little while, but they need a long-term, dependable electrical energy supply, and it means the difference between life and death for them. It also means the difference between life and death for our economy.

15 We, in the Northeast, already pay the
16 highest electrical rates in the country. It's no
17 coincidence that many businesses, with the economy of
18 scale to do so, have a biomass boiler to generate their
19 own electricity, rather than buying it off the grid.
20 Doesn't it make sense that locally produced power will be
21 cheaper and more dependable than if we rely on power
22 produced elsewhere? Our Canadian friends are great
23 neighbors, but the continued exportation of U.S. dollars
24 for something that should be produced here at home is not

1 in the best interest of our monetary system.

2 The economy of northern New England has
3 been criticized in the past as being too narrow. We are

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4 indeed in the same precarious position as a two-legged
5 stool balanced on timber and tourism. The production of
6 clean, reliable energy could provide an additional sector
7 to broaden the base of our economy and make it possible
8 for some of our kids to stay here rather than moving south
9 to find work.

10 It is not my intention to disparage
11 those who oppose this Project. But, since 1974, when I
12 started my forestry career, I've seen too many landowners
13 abused, politicians bullied, and far too many
14 opportunities lost because of the same old "Citizens
15 Against Virtually Everything", the CAVE people. They cry
16 the same crocodile tears and inflame the same old
17 unfounded fears of environmental devastation in order to
18 defeat economic progress. It's our economy that's being
19 devastated thanks to these "Citizens Against Virtually
20 Everything".

21 Yes, there will have to be access roads
22 built on the mountains to maintain the wind towers. Do
23 these people know that there's already an access road
24 clear to the top of Mount Washington and the environment

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1 was not destroyed? Yes, there will have to be a blinking
2 light on the wind towers. Do they know that one of the
3 methods of obtaining the coal to run electrical generating
4 plants is actually called "Mountaintop Removal"?
5 Mountaintop removal. Do you suppose that might be a tad
6 more disruptive than seeing a twinkling light on a distant
7 mountain?

8 No one is pretending that this Project

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9 will be a panacea to our economic woes, but it will
10 provide some jobs in construction, as well as long-term
11 work maintaining the roads and infrastructure. It will
12 provide non-polluting power and contribute towards the
13 warm long neglected goal of energy independence. It's
14 about time we woke up and learned from history. We need
15 this Project. New Hampshire needs this Project. New
16 England needs this Project. Our country needs this
17 Project. Please approve this Project. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Cindy
19 Williams.

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Hello. I'd like to thank
21 you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Cindy
22 Williams, and I live in Errol, New Hampshire. And, I am
23 in support of this Project. For the past three years I
24 have lived and worked in Coos County. As a forester for

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1 Wagner Forest Management, I'm extremely fortunate to be
2 able to enjoy the beauty of New Hampshire's landscape and
3 make a living in a remote and isolated place.

4 As a forester and resident of Errol, the
5 unincorporated townships of Millsfield and Dixville are
6 places that are very familiar to me. Dixville and
7 Millsfield are not only places where I work, but also
8 places where I enjoy hunting, fishing, snowmobiling
9 kayaking, and viewing wildlife. These places provide both
10 my livelihood and my recreation.

11 Millsfield and Dixville are two of the
12 townships that fall under the proposed wind farm. I've
13 been following the progress of this Project and attended a

14 previous public hearing in Groveton last fall. Throughout
15 the development of this Project, I've heard and read many
16 arguments for and against it. I have heard many arguments
17 based on fact and many that play on emotion.

18 I would like to take this opportunity to
19 offer some insight from the perspective of someone who
20 works, plays, and lives in Coos County, and whose
21 profession demands a balance between environmental
22 concerns and economic gain. I've heard many warn of the
23 effects the wind farm will have on high-elevation forest.
24 They claim that the effects of the wind farm on 58 acres

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1 of high-elevation forest would be disastrous because
2 high-elevation forests only encompass about 4 percent of
3 the land base in New Hampshire. According to the New
4 Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan, high-elevation forests
5 cover 4.3 percent of New Hampshire. This translates to
6 over 243,000 acres of high-elevation forest. And, also
7 according to this very same New Hampshire Wildlife Action
8 Plan, of these 243,000 acres of high-elevation spruce-fir
9 forest, approximately 87 percent of those acres are
10 already protected by conservation ownership or easement.

11 The Project area itself is surrounded by
12 thousands of acres of easement land. And, even though
13 there are thousands of acres of protected high-elevation
14 forest in New Hampshire already, the Project has taken
15 additional measures to ensure the protection of
16 high-elevation forest surrounding the location of this
17 wind farm through the mitigation of Mount Kelsey. Mount
18 Kelsey is located in Millsfield, and includes over

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19 1,600 acres of high-elevation forest, and has been
20 identified by Fish & Game as being critical pine marten
21 habitat.

At the other end of the spectrum, I have heard many people argue that the economic benefits from this wind farm would be too few. However, the Project

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1 will generate a great deal of revenue for Coos County. It
2 will also provide greatly needed jobs during the
3 construction, and it will provide jobs for the maintenance
4 of the towers after its completion. In the face of these
5 facts, some would still claim that the benefits do not
6 outweigh the costs that the towers would have on tourism
7 and recreation. I would urge those that make such claims
8 to take a closer look at the reasons why Northern New
9 Hampshire remains a popular recreation and tourist
10 destination. One of the biggest factors that make
11 northern New Hampshire such a great place to recreate is
12 the seemingly endless amount of private land open to the
13 public.

14 Private land provides enormous
15 opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism, which
16 are vitally important to the survival of the North
17 Country. These opportunities exist only because the
18 landowners are able to afford to keep their roads
19 maintained and keep their lands as working forests. Wind
20 power would not only provide additional revenue for such
21 landowners, but it would also help them weather tough
22 economic times such as these. The money generated by a
23 wind farm would add an element of stability for private

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1 is down. By ensuring that the private landowner is able
2 to afford the costs of keeping land forested and keeping
3 roads open, we are ensuring that the tradition of keeping
4 the land open to the public continues.

5 Lastly, I have read claims that the wind
6 farm will mar the landscape, putting a mark on the hearts
7 and souls of the residents of the North Country. For
8 those who may not have noticed, the heart and soul of the
9 North Country is already in danger. It's in danger of
10 losing its home, losing its business, and losing a way of
11 life that is built on the ability to use its resources to
12 be self-sufficient and prosperous.

13 I see this wind farm as a continuation
14 of the legacy of Coos County; a legacy built upon the wise
15 use of its resources and the legacy of a working forest.
16 It is my belief that this wind power project can balance
17 environmental concerns with economic return, and be part
18 of the working forest that keeps New Hampshire beautiful,
19 wooded, wild, and open. Thank you.

20 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Thank you. Ed Fortin,
21 from Errol .

22 MR. FORTIN: Hi. Thank you for having
23 us. I work in Millsfield generally, in and around that
24 Errol area. Even though this wind farm isn't going to

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1 directly impact me, I do support it wholeheartedly, for
2 the various reasons that my colleague just spoke of.

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3 Mainly, I'm an advocate for landowner rights. I'm an
4 advocate for progressive -- progressive rights, meaning,
5 you know, get out from under the thumb of Mid East oil and
6 be independent on other oil products. Somebody will
7 benefit from this energy. It won't be me. Somebody will
8 benefit from the jobs that it creates in and around the
9 Errol area, Coos County. And, I just want to say I do
10 support this wholeheartedly. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Scott Rineer, from
12 Milan.

13 MR. RINEER: Hello. My name is Scott
14 Rineer. And, I'm the Regional Field Supervisor for Wagner
15 Forest Management here in northern New Hampshire. Wagner
16 is the land manager for Bayroot, LLC, one of the
17 landowners involved in the Granite Reliable Project. I
18 have worked for Wagner in this area for over ten years,
19 and I have been a resident of northern New Hampshire for
20 over half my life.

21 It makes me proud to be a part of the
22 proposed Granite Reliable Project, and also to be doing it
23 right here in my backyard. It also pleases me to hear the
24 support of nearly all of the local delegates, and many of

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1 the citizens of the North Country.

2 The opponents of this the Project will
3 say it will spoil this remote wilderness setting, and that
4 these lands should be protected from development like
5 this. However, what the opponents will not tell you is
6 that most of the northern half of the state has already
7 been protected with conservation easements or outright

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8 purchase by government -- government agencies.

9 Examples of this surround the Project
10 area: To the south, the White Mountain National Forest;
11 to the west, the Nash Stream State Forest; to the
12 northwest, the Vicki Bunnel Memorial Forest; to the
13 north, the Connecticut Lakes Headwater Tract; to the east,
14 the 13-Mile Woods easement and the lands of the Umbagog
15 Wildlife Refuge. And, now, to the southeast, a newly
16 proposed easement of the lands currently owned by T. R.
17 Dillon Logging in Success.

18 These conservation efforts made in
19 recent years are to be applauded, and credit given to the
20 many groups and government agencies that worked so hard to
21 make them happen. In total, well over a million acres in
22 the North Country will be free from development forever,
23 and will also remain working forests.

24 Now, our government has called upon the

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1 American people to find ways to produce alternative energy
2 and rid our dependence of foreign oil. With the Granite
3 Reliable Project, we will be doing just that. This
4 Project, along with the conservation efforts that I spoke
5 of should, in fact, complement one another. Together we
6 should be proud of setting an example to other regions
7 throughout the nation on how -- how conservation and
8 development of alternative energy sources can coexist.

9 If approval for this Project is not
10 granted, I ask you, "where will we have another
11 opportunity like this one in northern New Hampshire?" We
12 are a region so desperately seeking any kind of economic

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13 stimulus possible, and the construction phase of this
14 Project would bring just that. Not to mention the
15 full-time employment opportunities during the operation
16 phase, and the maintenance projects, which will likely be
17 done by local contractors.

18 Some of the opponents will also say that
19 a biomass facility will have similar results, yet be far
20 more beneficial to the local economy on a long-term basis.
21 I would have to agree, yet feel that both wind and biomass
22 should be sought out in Coos County. I believe we should
23 look to expand the North Country transmission system and
24 gain the capacity to support both of these valuable

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1 sources of alternative energy.

