

1 STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
2 SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

3
4 June 28, 2010 - 7:00 p.m.
5 Plymouth State University
6 Hyde Hall - Room 220
7 Plymouth, New Hampshire

8 RE: Application of Groton Wind, LLC,
9 for a Certificate of Site and
10 Facility for a 48 Megawatt Wind
11 Energy Facility in Groton,
12 Grafton County, New Hampshire.
13 (Public Information Hearing)

11 PRESENT:	SITE EVALUATION SUBCOMMITTEE:
12 Chairman Thomas B. Getz	N.H. Public Utilities Comm.
13 (Presiding)	
14 Robert Scott, Director	Air Resources Division - DES
15 Brook Dupee, Bureau Chief	Dept. of Health & Human Serv.
16 Richard Boisvert	N.H. Div. of Historical Res.
17 Stephen Perry, Chief	Inland Fisheries - N.H. F&G
18 Charles Hood, Administrator	Dept. of Transportation
19 Donald Kent, Administrator	Dept. of Resources & Econ. Dev.
20 Eric Steltzer	Office of Energy & Planning
21 Michael Harrington, Engineer	Public Utilities Commission

22 * * *

23 Counsel for the Committee: Michael Iacopino, Esq.

24 COURT REPORTER: STEVEN E. PATNAUDE, LCR No. 52

1
2 ALSO PRESENT:
3 Counsel for the Applicant: Susan S. Geiger, Esq.
4 Douglas L. Patch, Esq.
(Orr & Reno)

5 Counsel for the Public: 01-PLYM.txt Peter Roth, Esq.
6 Senior Asst. Atty. General
Michelle Thibodeau
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STATEMENT BY MR. ROTH

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PRESENTATION BY MR. CHERIAN (GROTON WIND)

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(presented by Mr. Iacopino)

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1 PROCEEDING
2 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Good evening,
3 everyone. If I could have your attention for a moment,
4 we're going to open the public information hearing in Site
5 Evaluation Committee Docket 2010-01. My name is Tom Getz.
6 I'm the Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission. And,
7 I have been appointed as presiding officer in this SEC
8 docket, concerning the Application of Groton Wind, LLC,
9 for a Certificate of Site and Facility to build a
10 48-megawatt wind energy project, consisting of 24
11 2-megawatt turbines. This evening we will be conducting a
12 public informational hearing pursuant to RSA 162-H:10,
13 which provides that the Applicant will present information
14 to the public and the Committee on the proposed facility.
15 We will also be providing an opportunity to pose questions
16 about the facility and an opportunity to make a public
17 comment.

18 Before I lay out the procedural history
19 of this proceeding, and explain how the hearing tonight

20 will proceed, I will begin with introductions of the
21 members of the Subcommittee that have been appointed to
22 hear this case. And, we only have one microphone. So,
23 rather than hand it around, I'm going to begin with
24 introductions, on my far right is Michael Iacopino, who is
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1 Counsel to the Committee; next is Dr. Don Kent, from the
2 Department of Resources and Economic Development; then Bob
3 Scott, from the Air Resources Division of the Department
4 of Environmental Services; Michael Harrington, who is an
5 engineer with the Public Utilities Commission; and Richard
6 Boisvert, from the Division of Historical Resources; next,
7 on my left, is Brook Dupee, from the Department of Health
8 & Human Services; and then Eric Steltzer, from the
9 Governor's Office of Energy & Planning; on his left is
10 Steve Perry, from the Fish & Game Division; and then
11 Charles Hood, from the Department of Transportation.

12 Also here this evening, in the front
13 row, on my right, is Peter Roth, who has been appointed by
14 the Attorney General as Counsel for the Public. And,
15 he'll have an opportunity to speak shortly.

16 But there should be two things that you
17 should have seen on your way in: One is an agenda, and I
18 think broken down into its basics. The agenda is I'll
19 talk, the Applicant will talk, and then you'll have an
20 opportunity to talk. And, there can be questions, not
21 only from the public, but questions from the Committee,
22 and also from Committee counsel and Counsel for the
23 Public. On the back of the agenda, you'll see some
24 directions that explain a little bit about how things are

1 going to proceed tonight.

2 But let me pick up again with some other
3 issues I need to pay attention to. In our front row, down
4 below us here, on my right, is Mr. Patnaude, who is the
5 court reporter. He's going to be compiling a transcript
6 of the proceeding this evening. When you do have an
7 opportunity to speak later on this evening, please come
8 down to the podium, identify yourself for the record, and
9 speak clearly and slowly so that we can make sure we have
10 a full transcript of the proceedings this evening.

11 As for the procedural history of this
12 docket, on March 26, 2010, Groton Wind filed an
13 Application to construct 12 wind turbines along the Tenney
14 Mountain ridgeline, and another 12 turbines along the
15 Fletcher Mountain ridgeline. Access roads would follow a
16 logging road from Groton Hollow Road and an operations and
17 maintenance building, as well as an electrical switchyard
18 will be built on a location off the existing central
19 logging road. The Project is proposed to interconnect
20 with the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, which would
21 then construct a line to the PSNH Beebe River Substation
22 near Campton Hollow.

23 On April 1 of 2010, Tom Burack, who's
24 the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental

1 Services, and who is, by statute, the Chairman of the Site
2 Evaluation Committee, designated me to review the
3 Application. And, on April 26, I issued an order, which
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4 concluded that the Application contained sufficient
5 information to proceed. Acceptance of the Application
6 starts the clock under RSA 162-H:6-a, which means that we
7 must issue or deny a certificate or approve a certificate
8 with conditions within 240 days, which would be by
9 December 22nd, 2010.

10 On May 7, Commissioner Burack designated
11 the members of the Subcommittee that are here this
12 evening. And, on May 21, I issued an order that scheduled
13 a prehearing conference, which is a procedural hearing,
14 that was held in Concord. And, it's a type of hearing
15 that occurs at the beginning of a docket, and which
16 addresses such issues as who may intervene in the
17 proceeding and participate as a party. The order also
18 scheduled the site visit that took place this afternoon,
19 and the public information hearing that we're holding this
20 evening. The procedural hearing, the prehearing
21 conference, was held on June 7 in Concord. And, I issued
22 a procedural order last Friday, June 25th. That order
23 approved the procedural schedule for this case, and that
24 was after a recommendation by all the parties who appeared
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1 at the prehearing conference. And, that order also
2 granted the petitions of the Towns of Groton, Rumney, and
3 Plymouth, and it granted the Petitions to intervene of a
4 number of Rumney residents who had filed petitions.

5 So, let me talk a little bit now about
6 the legal nature of this docket. This is a contested case
7 under the New Hampshire Administrative Procedure Act.
8 That means we will be using a formal, judicial-style

9 process. The Applicant has already made a filing in
10 several volumes, I believe four volumes. It contains
11 testimony and exhibits. And, it will be required to prove
12 by a preponderance of the evidence that it has adequate
13 financial, technical, and managerial capability to
14 construct and operate the facility. It must demonstrate
15 that the facility will not unduly interfere with the
16 orderly development of the region. It must prove that the
17 facility will not have an unreasonable adverse effect on
18 aesthetics, historic sites, air and water quality, the
19 natural environment, and public health and safety. And,
20 finally, it must prove that the operation of the facility
21 is consistent with state energy policy.

22 The procedural schedule that has been
23 adopted provides as a next step that the intervening
24 parties may conduct discovery on the Applicant's testimony
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1 and exhibits. This is a process where the parties can ask
2 questions in writing and through technical sessions about
3 the -- about what has been filed. And, through that
4 discovery process, it puts the parties in a position to do
5 two things: First, to write testimony of their own, which
6 they will have the opportunity to submit. And, also, it
7 helps them provide or prepare cross-examination that they
8 will then do at the hearings.

9 That the adversarial hearings will be
10 held in Concord in the first week of November. Five days
11 have been set aside at this point to conduct those
12 hearings. Witnesses will testify from the Applicant, and
13 any witnesses who -- from the other parties who may decide

14 to submit testimony, and all of those witnesses will be
15 sworn in under oath, and then will be subject to
16 cross-examination.

17 Consistent with past practice, I expect
18 that there will be an opportunity for written briefs after
19 the hearings. After that, we will deliberate in public on
20 the issues, and then we will issue a written decision.
21 That decision is subject to a Motion for Rehearing, and
22 ultimately can be appealed to the New Hampshire Supreme
23 Court.

24 One thing I would say about this is, if
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1 you're interesting in seeing how past cases have been
2 conducted, you can find documents from this case and from
3 previous cases on this New Hampshire Site Evaluation
4 Committee's website. And, that address is
5 www.nhsec.nh.gov. And, I think that's also at the bottom
6 of the back of the agenda that was handed out earlier this
7 evening.

8 One other point that I think is
9 important to make concerns our role in this proceeding.
10 Because it is a contested case, because we will be doing
11 adjudicative, adversarial-type proceedings, is that we act
12 as triers of fact in the same way that judges act in a
13 civil trial court. That means we cannot speak to the
14 parties or members of the public about the merits of this
15 case, except when there is notice and an opportunity for
16 all parties to be -- to participate, and tonight is an
17 example of that type of permissible forum. Where there's
18 been public notice, all the parties are present and the

19 public's present, and then we can hear what folks have to
20 say. what we cannot do is have private conversations
21 about the merits of this proceeding.

22 So, let me address again back to how the
23 hearing is going to play out tonight. So, the Applicant
24 will present a summary of its project, which I understand
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1 will be in the neighborhood of 10 to 20 minutes,
2 somewhere. And, there's going to be a PowerPoint
3 presentation. And, then, after that's completed, we will
4 answer -- we will have questions that will be posed to the
5 Applicant. And, Mr. Iacopino I think has made clear, that
6 if you have a question, put it on the card, bring it up
7 front, and we'll just try to group them under, in general,
8 the same types of subjects. And, he may end up not
9 reading them verbatim, but just trying to summarize them,
10 if that's necessary. But let's make sure we have as
11 little duplication as possible and can focus on what the
12 underlying questions are.

13 But, with respect to the questions, let
14 me try to emphasize that tonight is not the occasion to
15 cross-examine the Company. The goal is to get a better
16 understanding of what the Applicant is proposing. So, if
17 you have questions in that regard, then I think that's
18 more what we're trying to focus on. So, there may be a
19 great line between "please explain to me what you're doing
20 and how you're doing it", versus a cross-examination type
21 question of "why are you doing it?" But we'll just try to
22 deal with those issues as they arise. And, then, if you
23 would like to make a public comment, there's a sign-up

24 sheet that you should fill in.

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1 So, as I said earlier, our goal tonight
2 is that the public and the Committee will get a better
3 understanding of the proposed project. What is said
4 tonight is not the type of evidence on which we can make
5 our ultimate decision, but your comments will be very
6 helpful to us in identifying areas of concern that we
7 should explore when thinking about the case, our reading
8 the evidence, reading the testimony, and preparing our
9 questions for the November hearings.

10 I had said that our role is very similar
11 to trial judges. But one thing -- or, two things that are
12 different about our roles that I would point out is that
13 the Committee actively asks questions during the hearings,
14 which is unlike what a judge would typically do. And,
15 when we deliberate, we will be deliberating in public,
16 which is not what a judge does. So, those are two
17 differences.

18 Let me just check with Mr. Iacopino. Is
19 there anything that I may have forgotten?

20 MR. IACOPINO: I don't believe so. But,
21 if anybody has a completed question card, either bring it
22 to the young lady at the door or down to myself here.
23 We're trying to get them into categories.

24 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Then, before we
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1 turn to the Applicant, I'll give Mr. Roth an opportunity

2 to explain the role of Counsel for the Public.

3 MR. ROTH: Can everybody hear me okay?
4 I'll skip the microphone for the moment. My name is Peter
5 Roth. I'm a Senior Assistant Attorney General with the
6 Department of Justice. And, I was appointed by the
7 Attorney General to serve as Counsel for the Public in
8 this matter, in accordance with the provisions in the
9 statute which requires him to do that when it's requested
10 by the Chairman of the Committee. My role is spelled out
11 in the statute. And, it's to act as an intervenor and a
12 party in the case and to attempt to ensure that the
13 process produces an appropriate balance between
14 environmental impacts and the need for the production of
15 energy. I also take the role very seriously in that I
16 strive to participate to keep the process honest, so that,
17 and not that there's some dishonesty, but so that
18 viewpoints of what people say and the opinions and the
19 testimony that's given is rigorously cross-examined and
20 tested for accuracy and completeness.

21 As Counsel for the Public, I am
22 essentially attorney for everybody in the state, which
23 puts me in kind of an awkward role, because I represent
24 those people who think the project is really a great idea,
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1 as well as those people who think it's not such a good
2 idea. So, it's an interesting bit of a ballet that I have
3 to perform, but I have the experience in doing it, and I
4 think I do it well.

5 My contact information is available on
6 the web, with the SEC, or you can go to the Department of

7 Justice website, and I welcome contact from anybody who
8 has -- who wants to, you know, talk about the Project, who
9 has information they want to offer, or, to the extent that
10 I can, answer any questions. And, you know, I'm hear
11 tonight, unfortunately, I didn't bring any of my business
12 cards with me to pass around, but, if anybody wants to,
13 you know, talk to me about the Project while I'm here
14 tonight, you know, I welcome any questions and comments.
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN GETZ: I think now we'll turn
17 to the Applicant.

18 MR. CHERIAN: Good evening. What I'd
19 like to do tonight, if I can get this at the right level,
20 is to give you a little bit of a background of this
21 project and about our company and wind power in general,
22 to provide a little bit of basic info about what we're
23 proposing, what we've provided to the Site Evaluation
24 Committee, and the details of what we found in our studies
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1 over the last few years. I will work at doing this in 10
2 to 20 minutes. Many of you have probably seen a lot of
3 these slides a number of times, and I apologize that
4 you're going to see them again.

5 The Applicant, Groton Wind, LLC, is
6 owned by Iberdrola Renewables, Incorporated. We are an
7 American company with wind farms all over the country. In
8 turn, owned by Iberdrola SA, which is the largest wind
9 power company in the world. We have approximately 40 wind
10 farms in the United States, giving us 3,700 megawatts. We
11 built and own and operate the first wind farm in New

12 Hampshire, which is the Lempster Project, completed in
13 October of 2008. And, I think, through the Application
14 that we've submitted and what we're going to discuss
15 tonight, we can clearly demonstrate that we have certainly
16 the financial and the technical and managerial capability
17 to build and operate this Project, and to ensure that it's
18 operating in compliance with the terms of our certificate.

19 A little bit on the basics of how wind
20 power works. Because there is wind power for agricultural
21 purposes, wind power for homes, and this is commercial
22 scale wind power. And, this is a typical wind turbine, a
23 Gamesa G87. This is the make and model turbine that we've
24 installed in Lempster, it's the same make and model that
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1 we're proposing for Groton.

2 One of the elements of modern wind
3 turbines is their size. They need to be large, in order
4 to be well above the tree lines, to more efficiently
5 capture the wind and convert it to electricity.

6 This box, the large box area is known as
7 a "nacelle", about the size of a large RV. It's where all
8 the gearbox and generator is in a modern wind turbine.
9 Essentially, the rotation of the rotors is converted to
10 electricity through the generator and gearbox.

11 Modern wind turbine blades are long, 115
12 to 140 feet in length, some now are longer than that. The
13 blades proposed for this project are 139 feet in length.
14 And, their shape and size are designed again to
15 efficiently produce electricity from the wind. These are
16 designed for -- to be able to perform at low wind speeds,

17 so that it can produce electricity even when the winds are
18 low. Each wind turbine type, make and model has different
19 characteristics; some are designed for higher winds, for
20 lower winds, some have different cut-in and cut-out
21 speeds.

22 A little bit on compatibility. There
23 are I believe over 30,000 wind turbines installed in the
24 United States alone, many more in other countries.

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1 They're in all sorts of places. They're in deserts,
2 they're in mountains, they're, in this picture from Hull,
3 they're right next to the houses and schools, they're on
4 ridgelines. They're in a number of different types of
5 environments and communities producing green energy. So,
6 the concerns I think that have been raised and will be
7 raised are concerns that are raised in a lot of projects.
8 And, I think we will -- we can do a good job to answer
9 them.

10 Very briefly, on Lempster, and my
11 purpose in discussing Lempster is just to document as the
12 only operating project in New Hampshire, and is the
13 company that built and owns and operate it. We've been
14 through the process with the SEC. We've spent a lot of
15 time in the towns in that area. This is a 24 megawatt
16 project, enough power to run 11,000 average homes. The
17 SEC granted approval in June of 2007, and it was
18 officially commercialized, the date was November 2008.

19 Some of the benefits of the Lempster
20 Project, and a lot of these are benefits that will accrue
21 to the Groton area, is it's a major source of the tax

22 revenue for the town, the post project. A lot of the
23 construction jobs that were filled by people from all over
24 the state. Most of the work for the Lempster Project, and
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1 it's been true so far for the Groton Project, has been
2 done by New Hampshire companies; New Hampshire engineers,
3 New Hampshire biologists, New Hampshire lawyers, New
4 Hampshire haulers.

5 I have a case study of one of the
6 landowners from Lempster, the Onnela family, and just kind
7 of give an idea of the footprint of a wind farm. We
8 leased approximately a thousand acres from the Onnela
9 family, and retained the lease of about 41 acres. That is
10 for the wind turbines, a buffer area around each wind
11 turbine, and for the roads. One of the advantages of this
12 is it allowed them to -- they wouldn't have to subdivide
13 their land, it allows for their continuing use. They can
14 still log their land, they can graze cattle on their land,
15 so most of it remains in current use. So, this gets back
16 to compatibility, is the ability to harvest wood products
17 or agricultural products on the land, and also generate
18 green power at the same time.

19 For Groton, what we are proposing is a
20 24-turbine project, the same exact turbines, they're
21 2 megawatts apiece. Actually, the wind data that we have,
22 we expect to produce enough power now for about 20,000
23 homes, and, at peak production, for nearly 60,000 homes.

24 As for any wind power project, it goes
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1 without saying, but I think it's worth repeating, that
2 there are no fossil fuels, there are no air emissions,
3 there's no water intakes, there's no pipelines. There's
4 no trucks to deliver fuel. It is what I would call truly
5 renewable energy here.

6 This is an overview map that is from the
7 Application. And, it shows the locations of the proposed
8 turbines on Tenney and Fletcher ridges. And, where the
9 project is bounded, Route 25 to the north, Tenney Ski
10 Resort to the east, Cockermouth Forest to the south, and
11 Halls Brook Road to the west. The nearest
12 non-participating residence is approximately 2,700 feet
13 from the turbine. I believe the equivalent one for
14 Lempster is about 1,300 feet. Nearest public right of way
15 is 2,400 feet. And, the proposed leased area is about
16 4,100 acres. And, as with Lempster, we expect a very
17 small percentage of that will be retained as a lease.
18 Once the Project is done, the remainder is released back
19 to the landowner. And, in fact, during this period, the
20 landowner continues to log or use the property for
21 whatever they care to.

22 why Groton? Why are we proposing this
23 project and why in this area? It's a product of a lot of
24 work. There's many places in New Hampshire and elsewhere
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1 that have good wind, that would be good places for wind
2 farms. But there's a number of factors that have to all
3 be present for it to be a good site. And, one, of course,
4 is the wind resources have to be there. It has to be a
5 place where you can generate electricity from wind

6 fiscally. Second, it has to be compatible with the land
7 use that's there. And, this is compatible with the
8 forestry and planned conservation uses of the land.

9 Another advantage is there's a network
10 of existing log roads and landings and skid trails that
11 we're able to use. The location has to be such that it
12 can be interconnected. We have to be able to get the
13 power to the power grid so that it can be used.
14 Obviously, there must be landowners that have interest in
15 wind power and signing a lease for it. There has to be
16 local support. The philosophy of our company, we develop
17 our projects, we build them, we own them, and we operate
18 them with our own folks. We're going to be in Lempster
19 for decades. It's our employees who work there. I was
20 Construction Manager for that project. People that live
21 in New Hampshire that run that project. And, if Groton is
22 approved, we're going to be in the Groton community for
23 many decades. So, it's important to us that there is
24 support. There is never unanimous support of any

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1 proposal. But we're going to live and work in this
2 community for many years, if the Committee gives us a
3 certificate.

4 And, lastly, and again my reason for
5 talking about Lempster is our track record. We have built
6 projects on ridgelines, a number of places. Obviously,
7 there's only one wind farm that's been built in this state
8 and it's operating in the state, and that was done by our
9 company.

