SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 30, 2012 - 8:35 A.M. Concord, New Hampshire MORNING SESSION ONLY

IN RE: SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:
DOCKET NO. 2012-01: Application of Antrim Wind, LLC, for a Certificate of Site and Facility for a 30 MW Wind Powered Renewable Energy Facility to be Located in Antrim, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire.
(Hearing on the merits)

PRESENT :
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:
Kate Bailey, Engineer Public Utilities Comm.
(Presiding until 10:41)
Amy L. Ignatius, Chrmn.
(Presiding after 10:41)
Harry T. Stewart, Dir.
Johanna Lyons, Designee
Brad Simpkins, Dir.
Richard Boisvert, Designee
Public Utilities Comm.
DES - Water Division
Dept. of Resources \& Econ. Dev.
DRED-Div. Forests \& Land Div. Historic Resources Brook Dupee, Designee Dept. Health \& Human Svs.

COUNSEL FOR THE COMMITTEE: Michael Iacopino, Esq.
COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC: Peter C. L. Roth, Esq. Sr. Asst. Atty. General N.H. Atty.Gen. Office

COURT REPORTER: Susan J. Robidas, N.H. LCR No. 44
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I N D E X (CONT'D)

APPEARANCES: Reptg. Antrim Wind, LLC:
Susan S. Geiger, Esq. (Orr \& Reno) Douglas L. Patch, Esq. (Orr \& Reno) Rachel Goldwasser, Esq. (Orr \& Reno) Jack Kenworthy (Antrim Wind)

Reptg. Antrim Board of Selectmen: Galen Stearns, Town Administrator Michael Genest, Selectman John Robertson, Selectman

Reptg. Harris Center for Cons. Edu.: Stephen Froling, Esq.

Reptg. Antrim Planning Board:
Martha Pinello, Member
Charles Levesque, Member
Reptg. Intervenor Abutters Group: Janice Duley Longgood

Reptg. Audubon Society of N.H.:
Amy Manzelli, Esq. (BCM Environment \& Land Law)

Reptg. Intervenors Allen/Edwards:
Mary Allen
Robert Edwards
Reptg. Industrial Wind Action Group:
Lisa Linowes
Reptg. North Branch Group of Intervenors:
Richard Block
Loranne Carey Block
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PROCEEDINGS
(The document, as described, was herewith marked as AWE 45 for identification.) * * * * *

MS. BAILEY: Good morning, everybody. I'll open the proceedings on Day 8 -- sorry. Today is Friday. Today is Day 9 of Antrim Energy, LLC, Application for a Certificate of Site and Facility.

We'll start by introductions of the Committee. My name is Kate Bailey. I work at the Public Utilities Commission, and the Chairman has asked me to preside over these proceedings.

DIR. STEWART: Harry Stewart, Water Division Director, Department of Environmental Services.

MS. LYONS: Johanna Lyons,
Department of Resources and Economic Development.

DIR. SIMPKINS: Brad Simpkins,
Department of Resources and Economic Development.
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CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Amy
Ignatius, Public Utilities Commission.
MR. DUPEE: Brook Dupee,
Department of Health and Human Services.
MR. GREEN: Craig Green, New
Hampshire Department of Transportation.
DR. BOISVERT: Richard
Boisvert, New Hampshire Division of
Historical Resources.
MS. BAILEY: And with us at the Committee table is our counsel, Mike Iacopino. And now I'd like to take appearances.

MS. GEIGER: Yes. Appearing for the Applicant, Antrim Wind Energy, LLC, Susan Geiger, Douglas Patch and Rachel Goldwasser, from the law firm of Orr \& Reno. Good morning.

MS. BAILEY: Good morning.
MR. FROLING: Stephen Froling.
I'm here for the Harris Center for Conservation Education.

MR. STEARNS: Good morning.
Galen Stearns, Town of Antrim. With me today
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is Mike Genest, selectman.
MS. ALLEN: Good morning.
Mary Allen for the Antrim -- for the Allen/Edwards intervenors.

MS. BAILEY: Good morning.
MS. PINELLO: Good morning.
Martha Pinello for the Antrim Planning Board.
MS. MANZELLI: Good morning.
Amy Manzelli from BCM Environmental \& Land Law, here for intervenor New Hampshire Audubon.

MS. BLOCK: Good morning.
Loranne Carey Block for the North Branch intervenors.