2 If you look into the future, you will
3 quickly realize our energy consumption will grow greater
4 and greater, and we need to act now. If approval of this
5 Project is not granted, we will look back 15 to 20 years
6 from now, when we have no other options, and we will wish
7 we had a second chance. We will remember the chance we
8 had. It is a chance we should never allow to pass us by.
9 The Granite Reliable Project is a great opportunity for
10 New Hampshire, and one that I support wholeheartedly.
11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Ray Berthiaume, from
13 Conway. Was I close?

14 MR. BERTHIAUME: Yeah, you were close.
15 You weren't as far off as some. Thank you for the
16 opportunity to speak, and good evening. I had some notes
17 jotted down and some thoughts and some things I've been

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18 thinking about over the period of time here, but my
19 colleagues have done very well in expressing their
20 sentiments, and 99 percent of the sentiments that I was
21 going to iterate here tonight.

22 I support this Project. This Project
23 is, as my colleagues would say, good for the North
24 Country, good for the economy. I believe any renewable

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1 energy source in this economic state, in this state of
2 energy that we're in today, around the world, any
3 renewable energy source that we come up with locally,
4 wind, solar, wood, is a good thing. Analysts have said
5 that, different other industries have said that. It's in
6 place around the country, around the world. I don't
7 believe that the North Country, New Hampshire, or America
8 should sit back and let someone else do this for us.
9 Maybe some of this energy won't be used right here in Coos
10 County. That shouldn't matter whether we approve or
11 disapprove of this Project. We're helping the grid, we're
12 helping the better good. And, again, I support this
13 Project. Thank you very much.

14 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Jerry Poulin, Eddington.

15 MR. POULIN: I'd like to say I support
16 this Project. Wind energy is clean, non-polluting,
17 renewable, consumes no fuel, there are no emissions,
18 there's no carbon dioxide, no sulphur dioxide, no mercury,
19 no effects on global warming. It is predictable. It uses
20 no water resources. And, it's much better than other
21 alternatives for creating energy that we have today.

22 I'd like to say I've visited two wind
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23 farms in Maine. I found them to be aesthetically
24 pleasing. I was very proud to see them in operation, that

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1 this region is finally doing something on its own, to
2 generate its own power, and not reducing -- and reducing
3 our dependence on foreign oil. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Kevin
5 Onnela, from Lempster.

6 MR. ONNELA: Good evening. I'm a
7 flatlander to you guys. I come from Lempster, New
8 Hampshire. I have not been paid to come here. We drove
9 up 120 miles to tell you how we feel about wind turbines.
10 We planted 12 of them, within 1.3 miles of our house. We
11 have a tower that is 500 -- excuse me, 506 feet from our
12 house. We open our sliding glass door so we can hear it
13 at night. I don't know how many of you people here have
14 visited a wind farm, show of hands?

15 (Show of hands.)

16 MR. ONNELA: A lot of you are. That's a
17 lot better than everywhere you go. We've heard the
18 stories about the ice coming off the wind turbines.
19 That's a fallacy. The only ice that comes off it falls
20 off the top of the nacelles now. The birds? We came on
21 line November 10th; zero birds at 12 towers. We check
22 them every day. Our wildlife, something that you don't
23 think about, they feed the deer. I'm sure these people
24 will plant good seed alongside their roads, white clover,

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1 red clover, feed the deer and the bear, it will make stuff
2 for the fish and game a lot better.

3 You got to understand, beauty is in the
4 eyes of the beholder. My wife thinks I'm pretty. She
5 doesn't have to lie to me.

6 [Laughter]

7 MR. ONNELA: Needless to say, I'm for
8 this.

9 CHAIRMAN GETZ: John Harrigan, from
10 Colbrook. And, let me just note, from now on I'll tell
11 who's the speaker who's on deck, just so we can move
12 things along a little.

13 MR. HARRIGAN: Members of the Committee,
14 Mr. Patnaude, I'll try to stop my -- slow down my
15 French-Irish rapid delivery. I'm John Harrigan, from
16 Colbrook. I'm a writer and a farmer. I'm a tree-hugger
17 and a tree-killer. And, I've hiked, fished and hunted the
18 Phillips Brook Tract for a good part of my life, always
19 mentally or otherwise thanking the landowner for leaving
20 the land open.

21 I'm against this horrendous Project,
22 which I see as an insult to our history in the high
23 country. And, I'm not alone in being against this
24 Project. People committed to conservation and stewardship

1 of the landscape, people of every party and every stripe
2 are against this Project. People who have put heart and
3 soul into the spectacular Cohas Trail are against this
4 Project. People and organizations that have struggled for
5 years to buy the Phillips Brook Tract and protect it as a

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6 working forest, as wetlands and high country preserve, are
7 against this Project. People who love wild places and
8 dark skies are against this Project.

9 People who worked so hard for the Nash
10 Stream Tract and the Vicky Bunnel Forest are against this
11 Project. People who are aware that New Hampshire already
12 generates twice as much power as it consumes are against
13 this Project. People who would like far more than a
14 paltry six jobs, in exchange for 12 to 15 miles of wild
15 and uncluttered skyline are against this Project. People
16 who love New Hampshire's scenery and know how very much
17 tourism depends on it are against this Project. People
18 who just plain love the horizon, in a nation of
19 diminishing horizons, are against this Project.

20 People who are aghast at the
21 blackmailing threat of high country logging are
22 nonetheless against this Project. Even New Hampshire's
23 statewide Sunday News is against this Project.

Why are so many people against this

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1 Project at a time when we're all supposed to be marching
2 in lock-step like good little doobies for anything and
3 everything smacking of green? Because it's bad for the
4 landscape, bad for the North Country, and bad for New
5 Hampshire.

6 If this horrendous Project goes forward,
7 the Phillips Brook Tract will be so changed, so scarred,
8 and so marred that we will never be able to marshal the
9 forces and funds in the future to save it. Another of our
10 last wild places will slip through our hands.

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A century or so ago, Theodore Roosevelt traveled to the Grand Canyon to view the site of a proposed cable car. Investors, developers, and boosters crowded all around him. Yet, the man who was destined to become one of America's greatest stewards of the land did not hesitate. "Leave it as it is", he said, in a quote that has gone down in the annals of conservation. You cannot improve it.

19 We should not allow our horizon to be
20 sacrificed for the all -mighty dollar. Dollars which, like
21 the power itself, will flow back to the south. We should
22 not be fast-talked into putting "For Sale" signs on the
23 very landscape so vital for our scenery and our souls. We
24 should be better than that. Thank you.

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1 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Our next speaker is John
2 Lani er. And, after Mr. Lani er will be Wal do Wi lli ams.

3 MR. LANIER: Good evening. My name is
4 John Lanier. I'm a resident of Coos County, living in the
5 Town of Columbia. I'm not representing anybody besides
6 myself right now. I'm a retired wildlife biologist.
7 Spent the last 35 years working on wildlife/forestry
8 issues in the State of New Hampshire.

I'm concerned about this Project. I'm
certainly not opposed to alternative energy. But my
feeling is that the purpose of alternative energy is
several-fold, but there are two main points. One is to
reduce our consumption of fossil fuel. And, the other is
to improve or offset what we're doing in the environment.

15 I've listened to the testimony. I've

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16 listened to the closing statements. I've listened to the
17 individual before the closing statements talk about -- the
18 bird expert, talk about the lack of baseline information,
19 over and over again, in aesthetics and some of the other
20 categories, there has been statements made that the
21 baseline information, the comparability isn't there. I'm
22 concerned that we're going to make a decision based on the
23 lack of information.

24 And, I would urge this Committee to make

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1 a decision -- to hold off on making a decision, really,
2 and set the stage for this proposed proposal to accumulate
3 the appropriate kind of information to where a good
4 decision can be made. I don't think we're at that point
5 yet. And, so, that's where I stand. I'm sort of -- I
6 would rather withhold judgment on whether or not this
7 Project would happen, until I have much better information
8 to make that judgment on. And, I would urge the Committee
9 to consider that. Thank you.

10 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Thank you. Wal do
11 Williams, from Milan, and after Mr. Williams will be
12 Normand Frechette.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm Waldo Williams, from
14 Milan. My concern has been partly taken care of, but I'm
15 not much in favor of the windpark. I would be more in
16 favor of solar panels. That's the best energy, I think.
17 Easiest, less destructive to the area. And, beyond that,
18 I'd like to know how the access is going to be in those
19 roads, for hunters, fishermen. I hunt and fish pretty
20 much all of those sites, at one time or another. Still

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21 do. And, if they lock off all those roads, that's going
22 to be putting a pinch. Thank you.

23 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Thank you. And, after
24 Mr. Frechette will be Prudy Treamer.

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1 MR. FRECHETTE: Norm Frechette. I'm
2 from Milan, New Hampshire, Captain of the Fire Department.
3 We've been approached by the organization and explained
4 somewhat of the wind mills. I'm for this Project. The
5 only thing we have is we'd like to have some training on
6 what we're going to do. But, as far as the public safety
7 side of it, I looked real reasonable. So, I'm for this.
8 Thank you.

9 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Prudy Treamer.

10 MS. TREAMER: The things I was going to
11 say have already been said, so I'm not going to say any
12 more.

13 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Thank you. Tom Col gan.
14 And, then, after him will be Mike Gilbert.

15 MR. COLGAN: My name is Tom Colgan. I'm
16 here in support of the Granite Reliable Project. I'd like
17 to point out to the members of the Committee that you know
18 that Governor Lynch and the Legislature has made a
19 Renewable Portfolio Standard, the "25 by '25 goal" as a
20 very important state policy. You also are, I'm sure,
21 realize that the national electric -- elected President
22 who has made renewable energy one of his major milestones.
23 And, that it's important to show early on the support, I
24 believe, within the state for renewable projects, and this

1 is one of the renewable projects. That, if a project like
2 this can't be built, then I think that New Hampshire will
3 not be able to meet its stated goals, nor will they really
4 be doing their part trying to increase renewable energy
5 production in the U.S. Thank you.

6 MR. GILBERT: Hi. My name is Mike
7 Gilbert. I live in Berlin, New Hampshire. I'm employed
8 at the Fraser Paper Mill, in Gorham. I'm president of the
9 Millsfield ATV Club. A survey was taken with ATV Club
10 members, whether they are for or against this Project.
11 So, I'd like to submit this.