10 I'm going to go through some of the
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11 elements that are in the Application, just to summarize,
12 to at least -- to address each of those. The types of
13 turbines are Gamesa G87 turbines. These are turbines that
14 are primarily built in the United States. The factory is
15 in Pennsylvania. There are on-site collection lines that
16 are a mix of underground and overhead. There are access
17 roads, about two and a half miles of existing roads and
18 9.3 miles of new roads. There will be an Operations and
19 Maintenance building.

20 Interconnection with the grid: We have
21 been working and continue to work with the Co-op and
22 Public Service of New Hampshire on the interconnection.
23 What we have proposed and has been studied is via 34.5 kV
24 lines, which is standard distribution power that you can
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1 see in Plymouth along Route 25. The routes are under
2 evaluation. The Co-op identified five or six different
3 routes to get from the project site to the substation, and
4 that is ongoing. The project is in Co-op's service
5 territory, so it's anticipated the lines will be attached
6 to Co-op poles. And, the design of those poles would be
7 in coordination with using utility standards.

8 A couple of pictures of typical poles
9 and wires of a 34.5. The one on the right is from
10 Lempster. That's a single circuit 34.5. These are not
11 big transmission lines, like Hydro-Quebec lines. This is
12 a typical three-phase line that can be bracketed.

13 Our Site Evaluation Committee process:
14 The Chairman described it, where we're at, and this is in
15 terms of the Application and what we filed. So, I'm going

16 to just go to the next one. Some of the studies that are
17 in the Application. And, there's a lot in those four
18 volumes. We have full sets of engineering plans that are
19 part of the Alteration of Terrain Permit. We have full
20 sets of wetland delineations that are part of the DES
21 interagency Wetlands Permit. We have studies of vernal
22 pools. We have a number of different bird studies,
23 breeding birds, avian studies, bat surveys. We had a site
24 visit today in which we looked at some of the
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1 photo-simulations, which is the result of a very detailed
2 process, and a number of I think 180 different photos.

3 Sounds: We've taken ambient surveys of
4 sound, existing sound levels at a number of different
5 points around the project, we're going to compare it to
6 the projected sound levels. Historic architectural
7 surveys, FAA permits, and an economic impact study, and I
8 think there's probably a few more. So, there's a lot of
9 material in there that's designed to assist the public and
10 the Committee in how to evaluate the project, what the
11 effects are, great, bad, or otherwise. And, it's the
12 culmination of a number of years of work. This is not
13 something that we've all of a sudden proposed. This
14 project was first discussed I think it was seven years
15 ago, and in terms of looking at the wind data and the
16 engineering. So, it goes back a long way. And, this,
17 where we're at today, is the product of a lot of work.

18 The studies and the conclusions that
19 they have reached are that we do not believe there is
20 going to be unreasonable adverse impacts on any of these

21 key resources: Aesthetics, historic sites, air quality,
22 water quality, environment, public health and safety. We
23 believe the project is consistent with the orderly
24 development of the region.

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1 Talk a little bit more about a couple of
2 these. On aesthetics, we did a visual impact assessment.
3 I believe we looked at a total of a 10-mile square radius
4 -- 10 miles radius, excuse me, 400 square miles. And, if
5 you look at the application, the project is actually not
6 visible from a substantial part of that study area. It is
7 very visible from some points and modestly visible from
8 others. It depends on the topography. There was 180
9 viewpoints that were studied. And, from that, 11 visual
10 simulations were selected, and those are all inside the
11 Application.

12 This is an example, I think this is a
13 picture taken from Bell Road, in Plymouth, of a before and
14 after. This is the before; this is the after.

15 The historic sites: The United States
16 Army Corps of Engineers is the lead agency for this
17 discussion, and it will consult with New Hampshire
18 Division of Historical Resources. That is ongoing, in
19 terms of the scope of work and some of the field work.

20 Air quality: Actually, the project does
21 not combust any fuels, therefore no adverse effects on air
22 quality. There are certainly potential benefits for air
23 quality, because of the amount of fossil fuel that this
24 project could offset.

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1 water quality: We started working with
2 DES early in this process in the design of the Project, to
3 minimize any impacts on wetlands, to look at how culverts
4 should be designed to minimize or even improve water
5 quality. There are a number of water culverts on the site
6 that can be and would be improved or would improve water
7 quality. For this entire project, our delineation
8 indicates that we would have 1.63 acres of wetland impacts
9 within a 425 acre study area.

10 what we propose in our Application and
11 working with the agencies is a mitigation for that
12 1.63 acres. That includes coordination or ongoing
13 coordination with the Forest Society, which is putting
14 together a conservation easement for about 6,500 acres of
15 green acre woodlands land, about 2,700 of which is under
16 leased lands for wind towers. And, we propose to provide
17 a lot of the technical data, wetlands data, survey data,
18 to the Forest Society or others to support that. There
19 are some requirements as part of the Forest Legacy funds
20 to do some of that work. We propose a financial
21 contribution for the easement -- for the conservation
22 easement, for the stewardship of that easement. The state
23 is expected to take the easement, but will not take an
24 easement without enough funding for stewardship. And,
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1 we're going to upgrade a number of the water crossings
2 that don't meet current DES standards, and probably which
3 will result in a net improvement of water quality.

4 Natural environment: There's a lot of
5 studies in the application on plants and trees, the bird
6 field surveys. There are no federally-listed threatened
7 or endangered species that have been noted. And, here's a
8 list of some of the studies and in great detail and part
9 of the Application.

10 On avian and bat mitigation, we are the
11 only wind company that has a national agreement with the
12 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. It lays out all of the
13 studies that we would do at a project site, both before
14 and after a wind farm is built, to determine what, if any,
15 effects on birds and bats may occur. And, we do these
16 whether they are required or asked for or not. So, that
17 Avian & Bat Protection Plan will guide us in Groton as
18 well, and includes post-construction monitoring, which we
19 also are doing in Lempster. We finished the first year of
20 that. And, it includes basically reporting to the
21 agencies on the result of that, and includes a number of
22 different studies that are done prior to -- prior to
23 construction. In this case, we would likely do radar and
24 breeding bird surveys.

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1 The bottom, "Wildlife Habitat
2 Assessment", it's a request of New Hampshire Fish & Game.
3 We did assess wood turtle habitat, deer wintering grounds,
4 and Eastern brook trout. And, all of this is in the
5 Wildlife Habitat Assessment in the Application.

6 In the area of public health and safety,
7 shadow flicker is a study that we undertook to evaluate
8 whether there are any homes or areas that might be

9 affected by the Sun being behind wind turbine blades as
10 they turn, known as "shadow flicker". And, we found, for
11 this site, is almost nonexistent, because any potential
12 receptors or houses are far from the turbines or are
13 blocked by the terrain. So, the modeling looked at 207
14 structures within one mile of the turbines, that's home
15 structures, I believe, barns, garages, I think. And, of
16 those, only three of the 207 would experience any shadow
17 flicker. One would be less than one hour per year, and
18 two would be between one and three over the course of the
19 year. So, a very minimal effect. FAA lighting -- bless
20 you. FAA lighting is determined by the FAA and they tell
21 us which turbines have to have lights, what the specs on
22 the lights are. We have gotten revised permits from them,
23 which indicated 14 of the turbines would have to be lit
24 according to their specs. And, then, for any project, we

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1 site turbines using setbacks, setbacks from property
2 lines, setbacks from roads, setbacks from houses.

3 Sound: There are lot of questions about
4 sound, and we study sound in great detail for every
5 project. First, what we have done is we've studied the
6 ambient sound. In order to know about the effects of
7 sound, we have to know what level the sound exists now.
8 So, we took sound measurements at a number of places, in
9 Plymouth, in Rumney, in Groton, and elsewhere, to
10 determine what are existing sound levels. And, I won't go
11 into great detail. I think it's monitors are set up for
12 24/7 for a couple of weeks, so you get daytime/nighttime
13 peaks and valleys. Obviously, we have the specifications

14 on the turbines, so we can model on what the effects --
15 how much sound the turbines will produce and how it
16 interacts or is masked by the ambient levels. What our
17 studies have shown is that all the levels would be less
18 than 45 decibels, dBA, at all residences. The two closest
19 residences would be 41 dBA. All other residences will be
20 less than 40 dBA. And, if you're looking in the study,
21 you will see that a number of the ambient sound levels
22 were close to that level. And, the sound levels are under
23 -- I think it's well under the sound limit conditions that
24 were imposed by the Committee on the Lempster wind
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1 Project.

2 Orderly Development of the Region:
3 Among the things we've worked on with the Town of Groton
4 is evaluating the Master Plan, and we certainly spent a
5 lot of time working with the Board of Selectmen, the
6 Planning Board, the Zoning Board, and we're finishing an
7 agreement with the Town that will cover a number of the
8 issues that the Town is interested in. Likewise, we are
9 working on the same thing with the Town of Rumney. An
10 agreement that will address use of roads, emergency access
11 or other concerns that the Selectmen or Town departments
12 raise. And, in terms of regional, we have met with the
13 North Country Council and the Grafton County Economic
14 Development Council about this Project as well.

15 And, the project benefits are going to
16 be the same as the project benefits for Lempster, except
17 maybe on a larger scale, is the use of local construction,
18 and labor, materials, along with that there's activity in

19 the community, in Rumney, vendors in that area, workers
20 staying in the area. Obviously, payments to landowners
21 and to the Town of Groton, payments to the State, we pay
22 the State Utility Property Tax. Improvements to the
23 area's electrical grid, replacing poles, some of which are
24 very old. Green power for the area for over 20,000 homes.
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1 Using renewable resources. We think it's complimentary to
2 the Forest Society's conservation easements. It's in
3 addition to it. And, I have tourism on there. So, I had
4 a question at one of the earlier Groton meetings where
5 someone said "well, this may scare the tourists away."
6 And, it was funny because I had gotten a complaint that
7 day from Lempster about all the tourists that had come out
8 asking about the wind farm. So, it does, wind farms do
9 attract tourists to the areas.

10 I'm not going to read through all these,
11 I just wanted to summarize the number of meetings that
12 we've had. We've been meeting with the Town of Groton for
13 many months, and we continue to. And, one of the things
14 that I think I've said in Groton is, and even in Rumney
15 and Plymouth, is I'll come back any time and talk to the
16 Town, to the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Selectmen.
17 That's always the case. This is just a summary of some of
18 the meetings; Hebron, Plymouth, meeting with State
19 Representatives, Senator Reynolds, Councilor Burton.
20 We've been working with State agencies for a couple of
21 years on this Project, in terms of helping them to guide
22 us on what they wanted in the studies.

23 Rumney: We've had many meetings in

24 Rumney, and the bus tour as well.

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1 I mentioned these, North Country
2 Council, Forest Society, Grafton County Economic
3 Development.

4 And, then, I have some websites, if you
5 can read them. One is the Groton wind docket on the Site
6 Evaluation Committee; actually, the American Wind Energy
7 Association with just some general information; a couple
8 of U.S. Department of Energy sites. And, then, near the
9 bottom, there's the Iberdrola Renewables website, the
10 Groton wind website, and the Lempster wind website. I'll
11 leave that up for you folks.

12 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Thank you. At
13 this point, I'm going to change the order a little bit.
14 And, rather than going to questions first from the
15 Committee and from Public Counsel, I think it may be
16 better to get straight to questions from the public. And,
17 then, if there's questions that Mr. Roth or members here
18 or Mr. Iacopino have, we'll fill those in afterwards.

19 But, given the resources, the audio
20 resources, I think I'll turn this over to Mr. Iacopino,
21 who then will ask the questions to the Company, who has
22 brought in a number of people to answer questions from
23 different specialties.

24 MR. IACOPINO: Okay. We're going to

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1 have to share this microphone, Mr. Cherian. Actually, why
2 don't you hold this to give the answers. I'll ask you the

3 questions.

4 The first question is really a process
5 question that either the Applicant can explain and, if the
6 Chairman allows me to, I may give some input on it as
7 well. The question is, is "Why was there no other public
8 postings for this meeting? The Penny Saver is delivered
9 to all homes in the Baker Valley." Does the Applicant
10 have any comment on that?

11 MR. CHERIAN: Yes. There was -- I think
12 there were a number of notices. There was a number of
13 public meetings. Most, if not all of them, were publicly
14 noticed. They were noticed through the Board of Selectmen
15 for the respective towns. I think Groton wind has been
16 the subject of an article or a discussion in the --

17 (Interruption by the court reporter.)

18 MR. CHERIAN: Okay. I think that Groton
19 wind has been either the subject of articles or mentioned
20 in some way as a report from the Town in the Plymouth
21 Record Enterprise for every week for many months.

22 MR. IACOPINO: Okay. And, from the
23 Committee's standpoint, RSA 162-H provides the amount of
24 notice that the Committee is supposed to give prior to a
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1 public hearing like this. And, the statute provides that
2 we give 30 days public notice. What the order of notice
3 in this case actually required was 30 days public notice
4 in the legal notice in a paper in Grafton County and paper
5 that was statewide, and also required the Applicant to
6 post a display advertisement in the newspaper. And, as I
7 understand it, there was actually two display

8 advertisements that actually wound up being posted. The
9 display advertisement did not fall within the time frame
10 that we requested it in the order, but, instead, we wound
11 up with two of them, because of an error from the
12 newspaper, it was my understanding.

13 There is a motion pending before the
14 Committee by the Applicant to amend that order of notice
15 to comport with the notice that was actually given. In
16 reality, though, the notice that was actually given is
17 more than what the statute requires the Committee to give
18 to the public for public notice in this type of hearing.
19 There was actually four separate notices that went out.

20 Okay. Mr. Cherian, please describe the
21 plan for -- what I'm going to do is I'm going to go
22 through some health and safety questions next. "Please
23 describe the plan for emergency (for example,
24 firefighting) access to the sites?"

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1 MR. CHERIAN: There's a couple of ways
2 that's going to be addressed. For Lempster, we worked
3 with the Town Fire Department and nearby responders. We
4 had a Safety Plan. They came up and inspected the site,
5 and they signed off on the Safety Plan and the alarm
6 system. We've met with the Rumney Fire Department, and
7 expect to take them not only up to the Lempster site, but
8 also to coordinate with them on a Safety Plan, both during
9 construction and during operation.

10 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Mike, can we hold on for
11 one second? Steve, are you good?

12 MR. PATNAUDE: I'm okay right now.
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13 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay.

14 MR. PATNAUDE: It's a little hard to
15 hear with that.

16 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Maybe just both of you
17 may need to go slowly.

18 MR. IACOPINO: The next question also
19 involves fire safety, and states: "We have seen pictures
20 of windmills and turbines on fire. What safeguards does
21 Iberdrola have against forest fires caused by lightning on
22 the ridge?"

23 MR. CHERIAN: Well, as I mentioned
24 before, there's over like 30,000 wind turbines installed
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1 in the United States. We have -- we operate over 2,600 of
2 them, and have over ten years experience. And, so, the
3 chances of that happening are extremely low. There have
4 been fires in turbines and you may have seen pictures of
5 them. But there is a lot of equipment that is in each
6 turbine to avoid just that, and I actually have some
7 information on this.

8 First of all, before we commission a
9 wind farm, it has to also be signed off by the utility.
10 We're connecting to the electrical grid. So, it has to
11 meet the same safety standards or electrical standards as
12 any other power source. So, that's -- that's one key
13 part.

14 Another is that there are a number of
15 built-in safety designs. There is transformer oil in the
16 nacelle, the temperature and the pressure of that oil is
17 constantly tracked. There is fiber optics between each

18 turbine that allows that to be managed or identified 24/7,
19 not only on-site, but in a central place that we have in
20 Portland, Oregon, where we can identify and track all of
21 our wind turbines.

22 The other is that you have the EPA --
23 (Interruption by the court reporter.)

24 MR. CHERIAN: So, we, you know, we
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1 manage a lot of these turbines. The Spill Prevention
2 Countermeasure Plan, SPCC, is a federal EPA requirement
3 for every project. We filed one for Lempster, a copy of
4 it is in part of the Application.

5 And, so, the short answer to that is
6 that the chance of a fire is extremely low. I don't know
7 how many -- if we ever had any. I might ask -- one of our
8 panelists is telling me "two". So, we have 2,600
9 turbines, in ten years experience, there have been two
10 fires that were contained within a nacelle.

11 MR. IACOPINO: The next series of
12 questions deal with issues of proximity of the --

13 DR. MAZUR: May I have a question
14 please?

15 MR. IACOPINO: -- deal with proximity of
16 the turbines to homes. And, the first question is: "Of
17 the 24 turbines now planned for this Groton Project, how
18 many turbines, if any, are within two kilometers
19 (translated one and a quarter miles) of a residence or
20 business?"

21 MR. CHERIAN: I don't have that answer
22 immediately off the top of my head. We've got a map that

23 has -- that plots how close some are. I think we said the
24 nearest residence was 2,700 feet. But I don't have that
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1 figure off the top of my head.

2 CHAIRMAN GETZ: well, Mike, before we go
3 on then, maybe one procedure we can adopt is, if there's
4 questions that you don't have the answer to, we're going
5 to put the transcript online, similar to what we do in a
6 hearing at the PUC and at the SEC, is like a record
7 request. So, we'll just note those questions. Give you
8 an opportunity to make the answer in writing. And, we'll
9 post it on our website next to the transcript, so that
10 we'll have all the information to try to answer all the
11 questions.

12 MR. IACOPINO: The second question is
13 related to that one: "If the turbines were to be
14 prohibited (as a condition from the Site Evaluation
15 Committee) from being closer than two kilometers from
16 residences or businesses, how many turbines could still be
17 built in the Project?"

18 MR. CHERIAN: I don't know the answer to
19 that question either.

20 MR. IACOPINO: Next question also deals
21 with proximity to a residence: "Are there any safety
22 reports for school children within 2.5 miles of one or
23 more windmills?"

24 MR. CHERIAN: I don't know of a specific
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1 safety report. But you're probably welcome to go to the
2 Goshen-Lempster School and ask the principal and teachers
3 for yourself. I think that would be a pretty compelling
4 source. And, with the Hull High School, that's right next
5 to a turbine, in Hull, Massachusetts.

6 MR. IACOPINO: And, the last question
7 with regard to proximity is somewhat rhetorical, but I'll
8 ask it anyway: "Why doesn't the State of New Hampshire
9 become the first state to protect humans from the
10 proximity of turbines, which I believe to be a fire
11 danger?"

12 MR. CHERIAN: That sounds like a
13 question for the Legislature.

14 MR. IACOPINO: The next series of
15 questions also deals somewhat with proximity, but more
16 with noise and other effects of the turbines. The first
17 one is a long one: "Regarding psychoneuro-oto-
18 immunological aspects of Wind Turbine Syndrome Spectrum
19 Disorder and the need for a cease and desist moratorium on
20 the Groton Wind Project until which time the public no
21 longer entertains reasonable doubt over health hazard
22 issues? Please assign this question to the larger
23 question" -- I think the question is, "should there be a
24 cease and desist order until Wind Turbine Syndrome and the
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1 health hazards purportedly posed by that should be
2 investigated?"

3 MR. CHERIAN: Well, that --

4 DR. MAZUR: May I comment please? Short
5 comment?

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CHAIRMAN GETZ: No, sir.

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MR. CHERIAN: This gets to a question that is beyond my level of experience. But we do have a number of very smart people here in front of us, and most of whom are expert witnesses. And, I want to introduce them real quick, because, if I send a question to them, you will know who they are. At least I will introduce John. Rob might be the appropriate --

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Well, is there anyone here, I take the question to be "has the Applicant considered psychoneuro-immunological effects from the wind turbines? So, has that been considered? Is there anyone who can speak to those?"

MR. CHERIAN: Yes. Rob O'Neal is a Principal at Epsilon Associates who did all of the sound analysis and his team the sound analysis. He is a Certified Consulting Meteorologist; a B.A. from Dartmouth; a Masters from Colorado State; and is a member of the Acoustical Society of America. So, he is better qualified

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1 to answer that question than I am.

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MR. O'NEAL: If I understand the question, is it related to the wind Turbine Syndrome question that's been out there in the public before?

MR. IACOPINO: Yes.

MR. O'NEAL: Okay.

DR. MAZUR: No. As the author of the question, it's a different question.

CHAIRMAN GETZ: well, let's -- let me address a couple of things. First, as a matter of

11 process, we ask that the questions be put in writing.
12 Second, Dr. Mazur, you have been granted intervention as a
13 party, and you're going to have all the opportunity in the
14 world to make your case, whatever the nature of that case
15 may be. Third, you have an opportunity to comment
16 tonight. You'll get that opportunity later. So, we're
17 going to not interrupt the questions. We're going to give
18 each and every person their own individual opportunity to
19 ask their questions, to make their comments.