MR. ROTH: Good morning.
Peter Roth, Counsel for the Public.
MS. BAILEY: Good morning. So
do we have any preliminary matters this morning?

MS. GEIGER: The only
preliminary matter $I$ would mention is that $I$ handed out for the Committee and for the parties here today copies of answers to record requests that were made at the hearing
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back the beginning of November. And they've been marked -- the answers have been marked sequentially with, $I$ believe, AWE 45. MS. BAILEY: Thank you. Today our first panel of witnesses is from the Audubon Society. Ms. Manzelli, are you ready to proceed?

MS. MANZELLI: I am. Thank you.

MS. BAILEY: Okay. Could the
Clerk swear the witnesses in, please.
(WHEREUPON, PHILLIP BROWN, PAUL
NICKERSON, CAROL FOSS, FRANCES VON
MERTENS were duly sworn and cautioned by
the Court Reporter.)
PHILLIP BROWN, SWORN PAUL NICKERSON, SWORN CAROL FOSS, SWORN FRANCES VON MERTENS, SWORN

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. MANZELLI:
Q. Good. Thank you. Good morning, everybody.

Let's just make sure the microphones are on.
They were powered up. Are all of your red
lights on?
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A. (Nickerson) Yeah.
Q. Let's make sure to keep those close to your mouths, please.

So, starting in the middle with Carol Foss. Carol, could you please state your name and address for the record.
A. (Foss) My name is Carol Foss. I live at 26 Penacook Street in Penacook, New Hampshire.
Q. And what is your position with New Hampshire Audubon?
A. (Foss) I'm Director of Conservation.
Q. Bring your mic in a little bit closer, please.

MS. BAILEY: You have to -you can't share the mic. When it's your turn, you have to completely take over the mic.

MS. MANZELLI: Thank you.
Do you need her to repeat her answer?

THE COURT REPORTER: NO, I'm all set. Thank you.

BY MS. MANZELLI:
Q. What educational degrees do you have? \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
A. (Foss) I have a bachelor's in biology from Colby College in Waterville, Maine; a master's in zoology from the University of Connecticut; and Ph.D. in wildlife ecology from the University of Maine.
Q. And very, very briefly, aside from your degrees, please provide a description of your qualifications.
A. (Foss) I've been working in the field of conservation biology, primarily in New Hampshire for the last 32 years, and have experience in field projects, as well as policy issues.
Q. Thank you. And are you the same Carol Foss who submitted prefiled direct testimony, dated July 31st, 2012, which has been marked as ASNH 25?
A. (Foss) I am.
Q. And are you the same Carol Foss who filed first supplemental prefiled direct testimony on October 11th, 2012, which has been marked as ASNH 27?
A. (Foss) I am.
Q. And do you have any corrections or updates to \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}

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testimony of Paul Nickerson, dated October 24th, 2012, which has been marked as ASNH 28, were you the primary author of that testimony?
A. (Von Mertens) I wrote that testimony.
Q. And was it submitted in this docket under Mr. Nickerson's name because you were expected to be out of the country for this entire hearing?
A. (Von Mertens) I was out of the country for that week. And I think it was everyone's expectation that the process would be completed that week, so Paul Nickerson adopted my testimony.
Q. And do you now adopt as your own the supplemental prefiled testimony of Paul Nickerson, dated October 4th, 2012, which is marked as ASNH 28?
A. (Von Mertens) If that's agreeable, yes, I would like to do that.
Q. Do you have any updates or corrections to either of your testimonies?
A. (Von Mertens) There's -- yesterday, reading my supplemental, there is a word there that I
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hope to address as being inaccurate.
Q. Okay.
A. (Von Mertens) But I'll definitely cover it in my answers to questions.
Q. Okay. Aside from that which we will cover during rebuttal, if you were asked the same questions in your prefiled testimonies, would your answers be the same today?
A. (Von Mertens) Yes, other than that one unfortunate word.
Q. Okay. And moving along to Phil. Phil, can you please state your name and address for the record?
A. (Brown) Phillip Brown. I live at 151 Antrim Road, Hancock, New Hampshire.
Q. And what is your position with New Hampshire Audubon?
A. (Brown) I'm the Director of Land Management.
Q. And what degrees do you have?
A. (Brown) I have a bachelor's of science from Rutgers University, and I've been working towards a master's.
Q. In what?
A. (Brown) In conservation biology.
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Q. And aside from your degrees, very, very briefly, please provide a description of your qualifications.
A. (Brown) I've been working in the field since 2002, doing mostly land-management work, but also land conservation and overseeing education programs.
Q. And are you the same Phil Brown that filed prefiled testimony, dated July 31st, 2012, which has been marked as ASNH 26?
A. (Brown) I am.
Q. Do you have any updates or corrections to your testimony, aside from rebuttal?
A. (Brown) No, I don't.
Q. And if you were asked the same questions contained in your prefiled testimony, would your answers be the same today?
A. (Brown) Yes, they would.
Q. Now moving along to Paul. Paul, can you please state your name and address for the record.
A. (Nickerson) Yes. My name is Paul Nickerson. I live at 7 Sparhawk Drive in Londonderry.
Q. And what is your position with New Hampshire
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Audubon?
A. (Nickerson) I'm a member of the board of trustees, and I'm also chair of the Environmental Policy Committee.
Q. And very briefly, can you provide a background of your qualifications?
A. (Nickerson) Sure. I have a B.S. from the University of Maine, Orono, in wildlife management, 1966, and an M.S. in forestry from UNH, 1970. I worked for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 1970 to 2004. Early work was involved with contaminants, in those days, things like --
(Court Reporter interjects.)
A. -- things such as DDT, aldrin, dieldrin, mirex, all of which are gone now, thanks to Rachel Carson and people like her.