12 One other thing I'd like to mention is,
13 when it comes time for work on this Project, we have a lot
14 of reputable local contractors. Everybody says it's a
15 depressed area. I hope there's serious consideration on
16 local workforce. We do need the jobs around here,
17 unemployment is high. I think local people ought to be
18 seriously considered. And, I'm still teeter-tottering
19 which way to go with on this Project, for or against.
20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Leo Boisselle, from
22 Berlin, and he'll be followed by John "Scott" possibly,
23 from Roxbury, Maine. Is it Leo Boisselle?

24 MR. BOISSELLE: I'm all set. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN GETZ: John --

2 MR. SUTTON: Sutton.

3 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. John Sutton.

4 MR. SUTTON: Hello. As you've all
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5 heard, I am not from Coos County or New Hampshire. Good
6 evening. My name is John Sutton, and I'm a resident of
7 Roxbury, Maine. I'm a Licensed Professional Forester in
8 both New Hampshire and Maine. Currently, I am employed by
9 American Forest Management, a consulting forestry company
10 located in Charlotte, North Carolina. American Forest
11 Management is the manager of GMO Renewable Resource's
12 property in New Hampshire and Maine. American Forest
13 Management has been working collaboratively with Granite
14 Reliable Power during the planning phase of this Project.

15 American Forest Management supports the
16 Project, and urges the Site Evaluation Committee to
17 approve Granite Reliable Power's Application to construct
18 the wind generation facility in Coos County. Thank you
19 for the opportunity to speak in favor of this Project.

20 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Rick Tillotson, from
21 Dixville.

22 MR. TILLOTSON: Good evening. Thank you
23 for allowing the public input. I'm here representing
24 myself, personally, as the homeowner with a bedroom window

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1 closest to the Project. If there is going to be any
2 impact on the landscape, it will be my view. If there is
3 going to be impact on the home value, it will be the value
4 of my home. I'm strongly in support of this wonderful
5 Project. Who wouldn't love anybody bringing a
6 \$200 million investment into our region? I believe that,
7 after analysis of the people that are in back of and
8 working for Granite Reliable Power, that they will be good
9 stewards of this property.

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10 The role that Tillotson Corp. has had,
11 has been stewards of the Balsams property since 1954, so
12 that's 55 years now. We have been active in many
13 renewable energy areas since the 1973 oil embargo.
14 Shortly after that, we installed our own biomass plant,
15 burning sawdust from local sawmills. That served us well
16 in the oil embargo of 1979. We continue to heat the
17 Balsams Hotel with biomass energy. We also have a
18 hydroelectric facility that was put in the Balsams in 1910
19 that we maintain. And, we have been the site of an
20 evaluation done by the State of New Hampshire and Plymouth
21 State University for Northeast Energy on the top of the
22 Wilderness Ski Area in 2000 to 2002, which assessed that
23 the wind blowing through Dixville Notch was probably in
24 the 99th percentile of good wind in all of the Eastern

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1 United States. It is a good resource. It's very nice to
2 have our area have something that is superior to resource
3 elsewhere in the country.

4 It's also good to have it be a
5 renewable. I don't know if you understand, the question
6 about "decommissioning" isn't a significant question as
7 long as the wind blows, and as long as people in Boston
8 need to light their city. Those two things are going to
9 keep wind turbines, when they wear out, being replaced
10 with successive wind turbines, if it is a good location.

11 The stewardship is very important. It
12 was important when we chose Delaware North Parks & Resorts
13 at the Balsams, to take over as our agent and manager of
14 the Balsams, because they had a green path program that

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15 insisted on community benefit and insisted on good use of
16 our own resources, recycling, renewable energy generation.

17 The renewable energy is something that
18 needs both biomass and wind energy to work, because the
19 wind doesn't always blow. The biomass complements that.
20 There's no sense even burning biomass, however, if the
21 fuel that is powering the energy is free, as the wind is.

22 There is local benefit. It was worried
23 that everything is going south. Wagner Forest Management,
24 GMO, they are local landowners, and they are participating

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1 in this. And, Tillotson Corp. is participating in this as
2 local stewards of the land, and we will get revenue from
3 this, as well as Coos County will get revenue from this.

4 The one last comment, and as dearly as I
5 love John, and we've gone back a long time together, John
6 led a movement that has still kept a stop light from being
7 on the intersection of Route 26 and Route 3 in Colebrook,
8 that many of us having to go through town and waiting for
9 long times getting onto Route 3 sometimes wish we would
10 get into the 21st century and finally put a stop light on
11 that intersection. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Is it Kevin -- I see an
13 "S", an "h", a "u", from Milan? I can't quite make it
14 out. Sorry. And, afterwards would be Jeff Elliott, from
15 Lancaster.

16 MR. SHYNE: My name is Kevin Shyne, from
17 West Milan, New Hampshire. Currently, I have a lot of
18 concerns about this Project. I, and some of my friends,
19 first went up into the Phillips Brook area about 25 years
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20 ago. It was a beautiful area. Though, there were a lot
21 less roads then and a lot more trees. It's been logged
22 many times since then. But that's not a bad thing,
23 because that's what it's there for. The forest
24 regenerates itself many times over. The gravel roads wash

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1 away and the skid roads wash away. I'm very concerned
2 about this new project and what will become of the steel,
3 the concrete, and the wires? Will they wash away? Will
4 they benefit us? I'm not really sure.

5 Concerns I have about the Project are
6 the long-term environmental impacts. What's it going to
7 mean? You should have an Environmental Impact Statement
8 issued based upon the 404 process from the Army Corps of
9 Engineers. We haven't heard things like that. I think,
10 unfortunately, the number of jobs, versus the overall
11 Project are minimal. I think it's nine or ten. I'm
12 concerned that a lot of the power, if not all of the
13 power, is going to be sent away somewhere else. I'm
14 concerned with the fact of there's, what, 100 megawatts of
15 grid power out there that can be used, and this will take
16 up the majority of it. I'm concerned that wind power is
17 30 percent efficient.

18 So, currently, I'm opposed to this
19 Project. I have a lot of concerns and I have not had them
20 answered yet. Thank you.

21 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Thank you. Mr. Elliott,
22 and then David Belanger will follow.

23 MR. ELLIOTT: I'm a CAVE person from
24 just up the street in Lancaster. And, I don't work for
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1 Wagner. And, I'm not on the payroll of any special
2 interest group, I'm not a lackey [sic] of a bought-off
3 political group. I do own land, recently purchased here,
4 though, as a citizen of New Hampshire and citizen of the
5 United States. I am an adjacent landowner as such. We've
6 spent a tremendous amount of effort and moneys on the
7 north lands. The Northern Forest Land Study has resulted
8 in some amazing chunks of real estate set aside for the
9 working forest and for the natural history of this region.

10 It's supported our tourist industry and
11 continues to do so. Has kept our limited timber industry,
12 but it's kept it alive, I believe, by having this working
13 forest available. The working forest up in this region
14 has not been on the tax rolls for quite a few years as it
15 is, thanks to Mr. King, and others of the legislative
16 body. A lot of this land has been purchased or has been
17 put under conservation easements, very successfully, I
18 believe, personally, and speaking as a scientist, a
19 conservation biologist, environmental biologist.

20 By having these multiple use forests
21 continue to work, as working forests and as wildlife,
22 hunting, recreational, endangered species habitats, New
23 Hampshire has been able to go on a very comfortable and
24 sustainable direction. This land is one of the last

1 sections of land needed to make a contiguous land mass.
2 It was part of a section of land that actually was about

3 12 and a half times the size of Yellowstone National Park,
4 albeit it's not a park, it's a working forest.

5 By, moving in this direction, we have
6 saved a tremendous amount of ecological stability in this
7 region. The smaller the island, the smaller the region's
8 biological diversity. And, this puts a rend, a rift, a
9 tear through this Project. It's cost us American citizens
10 millions and millions of dollars. This is one of the last
11 steps. This land was slated for conservation easement.
12 Things were going along very smoothly, until this Project
13 came onto the board, as I understand it. And, now, it
14 seems to me not a possibility while this wind turbine farm
15 industrialization of the North Country is being
16 considered.

17 This isn't a small project. There have
18 been very few things that have happened in the North
19 Country that have had a significant impact. And, as
20 someone who has lived here and researched as a biologist
21 for many, many years, I would put this on the scale of
22 things that seem absurd, it's almost embarrassing to say
23 this out loud. The glaciation has had a tremendous impact
24 here. In what sense? The human population has been very

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1 small. The Abenaki and Wabanaki [sic] up here, it was a
2 very small population. They had a tremendous impact on
3 the land, but they didn't burn forest, they didn't strip
4 it nude, as many peoples have in other parts of the world,
5 in other parts of New Hampshire, including southern New
6 Hampshire, which had native person fire sites [sic]; in
7 the north, we didn't.

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The mini Ice Age that ended in the mid
1800's, started to warm this region, and we lost
creatures, like our Caribou. Other creatures, like
Bicknell's thrush, have been isolated on top of the small
islands, these are "sky islands", and they have become
very special to me, as a biologist, a conservation
biologist. We're studying extinction. And, so many of
our extinctions are based upon habitat fragmentation.
Here we have a tiny group of islands, again, I don't work
for Wagner, so I'm not going exaggerate how large these
are, they're actually very, very small. And, they're
linked by very small ridges. This Project will
essentially guarantee the extinction of Bicknell thrush in
my professional opinion. I think, for other species,
about 40 that may be on the brink of an extinction vortex
brought on by this ideology.