20 DR. MAZUR: May I just comment that --

21 CHAIRMAN GETZ: No. Let's just address
22 this.

23 MR. O'NEAL: I'm just -- I was going to
24 briefly try to answer the question as best I can. In
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1 terms of "Wind Turbine Syndrome", it's been a term that's
2 been out there in the literature, it's been talked about
3 on the Internet a lot.

4 FROM THE FLOOR: Sorry, I can't hear
5 you.

6 MR. O'NEAL: This is something that
7 Dr. Nina Pierpont has broached. But, in my opinion, from
8 what I've read and what I under --

9 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Excuse me. It seems
10 that now people in the back row can't hear. So, maybe you
11 can bring it a little closer. Why don't you bring that a
12 little closer, and why don't you move over closer to Mr.
13 Patnaude, maybe we can get the best of all worlds.

14 MR. O'NEAL: You know, from my opinion
15 and from what I have read and learned and understand about

16 wind turbines, the "Wind Turbine Syndrome" is something
17 that she has not demonstrated any kind of
18 cause-and-effect, between low frequency sound, infrasound,
19 and some of these other issues about health effects to
20 residents living near wind farms. There's been a lot of
21 stuff written on the Internet, but there have not been any
22 true, corroborated studies by scientists and medical
23 doctors. I can quote several papers. I'm not sure this
24 is the time and the place to do that, in this type of
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1 forum. But several well-known and respected scientists
2 and acoustical consultants have looked into this matter.
3 The American Wind Energy Association has also looked into
4 this matter, and they have determined that this is not a
5 true diagnosis.

6 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Sir? Mr. Iacopino.

7 MR. IACOPINO: Thank you. Ready for the
8 next question, Mr. Cherian? This question is "Can you
9 respond about complaints about noise from other wind
10 projects Iberdrola has built?"

11 MR. CHERIAN: I don't have data on that.
12 And, certainly, in talking about Lempster, I can tell you
13 about Lempster, there's a project in New Hampshire. We've
14 been operating since October 2008, and have had one
15 complaint at that project because of noise, which later
16 turned out to be a gentleman had a problem with hearing
17 aids. His house is much closer to wind turbines there.
18 So, I don't have data on wind farms all over the country
19 for us, but I am familiar with the Lempster Project.

20 MR. IACOPINO: Also on the same issue:

21 "Should you be allowed to build the Groton wind Project
22 and the sound levels exceed your estimates for sound
23 levels, what do you plan to do about that? Would you
24 agree to turn off the turbines at 11:00 p.m., to allow
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1 people living near them to get a decent night's sleep?"

2 MR. CHERIAN: Well, that's a question, I
3 think, for the Committee. You know, for the Lempster
4 Project, we had agreements with the Town on what sound
5 levels would be allowable, and the SEC added additional
6 conditions on those. And, we were required to provide
7 post construction reports to demonstrate that we meet
8 those conditions. And, I would expect that there will be
9 requirements from the towns and from the SEC with this
10 project as well, and we will demonstrate that we meet
11 those conditions.

12 MR. IACOPINO: And, that segues into the
13 next question very nicely: "In the Town of Lempster
14 regulations, the SEC required no more than 5 decibels
15 above normal pressure for neighboring non-participating
16 residences. How will the norm be determined for
17 residences that might be affected? And, do we all get our
18 homes monitored? Iberdrola's test sites were on roads
19 (Tenney Village Road) and far from Mount Tim."

20 MR. O'NEAL: I believe there was a
21 misstatement in part of that question. "5 decibels"
22 refers to "5 decibels over the existing background". That
23 should be the nature of the statement, I guess. And, so,
24 the same type of requirement could be put in place by the
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1 Committee for this project as well. And, the locations
2 that you would normally test at are going to be ones that
3 are closest to the wind turbines, have a direct
4 line-of-sight to the wind turbines. Because, if those
5 locations show compliance with the criteria established by
6 the Committee, then other more distant locations will also
7 comply with the criteria, because sound does decrease as
8 distance increases.

9 MR. IACOPINO: "Iberdrola stated at a
10 public meeting in Plymouth that there would be experts
11 here tonight to answer these two engineering questions:
12 Number (1) Will Mount Tim and Plymouth residents hear
13 louder noise because of 12 towers? Tenney Village doesn't
14 seem affected by much more than one."

15 MR. CHERIAN: That would be right here.

16 MR. IACOPINO: The question is, "Will
17 Mount Tim and Plymouth residents hear louder noise because
18 of 12 towers?"

19 MR. O'NEAL: The answer is "no." Can
20 you hear? The answer is "no." The distance from Mount
21 Tim and that general area is approximately greater than
22 3 miles from the closest wind turbine in the Project. At
23 that kind of a distance, even if there is no intervening
24 topography, we're looking at sound levels on the order of
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1 25 decibels, which is below the existing background.
2 Looking at Tenney Mountain, for example, Tenney Mountain
3 is approximately 12,000 feet, or a little over 2 miles,
4 from the Mount Tim area. And, I understand, sometimes

5 there can be music that comes forth from that area, so
6 that I can use that as an example. The sound of music or
7 a concert is more than 150 times greater sound energy that
8 will be coming from all of the wind turbines. And, so,
9 you've got a combination of much higher sound levels from
10 the Tenney Mountain area, if they're running a concert,
11 for example, than the wind turbines. Combine that with
12 the much, much further distances, and folks that live in
13 that Mount Tim area -- sorry -- would expect to experience
14 sound levels much, much less than the folks that we
15 analyzed closer to the wind farm. We're going to be in
16 the 20s and 30s decibels.

17 MR. IACOPINO: There's a second
18 question. Stay up there, sir. "On a cloudy day, will
19 sound be loud on the east side of Route 3A? Your study
20 does not look east of Route 3-A." And, then, the
21 question, I'm going to give you the question, because the
22 questioner has drawn a little diagram of Mount Tim, and I
23 guess where the windmills are, and Route 3-A, on the
24 bottom, Number 2.

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1 MR. O'NEAL: This is -- This is somewhat
2 related to the first answer I gave. When I gave an
3 estimate for the sound levels at a location like Mount
4 Tim, I assumed that there was nothing intervening between,
5 say, the wind turbines and a location on top of Mount Tim.
6 So, a straight line of site, if you will, which would be
7 the worst case. And, in terms of the "cloudy day"
8 question, even for locations further away, it's not going
9 to be louder there than at the locations closer to the

10 wind farm. It doesn't mean you'll never ever hear it at
11 Mount Tim, perhaps, under certain optimal conditions, but
12 the sound level is going to be very, very low, and much
13 lower than the levels that we've looked at at the
14 locations at Tenney Mountain and other locations closer to
15 the wind farm.

16 MR. IACOPINO: Thank you. Next one's
17 for you, Mr. Cherian. "How high are the communication
18 towers on Tenney Mountain? And, how will the proposed
19 turbines compare to them?"

20 MR. CHERIAN: I don't know right offhand
21 how high the existing microwave tower is. That's another
22 company's tower. The meteorological towers that are on
23 Tenney are 60 meters high. What we proposed for this
24 project, the hub height at the top of tower is 78 meters
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1 high.

2 MR. IACOPINO: The next series of
3 questions involve financial, managerial, and technical
4 capability issues. The first one is: "We hear that the
5 Gamesa turbine is dated horizontal technology. Has the
6 Applicant any comment on this?"

7 MR. CHERIAN: I don't think that's
8 accurate. The Gamesa turbine is state-of-the-art, and it
9 is used all around the world very successfully. And, it's
10 one of the best turbines on the market. And, we do buy
11 turbines and install turbines and operate many different
12 kinds. GE, Suzlon, Gamesa, there's a number of different
13 kinds. But we think it is a very good turbine and very
14 state-of-the-art.

15 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Mr. Iacopino, I have a
16 follow-up. The question asks about "horizontal
17 technology"?

18 MR. IACOPINO: "Horizontal dated
19 technology" -- I'm sorry, "dated horizontal technology".

20 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Could you explain
21 "horizontal technology"?

22 MR. CHERIAN: I don't know what that
23 means.

24 MR. IACOPINO: Okay. The next two
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1 questions --

2 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Is there someone else
3 from the Applicant who could --

4 MS. GOLAND: We can guess at what
5 they're saying. That's about it.

6 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Is there someone, an
7 engineer, who would be doing more than guessing?

8 MS. GOLAND: The term doesn't exist.
9 So, we can guess. That's the only -- if you want me to?

10 MR. CHERIAN: Yes, I'll try this. There
11 are designs, vertical turbines, maybe that's what he's
12 talking about, that are "egg beater turbines", they call
13 them, that are experimental that are being looked at. I
14 don't know of any that have been installed and are
15 generating electricity at any large level. There's lots
16 of turbine designs that are looked at in labs. The ones
17 we use are ones that have been installed and are operating
18 and have a long lifespan that are proven out.

19 MR. IACOPINO: The next two questions
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20 are related. "Will an American company own and operate
21 these windmills?" And, "Will an American company install
22 these windmills?"

23 MR. CHERIAN: The answer to both of
24 those is "yes". Iberdrola Renewables is an American
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1 company. We're based in Portland, Oregon. Our parent
2 company, Iberdrola, S.A., is based in Spain. But I can
3 tell you that these windmills will be owned and operated
4 by Americans, they will be built by Americans, primarily
5 in Spain [Pennsylvania?]. And, anyone familiar with the
6 Lempster Project knows that, not only were they built by
7 Americans, but most of the people from New Hampshire,
8 Maine, and Vermont. So, all kinds of Americans in this.

9 MR. IACOPINO: The next question deals
10 with the finances of running a wind farm. And, it is
11 "When is it that the turbines turn a profit?"

12 MR. CHERIAN: If the question is "how
13 many years does it take before we break even on a
14 project?" It depends a lot on the quality of the wind, it
15 depends on the power prices. A general rule of them is a
16 good seven years.

17 MR. IACOPINO: All right. The next card
18 has nine -- the next two cards have nine questions,
19 Mr. Cherian. I'm just going to go through them one-by-one
20 for you. Again, they're all about financial -- financial
21 issues and managerial issues. "Are there any federal
22 funds or grants [involved in this project]?"

23 MR. CHERIAN: Wind farms are eligible in
24 some cases for Production Tax Credits or Investment Tax

1 Credits. So, there are no federal funds on this project
2 at this point that's paying for it. Once it's built, it
3 may be eligible for some federal tax credits.

4 MR. IACOPINO: "[Does the project have]
5 any New Hampshire state funds or grants?"

6 MR. CHERIAN: No.

7 MR. IACOPINO: "Are there any private
8 funds other than your own?" And, I assume the questioner
9 means "Iberdrola's own funds".

10 MR. CHERIAN: I'm not sure of that
11 question.

12 MR. IACOPINO: "Are there any private
13 funds other than your own", meaning the Company?

14 MR. CHERIAN: Well, typically, in any
15 construction project, you have construction loans. So, if
16 you mean "funds besides cash from Iberdrola", that's
17 possible.

18 MR. IACOPINO: "Does the power generated
19 stay in New Hampshire?"

20 MR. CHERIAN: That depends on who buys
21 it and how it's transported. At 34.5 kV, the power is
22 going to be at 34.5 kV, the power would be used in New
23 Hampshire; just the nature of electrons, it will be used
24 locally. Now, where you use the power is not necessarily

1 the same as where you sell the power. I think the
2 gentleman from the Co-op gave some details on this at one

3 of the meetings in Rumney, described that electrons, like
4 --

5 (Interjection by the court reporter.)

6 CHAIRMAN GETZ: You're going to have to
7 get that at least an inch further away.

8 MR. CHERIAN: All right. Electrons will
9 be used in the local area, but it doesn't mean it can't be
10 sold, the power can't be sold to another area.

11 MR. IACOPINO: Next question says "Are
12 you", I assume meaning "Iberdrola", "fully funded and what
13 is your projected cost?"

14 MR. CHERIAN: I'm not sure what that
15 question is about. I think the estimated cost for this
16 project is -- we're estimating about a \$110 million
17 investment.

18 MR. IACOPINO: Okay. Then, the other
19 half of that question is "are you fully funded?"

20 MR. CHERIAN: I'm not sure I know what
21 that means. Do we have \$110 million?

22 MR. IACOPINO: Yes, I guess.

23 MR. CHERIAN: We have, yes.

24 MR. IACOPINO: I guess the question is

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1 that what you're saying is, your company could build this,
2 this project, off its balance sheet?

3 MR. CHERIAN: Yes. And, we self-finance
4 a lot of our construction, not exclusively, but we -- we
5 are able to and do do that.

6 MR. IACOPINO: "Is there any long-term
7 employment for the local area other than the construction

8 itself?"

9 MR. CHERIAN: Well, wind farms don't --
10 it's not like a factory, where there's 200 people working
11 there. The Lempster Project, there's, I think, three
12 full-time employees and some contractors. Estimated for
13 Rumney is five or six. So, the bulk of the jobs, local
14 jobs, are going to be during construction.

15 MR. IACOPINO: "Has there been any study
16 of the financial impact of the local" -- "on the local
17 landowners?" And, in parentheses, this questioner has
18 written "views".

19 MR. CHERIAN: If your -- if the question
20 is getting at property values, we did include in the
21 Application I think a very recent and pretty detailed
22 study of property values that was done by the Department
23 of Energy, one of their lesser labs, that looks at some
24 areas in Upstate New York where there's been a number of
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1 wind farms operating for some years, and looked at
2 property values, and found no effect on property values as
3 a result of having wind farms.

4 MR. IACOPINO: Next question is "who
5 receives the carbon credits and what is the projected
6 value of those credits?"

7 MR. CHERIAN: The carbon credits, there
8 are not carbon credits for a project like this just yet,
9 it's Renewable Energy Credits, and that will depend on who
10 buys it. For Lempster, we sell 90 percent of the power
11 and 100 percent of the RECs, Renewable Energy Credits, to
12 PSNH, and 10 percent of the power to the Co-op. We do not

13 yet have a Power Purchase Agreement for this project.

14 As far as the value of them, Renewable
15 Energy Credits are a commodity, no different than wood or
16 energy or corn. It goes up and down, depending on supply
17 and demand.

18 MR. IACOPINO: The next question is
19 similar to one I've already asked, but it's asked a little
20 bit differently, so I will ask it. "Who is financing this
21 project? The federal government? The state government?
22 Or, is it privately financed?"

23 MR. CHERIAN: It's privately financed.

24 MR. IACOPINO: And, then, "In -- I'm
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1 sorry -- "Is Spain in financial trouble because of the
2 high cost of wind turbines?"

3 MR. CHERIAN: I don't know enough about
4 Spain to answer that.

5 MR. IACOPINO: And, then, the last
6 question in this batch isn't actually a financial
7 question, it goes to health and safety. "How is this
8 going to affect airport flight patterns?" I take it, when
9 they say "this", they mean "the project".

10 MR. CHERIAN: It will have no affect on
11 airport flight patterns. That's one of the things that
12 the FAA studies. We're required to submit turbine
13 locations and heights to the FAA. And, they issue permits
14 or deny permits based on that. They study flight
15 patterns, they study military flight patterns, they study
16 airports that are nearby. And, we're told, if it isn't
17 clear then they will not grant us permits. We have gotten

18 permits from the FAA for this project.

19 MR. IACOPINO: You have gotten permits?

20 MR. CHERIAN: Yes.

21 MR. IACOPINO: The next three cards
22 involve environmental and wildlife issues. The first one
23 is "How much oil do the turbines use? Specifically, the
24 size of turbines in the Groton Wind Project, how much in a
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1 year, et cetera?"

2 MR. CHERIAN: I'm not sure about that
3 question. They don't really consume oil. They have
4 transformer oil that's contained in them.

5 MR. IACOPINO: Why don't you explain
6 that.

7 MR. CHERIAN: There's oil in the
8 transformer that is, you know, used for any transformer,
9 it's about 200 gallons. It's not consumed, like gasoline.

10 MR. IACOPINO: Is it lubrication?

11 MR. CHERIAN: Yes.

12 MR. IACOPINO: Okay. All right. The
13 next question is, "How is Iberdrola going to protect the
14 peregrine falcons that the State of New Hampshire and
15 local volunteers have worked so hard over the years to
16 save?"

17 MR. CHERIAN: Well, one of the things
18 that we identified early in the project is it's known that
19 peregrine falcons nest on Rattlesnake Mountain. We sat
20 down with Fish & Game early in the process, and they
21 encouraged us to work with New Hampshire Audubon, who are
22 the acknowledged experts on peregrine falcons. And so, we

23 conducted a series of studies. We have one of our experts
24 here, who can give a more detailed answer about the type
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1 and nature of the studies and what were the results of the
2 studies.

3 MR. IACOPINO: The next question goes to
4 -- oh, did you want her to -- okay.

5 MR. CHERIAN: At this time, I'll give a
6 brief introduction. This is Adam Gravel, from Stantec,
7 out of Topsham, Maine. He has a B.S. in wildlife
8 Management from USH -- UNH, excuse me, and has worked on
9 over 60 wind energy projects as a radar ornithologist and
10 biologist.

11 MR. GRAVEL: Can everybody hear me? To
12 address potential concerns for the peregrine falcons that
13 nest nearby, we worked with New Hampshire Audubon and Fish
14 & Game. New Hampshire Audubon is the organization that's
15 been studying these falcons for the past 15 years or more,
16 and probably the most knowledgeable folks on the subject.
17 We worked with them to come up with a study plan, which
18 involved an observer at not only the Rattlesnake peregrine
19 nest site, but the Bear Mountain nest site. And, so, New
20 Hampshire Audubon covered those two locations, while we
21 had two observers on each of the ridgelines. And, we
22 surveyed for 20 days after the chicks had fledged. So,
23 that's when the young are learning to fly and maybe a
24 little bit more susceptible to collisions. So, we studied
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1 the post fledgling period for 20 days, which is about 200
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2 hours or more on-site. And, we saw -- we had two
3 observations, while the Audubon observers had, you know,
4 observations of the peregrines on a daily basis.

5 So, basically, the conclusion was that
6 they very -- they visit the site very infrequently. And,
7 you know, out of 200 hours, we saw them twice, and very
8 briefly.

9 MR. IACOPINO: Just a minute, Adam,
10 because the next question you're probably going to answer,
11 too. "Why should we believe your avian studies, when one
12 of their wind farms out west recently reported that the
13 birds killed were seven times more than the preliminary
14 studies predicted?"

15 MR. GRAVEL: Well, this isn't the west
16 Coast, for one. This is the East Coast. We have several
17 operational projects here on the East Coast now that have
18 showed very low mortality. And, it is true that there's a
19 very -- there's a lack of information, in terms of
20 connecting pre-construction results to post-construction
21 fatality results. And, part of this is because it's kind
22 of a random episodic event, based on weather variables,
23 and it's kind of like a freak accident, really, if you get
24 more than that.

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1 I can say, though, that the results in
2 the East Coast are low, and that it's -- what makes it
3 even more challenging to make connections with
4 pre-construction surveys, because you don't have daily
5 mortality. You have -- you'll go weeks on end without any
6 mortality, which makes correlating a daily passage rate or

7 a daily use rate to post construction fatalities. So, I
8 mean, I guess it's up to you on whether you believe it or
9 not. But I can tell you that it's been a lot of hours
10 on-site to get -- to make these conclusions.

11 MR. IACOPINO: Thank you. The next
12 question is for you. Ready? "We have been repeatedly
13 told that no trees will be cut down on Groton Hollow Road.
14 Is this true?"

15 MR. CHERIAN: Yes.

16 MR. IACOPINO: All right. The next
17 series of questions that I have involve energy issues, and
18 sort of both micro and macro energy issues. "How long has
19 there been an anemometer on Tenney Mountain? What is the
20 average wind speed? And, how does the wind speed compare
21 to the speeds in Lempster?"

22 MR. CHERIAN: I think the original
23 anemometer has been up there since 2004 or '05. And, I
24 don't have the wind data. That's mostly confidential
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1 data.

2 MR. IACOPINO: "Are our local power
3 companies under any mandate to buy the power generated?
4 If so, how are those rates determined?"

5 MR. CHERIAN: I don't think there's any
6 mandates that any local power company must buy power from
7 this wind farm or any others. The State of New Hampshire
8 has a policy, a law that was passed, a Renewable Portfolio
9 Standard, which is designed to encourage and eventually
10 require utilities to either purchase green power, purchase
11 Renewable Energy Credits, or pay a Alternative Compliance

12 Penalty. So, the purpose of the law from the Legislature
13 was to encourage and promote in-state renewable energy.
14 It doesn't require a utility to buy output from any
15 particular project.