On September 1st, in 1914, a little kid

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1 went out with a BB gun and shot a bird, packed it into one
2 of his game -- into his game bag. When he brought it
3 home, his dad recognized that as the last passenger pigeon
4 that was shot in the wild. The kid has a name, there's a
5 plaque in Ohio with his name on it. I look around and see
6 some of my neighbors and some of the people that work for
7 this industry, and I know that their name should be on one
8 of those plaques. Something like this, with a date on it,
9 "In 2009, Bicknell's thrush was pushed over the edge to
10 extinction" that's to this idiocy. Do I sound angry? Do
11 I sound hurt? Yes. These islands are getting smaller and
12 smaller because of something else, too, the global warming

13 situation is horrendous, has had a tremendous impact on
14 this region. So, we're going to do our damnedest to step
15 ahead as good, reasonable citizens, to alleviate some of
16 the damage of global warming. That, again, as a
17 biologist, I've been fighting this for decades. I watched
18 the extinction of Atlantic salmon. There will be no
19 coming back for that Atlantic salmon. All the genetics
20 and the games we play in our hatcheries, there will not be
21 a restoration of those fish to the Connecticut River. It
22 is too warm at the mouth of the river. It's too warm at
23 the mouth of the Merrimack and the Kennebec. And, the
24 five rivers in Maine, they fought us so much and for so

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1 many years, since 1993, to have those fish listed, that
2 now that they are listed, it's too late. And, part of
3 that is the responsibility of us not making a good energy
4 plan. We can't cut off our nose to spite our face. To
5 protect these sky islands and sidestep the local
6 extinctions, we have to protect those sky islands. Not
7 make a foolish mistake like bombing the North Vietnamese
8 to protect them from the Communists. We need to protect
9 them from human activity. It's the most direct assault on
10 our passion [sic]. Our war on global warming and coal has
11 been going on for decades. The first laws were passed in
12 the 1600's. Locally, we've had students and activists
13 fighting global warming based on stopping the coal
14 consumption, reducing car emissions for decades. This is
15 not an acute problem, this is a chronic problem. Our
16 movements must be determined, it must be planned, it must
17 be thought through, but not cause the extinction that

18 we're trying to alleviate.

19 As a local person, I also have to put
20 food on the table. And, much of that is based on hunting
21 and fishing and tourism. This region is extremely
22 important. We don't come up to this region -- the
23 tourists don't come up to this region to even play golf so
24 they can watch an industrial park or wind mills. Those

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1 wind mills are not pretty in the eyes of the folks that
2 come to this region. If they're that pretty, if they're
3 that quiet, that beautiful and sustainable, why don't we
4 spend an extra \$200 million to bringing the energy to
5 Bucksport. Let's put it on the Gulf of Maine. Bucksport,
6 Maine sounds like a wonderful spot for this. How about
7 the Hamptons?

8 When I took an alternative energy course
9 in '71, we were looking at the coastal sea breezes for
10 land use [sic]. That's a wonderful place, really. Not up
11 here in the only remote area left in the East. This is
12 the largest dark spot on the map. There's nothing that
13 satisfies the need for open land, contiguous landscapes,
14 and our tourist dollars, as to these ridges. They're very
15 important. Last evening, I received a call from a
16 neighborhood of ours. He just come back from Iraq, and he
17 plans to go camping there. I hope it's not the last time.
18 Thank you.

19 CHAI RMAN GETZ: David Belanger, from
20 Col ebrook, and then Karen Halladay, from Strafford.

21 MR. BELANGER: Thank you. I'm all in
22 favor of the Project. I think it's a good Project, it's

23 clean energy. I'm all for wind power. It's not
24 everywhere that we can build some wind farms. And, if we

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1 have a right place to do it, I just wish we also walk all
2 the right steps, do the right study, so we make sure that
3 every step of the way is planned and well done. But I'm
4 all in favor of the Project. Thanks.

5 MS. HALLADAY: Good evening. My name is
6 Maren Halladay. And, I work for the Strafford public
7 school. A couple things that are bothering me right now.
8 There's a lot of positive things that are being said.
9 But, in everyone being an informed decision-maker, which
10 I'm trying to be also, weeding through all these letters,
11 what I'm seeing is short-term gain. People are talking
12 about, well, while the construction was going on, my
13 business was great, the people were nice. Great.
14 Long-term, seven jobs. Seven jobs in this area. And, the
15 chances are, they're going to be people probably from down
16 state who are specialists in dealing with this. I'm very
17 concerned about that. I feel that there are other ways to
18 have energy, as far as biomass, using our wood, getting
19 our jobs. We've got places that are closing right and
20 left because of the people needing jobs. Just within
21 Strafford itself, which is the poorest rural community, we
22 had the option of saving money by sending our high school
23 kids to Groveton. People care about our community.
24 People put their money where their mouth is, in order to

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1 keep the community whole, and voted to keep the school
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2 open. So, did Stark, with a very few number of people.
3 People care about bringing their children up in this area
4 and trying to keep them in this area. So, I feel it's
5 very important we create jobs. We talk about solar power,
6 we talk about biomass. How about, instead of paying
7 farmers not to grow out in the Midwest, for them to create
8 power out in the Midwest, where there's a lot of flat
9 lands and open area. We have our number one industry of
10 tourism up here, and we're talking about cashing it in,
11 for the dollar, and for short-term gain. And, that's a
12 "forever" change. I have to agree with many, many of the
13 things that Mr. Harrigan said. And, I think what he said
14 was very important. And, I don't feel that a stop light
15 should be the impact that he has on our community. Thank
16 you.

17 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Gary Halladay. And,
18 next would be Roland Paltry.

19 MR. HALLADAY: My name is Gary Halladay,
20 and I'm from Strafford also. And, my wife basically said
21 what was on my mind. I'm also very concerned about the
22 long-term effect that this is going to have on our
23 community. The people that come up here, they do come up
24 here for tourism, for hunting and for fishing. And, to

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1 have something like that take over a tract that's so
2 beautiful up there, that people love to go to, I just
3 think is horrendous. And, I'm strictly opposed to it.
4 Thank you.

5 CHAI RMAN GETZ: I think it's Roland,
6 P-a-t, P-a-l --

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7 FROM THE FLOOR: Patry.
8 CHAI RMAN GETZ: "Patry". And, it
9 doesn't say a town. So, okay, let's move onto Brendan
10 Prusik, from Columbia.
11 MR. PRUSIK: I'm Brendan Prusik, from
12 Columbia. And, I very strongly support the development of
13 this Project. I've had the opportunity to see similar
14 wind farms in California and Utah and New York State, all
15 of them as a tourist, and I was very excited to see all of
16 them. I've always been very impressed by how clean and
17 attractive these wind farms are, and how they maintain
18 green space. But, most importantly, I was excited that we
19 were doing something to reduce our need for foreign oil,
20 to have alternate energy sources.

That said, there are valid environmental
wildlife concerns. But I'm confident, with the good
people we have working for the state, our biologists and
foresters, that we can work those issues out and put in

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1 this wind farm and have it attract people to our area to
2 so i t. Thank you.

3 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Barry Grover, from West
4 Stewartstown. And, next would be Emile Croteau, from
5 Berlin

6 MR. GROVER: My name is Barry Grover. I
7 am in support of this Project. Partly because of energy
8 independence, and our politicians talk about it, I saw
9 some of them on television. Secondly, I do believe we are
10 going to run out of oil some day. According to T. Boone
11 Pickens, Texas and Oklahoma are pumped out. The

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12 coal -fired plant down in -- I believe it's in Bow, New
13 Hampshire. That needs a 700 -- a \$457 million scrubber
14 put on it. I believe that the people that buy electricity
15 are going to pay for that. You can't fish in the Great
16 Lakes, if you do, you can't eat them, because there's so
17 much mercury. We've got to get rid of coal -fired plants.

18 If we don't put that wind tower up
19 there, in ten years the tourists will have a ski area.
20 And, that's okay. And, I believe the County does need
21 that tax money, if you looked at our annual report this
22 year. And, number 6, I believe the taxpayer that owns
23 that land should pretty much say what's done with it.
24 Thank you.

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1 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Emile Croteau. And,
2 after Mr. Croteau would be Pat Defilipp.

3 MR. CROTEAU: My name is Emile Croteau.
4 I'm from the Millisfield Campers Association and also for
5 the Millisfield ATV Club. And, we're right in the area
6 where this Project is proposed to be built. And, we are
7 totally in favor of this mill -- of this Project going on.
8 I think it will reduce the purchase of foreign oil, will
9 create a job -- good jobs for a couple of years at least
10 for the building or construction of this Project. And,
11 then, this will probably only be step one, who knows what
12 will happen in the future. You don't go up a step -- a
13 staircase all the steps at one time. You go one step at a
14 time. This, for me, would be a step number one. And,
15 then it would bring money to the state and local areas, to
16 the construction people in the area. And, also, I agree

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17 with this last gentleman, who said that landowners, they
18 depend on this income to pay for the taxes and the
19 upcoming up this land, what are they going to say if you
20 say "no" to them? You know, they own the land. They
21 could say "well, these people don't want this in here.
22 Maybe they don't want to walk in there ever. Put a gate
23 at both ends of the land and say "Sorry, you know, this is
24 not for use anymore." So, what are we going to gain by

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1 that?

2 I've been working with Bayroot, Wagner,
3 Twitcheil, the Balsams people, and we have trails all over
4 the land. And, they have been nothing but good for us
5 there. They have helped us in so many ways. And, I think
6 it's just our duty that we stand behind them and help them
7 to get this Project on the move. And, I think you've been
8 studying this Project here for the last couple years, I
9 may be wrong, you probably can correct me on the amount of
10 time, but how long can we just talk about it? You know,
11 there's time for doing things and time for talking. But I
12 think the talking time is getting close to the end. So,
13 you know, and if they have too much power for local, we're
14 going to sell this power. It's not going to go to waste.
15 It's still going to bring an income to the area. It's
16 just like running a business. If we need here the power,
17 we will use it. If we don't, somebody will buy it. And,
18 this will produce an income for the state, the local towns
19 and area, and all of Coos County and, you know, everybody
20 as a whole.

21 So, I am definitely in favor of this
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22 Project. And, I think a lot of people around Millfield
23 Pond also are. And, I've sent quite a few letters like
24 Mike brought to you. And, the people that runs around on

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1 the trails with the ATV, they love the trails, and they
2 love the view and they love everything. And, this will
3 not upset anything, I'm sure.

4 As far as the wildlife is concerned,
5 wildlife are better than people. I've got friends that
6 lives in Colchester, Vermont. They got deer in their back
7 yard every day, and there are houses all over. And, these
8 pine marten, they know, if they have to move 100 feet to
9 get away from the cutting. Then, that's stupid, they will
10 move the 100 feet. After all, nature takes care of itself
11 pretty well. And, tomorrow, we could have a forest fire
12 and ruin all this, what the people are trying to protect.
13 So, we don't know about that, we hope it never happens.
14 But I still say that this wind farm should go through.
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Pat Defilipp, from
17 Auburn, Maine, and then Representative Bulis.

18 MR. DEFILEIPP: Thank you. My name is
19 Pat Defilipp. I'm a resident of Auburn. I work for Reed
20 & Reed. We're a construction firm in southern Maine,
21 along the coast. We've been very fortunate in that we've
22 been able to work on the large scale wind projects that
23 have been built to date in New England. We completed the
24 Mars Hill Project, in northern Maine; the Stetson Project;

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1 we directed turbines in the Beaver Ridge Project, and we
2 worked on the Lempster, New Hampshire Project, in southern
3 New Hampshire. We're currently working on a Ki bby Project
4 in western Maine. Ki bby is very similar elevation-wise to
5 the Granite Project. It's also got the same turbines
6 going up on it that are proposed for this Project. Last
7 fall, we were asked to come and take a look at this site
8 and just evaluate it from a constructability standpoint.
9 We came here and we spent a few days, we had site people,
10 electrical people, foundation people, whatnot. We did
11 some soils explorations, we did some deep test borings, we
12 checked the soil resistivity, which is used for grounding
13 considerations. We used S. W. Cole, they're a
14 geotechnical firm that does a lot of work in New England
15 to get their slant on things.

16 We found, from a constructability
17 standpoint, the site's a natural. The grades are fairly
18 steep, but they're manageable. We believe that we can
19 balance the excavations and fills on the site, so you're
20 really minimizing anything hauled in and out. You try to
21 process material right on-site, so you're not hauling in
22 gravel or sand and that kind of thing and construct the
23 roads and the turbine pads from that processed material.
24 The rock that's on-site is very competent and hard. It's

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1 just like the project down in Lempster. The foundations
2 for the wind turbines will be designed to take advantage
3 of that and minimize the excavation and blasting required.

4 There are some existing roads in place

5 that will give you access to the turbine strings. This is
6 a big plus, because it cuts down on the construction costs
7 and minimizing the footprint of the general site that you
8 have to disturb.

9 And, then, the final thing is that the
10 transmission lines from the substation on the site is only
11 6 miles away. So, that's a big plus for a Project of this
12 type. Thank you.

13 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Representative Bulis.

14 And, then Stephen Powers, from Jefferson.

15 REP. BULIS: Thank you, Mr. Chai rman.

16 Nice to have you up, have you and your Committee up here
17 twice in one week. That's great. Sir, I suppose, since
18 we need to state our position, I'm going to say that I am
19 opposed to this Project at the time. The problem -- We
20 have problems with -- here in the North Country. A lady
21 here spoke earlier about "long term". And, one of our
22 problems dealing with long-term solutions for economic
23 gain to help our economy is the transmission line. It's
24 constrained. The present line -- transmission line is

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1 limited. So, if we put in this wind farm, and they take
2 the 100 megawatts, roughly, that's available, then, until
3 there is a transmission line upgrade, we are precluded
4 from any other biomass or wind farms or anything like
5 that. So, when I try to balance this out, first, let me
6 say though that, when I look at these projects, I try to
7 look at the benefits of these proposals. And, I looked at
8 this one. It's large, very labor-intensive construction
9 Project, it's going to provide employment for a couple of

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10 years during the construction phase, goods and services
11 will be purchased, everything will be fine, for the
12 duration of the Project. The county and the towns will
13 receive tax revenue. It's a truly renewable energy
14 source, no air emissions. I thought almost, Mr. Chairman,
15 it was very refreshing that Fish & Game and the AMC got
16 together and came up with a Mitigation Plan. These are
17 all pretty good things.

18 However, concerning the Project itself,
19 as you're aware, there's a couple of letters, one from the
20 Fish & Wildlife Service expressing their concerns.
21 Another is from the Environmental Protection Agency, they
22 are expressing their concerns about incompleteness or the
23 lack of studies in some areas. I think that that needs to
24 be addressed by those agencies. And, that a full

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1 Environmental Impact Study would be a good thing for this
2 Project. They pointed out in their letters that not all
3 of the environmental analyses were complete. So, I would
4 ask the Site Evaluation Committee to require a full
5 Environmental Impact Study.

6 As far as the proposed location, George
7 Bald, who is the Commissioner of Department of Resources
8 and Economic Development, spends untold amount of money
9 advertising Coos County, the character of it. And, so,
10 when we look at some of the pictures from that area, we've
11 seen them on the website, the Internet is a wonderful
12 thing. And, we have some of the other large ones with 33
13 wind turbines. And, we go to the FAA website and find out
14 that they have to be painted bright white. And, so, the

15 structure of these, the bulk of it is going to be above
16 the treeline.

17 They need to be illuminated at night,
18 not all of them, though, 17 of the towers will need to be
19 illuminated with a synchronized flashing red strobe. So,
20 whether that's good or not, I don't know. I mean, when a
21 telephone company puts up a cellphone tower, you know, at
22 first it's like "Oh, my goodness. Gee-whiz. That's going
23 to look bad on that hilltop and everything else. After
24 it's up there for a day, it's just normal. I don't know

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1 about the 17 towers, especially in that artist's rendering
2 in the picture. But, the flashing lights, I'm not sure
3 about that either. Maybe one way to envision that is,
4 when you head back to Concord tonight, when you're down
5 and going on Interstate 93, down through Campion Flats,
6 envision looking off to the left, there's a similar
7 ridgeline out along there, and picture over that 16 mile
8 area 17 red flashing lights synchronized.

9 In asking round and talking with people
10 about this Project, everybody is for renewable power.
11 And, this is a good thing, and we'd all get used to the
12 towers being there and everything else. We'll adjust.
13 But then, when you say "gee, are you aware of the fact
14 that not 1 watt of this power, this low-cost power, will
15 be available to you. It's all going out-of-state. You
16 will receive no benefits in your electric rates or
17 anything else. And, the reaction is "What? We're not
18 going to get anything for this?" I think we should, one
19 way or another. But the fact is, that the power is all

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20 going to be sold to the highest bidder.

21 So, let's talk economics for a few
22 minutes, if we could please. What's really hurting us
23 here, and I think that if we had a biomass plant here
24 already, we have enough wood, we've had those studies. If

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1 we had a biomass plant here already, then the wind farm
2 really wouldn't be much of a problem, just site it, where
3 to put it, where would be the best place. But we don't
4 have that biomass plant. And, because of the ISO-New
5 England queue, and the collar that is put on us, we're
6 crippled here in the North Country. We can't do anything.
7 That's been evidenced by Berlin and Groveton. We don't
8 have any biomass plants there, those people, or Groveton
9 gave up. You know, the wind farm, the power is available
10 30 percent of the time, maximum generation 99 megawatts,
11 what, 12, 15 percent of the time. There's been -- a
12 theory was put forward where, well, we could have a small
13 biomass plant and share that capacity, that 100 megawatts,
14 we could share that. Well, if you do that, then none of
15 the entities are 100 percent efficient. So, another year
16 has gone by, and the North Country is still without a
17 biomass plant. One that would lend itself to
18 cogeneration, either location, Groveton, Berlin, you could
19 put other buildings right next to it and use the spent
20 steam for heating and cooling, as long as those plants run
21 24 by 7, which they do. A biomass plant would employ 40
22 people. Plus another 100 in the logging industry, plus
23 all of the people who provide the goods and services.

24 But the queue, and the stricture of the

1 queue is killing our development here. And, in the
2 Legislature's proposal to extend the power line
3 feasibility study, what to do about the Coos Loop, but
4 we're not making any progress with that. We're looking at
5 four or five years before anything gets done. And, who's
6 going to pay for it? That hasn't been determined either.
7 \$250 million. Is it going to be paid for by ratepayers,
8 all of us? Is it going to be paid for by taxpayers, all
9 of us? For electricity that's going to be sold out of
10 state. We won't receive one nickel in benefit. There's
11 got to be a better way.

12 So, I feel that New Hampshire is at a
13 turning point here with our energy policy. Apparently,
14 projects are developer-driven; the State is reactive. I
15 think it would be much better if we had siting guidelines
16 that would set the pace. And, that way, New Hampshire
17 will determine what is best for New Hampshire. At this
18 time, I do not believe that this Project is in the best
19 long-term interest of this region, or the state. We need
20 to use the available transmission line capacity to enhance
21 our economy and create jobs. When we have that, then
22 perhaps there will be improvements to the transmission
23 line, perhaps there will be changes in technology. And,
24 we can do all of these other things. But we have got to

1 do something to help our economy here. Six jobs isn't
2 going to do it. We need something else. Thank you.

3 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Stephen Powers. And,
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4 then followed by Rick Samson, from Stewartstown.

5 MR. POWERS: Stephen Powers, from
6 Jefferson, New Hampshire. Just a few questions. They say
7 that the "wind mills will be unsightly". I think we have
8 electric grids between here and Vermont that are far
9 bigger than any windmill towers. Don't seem to be very
10 unsightly to all the snowmobilers from Massachusetts and
11 Connecticut that bring revenue here to the southern part
12 of the state, plus the people that use snowmobiles in this
13 part. Doesn't seem to be at all unsightly to them.

14 They are saying that perhaps we could
15 take the electrical grid down, then it wouldn't be
16 unsightly at all. The Alaska pipeline we were told was
17 going to be a danger to the environment. It wasn't, they
18 did it tastefully, they did it correctly, they did it
19 under supervision. I heard a few chuckles, but,
20 obviously, that person has never seen the pipeline, so I
21 won't respond to that. They said "there won't be any jobs
22 or revenue". I don't agree with that as well. I believe
23 there's going to be foresters involved after it's
24 constructed. I believe there's going to be local people

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1 help building it. Where are the jobs with so much promise
2 to us in the big Campaign of 2008? Where are those jobs
3 when they needed New Hampshire as a state to vote in the
4 primaries? They promised jobs to this area. Those jobs
5 have not come. We haven't seen anything and we haven't
6 seen the politicians, and probably won't see them again
7 until the next campaign, with more promises lost in the
8 wind.

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9 Alternate energy, that was another 2008
10 campaign. We heard it from both sides. Where's the
11 alternate energy? I don't see it. We just keep hearing
12 about it. We don't even see it on the Stimulus Bill; must
13 be AIG that got it all.

14 And, I asked other people, has anybody's
15 electric bills go down in the last two or three years? I
16 know mine hasn't. It's tripled. And, if they want to
17 build this tower, and if the Army Corps of Engineers are
18 involved, it's been my experience in my lifetime that,
19 when they're involved, it's done tastefully, it's well
20 supervised, and it comes out right. Unlike most state and
21 federal municipalities that don't seem to get anything
22 right. And, it's also going to give long-term employment
23 to foresters who have a natural love for the forest, and
24 will take care of it and make sure that it's kept in the

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1 state that it should be kept in. And, that's basically
2 all I have. Thank you for your time.