16 MR. IACOPINO: Okay. Well, that was the
17 next question. "Are these windmills being put in to
18 satisfy either a federal or state mandate?"

19 MR. CHERIAN: No.

20 MR. IACOPINO: "Will your project lower
21 power costs for the area? If not, why not?"

22 MR. CHERIAN: I don't think I can give
23 you a good answer on that, because we don't set power
24 rates; the Public Utilities Commission typically does.

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1 And, power rates are a function of a number of different
2 sources; power from Seabrook or Merrimack Station or wood
3 chip plants. You know, we are going to sell our power to
4 some utility, hopefully, in this state. We'll have to
5 find out what the right price is. Whether that will
6 affect your rates to go up or down, I don't know. It's
7 typically mixed in with other sources in a blended rate.

8 MR. IACOPINO: "Will the power be put
9 out on the grid and be sold to the highest bidder?"

10 MR. CHERIAN: Well, what we propose is a
11 34.5 connection to distribution. So, it's going to go
12 into a distribution substation. But it does mean that, if
13 there is not a utility in the state that wants to buy the
14 power, we will seek to have a Power Purchase Agreement
15 with another utility.

16 MR. IACOPINO: All right. I'm going to
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17 answer this next question. This question says: "Is this
18 already a done deal and are you just going through the
19 motions to satisfy the public?" The answer is "no." This
20 Committee sits as a judicial -- it's a quasi-judicial
21 Committee. It has three phases of consideration during
22 any application before it. This phase is one phase of it,
23 the public input phase, in which all of you have the right
24 to come in here and ask questions and make public
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1 statements. In addition, you all have the right to
2 provide written comments or your written opinions about
3 the Project, from now until the date that the -- that a
4 final decision is actually made.

5 The other -- the second phase of this is
6 what's going on in the State agencies as we speak. As
7 this entire Application is being reviewed by individual
8 State agencies that have permitting jurisdiction over this
9 project as if it were a regular construction project.
10 Those State agencies will present progress reports in 90
11 days after the Application was accepted, which is July 26
12 that they will be due, and final reports to this Committee
13 to consider six months after the Application was accepted,
14 which is October 26.

15 The third phase is that there will be an
16 adjudicatory proceeding, a trial-like proceeding, where
17 the public will be represented by Public Counsel, where
18 intervenors have already been granted intervention status
19 to act as full parties during the course of the
20 proceedings, which include the three local communities,
21 your towns, Groton, Rumney, and Plymouth, have all

22 intervened in this proceeding, have all hired lawyers to
23 represent them in this proceeding, and to represent the
24 interests of this town -- of their towns, as well as two
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1 groups of intervenors of people from the public. All of
2 those folks will have the right to participate in that
3 adjudicatory process.

4 It's only after all of that occurs that
5 these gentlemen and ladies sit down and actually consider
6 the entire enchilada, the whole enchilada of what we
7 heard, and decide whether or not this project fits within
8 the statutory requirements or not.

9 So, the answer to the question is "no,
10 there's no done deals." And, the Committee will do its
11 job and it will do it very well.

12 Next question. Am I okay? All right.

13 CHAIRMAN GETZ: So far, so good.

14 MR. IACOPINO: "What is the carbon
15 footprint of one turbine?"

16 MR. CHERIAN: I don't have an answer to
17 that.

18 MR. IACOPINO: And, finally, this one
19 may have already been asked, but I've lost track of it.
20 "How much total electricity will be saved by the Project?"

21 MR. CHERIAN: That would mean an
22 "offset", I guess? The question is, what we've calculated
23 is about how much power we would produce on average,
24 enough for about 20,000 homes, and, at peak, I think it
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1 was closer to 60,000. Typically, what that means is that,
2 when it's producing, it's offsetting other sources of
3 power, which could be coal or gas or nuclear. I don't
4 know if that was the question.

5 MR. IACOPINO: Is that your answer?

6 MR. CHERIAN: That's my answer.

7 MR. IACOPINO: The next question
8 involves transmission issues. "Both the New Hampshire
9 Co-op and Public Service of New Hampshire have stated that
10 the power can not be handled in the manner that Iberdrola
11 has proposed. When will Iberdrola have to make a decision
12 on where the transmission lines will run and where their
13 transformers will be?"

14 MR. CHERIAN: The statement is not
15 accurate. There have been -- it's called a "feasibility
16 study". We started this study going back almost two
17 years, looking at utilities and working with them on
18 different ways to interconnect this power. We identified
19 a couple of alternatives, including a 34.5 kV interconnect
20 at two different substations. It was studied and found to
21 be feasible. It may require some upgrades at the
22 substations. So, it is feasible. We're continuing to
23 work on what's the best way to do it, technically and
24 economically, what's the best route to do it, technically
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1 and economically. And, I'm sure we'll get to that final
2 answer soon.

3 MR. IACOPINO: The next series of
4 questions, I've just labeled them as "generic" questions

5 regarding aspects of your Project. This one says: "Twenty
6 years ago, the Plymouth area was listed "11th nicest place
7 to live in the country." Ten years ago, the Plymouth area
8 was listed as the "7th nicest place to live in the
9 country." How will this Project affect the desirability
10 of the area to live in?"

11 MR. CHERIAN: well, if you want my
12 opinion, it will move you up on the list. I think there's
13 -- there was a lot of aspects to this project, and
14 obviously, it has effects, both positive and negative. I
15 will tell you that, if you go down to Lempster, they put
16 on their sign "Welcome to Lempster. Your home of the
17 first green power in New Hampshire." I think there's a
18 lot of pride down there. A lot of people down there that
19 worked on the project and are proud to have it there. The
20 town is the same as it was before, except they have wind
21 turbines that produce green power and generate money for
22 the area.

23 Is it going to improve Plymouth or not?
24 That's a matter of opinion. I think it's going to be an
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1 improvement for the Town and for the area and for the
2 state overall.

3 MR. IACOPINO: Okay. The next question:
4 "Do you or do you know of someone who would want to build
5 a big windmill on a little hill with only 400 feet of
6 property width (more if neighbors joined in)?" You want
7 to read the question?

8 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Is that an offer?
9 (Laughter.)

10 MR. CHERIAN: I'd have to see a map.

11 MR. IACOPINO: The next one is -- this
12 one isn't actually a question for Mr. Cherian, it's a
13 question for all of you: "What is the proportion of
14 people in the hall who come from locations that can be
15 seen" -- I'm sorry it is a question for Mr. Cherian in the
16 way it's written, I'm sorry. "What is the proportion of
17 people in the hall that come from locations that can be
18 seen or hear the windmills?"

19 Of course, you don't know everybody who
20 is in the hall. But why don't -- can you tell them what
21 the impact, in terms of the population is, as to how many
22 residences might be able to see or hear the windmills?

23 MR. CHERIAN: Is the question "what is
24 the total number of residences that may be able to hear or
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1 see the turbines?" That's -- I don't have the answer to
2 that. Do you want it, Rob? All right. I'll let him
3 handle it.

4 MR. O'NEAL: I'm only going to -- I'll
5 make an attempt here to try to answer the question about
6 who might be able to hear the project. And, in one of the
7 detailed reports that's in the Application, there's a
8 table in there that talks about, you know, we took a lot
9 of data around the project, and we looked at some of the
10 quietest nighttime background sound levels that were out
11 there. We took those numbers as sort of the baseline,
12 what it is, and then we also looked at what will be the
13 "worst case" sound levels, the highest sound levels, if
14 you will, when the turbines are operating at full maximum

15 capacity. We looked at sort of that delta. Now, in every
16 case, those "worst case" sound levels were way below
17 anything that was put on the Lempster Project. But, just
18 for sort of a basis for comparison, there was really just
19 the one area over at Halls Brook Road which showed more
20 than a 3-decibel change in the quietest background. And,
21 generally, a 3 decibel or less change is generally
22 imperceptible. So, some of those folks over on Halls
23 Brook Road had showed a change of up to 7 decibels during
24 the quietest hours. So, it's likely that those folks

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1 would hear it. They're still at levels that are fairly
2 low. The wind turbine prediction over there, "worst case"
3 is 39 decibels. The other more distant locations were
4 shown to have a change of 0, 1, or 2 decibels.

5 So, again, I never say "you'll never
6 ever hear it." But, at those sort of changes in the
7 background, those are very, very low levels, and it's
8 going to be difficult to hear it on the quietest nights,
9 and probably unlikely you'll hear it during the day.

10 MR. CHERIAN: I'm going to have John
11 Hecklau come up as well. And, he is the manager that did
12 all of the visual simulations work, and try to download
13 this file to know how big they are. But he works for
14 Environmental Design & Research, and has an M.S. in
15 Environmental and Forest Biology from the State University
16 of New York, and more than ten years of experience
17 conducting visual impact assessments, including preparing
18 several publications and presentations regarding the
19 visual impact of wind power plants. So, him and his

20 company did that work for us and are the experts in doing
21 at. And, I'm going to let him try and answer that
22 question, on "how many people and how many areas will be
23 able to see the turbines?"

24 MR. HECKLAU: Thanks, Ed. I really
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1 can't answer that from the standpoint of number of people.
2 We did an analysis within our visual study called the
3 "view-shed analysis", which is sort of theoretical
4 evaluation of potential visibility. It's based strictly
5 on the location of the turbines, their height, the lay of
6 the land, and the extent of forest cover. So, it's a very
7 quantitative evaluation. But it's quantitative in terms
8 of geography, not in terms of number of people. But what
9 that analysis shows, that based on topography alone, you
10 know, in other words, if you didn't consider the screening
11 effect of any trees, structures, anything else that was on
12 top of the ground, about 50 percent of a 10-mile radius
13 study area will not be able to see any turbines. If you
14 factor forest vegetation in, as mapped by the USGS, the
15 prediction is that over 90 percent of that study area will
16 not have views of any turbines.

17 That's a little different than "how many
18 people", but that gives you a sense of degree of screening
19 that is present within this study area based on topography
20 and vegetation.

21 MR. IACOPINO: Mr. Cherian, I now have
22 -- several residents came with their own list of questions
23 that aren't on cards, and I'm sorry, because I'm going to
24 jump around a little bit, because it's just difficult to

1 break them out of the paper. Some of these -- some of
2 these questions that have been submitted are more like
3 statements of the belief of the individuals. So, what I'm
4 going to do, I'll just ask you, when I get to those, if
5 you agree with them, and you can tell us "yes, you do" or
6 "no, you don't", and why.

7 The first question is: "will the
8 Applicant be responsible for dismantling the installation
9 at the end of its useful life?"

10 MR. CHERIAN: Yes.

11 MR. IACOPINO: "Will the Applicant
12 reimburse personal damages sustained by adversely impacted
13 citizens, be it their health, business, real property, or
14 other damages?"

15 MR. CHERIAN: I think the way I'm going
16 to answer that question is to go back to the presentation.
17 We have submitted a lot of work here. And, we believe
18 that it meets the standard of "it's not going to have
19 unreasonable adverse effects." So, my answer to that
20 question is "it will not be necessary."

21 MR. IACOPINO: The next question on this
22 sheet is: "How will the unequal distribution of tax
23 benefits in the region facilitate the orderly development
24 of such?" I believe "such" is "the region".

1 MR. CHERIAN: I don't pretend to know
2 the tax structure of all the towns in the region. I think
3 what this question may be getting at, what was asked in

4 another meeting, was that Groton gets the tax benefits of
5 this project, and my answer to that is "because that's
6 where the Project is." And, any more than we would expect
7 to get tax benefits from any other project or a gas
8 station or a store in another town. So, the tax benefits
9 will go to Groton, because that's where the Project is.

10 Now, there are some tax benefits that
11 will go to Rumney, because the lines are taxable property
12 as well. In addition, we pay quite a bit in state taxes.
13 So, in that regard, it benefits the whole state.

14 MR. IACOPINO: "How will the devaluation
15 of the real property in sight and proximity to this
16 installation benefit the orderly development of the
17 region?"

18 MR. CHERIAN: I answered that question
19 before. This is a question regarding property values. I
20 think I summarized it. But it's worth going and reading
21 that whole study, because there was a lot of work that
22 went into it, a government study, with a lot of real
23 estate records, there are a number of wind farms. So,
24 don't take it from me, go and read that whole study. I
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1 don't remember the appendix number, but it's in one of the
2 volumes of the Application. Appendix 37.

3 MR. IACOPINO: And, by the way, the
4 entire Application is available on the Site Evaluation
5 Committee's website, and the website address is up on the
6 board behind the Committee. Do your best with this one,
7 Mr. Cherian: "How will the general disappointment in the
8 business community and with the beneficiaries of tax

9 breaks, in the advent of a possible non-realization of
10 this project affect the orderly development of the
11 region?"

12 MR. CHERIAN: I don't understand that
13 question.

14 MR. IACOPINO: I think it's "what
15 happens if the Project does not go forward for some
16 reason?"

17 MR. CHERIAN: Oh, that I understand.
18 There was a -- one of the appendices, I don't know which
19 one, there's a study, economic study that we had actually
20 UNH do, looking at the economic impact of the Project,
21 both direct jobs during construction and operation,
22 indirect jobs, tax revenue. So, you could look at that
23 study and what the total economic expenditures and
24 benefits are, and, without the Project going forward, you
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1 could, you know, deduct that from the state performance.
2 If that's what the question is getting at.

3 MR. IACOPINO: The next question is, and
4 this is one of those issues you might disagree with, it
5 ends as more of a statement than a question, but I'll ask
6 it: "How does an industrial installation add to the
7 aesthetics of a natural landscape? These wind turbines
8 will dominate the skyline of the area by day and by night.
9 People will not be looking at mountains anymore but at
10 wind turbines. The sound of wind turbines will overpower
11 the sound of running water and the song of birds."

12 MR. CHERIAN: Well, I'll try to answer
13 that question. You know, aesthetics I guess are like art;

14 you know what you like and you know what you don't like.
15 Some people see a wind turbine, they see -- they see green
16 power. They see power that we produce in our state, using
17 our own resources. Some people see them as blots on the
18 landscape. And, that's personal opinion.

19 I can tell you that it attracts a lot of
20 attention and interest in Lempster and elsewhere. I think
21 there was a lot of people down there that were sceptical
22 and probably have changed their minds. You want to add to
23 this?

24 MR. HECKLAU: I think, you know, we try
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1 to, when we did our visual studies, we try to come at this
2 as objectively as we can. In looking at the project and
3 wind power projects, other ones we've done, from the
4 standpoint of "how do they affect the environment?" "How
5 do they contrast with the existing land form, vegetation,
6 water resources, land use, all of that?" We tried to do
7 that in a very objective manner in the visual study that's
8 included in the Application. We have an evaluation
9 process that we use. And, we try to base that on the
10 simulations, which we think represent a good
11 representation of the types of views you're going to see;
12 distant views, close views, numerous turbines, few
13 turbines. You know, based on the results of that
14 analysis, our study did not conclude that this had an
15 overwhelming adverse impact.

16 And, a thing that I could add to that is
17 that, on projects that have been built, and where people
18 are actually living with them and experiencing them on a

19 daily basis, there have been a variety of studies done
20 that seem to suggest that people don't necessarily find
21 these to be a blight on the landscape. In fact, there's a
22 significant number of viewers who actually like the way
23 wind turbines look, because they're not something like a
24 conventional power plant or a landfill or something that
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1 is universally viewed as an adverse visual impact.

2 MR. IACOPINO: The next question, again,
3 is one of those questions that you can tell us whether you
4 agree with it, and, if so, why, or, if not, why not: "The
5 Baker River Valley as a historical area of outstanding
6 scenic beauty will be history."

7 MR. CHERIAN: I don't agree with that.
8 And, we're required to study in some detail the potential
9 effects of the projects on historic resources, and we'll
10 be required to satisfy the Department of Historical
11 Resources and mitigate if there are impacts.

12 MR. IACOPINO: This is another one of
13 those questions that you can tell us if you agree or don't
14 agree, and why. It's a lengthy one. "Air and water
15 quality will be adversely affected by the deforestation of
16 the ridgeline. Nine and one half mile road and 25
17 building sites will have an inevitable effect on the water
18 table. The blasting and use of thousands of tons of
19 cement will impact the water quality and quantity. The
20 top soil sponge is gone from the" -- I'm sorry. "When the
21 top soil sponge is gone from the ridges, the water will
22 evaporate rather than collect. The nine and one half mile
23 road will create a wind tunnel that will suck the air down

24 over the Town of Plymouth." Do you agree or not, and why?
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1 MR. CHERIAN: I do not agree. I think
2 the studies in the Application show that, in some cases,
3 it will be improving water quality. There is a lot of
4 detailed modeling that's required at the State of New
5 Hampshire for Alteration of Terrain and Wetlands Permit.
6 Nancy Rendall can discuss these a little bit more, as far
7 as the type of work that we did. And, the studies, or
8 Mike may be able to do that, that the modeling that's
9 done, it looks at water quantity and quality in rain
10 storms. So, it's not an issue that we or the DES takes
11 lightly. It is considered in great detail. It's I think
12 one of the entire volumes by itself is just the modeling
13 for that type of work.

14 Mike. Mike Leo is the Professional
15 Engineer for VHB that did the work on this. He's a
16 Professional Engineer, licensed in New Hampshire and
17 Maine.

18 MR. LEO: Thank you. We've done an
19 extensive analysis of the new storm water quality on the
20 Project and what the impacts are going to be over time as
21 the Project is developed. Most of the impacts to water
22 quality or risks to impacts to water quality will occur
23 during the construction phase of the Project, as we build
24 these roads up the hills and move rock around. And, we
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1 had an extensive amount of erosion control measures that

2 we'll put in place and will be monitored on a regular
3 basis as the construction proceeds, to ensure that we
4 disturb the minimal amount of land that we need to to
5 progress the construction of the Project and also that any
6 erosion controls are in place.

7 Overall, though, the entire watershed
8 that we've analyzed, we're only going to be affecting,
9 when the Project is done, is about 3 percent of the entire
10 area. And, unlike most projects that you see that are
11 impervious, in other words, pavement, our roads are going
12 to be gravel when we're done, and we're going to try and
13 revegetate it, much of the area that we disturb as
14 possible. The crane roads, which are going to be 38-foot
15 wide initially, when we build the Project, and the access
16 roads, which are going to be 22-foot wide, when we build
17 the Project initially. Once the turbines are in place,
18 we're going to loam over the edges of it and reduce most
19 of these roads down to I think about 16-foot in width.
20 So, these roads will be allowed to revegetate and grow
21 over, which will further reduce our impact on the site.

22 So, sort of summarizing, we have a very
23 small impact over the entire watershed; again, only about
24 3 percent. And, in addition, some of the culverts that
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1 are out there right now are under-sized. What we're going
2 to be doing is putting in some larger culverts, with some
3 exposed bottoms, to better -- better copy a natural
4 stream, rather than just a round culvert, where the water
5 sort of shoots through it. We'll be opening up the
6 culverts to slow the water down and also reduce the

7 erosion.

8 MR. IACOPINO: Okay. Mr. Cherian, the
9 next question is one of those questions as well. It's a
10 statement, and you can tell us if you agree or disagree,
11 and why: "The wildlife will be disturbed and relocated.
12 Birds and bats will find their death."

13 MR. CHERIAN: I disagree. I think there
14 is a number of studies. Again, a couple of -- at least a
15 whole volume on bird studies and bat studies and wildlife
16 studies that will indicate otherwise. And, also, I say
17 that from experience, from projects that we build and
18 operate. In a lot of cases, you see more wildlife.

19 MR. IACOPINO: And, the next statement
20 is about public health and safety. And, the questioner
21 states that: "Wherever giant industrial wind parks have
22 been erected, people are suffering health problems ranging
23 from insomnia, headaches, heart palpitations, dizziness,
24 nausea, incapacity to concentrate, tinites [tinnitus?],
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1 heart attacks, et cetera."

2 MR. CHERIAN: I disagree, and there's no
3 evidence of that.

4 MR. IACOPINO: Next statement: "Wind
5 turbines do occasionally get struck by lightning and cause
6 forest fires or from overheating, in the winter, they
7 cause ice throws, and all year they generate noise,
8 vibrations, and low frequency sound waves that fluctuate
9 with the velocity of the wind. As well as shadow flicker
10 from the sun and the moon, and, at night, light flicker
11 from aircraft warning lights." Is that a statement that

12 you would agree with or not, and why?