3 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Rick Samson.

4 MR. SAMSON: Thank you, Chairman Getz
5 and Committee members, for allowing me to speak here this
6 evening. And, at this time, I would also like to thank
7 everyone that's here attending tonight, both those for and
8 against this Project. I have about eight pages that I
9 would like to submit to this Committee. I will read only
10 parts of these for you. And, I also have several
11 questions I would like the Committee and those in
12 attendance here this evening to consider. The first one
13 has been partially answered here this evening on "how

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14 efficient and dependable is wind power? The second one is
15 the transmission upgrade, and "at who's expense?" The
16 third one, "how many jobs will there be maintaining the
17 wind towers?" It's been stated at than ten. "Bayroot,
18 LLC" has been mentioned here this evening, Committee
19 members. Unless I'm mistaken, that sounds like a foreign
20 entity to me out of the Middle East, the same people that
21 control our oil.

22 In reading some of the testimony and
23 letters that have been written to this Committee, I have a
24 question concerning the AMC's role in this Project. An

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1 organization that is tax-exempt, pays no property taxes in
2 this state, despite the fact that have a \$9.4 million
3 resort, pay no Rooms & Meals Tax through the State,
4 although they do serve rooms and meals. And, I wonder if
5 they will try to restrict travel by motorized vehicles in
6 this Project, which I have seen comments to that effect.
7 Will they try to stop the timber harvesting and also try
8 to control the land? I think that's something that should
9 be considered by this Committee. What would each wind
10 tower cost to build? Number seven, what would each tower
11 be taxed at per year? The 33 original towers, and then
12 towers that are constructed thereafter? I do not believe
13 the \$435,000 that they intend and they have agreed with
14 the County Commissioners and the County delegation to pay
15 to the unincorporated towns is anywhere near what these
16 facilities would be taxed at.

17 I also have four questions that I asked
18 at the Groveton meeting on October 3rd [2nd?], of 2008 of
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19 Granite Power. And, I have yet to receive an answer to
20 any of those four questions. And, they're in my letter.
21 I would like the Committee to try to get the answers, and
22 not only for myself and the public, but for this study.

23 My name is Richard Samson for the
24 record. I am here this evening as a very concerned

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1 taxpayer/citizen of Stewartstown, New Hampshire. And, at
2 this time, I am totally against this Project. My wife and
3 I were born, raised, and educated right here in Lancaster.
4 We have raised three children here, which were also
5 educated in New Hampshire. We have lived in New Hampshire
6 all but two years of our lives. We lived for two years in
7 Chesapeake, Virginia while I served in the U.S. Navy
8 during the Vietnam Conflict. And, I was out of this state
9 from January 2004 until November 2004 serving in Iraq.
10 That is not to the slight anybody in this room that is not
11 a New Hampshire native, because, when I moved from
12 Lancaster to Colebrook, I was declared a "flatlander".

13 I have served as a former selectman,
14 planning board member, budget committee chair and member
15 in Stewartstown. I have also served on Congressman Paul
16 Hodes Service's Advisory Committee. In addition, I'm a
17 former training officer, a volunteer firefighter, a
18 Vietnam and Iraqi veteran, union executive officer, among
19 other positions in volunteer organizations. I am a former
20 utility lineman for Public Service Company of New
21 Hampshire. I believe this last position gives me a better
22 understanding of these proceedings and insight to this
23 Project.

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1 at Groveton High School. I asked four questions at that
2 meeting and they are still not answered: What is the
3 anticipated annual revenue of the first 33 wind towers?
4 Will any of the power generated be available to Coos
5 County residents? Exactly who will be financing this
6 Project? What benefit are we, the residents of Coos
7 County, going to receive from this Project? I believe
8 that every resident deserves an answer to these four
9 questions.

10 The agreement and support of the Coos
11 County Commissioners and the Coos County Delegation is
12 questionable. They have not and they continue not to act
13 in the best interest of the taxpayers of not only the
14 unincorporated towns, but also the entire county. The
15 United States Department of the Interior and the
16 Environmental Protection Agency are asking that you not
17 issue any permits until all studies are complete. I have
18 the last page of each one of those requests attached with
19 my letter to submit as evidence. The New Hampshire Fish &
20 Game Department also opposed this Project in the
21 beginning. After agreeing to 900,000 to a million dollars
22 of funds given to the Department from Granite Reliable,
23 they seem to have had a change of heart, and now may be in
24 agreement with this Project.

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1 I would request -- I would also request

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2 that the Site Evaluation Committee withhold all
3 applications and permits from Granite Reliable Power, LLC
4 and/or Noble Power Environmental concerning Docket Number
5 2008-04, and any other requests made by these two
6 companies. United States Department of the Interior,
7 March 12, 2009, and I will just read the last paragraph:
8 "In summary, we do not believe that this application
9 complies with the restrictions on discharge contained in
10 the Guidelines. The project fails to comply with both the
11 off-site and on-site alternative analysis under 230.10(a)
12 and would cause or contribute to significant degradation
13 under 230.10(c). More, however [Moreover?], the project
14 would likely have a significant effect on the environment,
15 which triggers the need for an environmental impact study.
16 Accordingly, we recommend that an EIS be prepared prior to
17 any decision being made to issue or deny a permit for this
18 project. Should you elect to proceed with an
19 environmental assessment as the first step in the NEPA
20 process, we request that we be given the opportunity to
21 review and comment on that document.

22 United States Environmental Protection
23 Agency, Public Notice 2008-410, March 11, 2009. "Summary:
24 "The Application" -- "The Applicant proposes to build part

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1 of this project in a sensitive and valuable area. The
2 off-site and on-site alternatives analyses are incomplete
3 and do not comply with Section 210.10(a) [230.10(a)?] of
4 the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines. In addition, the Corps
5 should work carefully with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife
6 Service and the New Hampshire Fish & Game to address the

7 adverse impacts at high-elevation to wildlife, and the
8 compensatory mitigation plan should add additional vernal
9 pool creation.

10 As EPA staff have said in previous
11 discussions with the Corps, we believe the scale of the
12 project, the extent of road building and affected land
13 area, the extensive impacts to wetlands and vernal pools,
14 and the sensitivity of the high altitude habitat are all
15 factors that would support a Corps decision now to prepare
16 an environmental impact study under the National
17 Environmental Protection [Policy?] Act. If the Corps
18 decides instead to prepare an environmental assessment to
19 help inform the decision on whether an EIS should be
20 required, it will be important for the EA to be
21 comprehensive and to be made available for public and
22 agency review prior to a final NEPA and permit decision.

23 Until these issues are adequately
24 addressed, EPA recommends that a permit not be issued for

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1 this project. Thank you for your careful consideration of
2 our comments. If you have any further questions please
3 call Mark Kern of my staff."

4 Also, there are two other items that I
5 would like to submit to you. One is called "Noble Liens
6 snare Landowners." It's a copy of a March 18, 2009
7 article from the Malone Telegram, that gives you the liens
8 that have been filed against this company, for violations
9 of contracts they have not fulfilled. I also would like
10 to submit to you "Federal energy subsidies for wind",
11 posted April 22nd, 2008, by the United States Energy

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12 Information Administration, and, in case this Board is not
13 aware of it, which they may be. "Table ES5 of the
14 Executive Summary, which itemizes the subsidies paid for
15 fuel type as measured in megawatt-hours of generation. A
16 subset of the table is listed below: " And, it gives a
17 listing of the subsidies that are paid for different types
18 of fuel. Coal is 44 cents per megawatt; natural gas,
19 25 cents per megawatt; nuclear, \$1.59 per megawatt;
20 biomass is 89 cents per megawatt; geothermal is 92 cents
21 per megawatt; hydro, 67 cents per megawatt; solar, \$24.34
22 per megawatt; landfill gas, \$1.37 per megawatt; and wind
23 is \$23.37 per megawatt.

24 Lastly, in my letter, Page 2, I would at

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1 this time respectfully request that Mr. Glenn Normandeau,
2 Executive Director of the New Hampshire Fish & Game
3 Department recuse [recuse?] himself from the Site
4 Evaluation Committee or be removed by whatever means is
5 necessary due to conflict of interest for monetary gain
6 for the Fish & Game Department.

7 To reduce our dependence on foreign oil
8 will also require conservation, and that has yet to be
9 mentioned here this evening. We have a lack of factual
10 information, as citizens and you as a Board, and a plus of
11 misinformation, to make a decision that is so important to
12 the lifeblood of the North Country. Thank you for your
13 time.

14 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Donald, F-r-e-d-t-e,
15 perhaps, from Lancaster. Who would be followed by John
16 Mumly, from Whitemfield. And, I'd just ask, it looks like

17 we've got about a dozen more speakers. Just make sure
18 that, if anyone would like to speak, that they give
19 Mr. Iacopino, in the back of the room, your name, so we
20 can know that you would like to speak tonight. So, sorry.

21 MR. FRENETTE: Donald Frenette, from
22 Lancaster, New Hampshire. I'm also a Licensed
23 Professional Forester in this state. I had the
24 opportunity to work on both sides of the ridgeline there

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1 where the proposed towers will be going. And, I think
2 it's a great idea. I'm in favor of the Project. One
3 thing that strikes me, it's private land, private money,
4 and a great public benefit. And, I hope the Board sees
5 that and votes approval for this Project. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Mr. Mumly. And, then
7 would be followed by Hasen Burns.

8 MR. MUMLY: Thank you, gentlemen, for
9 sharing your -- spending your evening here with us,
10 listening to all of this jaw-flapping going on. I'll tell
11 you, I'm not in favor of this. It's rushing into another
12 bad decision. We have a result nationwide and worldwide
13 of bad decisions. Look at our economy now. I live in
14 Whitefield, on Route 3 South. And, every day and every
15 night I see all these logging trucks going by with all the
16 stuff for the biomass plants. I'm not complaining.
17 That's a good thing, because it's jobs, a lot of jobs.
18 And, it's money spent right here, in Coos County. There's
19 two plants, one in Whitefield, one in Bethlehem. There's
20 no reason you can't put another in Groveton, right up the
21 street here. Lots of jobs right here in this county.

22 And, that's what we need, seriously. Because a lot of
23 people enjoy logging, it's hard work, very hard work. I'm
24 surprised that there aren't more people here to speak up

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1 on it on their behalf. I'm not a logger. I'm a
2 relatively newcomer. I've lived in New Hampshire for the
3 last 20 years, but mostly in southern New Hampshire. And,
4 this is a beautiful area. And, it's ashame to be doing
5 any damage to this.

6 I have an article here. It's from the
7 New Hampshire Sunday News, August 17th, 2008. It's
8 entitled "Windmills split New York town and family", this
9 is Lowville, New York. It's along the Atlantic seaway.
10 They put a whole bunch of wind towers, 400 feet high, with
11 blades 130 feet long. And, it split families, that's
12 basically what it is. I'm not going to go into detail on
13 this. But the thing is, one town has 114. One town has
14 114 of these. How many more will go up there in this
15 area? And, what's going to happen with it. Anybody going
16 to answer the question of what's going to happen when -- I
17 heard nothing, a lot of good stuff, "Oh, it's wonderful.
18 It's pie-in-the-sky." But, no. When nuclear plants go
19 down, it costs a huge amount of money. In fact, a lot of
20 them, they're just still sitting there with their nuclear
21 waste. Because they can't do anything with it, it just
22 stays there. Is that the same thing that's going to
23 happen here?

24 Now, these plants in New York, they're

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1 owned by companies from Portugal and Spain. Who's going
2 to own this company? And, as I said, someone said that
3 "well, I haven't seen my energy -- my electrical bill go
4 down. Why is that? The taxes. They keep going up and
5 up. Just like your phone bill, just like every other
6 bill. They keep tacking taxes on them. That's it.

21 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Hasen Burns, and then
22 Allen Bouthillier.

23 MR. BURNS: Hasen Burns. I'm a
24 Selectman for Stewartstown, New Hampshire. And, I thank

1 you for the opportunity to speak here. I simply want to
2 go on record, as I did in Groveton, in support of this
3 Project. It won't bring a lot of long-term jobs to the
4 area, but it will bring jobs, and every job counts. I
5 also want to go on record as stating that the complete

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6 Board in Stewartstown was in favor of this Project. We
7 did not poll citizens at a town meeting, but the three
8 Selectmen were in approval of this Project. Thank you
9 very much.

10 MR. BOUTHILLIER: I'm Allen Bouthillier,
11 a resident of Lancaster, New Hampshire, and I'm also a
12 logging contractor. I'm in favor of this Project,
13 partially because of a way to get rid of foreign oil.
14 And, a lot of the businesses are dependent on use of a
15 tremendous amount of diesel fuel. And, one thing I'm
16 hoping, if this Project is allowed to go through, that
17 that landowner will be able to hold that land. It will
18 stop the turnover of large tracts of land. It will stay a
19 managed forest, a forest where we can log on it. Instead
20 of it in like the Vicky Bunnell Tract, where there is
21 nothing done with it. The roads are decommissioned. It's
22 basically used for a small, small percentage of the
23 population. That doesn't create jobs here.

24 And, another thing I would like, as far

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1 as a condition put on this approval, is that Coos Loop
2 does get upgraded, because we, in the logging business, we
3 do need to make jobs. And, when the Loop is upgraded, we
4 will have biomass plants that will have long-term jobs.
5 So, I would like to be put on the record that the Coos
6 Loop being upgraded be tied to this Project. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Sharon Davis, from
8 Jefferson, and then Sonja Sheldon, from Millfield.

9 MS. DAVIS: Good evening. I'll be short
10 and sweet. I come here to support this Project. I think
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11 alternative energy and independence is very important,
12 especially now. And, that's my statement.

13 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Ms. Sheldon?

14 MS. SHELDON: I am Sonja Sheldon, from
15 Milford, New Hampshire. And, I want to go on record
16 stating that I am in the favor of the park. As a matter
17 of fact, it's pretty much going to be right in my
18 backyard. And, that's all I can say. Thank you very
19 much.

20 CHAI RMAN GETZ: I think maybe "Everett"?
21 I'm really having a hard time with this one. All right.
22 I'm going to skip. John Cormier, from Milan.

23 MR. CORMIER: Yes. I'm very much in
24 favor of this Project. And, if you look at the number of

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1 photographs taken of the opposition and the number of
2 photographs taken of those of us who support this Project,
3 you can understand where the difficulty lies. You're
4 going to have to answer this man's questions every day in
5 the newspaper, you're going to have to take all the
6 wonderful things that have been said in support of this
7 Project and get them in the newspaper and win public
8 opinion.

9 Just the idea of the attention given to
10 the negativity of this thing and not the tremendous
11 substantial benefits of it is amazing. I went up to
12 Eustis. The restaurants are full. The motels are full.
13 The workers up there are professionals, carpenters,
14 millwrights, and electricians, and to provide jobs is my
15 greatest concern. And, I do believe that, with the

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16 towers, we're going to see some of the roads left open and
17 access to this land left open. And, thank you. And, I
18 wish you success in putting these towers up. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Colin Wentworth.

20 MR. WENTWORTH: Hi. My name is Colin
21 Wentworth. I live on the road, one of the main access
22 roads to get to Fishbrook, where this wind tower in part
23 is going to be. And, I just want to state that I am in
24 favor of this. Yes, it might only produce a few jobs, but

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1 that's better than no jobs at all. And, it's free. It's
2 free power. So, anything I can understand is it's free,
3 it doesn't cost anything to make, and it's going to
4 produce power, and lower taxes for everybody. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN GETZ: I'm still trying to
6 figure this one, I'm sorry. Maybe "Lacy Everett"?
7 Something like that?

8 (No verbal response)

9 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Lynn Correnty.

10 MS. CORRENTY: Hello, everyone. I
11 greatly appreciate this opportunity to speak and give my
12 opinion. My name is Lynn Correnty, and I live up in
13 Pittsburg, New Hampshire. And, my concern, you know, I
14 mean, I'm for wind power. In fact, I would love to have a
15 wind turbine, smaller, of course, just to create
16 electricity for me, so when the power goes out up there, I
17 could still get water from my well, and, you know,
18 possibly it could defray some of the electric costs I now
19 have. But I am not for this Project. I don't see that,
20 for the huge environmental footprint that it's going to

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21 make, that it is going to yield enough power. You know,
22 for all of the money that is going to be spent on putting
23 this Project together, you know. And, you know, we're not
24 exactly sure how much energy we're going to get out of

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1 this. Supposed to be 30 percent efficiency of each wind
2 turbine. It only, you know, it's ashame that a huge
3 building of batteries coul dn't be erected, so, when the
4 wind did blow, and they did make power, that it could be
5 stored, and then utilized consistently when the grid
6 needed it. Because, I understand, too, it's not like you
7 can take a, you know, just shut off the switch and say
8 "okay, the electricity from the wind turbines is coming
9 in. So, let's shut you off, and we'll put this
10 electricity on line and save some of the other fuel
11 costs." That's not the way it works.

12 And, the other concern I have is, why,
13 in the beginning, is their no comparison regarding
14 potential "green" energy projects. Their projected energy
15 production each season, costs to build and maintain,
16 amount of years project is viable regarding any
17 decommissioning, exactly what the permanent jobs are which
18 will stay in Coos County, and for how long, and how much
19 profit Coos County will receive and where it will be
20 spent. That, to me, is major. I mean, I know when I have
21 worked in business, and you had to choose some type of
22 supplier, whether it was your communication system, you
23 always had to do a study of what was available out there.
24 And, then you would rein it in as to what choice you

1 finally would make, based upon, you know, who would give
2 you the best bang for your buck. And, I don't see that
3 here. I see a huge project, making a huge impact in a
4 forest, that probably should remain untouched until there
5 is something else maybe that comes along that is more
6 viable.

7 But, I think that this is a tremendously
8 negative footprint for the little amount of energy that we
9 are going to get occasionally. And, when I say "we", the
10 rest of the world, because we're not going to get it. So,
11 thank you. Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Larry Wyman, from
13 Lancaster. No, maybe it wasn't "Larry".

14 MS. WYMAN: So much for my penmanship.

15 [Laughter]

16 MS. WYMAN: Thank you for having the
17 hearing up here. First, I'd like to say, my electric bill
18 is \$30 a month. And, I think that's pretty reasonable.
19 And, I don't think I live under primitive circumstances.
20 And, I was listening to all of this and I listened to a
21 lot of lip service about saving power. And, I think that
22 if everybody in Coos County, just for the heck of it,
23 stopped using their dryers for a year, and took a minimum
24 two showers a week, say, we could probably save as much

1 power as these would produce, and perhaps considerably
2 more.

3 That said, I have a lot of issues with

4 this Project. But my biggest issue is that I don't
5 believe, if we put these towers online, it's going to mean
6 that we're taking any fossil fuels offline. Perhaps that
7 would be a good way to do it. Perhaps you'd have to
8 reduce as much as you're adding. I don't know. I don't
9 have the answer to that.

10 But I hear, as I said, a lot of lip
11 service about saving power, changing the way we live, but
12 I don't see it happening, at least not around me. And, I
13 am not willing to spoil our landscape with any -- of any
14 additional power until I see the human race using what we
15 have judiciously, and we're a long way from that. So, I
16 guess I'd have to go on record as being opposed to this,
17 for all kinds of reason, but that's the major one. Thank
18 you.

19 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Rick Serven, and then
20 would be -- afterwards would be Barry Kelley.

21 MR. SERVEN: I've heard the word
22 "history" referenced tonight by some people. And, it
23 wasn't too often many years ago that the Public Utilities
24 Commission issued a permit to build a major natural gas

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1 line through an enormous amount of Coos County. And,
2 there was so much support for that they even gave the
3 State the right to exercise eminent domain to force people
4 to support this issue, because most of that property was
5 privately owned. And, at the time, we heard the same
6 things: The big construction money, revenues to the town,
7 support of industry, long-term, good paying jobs. The
8 whole situation that the supporters are telling us about

9 this. So, here we are not too many years later, the mills
10 are gone, the jobs are gone. There's not a town in the
11 county that I know that's not in financial distress,
12 despite the promise of big revenue. The people that were
13 forced to give up their property are forced to live with
14 that for ever and ever. And, we have a legacy of private
15 industry making big money supporting private industry, at
16 the expense of Coos County. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Barry Kelley.