13 MR. CHERIAN: I disagree. I think much
14 of it or all of it is inaccurate. We've discussed shadow
15 flicker, we've discussed sound issues, visuals that have
16 been analyzed for this Project. A good wind project is
17 one that is sited carefully, one that is studied
18 carefully, and it's appropriate for the sites. And, we
19 believe that's what we've brought to the Site Evaluation
20 Committee for this Project.

21 MR. IACOPINO: All right. Then, this
22 next list of questions is from another resident.
23 Actually, the first question is a question about the
24 peregrine falcon. You may want to have Mr. Gravel answer
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1 this. It's a little bit more specific: "This wind farm
2 will be about one half mile from a nesting site active
3 with falcons at Rumney Rocks. Many groups, both private
4 and government, have worked to save the peregrine falcons'
5 comeback." Is that accurate? Do you agree with that
6 statement or --

7 MR. GRAVEL: That it's there and --
8 (Interruption by the court reporter.)

9 MR. IACOPINO: You've got to talk to
10 him.

11 MR. GRAVEL: That the nest is there and
12 they have made a comeback, is that the question?

13 MR. IACOPINO: Yes.

14 MR. GRAVEL: Do I agree with that?

15 MR. IACOPINO: One half mile from the
16 site.

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17 MR. GRAVEL: It's about two miles.

18 MR. IACOPINO: All right. And, then, I
19 guess either Adam or you can answer this one: "Where is
20 the input from local conservation committees as in other
21 New Hampshire wind farms?"

22 MR. GRAVEL: In terms of the studies
23 that we --

24 FROM THE FLOOR: The mike's not on.

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1 MR. GRAVEL: Is it on now? In terms of
2 the studies that we conducted, all of the studies that we
3 conducted on-site were designed through consultation with
4 the state and federal regulatory agencies. So, those, if
5 those are the groups that you referred to, that's -- we
6 have consulted with them prior to conducting any surveys.

7 MR. IACOPINO: All right, Mr. Cherian,
8 you're back up there. Again, this is a statement that you
9 will have to agree with or disagree with and tell us why:
10 "The Applicant has not lived up to past agreements with
11 towns, regarding tax payments, job creation (full time),
12 road repairs. Examples are in New York and Illinois."

13 MR. CHERIAN: Well, I disagree with
14 that. My experience is in New England. So, I can talk to
15 our commitments for Lempster and how we met them. We made
16 commitments on roads. We made a commitment to the Town
17 that any damage to Town roads, and we used a number of
18 them, would be repaired at our expense. There were no
19 damage to any town roads. And, we worked through the
20 winter and mud season. We made commitments to the Town on
21 funding for certain things. Made comments to the Town on

22 reports, on sound levels, on a complaint process, and we
23 met all of those. As far as taxes we pay, we were by far
24 the largest taxpayer in that town. I think we paid over
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1 half of the Town's municipal budget. So, we've paid all
2 of our taxes to the State and the Town.

3 MR. IACOPINO: All right. The next
4 question is you actually have to know where this
5 questioner lives. This questioner lives on Groton Hollow
6 Road. And, the question is: "Will this project have a
7 bad effect on my farm animals?"

8 MR. CHERIAN: No. And, maybe Rob wants
9 to add more to that about -- I'll tell you that there's a
10 landowner here who lives very close to a wind turbine, and
11 his cows sit under the turbines a lot. So, I don't think
12 -- I've never heard of any effects on farm animals. We
13 have projects in Illinois and Iowa, in farm country, where
14 livestock, it has no effect on them.

15 MR. IACOPINO: Again, this is a question
16 or a statement from a resident who lives on Groton Hollow
17 Road: "The project will have a permanent loss of my piece
18 and quiet and my land value."

19 MR. CHERIAN: I don't think that's the
20 case, no matter where you live on Groton Hollow Road.
21 Again, we've studied the sound levels, we've studied the
22 visual, and your property values, and I don't think it's
23 going to be an adverse effect.

24 MR. IACOPINO: The next question again
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1 is about blasting and water quality: "Where will the
2 chemical residue go? Will it go into my water supply and
3 two different watersheds? And, how will it affect the
4 bedrock and water flow/supply?"

5 MR. CHERIAN: Any blasting for this
6 Project is going to meet State standards. There are
7 licensing requirements and inspection requirements. The
8 State inspects any site that is blasted. There are
9 reporting requirements. And, all of those will be met for
10 this Project.

11 MR. IACOPINO: The next question, and
12 you've answered this question many times, which is: "Who
13 will pay me for the loss of my land value?"

14 MR. CHERIAN: I don't think there will
15 be a loss --

16 MR. IACOPINO: And, again, this is a
17 resident -- this is a resident from Groton Hollow Road, in
18 Rumney.

19 MR. CHERIAN: I don't think there will
20 be a loss of land value.

21 MR. IACOPINO: "What about the noise and
22 health effects on my family on Groton Hill -- Groton
23 Hollow Road?"

24 MR. CHERIAN: I think, as we've
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1 discussed before, at that distance away, there is not
2 going to be any adverse effects.

3 MR. IACOPINO: "Where will the
4 transmission lines go? How large will they be? Are there
5 permits for a 115 kV line? Are there signed papers with

6 both NHEC and Public Service of New Hampshire?"

7 MR. CHERIAN: What we proposed is a 34.5
8 kV, which is distribution level. We have not proposed a
9 115 kV connection. In our Application is a proposed
10 route, proposed substation, and proposed voltage. So, all
11 of that is in there. As far as signed agreements with the
12 Co-op or PSNH, there are no signed agreements. We are
13 still working out the details of exactly where the lines
14 will go and what the poles will look like. And, this is
15 part of that process. And, the meetings in Rumney with
16 the Co-op is a part of that process as well.

17 MR. IACOPINO: And, the next question
18 again is one of those that's more of a statement that you
19 can indicate whether you agree or disagree with,
20 Mr. Cherian: "Why build a \$100 million plus wind farm
21 that is 70 percent inefficient with tax dollars to a
22 foreign-based company? If you want to be green, demand
23 that this Project be LEED certified."

24 MR. CHERIAN: Well, the purpose of
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1 building this Project, the purpose that we bring to our
2 business is to generate green power, emission-free. And,
3 we are a for-profit company. We're here to make a profit
4 as well. But we also are producing power in communities
5 that benefit those communities. It's producing power in
6 the U.S., rather than from a foreign source, and producing
7 power without using up our resources. So, I think that's
8 my answer to that.

9 MR. IACOPINO: This is also a statement,
10 but I guess could be a question: "Land destruction for

11 upgrading a logging road to basically a road design like
12 I-93, that must support a 400-ton crane and support
13 vehicles." I guess, is that what you're doing on that
14 road and is that what it has to support?

15 MR. CHERIAN: It's -- we are building a
16 crane haul road. I don't know the specs on the crane.
17 That's really a function of when work is bid out through
18 the contractor on what the size of the crane is going to
19 be. There are requirements, so that a crane or cement
20 truck doesn't sink in. So, the rock is compacted. This
21 is not a highway, it is a gravel road. And, for those of
22 you that came on one of the bus tours to Lempster, you see
23 what they look like. They're like any other gravel road,
24 just with a little more solid base.

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1 MR. IACOPINO: The next question says:
2 "Groton Hollow has a right-of-way that is 34 feet wide.
3 How do you not go on to private land?" I think they mean
4 during construction.

5 MR. CHERIAN: I'm not sure I understand
6 that question.

7 MR. IACOPINO: It says: "Groton Hollow
8 has a right-of-way that is 34 feet wide. How do you not
9 go on to private land?"

10 MR. CHERIAN: I guess this is a question
11 in regards to poles or wires?

12 FROM THE FLOOR: No, the road 16 feet
13 wide in front of my house. Explain that one.

14 MR. CHERIAN: Well, we're not bringing
15 the crane up there. The crane is not going to crawl up

16 that road. The crane will be brought up in pieces and
17 assembled on the site.

18 FROM THE FLOOR: And, how wide are the
19 tires -- the towers at the base?

20 MR. CHERIAN: I don't have that figure
21 in front of me.

22 MR. IACOPINO: Okay. Mr. Cherian, this
23 is another list of questions from --

24 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Well, let me interrupt
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1 for a second here. I think, if there are individuals here
2 who have specific questions about their specific
3 residence, then will someone from the Company stay around
4 to answer those questions, I think that would be helpful?
5 Because it sounds like a very particular question here
6 that maybe others --

7 MR. CHERIAN: I think anyone who lives
8 on Groton Hollow Road, that is what we propose as our
9 construction access point. It's really the only way to
10 get in there. So, we'll be bringing trucks in there.

11 FROM THE FLOOR: How many trucks?

12 MR. CHERIAN: I don't know exactly how
13 many trucks. I will tell you that, for each turbine,
14 there is four tower sections, there's three blades,
15 sometimes they are cribbed on one truck, and there's a
16 nacelle. And, they typically come in a convoy of three or
17 four at a time. We did the same thing in Lempster on Town
18 roads, and it worked very well. We also will have to
19 bring in concrete and other things up there. So, you
20 know, there is going to be disruption, as there is for any

21 construction. I don't, you know, I haven't said there is
22 not. You have log trucks and chip trucks that come up and
23 down that road.

24 FROM THE FLOOR: Yes. They rock --

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1 FROM THE FLOOR: They take the entire
2 road, just one vehicle.

3 FROM THE FLOOR: And, they rock my house
4 now as it is, because my house is built on ledge. And, --
5 (Interruption by the court reporter.)

6 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Yes. When there's a
7 dialogue like this, and not everyone has a microphone,
8 even though the microphone isn't the greatest, it's
9 impossible for the stenographer to record everything. So,
10 again, I think if there are -- there's at least two things
11 that I think available -- well, three things actually
12 available to you; a conversation with the Company
13 off-line, a public comment tonight, and/or putting
14 something in writing and submitting it to us that we'll
15 consider.

16 FROM THE FLOOR: He's got my questions
17 in writing (inaudible).

18 CHAIRMAN GETZ: All right. Let's
19 continue then.

20 MR. IACOPINO: This next set of
21 questions is from some folks who live on Groton Hollow
22 Road in Rumney as well. And, they say they're concerned
23 about "noise", "sleep", "noise" and "sleep deprivation".
24 How would you answer their concern about "noise" and

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1 "sleep depravation"?

2 MR. CHERIAN: I think, if this is a
3 question of the operation of the project, it's been
4 studied, and there's not going to be any impacts like
5 that. If you're talking about during construction,
6 there's not going to be any taking trucks up there at
7 night, but I don't think that would be a concern.

8 MR. IACOPINO: They also ask a question
9 about "work hours". What are the work hours going to be
10 during construction?

11 MR. CHERIAN: That's going to be
12 function of what the -- we are discussing that with the
13 Town of Rumney. They have asked for some certain hours,
14 as the Town of Groton has. And, so, it hasn't been
15 finalized, but there will be set work hours.

16 MR. IACOPINO: These residents also
17 state a concern regarding "loss of their property value".
18 That would be the same question we've already asked you.
19 They also ask about "road traffic". They also ask
20 specific questions about their property on Groton Hollow
21 Road, suffering from "changes in the road", from the
22 "blasting", from "dust from the traffic", and from "unsafe
23 drivers". Will any of those issues affect the people on
24 Groton Hollow Road?

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1 MR. CHERIAN: Well, we haven't proposed
2 to make any changes to the road. The blasting will be far
3 and away from that site. As far as dust, if dust is a

4 concern from the Town, at other sites we have had dust
5 abatement, basically, you water the road to keep the dust
6 down.

7 MR. IACOPINO: These residents also have
8 a concern that the "road might be shut down due to
9 oversize loads" and they may "block emergency services".

10 MR. CHERIAN: The road will be shut down
11 for a short period of time to get these trucks in. And,
12 they will be escorted by emergency vehicles. You know,
13 we've brought turbine components through a number of
14 different towns for Lempster, including right downtown,
15 through Newport and through Goshen and Lempster, working
16 with the local police and fire and the State Police. And,
17 if you talk to the Chiefs of Police in those towns, they
18 will tell you that it went very well.

19 MR. IACOPINO: The next question, well,
20 the residents are concerned -- these residents are
21 concerned with, specifically, the "environmental impact on
22 Clark Brook", and the incremental effects over the
23 "logging that is already affecting it"?

24 MR. CHERIAN: This one may be one I'd
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1 ask Mike to answer. We studied both the quantity and
2 water quality effects of the project as part of the DES
3 requirements.

4 MR. LEO: As part of the storm water
5 report that we have filed with the SEC Application, we
6 looked at the run-off quantities and quality to the brook.
7 And, one of the things we're looking at is the fact that
8 these roads, once built, will not have a high use on them.

9 They're not parking lots, they're not paved roadways with
10 tons of cars going down every day. As I stated
11 previously, there's a very small contingent of employees
12 on-site that will be traveling up and down these gravel
13 roads. As such, you don't have your typical pollutants
14 that come from cars and things like that that would go
15 into the brook. So, there will be very little change in
16 the run-off into the brook, both because of the eliminated
17 amount of disturbance again, less than three percent of
18 the total drainage area that currently goes to the brook,
19 and the fact that there aren't any paved surfaces that are
20 collecting pollutants from cars, car tires, you know,
21 dripping from vehicles. There's very little traffic going
22 up and down these roads. And, in addition, we put
23 together a fairly extensive sedimentation and erosion
24 control plan, as well as barriers to help filter any of

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1 the run-off that does come off the gravel roads.

2 MR. IACOPINO: These residents are
3 concerned about the "possible influx of undesirables as
4 workers", including "child molesters", "drunk drivers",
5 and "criminals".

6 MR. CHERIAN: As a rule, we don't
7 employ those kinds of people.

8 MR. IACOPINO: Are any provisions being
9 made for "animal safety", and avoiding them being hit and
10 "run over" by construction vehicles?

11 MR. CHERIAN: No. We haven't seen a
12 need for that. And, certainly, in Lempster, I never heard
13 of any animal strikes during construction.

01-PLYM.txt

14 MR. IACOPINO: "The transformer oil at
15 200 gallons, how often must it be changed in a year?"

16 MR. CHERIAN: I don't know the answer to
17 that off the top of my head. I can get you that answer.

18 MR. IACOPINO: And, Mr. Chairman, the
19 last question that we have is Dr. Mazur's. It's very
20 similar to the one that was asked before. Requires the --

21 DR. MAZUR: Could you speak a little
22 louder? We can't hear you.

23 MR. IACOPINO: The last question is Dr.
24 Mazur's. It's very similar to the one before, and
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1 requires review of a number of exhibits that are contained
2 in the box that he has submitted, which, obviously, his
3 question couldn't be answered tonight.

4 DR. MAZUR: Thank you for entering it
5 into the record.

6 MR. IACOPINO: That's all the questions
7 from the public.

8 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Thank you.
9 Steve, how are you doing?

10 MR. PATNAUDE: Anytime you want to take
11 a break.

12 CHAIRMAN GETZ: But, Mr. Roth, do you
13 have some questions?

14 MR. ROTH: Yes, sir. I have a few.

15 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Well, then, why don't
16 you ask your questions.

17 MR. ROTH: Do you want to wait for him
18 to take a break?

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19 MR. PATNAUDE: No, go ahead.

20 MR. ROTH: Okay. I guess, Mr. Cherian,
21 this question is probably for you. Are you working on a
22 Power Purchase Agreement for the facility?

23 MR. CHERIAN: Yes.

24 MR. ROTH: And, do you expect to have
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1 that finalized before the hearing date?

2 MR. CHERIAN: I don't know. It depends.

3 MR. ROTH: And, is it an essential or a
4 necessary part of the Project's financial feasibility?

5 MR. CHERIAN: No, it is not.

6 MR. ROTH: There were questions earlier
7 about "how are you going to bring the power to the grid",
8 in terms of the interconnection and the distribution or
9 transmission lines. And, I understand there's some
10 uncertainty about that. When do you expect to have that
11 firmed up?

12 MR. CHERIAN: I hope we'll have that
13 firmed up in a month or two. There's two elements of
14 that. One is, how we connect to the substation -- three
15 elements. One, how we connect to the substation; the
16 design of the wires and poles; and the route that they
17 take. Most of those are not really in our direct control,
18 but we're working to get that resolved and finalized.
19 what we put in the Application was accurate and complete
20 at that time, and still is. But we have not finalized it.

21 MR. ROTH: And, maybe this is a question
22 for your counsel. Will you agree to additional discovery
23 and analysis of the transmission and interconnection, if

24 that changes from what's in the Application?
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1 MR. CHERIAN: I'm not sure of your
2 question. My understanding, as a non-lawyer, is that a
3 distribution level line is not certificated by the
4 Committee. It is included in the Application, because it
5 is a part of the Project. But I don't believe that there
6 is a permit to be issued by the Committee for that line.

7 MR. ROTH: Are you -- I'm not going to
8 debate it with you, but it goes to my next question.

9 MR. CHERIAN: Ultimately, the
10 interconnection is going to be -- is going to result in an
11 interconnection agreement, which is a standard form and
12 agreement governed by a state, and sometimes federal law,
13 that talks about where you interconnect, what type of
14 voltage limitations are, there's a technical document
15 behind it. So, ultimately, this Project will result in an
16 IA of some sort that will be a public document.

17 MR. ROTH: Okay. All right. Just for
18 the record, it's my view that the information about the
19 interconnection and the location of any of the
20 distribution lines does affect your -- the criteria that
21 you must meet, including the visual impacts and the
22 feasibility of the Project, and that's part of your
23 burden. And, so, that, for the purposes of your counsel,
24 we would expect to be able to continue discovery,
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1 notwithstanding the existing schedule, if those things
2 change.

3 MR. CHERIAN: In terms of -- a lot of
4 the data is not data that we have. It's technical data
5 that the utilities have. So, I have no problem with
6 answering any questions, if it's something that we can
7 answer.

8 MR. ROTH: Okay. Now, have you done a
9 visual impact assessment on power lines on route to the
10 interconnection that's proposed in the Application.

11 MR. CHERIAN: No.

12 MR. ROTH: Okay.

13 MR. CHERIAN: And, what we proposed is
14 34.5 distribution lines, which are lines that already
15 exist in the area.

16 MR. ROTH: But those will be additional
17 lines --

18 MR. CHERIAN: Yes.

19 MR. ROTH: -- on the existing poles?

20 MR. CHERIAN: They would require new
21 poles. They will require higher poles in order to be an
22 over build.

23 MR. ROTH: Okay. Now, I notice that we
24 did not, this afternoon, go to the covered bridge along --
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1 I guess it's over the Baker River, in Rumney. Have you
2 done a visual impact assessment of the Project on the
3 covered bridge?

4 MR. HECKLAU: You mean, the electrical
5 lines --

6 MR. ROTH: No, for the -- for the
7 viewshed of the Project itself.

8 MR. HECKLAU: There's a --
9 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Well, you have to speak
10 up.
11 MR. HECKLAU: I'm sorry. That area is
12 included in the viewshed analysis. So, looking at the
13 figures within the visual study, you'd be able to
14 determine what the viewshed analysis predicted the
15 visibility of the turbines would be from that location.
16 We also went to that location as part of the field review,
17 so there's some photo documentation in that area. But we
18 did not do a simulation from that exact location.
19 MR. ROTH: Okay. Would you be willing
20 to do that?
21 MR. HECKLAU: It would be up to our
22 client.
23 FROM THE FLOOR: May I ask a question,
24 how about including --
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1 CHAIRMAN GETZ: No, ma'am. No, you
2 won't be able to at this point.
3 MR. CHERIAN: If I understood your
4 answer, you said that was evaluated and it was precluded
5 from the study?
6 MR. HECKLAU: We didn't do -- we didn't
7 do an actual simulation from that viewpoint. We have a
8 photo. We could do a simulation. But it was not part of
9 the -- when we do the simulations, as I mentioned earlier,
10 we try to do a representative sample. So, we have ones
11 that we believe are comparable, in terms of distance,
12 direction, landscape setting, but we didn't do one exactly

13 from that location.

14 MR. CHERIAN: What we tend to do is
15 choose sites that are representative.

16 MR. ROTH: Well, my question --

17 MR. CHERIAN: But, if what you want is
18 you want more simulations or one from that site, then
19 we'll be happy to do that.

20 MR. ROTH: Okay. That was my question.
21 Thank you. And, perhaps you shouldn't have sat down so
22 quickly. I have one more question about that. When you
23 did your assessment at that bridge, did you find that it
24 was -- what sort of impact did you determine that it had?
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1 MR. HECKLAU: You know, I'd want to go
2 back and check the photo that's in the photo log, which is
3 included as the visual -- in the visual report. In the
4 appendix to the visual report, there's both a photo log
5 and field data sheets. And, my recollection is that there
6 was visibility of the ridge and one of the met towers
7 through the trees. And, I know, once you left the bridge
8 and headed down the road toward Route 25, it became a more
9 open view. So, that's what I can tell you off the top of
10 my head.

11 MR. ROTH: Okay. All right. Thank you.
12 Now, this is perhaps one for Mr. Gravel. Hi, Adam. Good
13 to see you again.

14 MR. GRAVEL: You, too.

15 MR. ROTH: Did the Applicant do a survey
16 of resident raptors on the Project site?

17 MR. GRAVEL: well, not for -- you mean
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18 for nests?

19 MR. ROTH: Nests, roosts.

20 MR. GRAVEL: Yes. The peregrine study
21 occurred throughout the resident period. And, so, we had
22 observers during that resident period on the ridge. So,
23 during that survey, we were documenting resident raptor
24 use, other than peregrine falcon use.

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1 MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you. Now, this
2 is -- I'm not sure who this is for. We've heard a lot of
3 previous --

4 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Mr. Roth, let me just
5 ask this question. How much do you have? Because I'm
6 thinking, we've got a lot of people waiting to make public
7 comment. I think what we will do is forgo questions from
8 the Committee, go to comments, and then maybe go back
9 later, because I think some people may want to get out of
10 here.

11 MR. ROTH: Four or five more questions.
12 We heard, you know, when we -- on the tour, we saw a lot
13 of signs along Groton Hollow Road that did not appear to
14 favor the location of this Project up there. What has the
15 Applicant done to meet with those specific residents and
16 learn what it is that's bothering them about it, and how
17 will you address their concerns?

18 MR. CHERIAN: I know there are some
19 people on Groton Hollow Road that are not happy with the
20 Project. There's also people on Groton Hollow Road that
21 have been supporters of the Project. There's a diversity
22 of opinion. We've had a number of public meetings in

23 Rumney, and extensive question and answer sessions, where
24 we respond to a lot of questions from people on Groton
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1 Hollow Road and elsewhere in the Town. We've offered a
2 bus tour for anyone that lives in the Town of Rumney to
3 come up to Lempster and see the wind farm.

4 So, we've answered a lot of these
5 questions. It may not be the answers that people always
6 want to hear. But, you know, all we can tell them is that
7 it is a construction -- proposed construction project. It
8 will be disruptive to them. We have no plans or need to
9 expand or change Groton Hollow Road. We are not going to
10 damage the road. And, if we do, we will pay for it or fix
11 it. And, that is something that we have offered, and the
12 Town of Rumney has demanded, and we will sign an agreement
13 to that effect. After construction, you're talking about,
14 you know, a couple of workers going up there, less than
15 the logging trucks that are up there.

16 So, we have, I think, reached out
17 through a number of meetings in Rumney. In fact, after
18 the third one, I sent an e-mail to the Town saying --
19 offering to have another meeting after that. And, I would
20 tell them, as I have before, I'll have as many meetings as
21 there's interest, all right, and answer questions again
22 and again. Again, it may not always be the answer people
23 want to hear, but I'll go down and answer questions.

24 MR. ROTH: So, you haven't gone to them
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1 door-to-door and try to meet with them in that area?

2 MR. CHERIAN: I have not gone
3 door-to-door on Groton Hollow Road, no.

4 MR. ROTH: Okay. What kind of
5 post-construction conditions will you propose to deal with
6 noise, avian species, and the Stormwater Erosion Control
7 Maintenance Plan?

8 MR. CHERIAN: I think that's a little
9 early for that question, but we have more supplemental
10 filings to make. And, I'm sure that we'll have a final
11 brief maybe that will answer some of those.

12 MR. ROTH: So, you're saying you're
13 going to wait until that final brief to put up your
14 conditions or are you going to propose those before the
15 hearing?

16 MS. GEIGER: Can I answer that?
17 Mr. Roth, I think it's really up to the Committee to
18 impose conditions. We filed our Application, and it's up
19 to the Applicant, as you pointed out, to meet its burden.
20 But it's really up to the Committee, by statute, if they
21 feel it's necessary to impose conditions.

22 MR. ROTH: So, you're not going to
23 propose any conditions?

24 MR. CHERIAN: Well, let me point out
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1 that there are a number of conditions that we have imposed
2 on ourselves and working with the Towns. Our agreements
3 with -- or, the draft agreements with the Town of Rumney,
4 Town of Groton, both contain requirements, financial,
5 liability, pre-construction, post-construction,

6 requirements that we are signing up to. With Lempster, we
7 did that. We submitted that agreement to the Committee,
8 which then, I believe, attached it to the Order. So, it
9 became part of the State Order. And, we intend to do that
10 for this Project as well, is to make those conditions that
11 the Town asked for part of the State. There are a number
12 of pre-construction and construction and post-construction
13 commitments that we make through our national agreement
14 with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, much of which are
15 not required by any statute or regulation, but we commit
16 to make those. So, we've already committed to some
17 post-construction work on this project, as we do for all
18 projects. And, that is detailed, I believe, in the
19 Application.

20 MR. ROTH: And, my last question, do you
21 have a written agreement with respect to your Wetlands
22 Impact Mitigation Plan?

23 MR. CHERIAN: A written agreement,
24 acceptance of that mitigation plan?

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1 MR. ROTH: Yes. I assume you have some
2 bilateral arrangement with --

3 MR. CHERIAN: Well, what we did with
4 that is we briefed all of the agencies a couple of times
5 on that, including the Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, Fish
6 & Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, and DES. And, the first was
7 a conceptual idea. We then met with the Forest Society,
8 to see whether they saw a value in it. We're not part of
9 their conservation easement, they're not a part of our
10 project, but we saw a way to meet our mitigation

11 requirements and make an addition to this conservation
12 easement. So, that is ongoing. As far as whether the
13 agencies have said "here's the Good Housekeeping seal",
14 they have not done that yet.

15 MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you.

17 MR. ROTH: That's all.

18 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Steve, are you holding
19 on? Can you keep going?

20 MR. PATNAUDE: Let's try.

21 CHAIRMAN GETZ: I'm going to turn to
22 public comment at this point. And, we'll start at the
23 bottom of the first page, and Councilor Burton.

24 COUNCILOR BURTON: Thank you, Mr.

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1 Chairman, members of the Site Evaluation Committee. My
2 name is Ray Burton. I serve on the 5-member Executive
3 Council for the State of New Hampshire, now in my 32nd
4 year. This is not new ground for me. I've supported
5 hydro projects, biomass, wood-to-energy, thermal,
6 bio-diesel, all of those projects. Even if we can get
7 just a little bit away from that oil barrel in the Middle
8 East, which, in my opinion, has caused undue harm and --
9 and not a good America. Thus, that's why I appear in
10 support of this project.

11 But I do have a request, Mr. Getz and
12 Mr. Iacopino, the next time you come out to a place like
13 this, get a little bit better sound system, so the people
14 can hear each other. And, I'm sure the Company would be
15 glad to kick in, so that -- so that even their opponents

16 can be heard from on the record.

17 This process, believe me, is tough.
18 These people you see sitting up there, they know what
19 they're doing. They'll do it well. You will agree or you
20 may disagree with the decision that finally comes out at
21 the end of this process. They have plenty of permits that
22 they must satisfy, not only at this table, but also
23 throughout the State agencies. You know, it was just last
24 week that the Army Corps of Engineers, which is one of the
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1 last steps in these approval processes, with great impact
2 to land and people and water, air and all that, finally
3 approved the Noble Project, Wind Project, up in the far
4 north.

5 I personally have visited the Lempster
6 Project, talked with some people who didn't like it at the
7 beginning. Once it was dedicated and started making
8 electricity, I think some of those concerns were set
9 aside, and not 100 percent satisfaction, but I believe the
10 Company is sincere in its effort. And, up to this point,
11 going up the Groton Road and having a tour with
12 Mr. Cherian, I asked the tough questions, as you are
13 asking this evening.

14 So, take plenty of time, Mr. Getz and
15 members of the Committee. Having watched you over the
16 years, I know that you will do your work, you will do it
17 well. In no way is this a "done deal", I can tell you.
18 You've got a good group on the Site Evaluation Committee,
19 and a good Administrator in Mr. Iacopino. It's a
20 permitting process that's in play. There are various

21 points along the way for everybody to have their say. So,
22 I'm going to go down, sit down, keep still, so you can
23 have your say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the
24 Committee.

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1 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you, Councilor.
2 Mr. Wetterer.

3 FROM THE FLOOR: I think Mr. Wetterer
4 exited the room about 15 minutes ago. He has to go to
5 sleep so he can get up early tomorrow morning and earn his
6 living.

7 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. I'm afraid I
8 can't -- Howe? I believe at 551 Groton Hollow Road? Is
9 it "Howe"? "Edward Howe"?

10 FROM THE FLOOR: He went home also, he
11 has to get up early in the morning.

12 FROM THE FLOOR: Early in the morning.

13 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Pamela Hamel.

14 MS. HAMEL: How lucky am I to be one of
15 the first ones up here? I would like to speak in support
16 of the Project. It's renewable energy. It's green. It's
17 what we need. For years, our nation has been looking for
18 -- to move away from fossil fuels, including, but not
19 limited to, dependence upon foreign fuels. And, I know
20 that a lot of people have come to New Hampshire or were
21 born and raised here, and they like living in the country,
22 they like living away from it all. They want the quiet
23 life. But I've also noticed that everybody still has
24 their vehicles, their lights, TVs, cellphones, boats,

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1 ATVs, refrigerators, the list goes on and on. We are a
2 nation of consumers, energy consumers. And, we have to
3 get this energy someplace. I have lived in southeastern
4 Kentucky. I've seen what the coal mines have done, not
5 only visually, but the workers, and burning coal. I've
6 seen it, I've experienced it, and that's not what I want.

7 There's been a lot of talk about birds
8 and wildlife. Millions and millions of birds die in
9 collisions just on the roads and hitting buildings and
10 into glass panes, millions every year. There is going to
11 be impact on the Project. How can there not be impact on
12 the Project. Of course, there is. But reasonable. It's
13 reasonable. There's going to be benefits to businesses,
14 small businesses along 25. Not only businesses right in
15 Rumney, not only during the construction period, but also
16 afterwards, because people are going to come to look at
17 these turbines.

18 It's an educational opportunity for the
19 children in the area for our area schools. Green energy,
20 right there, looking out the window, there it is. It's an
21 education opportunity. I think it could be that one of
22 the problems is is we want energy, we want to be able to
23 expend energy, but we don't want to have to produce it in
24 our backyard where it affects us. You know, let's produce
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1 it someplace else. Let somebody else have to deal with
2 it. But the reality is, we use it, let's produce it,
3 let's produce it here, on a project that is green, it's
4 renewable, and the impact is very low. Thank you very

5 much.

6 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Miles
7 Sinclair, from North Groton Road, in Groton.

8 MR. SINCLAIR: Nice mike, Ed. My name
9 is Miles Sinclair. I'm a Groton resident. I'm also on
10 the Groton Board of Selectmen. I'm speaking as an
11 individual and a resident here. The position of the
12 Groton Board of Selectmen has already been submitted to
13 the Committee. Pam has already addressed some of my
14 concerns, so I'll streamline mine.

15 She alluded to the fact that there's a
16 national interest in reducing our dependence on fossil
17 fuels. And, from my perspective, that applies no matter
18 what side of the argument you fall on the issue of global
19 warming. And, from my perspective, there's limited
20 renewable energy alternatives at this point. With what I
21 know, we have solar, wind, water, and biomass. The
22 projects, as Ed had alluded to, I mean, they have to be
23 located where they're viable. So, they can't be in remote
24 locations. They have to be close enough to the existing
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1 electrical grid to be able to supply the energy that we
2 need. And, as such, as a result, fortunate or
3 unfortunate, they have to be in somebody's backyard, the
4 comments that Pam had referred to.

5 with all forms of energy, there's going
6 to be some drawbacks, some more hazardous than others.
7 I've just taken some time to highlight just a couple with
8 respect to forms. With oil, there's the ever-evolving and
9 self-serving foreign interests, market volatility, and the

10 potential for drastic ecological consequences; the Exxon
11 Valdez and the current disaster in the Gulf of Mexico as
12 just two examples. How does that compare to any hazards
13 from wind energy?

14 with nuclear power, we have Three Mile
15 Island, Chernobyl, and the current troubling circumstances
16 with the Vermont Yankee facility.

17 with coal, there's been multiple
18 incidents recently worldwide involving multiple deaths
19 resulting from mining accidents. Coal historically has
20 been one of the dirtier sources of energy.

21 wind power is a clean, renewable
22 resource, where the threats of ecological impact and loss
23 of life pale in comparison to these other forms, in my
24 opinion. With respect to wind energy complaints, I'm just
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1 trying to get a view of the real picture and compare that
2 to what we already deal with. I mean, people -- some
3 people think they're unsightly, they're ugly. The first
4 ones I ever saw was when I was on a snowmobile trip to
5 northern Maine and came across Morris Hill. And, my
6 belief was I said "That's cool." I think that's really
7 neat." And, they there, as they will at Tenney Mountain,
8 if this project goes through, coexisted with the ski
9 resort.

10 As far as other forms of energy and
11 whether somebody considers those to be beautiful or
12 unsightly, we have oil refineries, natural gas, oil
13 facilities, biomass plants. And, though, I support
14 biomass as a renewable energy, I'd much rather see a wind

15 turbine than a smokestack spewing emissions into the air,
16 even if, as I understand it, the bulk of those emissions
17 is water vapor. It just doesn't look good. So, what's
18 worse? Wind energy or those forms?

19 Some concerns about noise. And, just
20 again, to give wind energy a fair comparison and a fair
21 shake, I went to the Lempster farm on the tour, when the
22 Groton residents were taken there. I stood underneath the
23 wind turbines. You could barely hear them directly
24 underneath. We went to a country store on the way out of
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1 there, on Route 10. And, it was an overcast, drizzly day
2 that day. Try as we might, we could not hear them at all,
3 and that was between one and two miles away. We had an
4 occasion to go back there, two of the members of the board
5 of selectmen with one of their members, to discuss their
6 experience with Groton wind -- well, with Iberdrola and
7 the wind farm. And, that night was a clear night, and we
8 sat there afterwards, and, in that parking lot, where the
9 Town Hall is, again, a mile to two miles away from the
10 wind farm, we had to strain to hear the wind turbine
11 spinning.

12 what I would believe is much more
13 significant noise issues that already exist, in my
14 experience, my comparison, regular traffic noise makes far
15 more noise than these wind turbines do. Aircraft flying
16 overhead, far more noise. The racetrack in Rumney, I can
17 hear that from my house sometimes, far more noisy. I
18 live, as a crow flies, probably three to four miles from
19 that racetrack. Lawnmowers, chainsaws, your neighbor's

20 dog, fireworks, and gunfire, all of these things, in my
21 experience, make far more noise than these wind turbines
22 do.

23 In my opinion, when all factors are
24 considered, and compared with the existing forms of
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1 energy, wind energy is amongst the cleanest, safest, with
2 the most minimal adverse impact. And, again, alluding to
3 something that Pam had mentioned, given society's
4 ever-growing appetite for energy, alternatives are needed.
5 To my way of thinking, all things considered, wind energy
6 is an appropriate and reasonable alternative energy
7 source. Thank you for your consideration.

8 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Jon Francis,
9 from Thompson Farm Lane, in Plymouth.

10 MR. FRANCIS: Hi, again. I'm Jon
11 Francis. I live on Thompson Farm Lane, which is part of
12 Quincy Road, which is over by the Plymouth Airport area.
13 I've been part of some other green projects in the area.
14 And, I think one of my biggest concerns, obviously, is
15 aesthetics. I mean, I know that's what I've dealt with in
16 some of the other projects. Aesthetics is a very key
17 component in this project. And, in listening to people
18 tonight, I can hear it in their voices. They're very
19 concerned about the aesthetics. I know we're not
20 Leominster [Lempster?], I know we're not Illinois. I
21 think we got a probably unique group of people that are in
22 that valley and very much appreciate the mountain views
23 that we have.

24 Again, I also understand that, you know,
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1 we do need to move forward with green energy. So, I guess
2 I would just ask that we minimize the aesthetic impact as
3 much as we possibly can when you guys are designing this.
4 And, I guess my final question, do they have to be white?

5 FROM THE FLOOR: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN GETZ: It's not audience
7 participation. But that's probably something you can get
8 an answer from the Company. So, thank you.

9 MR. FRANCIS: Great. Thank you for
10 putting this on tonight.

11 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you, sir. Carl
12 Spring, from Groton Hollow Road, in Rumney.

13 MR. SPRING: Yes. Carl Spring, Groton
14 Hollow Road. I speak in opposition to this project. At a
15 future date, we will provide papers and research to back
16 up our opposition. As you mentioned, this is not the
17 forum to actually debate some of the merits. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. All right.
19 Just so that we don't have competing clapping, maybe we
20 can forgo clapping the rest of the night. And, at the end
21 of the night, that there would be one good round of
22 applause for Mr. Patnaude.

23 (Spirited applause.)

24 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Sarah Mazur.

1 MS. MAZUR: I have no comment.

2 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Gene Bank.

3 MR. BANK: Hi. I'm Gene Bank. I'm a
4 resident of Bridgewater, New Hampshire. My background is
5 geography, environmental science, and meteorology. I'm
6 also on the Planning Board of our town. And, I wrote our
7 residential wind ordinance, to make sure our town, people
8 that wanted to erect residential, the ordinances did it in
9 a timely fashion.

10 I'm in support of this project. I feel
11 for the people on Groton Hollow Road. And, I hope that
12 the Company really works with them to make it as easy as
13 possible on them. But I've been to Lempster twice. I
14 went once on the tour, on a very breezy day. And, like
15 the other gentleman said, we stood underneath one rotating
16 and I could barely hear it. We also went to a school,
17 which was 4,000 feet away, and I couldn't hear it. But
18 that still didn't satisfy me 100 percent. So, five days
19 later, on a very windy day, I went back. The wind was
20 gusting at 40 miles an hour. And, even though I didn't go
21 right under the turbines, I couldn't do that, but I stood
22 at that school and I still couldn't hear it. So, noise,
23 to me, is not an issue. I don't think people are going to
24 hear this.

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1 Aesthetics-wise, I went to Maui this
2 Thanksgiving, and I stayed at my favorite 5-Star place,
3 the Grand Wailea, in Maui. When I got there, lo and
4 behold, right across, there's a little sound, there on the
5 ridge, 24 turbines on Maui. And, I started talking to
6 people. And, first, people were, before they put them up,
7 were really against it. They thought it would hurt

8 visitors, aesthetics, all that kind of stuff. Now, people
9 embrace it. And, actually, Maui is getting 50 percent of
10 their power from these turbines. And, they're going to
11 build another 12 or 14 and get all their power. And, if
12 Maui can do it, Baker Valley can do it.

13 As I said, my background is
14 environmental science and meteorology. And, I saw a very
15 interesting article today, ScienceDaily, I have it for
16 you, I printed off the Internet. So far, in the last five
17 months, 2010 have been the warmest five months every
18 recorded since recordkeeping on this planet. Taking into
19 account ocean temperatures and land temperatures. We are
20 changing our environment.

21 I live on Newfound Lake. I'd rather not
22 see turbines in the distance (inaudible). But we all have
23 to sacrifice, and we've got to do it know. I don't have
24 kids, but, you guys that have kids, worry about the
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1 future. Fossil fuels are going to run out. Fossil fuels
2 are putting carbon into the atmosphere. We have to switch
3 to green energy. And, if we nitpick -- sorry -- if we
4 nitpick every little thing, we're never going to get
5 anyplace. Global warming is going to hurt a lot more
6 habitat than an occasional bird hitting a turbine. Not
7 that I'd want to see any birds hurt. But, if you know
8 what I mean, you got to look at the big picture. So,
9 that's what I'm doing. And, I just hope that, if this
10 project goes forward, that the people in Rumney, on Groton
11 Hollow Road, are really listened to, and they're the ones
12 that are going to be closest to it. But I'm for it.

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13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Janice
15 Mulherin, from Buffalo Road, in Rumney.

16 MS. MULHERIN: I'm all set.

17 CHAIRMAN GETZ: John Kelly, Ledgeside
18 Lane, in Plymouth.

19 (No verbal response)

20 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Robert Berti, Circle
21 Drive, in Ashland.