18 MR. KELLEY: Hi. I'm Barry Kelley, a
19 citizen of Berlin, New Hampshire. I've lived there my
20 entire life. I don't represent any particular industry
21 here, just as a member of the North Country. And, I want
22 to express my support for this power -- for this Project,
23 mainly because it is green power. I think it's our
24 opportunity, in northern New Hampshire, to become a leader

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1 in the state, a leader in New England, for producing green
2 power. I think it's the beginning. I think we need
3 biomass as well. I think, in Berlin, where we've got the
4 second largest landfill, we'll be able to harness the
5 methane gas there, to be burning off about two megawatts a
6 day, and produce power for many things, and lead the area
7 in the production of green energy. And, for a change,
8 we'll be known as having the highest per capita production
9 of green energy, instead of the highest job rate or the
10 highest property taxes.

11 I think that it's a question of we --
12 everything that you do has a reaction. Every action has a
13 reaction. It's a question of asking "are we destroying

14 that I and?" I don't think so. Are we changing it? Yes.
15 Is it a change for the better? Probably not. But, when
16 you look at the impact of 52 acres above 2,700 feet, and
17 you look at the beginning of a green energy farm, I think
18 that it is a trade-off that you have to do. We're not
19 citizens just of the North Country. I'm a citizen of
20 Berlin, Coos County, New Hampshire, and of New England and
21 the United States. And, to say that the energy is not
22 going to us, in our backyard, I think it's just
23 shortsighted. I mean, the energy is going to us and the
24 United States. And, we're doing our part to lead the

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1 country into a clean energy revolution.

2 I think it's important for us to take
3 this step. And, I think it will be good for the whole
4 North Country. We're able to take something here, produce
5 it, send it outside the area, bring dollars back, not
6 build highways to do that, take diesel-burning trucks off
7 the road. It's a unique situation to be able to export
8 power. That's about all I have to say. Thank you.

9 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Okay. Patrick Doyle,
10 from Albany, New York.

11 MR. DOYLE: Mr. Chairman, Committee
12 members, thank you for the opportunity to speak here. I'm
13 a founder of the Alliance for Clean Energy New York, and
14 instrumental in the founding of the New England Wind
15 Coalition, although I'm not representing either of those
16 organizations. I'm really speaking on behalf of myself
17 and my wife, who's at home [sic], and my children. And,
18 so, I'm a very strong supporter of wind energy. I believe

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that we are, at some point, 40, 50 years, we will run out of oil, and at some point we'll run out of gas. And, so, I think that we need wind energy to hedge against volatile fossil fuel prices in the long run, and a loss of fossil fuel. So, we need to protect our fossil fuel for other purposes. Wind energy will protect us against climate

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1 change, and finally will provide revenue and jobs for this
2 region.

With regard to some of the comments, I
don't think this Project will affect property values. In
fact, I think it will improve property values. We won't
have flicker or noise impacts on any people living close
by. I don't think that it will affect tourism. I'm more
likely to come here to see a wind farm than I would be
otherwise. And, I also think that the property owners of
this land are entitled to invest in the land, they pay
taxes on it, and they should be entitled to use the land
for the resources which it can produce.

With regard to mitigation, you know, I
would suggest that you make sure that the decommissioning
funds are adequate from the beginning, and that you make
sure that the developer does have the funds to complete
the Project before he starts it. So, I'm certainly in
favor of wind energy and in favor of this Project. Thank
you.

20 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Susan Bernard, from
21 Col ebrook.

MS. BERNARD: Sorry about that. I
di dn' t know how to go here. I just wanted to thank you

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for being here, and to put in my two cents' worth, if you

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1 will. It's interesting hearing everybody's attitudes and
2 opinions and statements. But maybe I come from a
3 different point of view. I grew up and had my career in
4 Massachusetts, and have only retired up here in the last
5 few years. And, I love it up here. I love how quiet it
6 is. I love the animals. We have deer and moose go
7 through our yard, and so on. The birds, when spring
8 comes, are wonderful and so on. So, for me, to have
9 windmills in the vicinity, including in Dixville Notch,
10 would not be something I would choose. And, so, my vote
11 is definitely against it.

12 Some of the statements that were made
13 that I don't agree with are things such as "conservation
14 surrounds all of this area, so why are we worrying about
15 it?" It seems to me, if conservation is all around, then
16 conservation should be there as well, and not have a gap.
17 Secondly, money for private landowners I wonder about,
18 both in taxes and in other ways. Anything I've read
19 doesn't say that.

20 There is scarring that happens when you
21 cut down trees up to anywhere, but certainly above a
22 certain level. And, my understanding is that it takes a
23 lot longer for that scarring to be healed over as the
24 altitude increases. So that, if we have trees cut down

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1 because of that, for roads, for whatever reason, we are
2 heading for trouble to see.

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3 I'm also concerned about the birds
4 particularly. I brought a couple of things that I printed
5 out from the internet. And, it says that "Some forest
6 birds are doing very well. Giving hope for continued
7 conservation efforts. But roughly one-third of all forest
8 breeding species have declined. Forests are threatened by
9 unplanned and sprawling urban development, unsustainable
10 logging, overbrowsing by deer, tree pests, and diseases,
11 exasperated by a change in the climate." "Opportunities
12 abound for forest bird management."

13 And, then, more specifically, "birds
14 that periodically come south in the winter, such as the
15 Bohemian waxwing, the pine siskin, the white-winged
16 crossbill and the evening grosbeak have experienced
17 long-term declines. And, that also includes the other
18 birds that are coming across, not able to see the
19 windmills in time, and are going to be impacted in a
20 negative fashion by that.

21 So, despite all of the statements that
22 I've heard tonight, and the reading that I've done, I
23 definitely am against this windmill -- windmill field.
24 And, I even think the idea of perhaps having windmills in

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1 the ski areas is a thought worth thinking about. Thank
2 you.

3 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Well, there's at least
4 one name I skipped that I just couldn't make out. If
5 there somebody that wanted to speak that signed up, you
6 know, please come up. And, I think I've covered, I have a
7 lot of different sheets of paper here, I don't think I've

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8 missed anybody else?

9 (No verbal response)

10 CHAI RMAN GETZ: Okay. It sounds like I
11 haven't missed anyone. I did get indication from
12 Mr. Iacopino that Ms. Keene would like to speak briefly.
13 I had said earlier that the parties would have a chance,
14 after all of the public had a chance to speak. So,
15 Ms. Keene, if you want to speak briefly. And, then, I
16 guess, if there's any other parties here, I know there's
17 representatives of the Applicant, they'll have a chance as
18 well. Ms. Keene.

19 MS. KEENE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 I'm sorry that I have to have my back to the public,
21 because I really feel like I should be addressing them
22 this evening. There's been an awful lot said here about
23 the pros and the cons to this particular wind farm. And,
24 having spent now almost two years researching whether I

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1 would be for or against, I finally came to the conclusion
2 that really where I was is that I wasn't against wind
3 energy, I was definitely against where they're sited.
4 And, I come from a background, I'm a retired real estate
5 appraiser, so I know what a project like this could do to
6 property values. And, it certainly isn't going to
7 increase them.

8 I also was very concerned, because all
9 the experts that submitted reports, documents, all came to
10 the same conclusion: That this particular site would have
11 an adverse impact on the environment. No one has
12 mentioned that this particular site has two watersheds.

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13 That this Project will go right through the center of
14 that. And, we're talking about involving waterways that
15 dump into the Androscoggin Valley, into the Androscoggin
16 River, and other sources that eventually go into the
17 Connecticut. So, it does have a grave impact on the
18 environment. And, I would encourage people to go on the
19 SEC site and read the information, because it's vitally
20 important.

21 My other concern is finances. Having
22 been and I am a retired businesswoman, I always look for
23 ethics. I look for credibility. I look for character.
24 And, Noble Environmental has done nothing but scare me.

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1 They currently have several liens in New York State, of
2 which the liens have been placed on the landowners. They
3 lease the land from the landowners, and they haven't paid
4 their bills. And, the last time I checked, it was
5 \$2.4 million. So, if Coos expects to receive any money
6 from this Company, I would think twice. They are in
7 trouble financially. And, they are leaving marks
8 everywhere they go, and they're not good ones.

9 I hate to speak of the Company in this
10 fashion, but I speak the truth. And, it's unfortunate.
11 And, I certainly do not want a company coming in here
12 raping the area, desecrating it so that we cannot improve
13 upon it after they have done their destruction, and we
14 lose financially. There's nothing good that can come from
15 this proposed Project.

16 The only other thing I would like to say
17 is the PILOT Agreement, the tax agreement, is \$435,000.

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18 It goes to Millfield and it goes to Dixville. It goes
19 nowhere else in the county. So, a lot of us have been
20 fooled by this company, fooled by wind. We're convinced
21 it's green, when it actually is not. In New York, they
22 had last week a wind turbine that collapsed. There was a
23 massive fire. There was a 100 gallons of oil spilled.
24 And, imagine if that happened on the top of Mount Kelsey.

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1 Imagine our volunteer fire department trying to get 30
2 miles to the top of Mount Kelsey. And, by the way, would
3 it be the wildlife that would notify us that the mountain
4 was on fire?

5 There are so many things to be thought
6 of here. My electric bill continues to go up, and I have
7 news for you. We are paying for this Project. Federal
8 government taxes are going to pay for this Project.
9 Electricity is going to pay for this Project. We don't
10 need an upgrade on the Loop. We don't need that. New
11 England needs that; Massachusetts needs that; Connecticut
12 needs that; Rhode Island needs that. And, when your bill
13 goes up, and your federal taxes go up, I don't want anyone
14 knocking on my door to say I didn't tell you.

15 This Project is wrong. It shouldn't
16 happen. And, I ask that you all think about it. Thank
17 you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Any other of the
19 parties?

20 (No verbal response)

21 CHAIRMAN GETZ: All right. Then,
22 hearing nothing, we will close the public statement

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23 hearing for this evening. At this juncture in the
24 proceedings, briefs are due on April 6th. And, we will

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1 take into contribution all the comments we've heard
2 tonight and issue a decision as soon as we can. Thank you
3 for coming out, everyone.

4 (Whereupon the public statement hearing
5 was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.)

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