22 MR. BERTI: Twenty-five years ago I was
23 hired as a consultant --

24 (Interruption by the court reporter.)

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1 MR. BERTI: I'm sorry. Twenty-five
2 years ago I was involved in the proposed Bridgewater
3 biomass power plant. At that time, there was significant
4 opposition to that plant, especially from the residents of
5 the Town of Bridgewater. At that time, there was all
6 kinds of concerns. Some of them were focused that within
7 the 25 to 30 mile radius of the plant there would be no
8 trees left. There was talk of Union Bridge collapsing
9 into the Pemi. And, Town officials were basically against
10 the project.

11 I hear some of the similar arguments and
12 issues, and certainly there are valid issues that people
13 have to equate to. However, for those of you who come
14 from Bridgewater or are aware of what has happened by
15 Bridgewater Power, each year they supply \$3,000 in
16 scholarships to students from either Plymouth or the
17 Newfound School District. They paid \$120,000 to the

18 Hebron-Bridgewater Elementary School when it was built.
19 They have been a significant taxpayer for X number of
20 years. And, the environmental factors that were of
21 concern to people have turned out to be nay.

22 So, you know, I -- and, certainly, I
23 represent a client who will be receiving income from half
24 of those, but that land has been open to people to hunt,
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1 fish, hike, horseback ride, bicycle, and use it. It has
2 given revenue to countless number of loggers. It has
3 supplied materials to the local saw mills. It has
4 supplied a significant amount of firewood to people within
5 the area. And, this is an opportunity for the family and
6 other people who own that land to keep that land in
7 current use, with a conservation easement, in perpetuity.
8 That's a pretty long time.

9 So, in evaluating that, New Hampshire
10 has three sources of energy other than solar. It has
11 water, it has wind, and it has wood. Other than that, we
12 really don't have a lot. But people who think that energy
13 comes from nowhere, consider the trillions, not billions,
14 the trillions of dollars we have spent in the last nine
15 years, defending the rest of the world for the oil sources
16 that come out of the Middle East. And, the loss of human
17 life has been significant. So, you got to think about
18 that.

19 And, there are going to be impacts.
20 There are impacts in everything we do every day. There's
21 an impact when you hopped into your car tonight and you
22 drove here. You know, you became a user of an energy

23 source. And, how many of you really consider where that
24 energy came from?

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1 So, I guess you might say that I have a
2 vested interest. Yes, I do. My interest is in producing
3 locally grown power. Not power that we are depending from
4 other places in this country or other places in the world.
5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Gary McCool,
7 from Buffalo Road, in Rumney.

8 MR. MCCOOL: Thanks. Just two, two
9 brief questions. It was my question that Mr. Cherian said
10 he didn't have the information at this time, relating to
11 the setback, the two-kilometer setback. And, probably,
12 the Committee knows or can find out. I wasn't able to
13 verify that. But I understand that some states, and I was
14 told that they were considering a statute in Vermont that
15 would require a two-kilometer setback from businesses or
16 residences for wind turbines. I'm not sure of the status
17 of that, but I'm sure you can find that out.

18 The follow-up part of that question was,
19 if there were to be such a condition placed on this
20 project, a 2-kilometer or one and a quarter mile, or
21 whatever the reasonable consensus is, beyond which there
22 don't seem to be alleged negative effects, is then how
23 would that impact the project? So, my follow-up question
24 that I ask was, if there were to be a 2-kilometer setback
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1 from residences and businesses, how many turbines could be
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2 sited within this project? In other words, could it --
3 could they be re-sited?

4 And, the basis of that question,
5 obviously, is a lot of the health and other effects of
6 wind turbines are probably similar in terms of how soon we
7 will have definitive evidence. We have may definitive
8 evidence 20 years from now. What I'm asking is that
9 reasonable consideration be given now to try to mitigate
10 those, until the evidence is complete and agreed upon.
11 And, if the complaints drop off precipitously, if there is
12 a 2-kilometer distance, why not aim for that? And, then,
13 you can still have the project go forward, and not have to
14 wait for the evidence to be final. So, that's the one
15 thing.

16 The second question is simply the one of
17 the location of the transmission lines. I live on Buffalo
18 Road, which connects to Quincy Road and Fairgrounds Road.
19 I'm hoping that the Town of Rumney, through our selectmen,
20 and that the Committee will find that it is a reasonable
21 condition that the transmission lines be directed to go
22 along Route 25, where it could be removed from most
23 residences and businesses, instead of along Quincy Road
24 and Fairgrounds Road, where some of these poles will be in
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1 people's front yards. Thanks.

2 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Thank you. Well,
3 let me address the first question. And, I would say
4 Mr. Cherian or Ms. Geiger could take this as a record
5 request, because I think the first part of it I assume is
6 pretty easy to do. Of the 24 existing proposed turbines,

7 which ones would be affected by a 2-kilometer setback to a
8 residence, I take it?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Now, I mean, that's
11 probably the easy part of it. If -- maybe the harder part
12 is, if such a state law, a rule, condition were imposed, I
13 mean, what would be -- would it be possible to
14 reconfigure? But I understand that that's the more
15 difficult part. Let's at least get an answer to the first
16 part, if you can answer the second part, and then submit
17 it to Mr. Iacopino, and then we'll make sure that it gets
18 on the website.

19 Okay. Thank you. Gerard Thibodeau,
20 from Quincy Road, in Rumney.

21 FROM THE FLOOR: He already left.

22 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Thank you.
23 Charlie Buhrman? Buchanan? I believe the Board of
24 Selectmen, for the Town of Plymouth?

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1 MR. BUHRMAN: My name is Charles
2 Buhrman. I'm on the Board of Selectmen in Plymouth. I
3 look at this project as inevitable, not necessarily
4 desirable. My concern is with the issue of potential
5 fire. We had a fire on -- up on Rattlesnake Mountain, I
6 think it was in Rumney, two or three years ago that was
7 man-made. And, we've, in town, we've seen pictures of
8 these things going up in smoke.

9 The question, when it was asked earlier,
10 wasn't addressed. It was -- I think the answer was "It
11 will never happen, because it hasn't happened in the

12 past." We haven't had a fire at the Town Hall in Plymouth
13 in over 100 years, but at least we have the infrastructure
14 and facility if we do have one to put it out. And, I
15 think this is something that should be considered for this
16 project, because it's almost inaccessible if there is any
17 trouble with these things. And, in the 20 or 30 year
18 period, it's pretty good odds you're going to end up with
19 some problems. So, I would like the group to think about
20 that. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Paul
22 Freitas, from Plymouth.

23 MR. FREITAS: Thank you. Good evening.
24 I'm the Town Administrator, from the Town of Plymouth.
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1 And, I do have some questions. And, this isn't neither
2 nor, for or against, but representing local boards in the
3 Town, on behalf of the legislative body, because we do
4 feel that a process has been skipped in our town. The
5 Planning Board has not been approached. The Conservation
6 Commission, who has just, over the last five years, come
7 in possession of property belonging to Tenney Mountain
8 ridge has not been approached. We have the only paid fire
9 department in the area. Our paid fire department has not
10 been approached. As Mr. Buhrman just said, we do have
11 problems, we have a prevailing west wind that comes over
12 that ridge. Our only line of defense for a forest fire up
13 there is behind the condos, the parking area behind the
14 condos. So, we are concerned that that gets addressed
15 with some kind of a fire break. That hasn't been looked
16 into.

17 And, we would like to know, because we
18 were told that we could not have balloons flown on those
19 sites, but our attorney says that we can have balloons
20 flown on the site.

21 CHAIRMAN GETZ: I'm sorry, can have
22 what?

23 MR. FREITAS: A balloon test, where you
24 fly a balloon.

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1 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Oh, balloon. Okay.

2 MR. FREITAS: We were first told by the
3 Company that that was no longer required. But our
4 attorney says that we do have a right to have the balloons
5 flown. And, I need to find out if our attorney is correct
6 or not.

7 MR. IACOPINO: You mean, to see that the
8 height of the facilities?

9 MR. FREITAS: Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRMAN GETZ: I'm not aware that it's
11 a "legal right" to have a balloon flown. But let's, I
12 mean, there's a couple things --

13 MR. FREITAS: If you can check into that
14 please, folks. And, we had our attorney check into it,
15 and he did, and he says that we do have a right to ask and
16 request that balloons be flown in that area. Because
17 after today's site walk, it appears that Plymouth views
18 more of the turbines than any other town, and that I think
19 we've been left out of a big part of this picture.

20 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Well, let me ask,
21 it sounds like, though, there has been contact between the

22 Town and the Applicant?

23 MR. FREITAS: The Board of Selectmen,
24 and we said that protocol was to go through the Planning
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1 Board. Nobody has gone through the Planning Board and
2 nobody has gone through Conservation Commission. I've had
3 staff members say that we're in possession, after we
4 contacted the Company, that I'm in possession of three
5 volumes of an Application. And, that's not correct. We
6 don't have three volumes of a study or an application.

7 CHAIRMAN GETZ: But is it your position
8 that they're legally required to or that they should be
9 going to these various boards for informational purposes?
10 Because I think that --

11 MR. FREITAS: And, when the Conservation
12 Commission took over that property up on the ridge, we
13 also have a Master Plan that hasn't been looked at and
14 addressed. I know Rumney's Master Plan was looked at.
15 The Town of Plymouth's Planning Board hasn't even been
16 approached, never mind review the Master Plan, the 10 Year
17 Master Plan. And, like I said, this isn't for or against,
18 this is just protocol.

19 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. And, I guess,
20 well, one suggestion I would have is that, you know, there
21 is counsel representing the Town of Plymouth in the
22 proceeding.

23 MR. FREITAS: Right. And, that's just
24 what I'm asking. Do we go forward through counsel?

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1 CHAIRMAN GETZ: If you're not getting
2 what you think you need, then I would suggest you have
3 counsel reach out to the Applicant, and can always involve
4 Mr. Iacopino in that process as well, and, for that
5 matter, Counsel for the Public.

6 MR. FREITAS: Thank you very much,
7 folks. That's what we're here to find out. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. David Turner,
9 Stinson Lake Road, in Rumney?

10 (No verbal response)

11 CHAIRMAN GETZ: And, Paula Turner?

12 (No verbal response)

13 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Bradley Sharks?

14 MR. SHANKS: "Shanks".

15 CHAIRMAN GETZ: On Groton Hollow Road?

16 MR. SHANKS: Yes. I live at 543 Groton
17 Hollow Road. My main concern is the brook is already
18 getting.

19 FROM THE FLOOR: Can't hear.

20 MR. SHANKS: My main concern is the
21 brook has already been contaminated with road fill from
22 previous logging operations. There's already been two
23 trucks in the brook. They weren't reported. There's, you
24 know, there's crushed stone, you know, a brook -- a brook
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1 does not make crushed stone. Crushed stone comes from the
2 road fill. Okay? And, there's plenty of it in the brook.
3 There's silt in the brook from logging operations.
4 Excessive speed from logging trucks going up and down the

5 road. Excessive speed from foremen going up and down that
6 road. You know, these are all legitimate concerns of
7 mine. A concrete truck ends up in that brook, the brook's
8 done. All right?

9 You know, Carl Spring said he figured
10 out the yardage and how many trucks it would take to put
11 get up there, he's talking like 500 concrete trucks going
12 up and down that road. What do you think that's going to
13 do to the foundation of my house? I'm a simple man. I
14 don't have a computer, don't have a cellphone. I race at
15 the Rumney racetrack. I have the quietest racecar there.
16 I burn the gas that everybody throws away. Everybody is
17 so concerned about green, I've got no problem with going
18 green. But all you people say "go green", "go green", "go
19 green". Well, why do I keep getting full tanks of gas at
20 the junkyard? I have a green junkyard. I have to take
21 care of all you people's messes. All right?

22 I know what oil does to the ground; I've
23 seen it. I know what it does to water; I've seen it.
24 Look what it's doing to the Gulf right now. I mean, I

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1 just want to protect my little slice of the pie. I live
2 up there because I didn't want to be bothered with the
3 rest of society's bull, and now I'm getting it crammed
4 down my throat.

5 That's all there is to it. And, I don't
6 care if I can see it or not. It doesn't matter to me.
7 That's fine and dandy. As long as I don't have to put up
8 with the impact from the construction. You know, if
9 Groton's all for it, put the road up through Groton's

10 side. You know, it ain't going to cost that much more
11 money. The Town of Rumney, as far as I can see, the only
12 thing we're going to benefit from it is we're going to be
13 part of a green situation.

14 But I am just more concerned about
15 what's going to happen with my situation, with the house
16 that I helped my father build. You know, is my foundation
17 going to get crumbled because of all these trucks going
18 buy? If so, who's buying my house and how much am I
19 getting for it? That's all I have to say. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you.

21 DR. MAZUR: Mr. Chairman, I would like
22 to rise to speak.

23 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Not yet. ChristiAne Mc
24 -- oh, jeez, McPherson, from Quincy Road, in Rumney?

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1 DR. MAZUR: What was that name again
2 please?

3 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Boy, it's tough.
4 Christie --

5 DR. MAZUR: DeClercq?

6 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Christine --

7 DR. MAZUR: DeClercq Mazur, my wife.

8 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Ah. Okay.

9 DR. MAZUR: Okay. They mean you.

10 MS. MAZUR: What can I say? We have
11 lived in this area for 23 years. We came here, we were
12 awed at the beauty of the region. And, we love it here.
13 It's an outstanding, unbelievable place to be. And, we
14 are afraid that this project, those 24 wind turbines,

15 basically are going to, not only ruin our backyards, but
16 pretty much the quality of the entire region. What more
17 can I say?

18 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Jim
19 Buttolph.

20 MR. BUTTOLPH: Good evening. My name is
21 Jim Buttolph. I live in Rumney. I also happen to be the
22 Town Moderator in Rumney. When I first heard about this
23 project, it was in the context of a town meeting. The
24 folks at the town meeting, it wasn't posted on the
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1 warrant, but there somebody stuck their hand up in the air
2 and said "Do you know about this wind project going on in
3 Groton? It's a big deal." This is just a few months ago.
4 Well, not many people knew about it, so we busied
5 ourselves to find out a few things about it. Now, I got
6 to tell you, my first reaction was mixed. We all use and
7 need electricity. Nobody likes the look of any
8 infrastructure in their background or in anyone else's
9 yard. And, we've all heard the arguments about global
10 warming, and the associated argument that, if we can
11 reduce our carbon emissions, we can help alleviate the
12 problem in some small way.

13 There's a great deal of debate about
14 whether man has any significant impact on global
15 temperatures, but let's not discuss that now. That's not
16 part of this debate. You don't have to be a global
17 warming alarmist to value the desirability of reducing our
18 dependence on foreign oil that we purchase from hostile
19 countries.

20 In our information sessions in Rumney
21 that occurred the weeks following, a number of people
22 spoke, most of them were very concerned about health
23 issues, they were concerned about flicker, unpredictable
24 noise, potential issues with property values, adversarial
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1 impact to tourism, campgrounds, we have some five
2 campgrounds in the area, but potential employment loss
3 there, people's livelihoods involved. And, of course,
4 most of us know, the Baker River valley is a pristine,
5 beautiful place. It's a crown jewel in the area. And, we
6 have to take this very, very seriously.

7 Late into one of those sessions, some
8 gentleman got up, I think he was from Pennsylvania, and he
9 said "excuse me, but this is an awful lot different from
10 what we would have to do if we take the coal off the top
11 of the mountains in Pennsylvania and burn it." And, there
12 was this kind of a shift in the audience. Every -- you
13 know, a couple smatterings of applause, and people "okay,
14 this is what this is all about." Well, what occurred to
15 me then is there is a misconception, I believe, among many
16 people that somehow projects like this are going to
17 significantly reduce our dependence on coal, or our
18 dependence on fossil fuels. And, unfortunately, when you
19 look at that in closer detail, I think that's highly,
20 highly questionable.

21 I have an engineering background. I
22 worked as a cost engineer and industrial engineer at IBM's
23 Federal Systems Division for ten years. I evaluated
24 millions of dollars worth of federal contracts. And, I

1 can tell you, if I went forward to executive management
2 with an analysis that was based on a one-sided proposal
3 from one entity, that essentially looked at something that
4 was going to benefit them, without looking at the other
5 side, I think they'd throw me out. And, rightly so.

6 You have to look -- You have to look at
7 the whole picture. Worse, you have to look at what's
8 behind these numbers. My understanding is that this
9 project, at best, would generate perhaps one percent of
10 the power for our little State of New Hampshire. But it's
11 generated in such a way as to be erratic. It's generated
12 when the wind blows in gusts. The power surges off of it.
13 When it stops, it's gone. So, you have to have
14 carbon-burning resources on line, ready to make up for
15 these ups and downs. So, those carbon assets, in my
16 understanding, would burn much less efficiently under
17 those conditions. So, they're creating more carbon per
18 kilowatt-hour under those conditions than they would if
19 they were running as they're designed. So, you have to
20 factor that in.

21 Now, to the extent that wind power
22 becomes a more and more consistent contributor to the
23 grid, it's my understanding that this becomes more and
24 more difficult to manage. And, so, you have to -- you
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1 have to look and realize also that the vast majority of
2 our New Hampshire power doesn't come from oil from the
3 Middle East, it doesn't come from coal off of the tops of

4 mountains in Pennsylvania, it comes from natural gas from
5 the hostile nation of Canada, and also nuclear power.

6 That's what we're talking about here.

7 So, when you look at the numbers, the
8 fact is that, if this type of power were not heavily
9 mandated by state Renewable Energy Standard legislation,
10 any responsible analysis would conclude that a project
11 like this should never see the light of day. The project
12 would raise your electric bills. Full implementation of
13 Renewable Energy Standard legislation could raise your
14 electric rates by as much as 30 to 40 percent, by some
15 studies. And, if that's not a job killer, I don't know
16 what is.

17 One looks at this Application, the
18 Executive Summary talks about "job growth". But, after
19 you really look at the analysis, of course, we heard it
20 earlier, we're talking about "up to six jobs". That's "up
21 to". Maybe it's only four, maybe it's only five.

22 Now, I didn't truly grasp the magnitude
23 of this project until I plowed through the online
24 Application, where I found simulated pictures of these
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1 turbines. That's when it really hit me. These towers are
2 enormous. 399 feet in height. There were some discussion
3 about balloons. It's my belief, if you put 24 balloons up
4 on those ridges, and everybody driving down Route 25, and
5 up the Interstate, and traveling around the lake in
6 Newfound saw those things, they would be -- this place
7 would be packed, standing room only, people are going
8 "what in the world are you guys going to do?"

9 So, we got to summarize here, in my
10 view, when you look at this project, and say "what is it
11 going to do for us?" It will, for all intents and
12 purposes, from what I can see, permanently alter the
13 landscape in a substantial way, our pristine ridgelines,
14 our beautiful vistas surrounding the Baker River Valley,
15 which is the crown jewel of this area. It will create
16 potential health issues. Adversarial conditions for
17 wildlife, perhaps; to what degree, we don't know. We're
18 hearing a lot of debate about it. Could reduce property
19 values; probably will. Increase electric rates; probably
20 will. It will enrich some landowners in Groton, and
21 certainly the tax base will be helped there. Plymouth and
22 Rumney will absorb much of the downside, without
23 compensation, it would appear.

24 But, more importantly, here's what it's
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1 not going to do: It's not going to generate green power
2 in any significant usable way that results in a
3 significant lowering of our carbon footprint. It will not
4 create substantial numbers of local jobs in the long run.
5 And, it will not reduce our dependence on so much as a
6 drop of oil from hostile nations.

7 So, as you look at these realities, you
8 can't help but question the wisdom of letting this project
9 move forward. And, the SEC's Declaration of Purpose is to
10 "maintain a balance between the environment and the
11 possible need for new energy facilities here in New
12 Hampshire." And, from my point of view, it appears the
13 need is highly questionable, such as it is, to offset

14 those kinds of costs. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Dr. Lieto.

16 DR. LIETO: Good evening. Thank you for
17 allowing me to speak. I will observe that I can offer you
18 one point of view in which everyone in this room will
19 agree: We're glad we're not you. Beyond that, we've
20 heard a lot of comments about the adequacy or inadequacy
21 of the information that was presented by Iberdrola. Many
22 of those comments are sincere, but are offered in rebuttal
23 as opinions. And, I find, as was made in earlier remarks
24 by someone from the Commission, that the Commission is
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1 busy looking at data, understanding the scientific and
2 logical implications of it. And, I think that is an
3 important rubric. It is the most important rubric that
4 you bring.

5 There is an element of softness, of
6 quality of life, in terms of "is a wind turbine attractive
7 or is it ugly?" And, I don't have the wisdom of Job to
8 help you with that. But there is a lot of hard data.
9 Having read the Application, no quite in its entirety, I'm
10 not that old, but it has a lot of hard data. And, I will
11 not comment. I'm sure you're engineers and professionals
12 who review the cost of properties and the devaluation or
13 not of those properties around wind farms. The site
14 impact studies and all the rest of that will do a much
15 better job than I can.

16 But I will talk a little bit about
17 implied health impacts. Because I think the implications
18 made in some of the letters and so forth about the health

19 effects do not rise to the standard of the data, whether
20 you like it or not, that's provided in the Application.
21 The implications about health effects are allegations,
22 based on case studies and based on a presumption of
23 causality. "I see these 15 or 20 different kinds of
24 effects in people, they just built a wind turbine; must be
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1 the cause." I trust your scientists are better than that.
2 And, certainly, there are many scientists who have
3 reviewed that data who see that cause to be non-existent.

4 Now, let me go a little bit towards the
5 process that we followed in Groton.

6 DR. MAZUR: May we have the sources on
7 that last quote please?

8 DR. LIETO: I just --

9 CHAIRMAN GETZ: No, no, no. No, sir,
10 please. This is an opportunity for public comment. This
11 is this gentleman's turn to express his opinion. You will
12 have your turn.

13 DR. LIETO: And, I irrespectively will
14 agree that I wrote a letter to the Committee, and in that
15 letter are two links. And, those are two of several
16 sources. You may choose to discount them, but there they
17 are. They are not personally published, like
18 Dr. Pierpont's book is.

19 Now, going on, the Groton residents
20 started out with mixed emotions about this. I was there,
21 I happen to be Town Moderator, and, as such, really enjoy
22 standing up in front of forums and having things thrown at
23 me. And, so, we did throw back a lot of questions. I'll

24 say several things about them. There was no question that
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1 was not considered and answered; some not immediately, but
2 all answered. Every effort was made to give us
3 opportunities to provide answers for ourselves, by going
4 to Lempster and doing those kinds of things. We are every
5 bit, every bit as concerned about the quality of life in
6 New Hampshire, as any other resident in this county or in
7 this meeting. So, anything that would suggest that we
8 care less about the quality of life I think should be
9 rejected immediately by the council.

10 I lived in west Virginia for eleven
11 years. West Virginia is a coal mining state par
12 excellence. The effects of coal mining exist not just in
13 west Virginia, but also in the acid rain that washes over
14 us. If, in fact, as some speakers have said, we don't
15 need this one percent minor addition to the grid, then
16 perhaps we ought to write to the Governor and the
17 Legislature and tell them that their initiative is all
18 wrong and they should turn it off and find another answer.

19 Now, let me just finish up with a
20 reference to a particular study that was reported in the
21 Application concerning of the estimates on what happens to
22 property values after a wind farm is established. And, I
23 point particularly to Madison County, New York. I
24 happened to live for almost a quarter of a century in
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1 Chenango County, which is directly below Madison County.

2 And, actually, my home was probably less than ten miles
3 from the border between the two counties. The County of
4 Madison is very similar, if you go online and see it's
5 demographics, very similar to Grafton County. It's a
6 little less populated. It's largest town is 10 or 15,000
7 people. Lots of towns around 4 or 5,000, and many too
8 small to know. Its primary industry is dairy farming,
9 which is different than logging, but it is composed of
10 individual entrepreneurs who are wedded to the local
11 environment. Those people are exquisitely happy with
12 their wind farms. Their cows graze under the wind
13 turbines. They're not just happy because they save some
14 money or got some in taxes, but they see it as a positive
15 contribution, with no particular negative impact to their
16 environment. I think you should consider that very, very
17 seriously.

18 Finally, I'll just point to an article
19 that just appeared in the Scientific American, the latest
20 issue. And, it examines the economics of plug-in hybrid
21 -- plug-in hybrid vehicles, the kinds that you recharge,
22 as opposed to have a gas and a battery system. And, they
23 said that the carbon balance of those plug-in hybrids
24 depends on where you live. And, one of the places it is
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1 positive is in New England. And, it's positive in New
2 England because something like nine and a half percent of
3 the energy supplied to New England comes through renewable
4 energy sources. The remainder being, as was pointed out
5 by a previous speaker, natural gas and some other things.
6 When that balance changes -- that's the highest in the

7 nation for any of the regions examined. When that balance
8 changes, that plug-in hybrid becomes a liability.

9 What does that mean, in terms of this
10 little one percent that we're contributing? It means a
11 great deal, it seems to me. Thank you for the
12 opportunity.

13 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Thank you.
14 Dr. Mazur, it is now your turn.

15 DR. MAZUR: I want to thank the
16 Committee for tolerating some of this extended interview
17 in this overheated room. And, I know we're all exhausted.
18 And, I'm going to try to keep my remarks --

19 FROM THE FLOOR: Can't hear.

20 FROM THE FLOOR: We can't hear.

21 DR. MAZUR: As long as the stenographer
22 is able to hear me, I'll be satisfied. And, I'll try to
23 -- I'll try to contain my remarks to about three minutes.

24 I want to thank the Committee for
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1 acknowledging that I have submitted as evidentiary
2 evidence a box that's, if you take receipt from my person,
3 Mr. Getz, which I trust you'll be taking down to Concord
4 and reviewing it as diverse documents, which I believe the
5 Committee will find interesting, including Item W, a
6 textbook of Psychoneuroimmunology. Now, I believe that
7 textbook is relevant, because it opens a Pandora's box of
8 concern regarding this indefinite contested issue, which I
9 refer to as "Wind Turbine Syndrome Spectrum Disorder".

10 In that box is also a few excerpts from
11 this 1935 textbook, written by a Professor of Psychiatry

12 at Columbia University School of Medicine, all of four
 13 foot eleven, Helen Flanders Dunbar. In which she
 14 addresses the detailed experimental methodology that is
 15 required, both in 1935 and now, to review such speculative
 16 subjects, as she notes on Page 368, "Psychosomatic and
 17 Psychophysiological problems of the ear". Particularly
 18 relevant, because in Nina Pierpont and Michael
 19 Nissenbaum's public and published comments, they entertain
 20 a hypothesis that subliminal sound waves emanating from
 21 these wind turbines can cause havoc in the health of
 22 certain sensitive individuals, not everybody.

23 I assured the Committee that I would
 24 keep my comments short. And, I would just like to end by
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1 reading a personal communication between Dr. Michael
 2 Nissenbaum and myself at 6:18 this morning: "The question
 3 of concern regards thoughts on this speculative matter
 4 referred to as "psychoneuroto--", as in "otological", the
 5 inner ossicles of the inner ear, -- "immunological"
 6 aspects, features, sequelae, health hazards, of what we
 7 now refer to as "Wind Turbine Syndrome Spectrum Disorder",
 8 with particular need to fill in the blanks on a
 9 theoretical bell-shaped curve of diverse possibilities by
 10 either laboratory-designed, multivariable-controlled,
 11 double, if not triple or quadruple, blind controlled
 12 research, perhaps using the ever-reliable zebra-fish or
 13 rodents or primates, but certainly not involuntary
 14 residents of the Baker River Valley, humans, in
 15 particular, as experimental subjects. Or, rather than
 16 going into the laboratory, one can make use of one hell of

17 a large main-frame computer and crunch the
18 already-available-but-needing-to-be-properly-harvested
19 field data, dispersed throughout the globe, perhaps under
20 the leadership of either our own National Institutes of
21 Health."

22 And, as you folks might know, I have had
23 -- been in communication with the Director of the National
24 Institutes of Health, as well as Secretary Anita Chu,
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1 regarding the lack of decent research to put closure on
2 whether or not this -- a syndrome exists or not. You
3 know? whether, in fact, there are at least one person
4 that might be at risk that we need to respect, because --
5 and, I'm concluding, the ends do not just -- necessarily
6 justify the means.

7 To benefit from the wind Project
8 proposal in Groton does not mean that we have a right to
9 sacrifice the well-being of even one human being. And, we
10 need to -- the public needs to have reliable research to
11 help it determine whether, I want to make sure I use the
12 right word, any residual reasonable doubt or otherwise
13 might still exist regarding health hazards emanating from,
14 in this case, the Groton wind Turbine Project.

15 I want to thank you very much. I want
16 to wish the members a safe journey back south. You know,
17 watch out for moose and deer, drive slowly, the state
18 troopers, you never know where they're hiding, and I trust
19 that the Committee will give respectable time to the
20 documents which I placed in your holding.

21 I want to thank you also for naming me

22 as one of a number of intervenors. We are rolling up our
23 sleeves and we are looking forward to July, August,
24 September, most of October, on my part. But I want to
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1 share with the Committee that I will be out of the state
2 from about October 23rd to December 31st. I will be
3 available by e-mail. But, in fact, I will be with
4 Mr. Nissenbaum, up in Northern Maine Medical Center, in
5 Fort Kent. We will be sharing our concerns, we will be
6 fine-tuning our research proposals for the future. And,
7 if this Site Evaluation Committee needs to roll over into
8 2011, then I expect to be back in Rumney on New Year's Day
9 2011.

10 I want to thank you very much for your
11 time. And, again, I wish you a very safe trip home, and
12 God bless you all. And, God bless the audience for
13 putting up with this overheated room. Thank you very
14 much.

15 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Kathy Park?

16 FROM THE FLOOR: Kathy Park has to get
17 up at 4:00 tomorrow morning. She left the room two hours
18 ago to go to sleep. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Chuck
20 Henderson, from Conway?

21 (No verbal response)

22 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Sam Conkling, from Cross
23 Road, in New Hampton?

24 (No verbal response)

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1 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Kevin Onnela, from
2 Lempster?

3 MR. ONNELA: Ed has actually been lying
4 to you guys tonight. Those people don't come to Lempster
5 to see the windmills. They come to see that good-looking
6 guy that lives up there. My wife and I drove over here
7 tonight to dispel some of the myths that are associated
8 with wind farms. A little history about us, so you can
9 judge our credibility. We ran a sawmill for over 30
10 years, until we lost our customer to foreign markets. In
11 the years that we ran the sawmill, we acquired a couple
12 thousand of acres of land in Lempster, New Hampshire, to
13 use for our timber supply. When our market went away,
14 that meant we still had a \$400 a week tax bill, with no
15 means to earn the money.

16 In 2003, Sullivan County Economic
17 Development, a government agency, brought Community Energy
18 to meet with me and my family to discuss testing the wind
19 to see if it would be a good site for a wind farm. The
20 data they gathered indicated that it would be a good site.
21 By us agreeing to allow to have a wind farm on our
22 property, this would mean that we would not have to just
23 subdivide our property and sell lots to keep it. This was
24 the answer to our prayers.

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1 At this point, Iberdrola had bought
2 Community Energy and started the permitting process, as is
3 going on here today. We got to listen to all the issues
4 the naysayers had. The first being the bird and bat kill.
5 In the '70s, they built windmills in Alta [Altamont?]

6 Pass, California. The towers were lattice towers, not the
7 new model pole -- tubular towers of today. The old
8 lattice towers allowed the birds to build nests in the
9 towers. Consequently, the birds would be killed flying
10 into their nest by the blades. The new towers have no
11 place to build nests.

12 There has been an ongoing bird study in
13 Lempster. And, last year, they found 13 birds and 12 bats
14 killed. I've got a house cat that kills more birds than
15 that a year.

16 There was talk of 400-pound chunks of
17 ice being thrown thousands of feet; another great story.
18 The blades are 138 feet long, and tips flex when turning
19 between four to six meters. So, the other -- the ice
20 never gets to be more than paper thin.

21 Noise is one of the best stories. Our
22 house is 506 feet from Tower 12 in the Lempster wind farm.
23 We leave our windows open in the summer so we can hear
24 what sounds like the ocean. Visitors to our house find
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1 the noise relaxing. Through the ruling of the Site
2 Evaluation Committee, we cannot make more than 45
3 decibels, or 5 dBA over ambient sound level of noise. To
4 ensure that Iberdrola complies with this rule, Iberdrola
5 was forced to supply the Town of Lempster with a decibel
6 meter. This meter is still sitting in its box in the Town
7 Office. We have had no complaints, so it has not been
8 used.

9 One night I was awakened by a humming
10 sound. So, I was going to tell the maintenance crew that
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11 they needed to inspect Tower 12 because of the noise.
12 when I got out of bed and went to the bathroom, which is
13 closer to the tower, the noise went away. When I went
14 back to bed, I unplugged my DVD player and the noise went
15 away.

16 The pluses of the wind farm in Lempster,
17 each of the turbines produce 2,970 horsepower of clean
18 energy. We have created -- created more feed for wildlife
19 through the grassed-in roads for access. Most every week,
20 somebody who owns property in town will stop by to thank
21 us for the new tax bills. We paid 1,769 per thousand
22 before the wind farm was built, and 1,520 after it was
23 built. This is a saving of 249 per thousand dollars of
24 assessed value. This all comes with no cost to our town;
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1 no students in our school, no trash, no fire, no police.
2 I am sure a couple of you would like to see your taxes go
3 down, or even stay the same with better services.

4 As far as access for fires, most of
5 these ridges where these wind farms are built, there's
6 spruce like fur on a dog. Once you put this road through
7 these spruce forests, you have access to fight fires if
8 you have a lightning strike.

9 There will be some jobs that will come
10 with a project of this size, especially during
11 construction. The local police will have jobs doing
12 escort services and flagging on the roads. The farm will
13 have to be plowed in the winter and maintained in the
14 summer. I am fortunate enough to have that one job in our
15 town to plow our roads, as construction is pretty slow.

16 Iberdrola has been a good neighbor to
17 the Town of Lempster, giving scholarships, sponsoring our
18 local Little League team, and even grading our town road
19 while we were building the project. They graded the road,
20 and the people want them to come back and grade them
21 again, because they had to do it once that year.

22 The last thing I would like to say about
23 this project is, would you rather have a leaking oil well,
24 or a clean, green wind turbine, like the rest of the
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1 country is erecting all over. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. John
3 Kruckeberg, from Vista Lane, in Plymouth?

4 (No verbal response)

5 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Karen Kelly, from Spruce
6 Street, in Concord?

7 MS. KELLY: Hi. You might wonder why
8 I'm here from Concord, New Hampshire, and I'm here because
9 I care about clean energy. I work at a job that is about
10 transitioning to clean energy. And, so, I care about
11 what's happening here, because I care what's happening in
12 the state, and I care what's happening in the country. I
13 think all we have to do is look at the spill in the Gulf
14 and know we have to transition to clean energy. And, if
15 not now, when? I have children who are in their late 20s
16 and early 30s. And, what I'm finding is that those kids
17 are feeling like, for the first generation, that their
18 life is going to be not as good as the life of their
19 parents. They are not happy, and rightfully so, with the
20 world that we're handing them, and so much of that has to

21 do with fossil fuel. It has to do with the wars that are
22 fought over fossil fuels, and it has to do with the
23 billions of dollars right here from New England that we
24 send to other countries or spend on oil, you know, if,
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1 indeed, we even get it from the wells that are exploding
2 here.

3 But, you know, the idea that someone
4 said earlier that there would be no impact to the carbon
5 footprint and to our future by having these wind turbines,
6 you know, I think we have to take -- we have to realize
7 that there's a lot of emotions, there's a lot of person
8 interest, and then there are the facts. And, I'm really
9 happy that we have people who are really looking at the
10 facts and discerning people's fear from those facts.

11 Again, if not now, when? I think New
12 Hampshire is a state of firsts. I've lived in New
13 Hampshire since 1976, so I know that doesn't make me a
14 native, but it's been a long time. And, you know, we are
15 a place of firsts. It seems like this project really
16 gives us an opportunity to step up to the plate as a
17 state. I have this sort of figment of my imagination of
18 New Hampshire sort of being in its own grid; how cool
19 would that be? And, it can start here, along with the
20 Lempster windmills.

21 So, if not now, when? And, I think this
22 project could make a huge difference. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Victoria
24 Collins, from Fletcher Mountain, in Groton.

1 MS. COLLINS: Thank you, gentlemen.
2 And, I apologize from the hour; I feel like you all look.
3 (Laughter.)
4 MR. IACOPINO: Way to make friends.
5 MS. COLLINS: I know. But, you know,
6 what can I say. Actually, when I came tonight, I didn't
7 know I would be able to speak, so I didn't come prepared
8 like some of you folks did. You are looking at Fletcher
9 Mountain. I'm the only resident there. I'm the closest
10 resident to any of these turbines. I've lived there for
11 26 years. I have a firsthand knowledge of the wildlife.
12 There is a wide variety of wildlife, besides falcons,
13 there's great hawks; you name it, we've got it. I live on
14 top of the ridge. My property goes from one side to the
15 other. I'm right in the middle of the Fletcher Ridge. On
16 one side, to the south and west, has been denuded by
17 forestry. The other side where this project is proposed
18 is partially denuded by previous forestry. Because of
19 that, there is a vast impact on the wildlife in that area;
20 moose, deer, porcupines, fishers, you name it, they all
21 come to visit.

22 And, everybody has talked here about
23 "well, we don't want this in our backyard." And, guess
24 what? You look at my backyard, I've lived there for 26
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1 years, and my closest power lines is more than 3 miles
2 away. I have solar panels, and this year we'll be
3 replacing my wind turbine, courtesy of the State of New

4 Hampshire. There are vast resources in the State of New
5 Hampshire who will pay for you to put these in your
6 backyard, so you yourself could be responsible. But I
7 don't want to be like everybody else here.

8 I've been involved with this project for
9 at least six or seven years previous to this, back when
10 wind works of Vermont was the developer, came to me and
11 asked me to be one of the lessees of the land. I am no
12 longer a lessee, because Mr. Cherian there canceled my
13 contract, because I wouldn't modify it to allow two years
14 if a turbine should break down. I thought that was
15 excessive. My contract, I believe, limited that time to
16 six months. And, the reason I'm speaking about this is
17 because, not being under contract anymore, I am not under
18 the confidentiality agreement, which all lessees had to
19 sign so they wouldn't discuss individual contracts.

20 I also have the wind data from the first
21 weather tower that was put up. I'm sure this was
22 something Mr. Cherian has, because otherwise, if they
23 didn't have the data, they wouldn't have bought out all
24 the leases on Fletcher Mountain.

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1 when I first got into this, it was my
2 understanding that this would be "local energy for local
3 people". And, I'm all for it. wanted nothing more.
4 That's what everybody in this room wants. Unfortunately,
5 it didn't work out that way. The leases were sold, and,
6 it's my personal opinion, to a foreign entity. I don't
7 care if it's got a separate base in the United States and
8 they call it a "U.S. company", it's not. This company is

9 referred to in the world stage as an "energy predator".
10 And, we're not -- we could reference the place with
11 southern New Hampshire, we can reference Illinois, New
12 York or whatever. We're talking about Fletcher Mountain,
13 Tenney Mountain, and Plymouth, New Hampshire. We're not
14 talking about any place else. It all impacts all our
15 residents. It impacts our tourist trade. Maybe they will
16 want to come out of curiosity to see the windmills. But
17 the Baker Valley, Newfound Lake, people don't go there to
18 see windmills; they come to see an uncluttered forest
19 ridgeline, which everybody's talked about, and that's what
20 the mountain ridge is.

21 That's pretty much all I have to say. I
22 will submit papers through somebody else for this
23 Committee on specific areas. It's too late to even go
24 into this. So, thank you for your time and I appreciate
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1 it.

2 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Charles
3 Buckley, from Depot Street, in Rumney?

4 (No verbal response)

5 CHAIRMAN GETZ: All right. That's all
6 the lists I had. Did you have anything else, Mike?

7 MR. IACOPINO: I had no other list.

8 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. All right. Thank
9 you. Just in closing, I'd like to say, you know, it's
10 been a long, hot evening. I thank everyone for coming,
11 coming out tonight and hanging in there. I think this is
12 very useful to us in helping us form our opinions,
13 understand the whole range of comments, the whole range of

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14 positions. We're at the beginning of a long process, that
15 started with the filing in March. We're now three months,
16 you know, it started from March, and we're three months
17 in, and we have six months more to go before we issue a
18 decision.

19 So, thank you, all. And, we'll look
20 forward to the rest of the proceeding. Good night,
21 everyone.

22 (Whereupon the hearing ended at 10:30
23 p.m.)

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