Subsequently, $I$ got very interested in bald eagles, and I was fortunate enough to be in a position to coordinate the national bald eagle surveys, conducted by the Service in '73 and '74; then moved to the Northeast as Endangered Species Coordinator, continuing work with bald eagles and numerous other \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}

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| 1 |  | endangered and threatened species throughout |
| 2 |  | the Northeast region, which extends from |
| 3 |  | Maine to Virginia; then happily retired in |
| 4 |  | 2004 and joined Audubon. |
| 5 | Q. | Thank you, Mr. Nickerson. |
| 6 |  | And to all of the witnesses, let's speak |
| 7 |  | in a little bit of a slower cadence. I've |
| 8 |  | gotten the same admonishment, so. |
| 9 |  | Now, Paul, are you the same Paul |
| 10 |  | Nickerson that filed prefiled testimony, |
| 11 |  | dated July 31st, 2012, which has been marked |
| 12 |  | as ASNH 24? |
| 13 | A. | (Nickerson) Yes, I am. |
| 14 | Q. | Do you have any updates or corrections to |
| 15 |  | that testimony, aside from rebuttal? |
| 16 | A. | (Nickerson) No. |
| 17 | Q. | And if you were asked the same questions |
| 18 |  | today as you were asked in your prefiled |
| 19 |  | testimony, would your answers remain the |
| 20 |  | same? |
| 21 | A. | (Nickerson) They would. |
| 22 | Q. | Okay. All right. Returning now to rebuttal |
| 23 |  | to Carol. |
| 24 |  | Earlier testimony in this hearing was |

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of the page, and Page 51, Lines 1 to 6 -some earlier testimony involved the advisability of requiring -- excuse me. Strike that question.

An October 26th, 2012 e-mail from Sarah Nystrom, the Northern States Bald and Golden Eagle Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, rated the risk to golden eagles from this project as "low," based on the output of a collision risk model. Can you please comment on this risk categorization?
A. (Foss) It's based on a model. It's kind of axiomatic in the scientific world, that no model is right, but some models are useful. This is a relatively new model. I just returned at midnight from a wind and wildlife conference in Denver, where this model was discussed at some length. There are some modifications that could be made. And in any event, such a model should be considered one of several lines of evidence in determining a risk rating.
Q. And are you aware of whether Ms. Nystrom's
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rating was based solely on the model?
A. I am not directly aware of that. But it's my impression that that's how the Service is doing these rankings at the present time.
Q. Another correspondence, also dated October 26, 2012, this time a letter from New Hampshire Fish \& Game, references a nighthawk fatality at a wind facility in New Hampshire. Can you please comment on that fatality as it relates to this project?
A. (Foss) There were actually two fatalities involving adult male nighthawks which appeared to be, shall we say intruders, at a nesting territory that was located very close to one of the turbines. There is the potential for a similar situation to occur in Antrim or at the proposed facility. Turbine pads make very attractive nesting habitat for this species. They're a ground nester. It's been documented that there are birds in the area. In the case of Lempster, their pre-construction surveys also detected nighthawks in the vicinity. There wasn't an issue until... I want to say this is the
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fourth year of operation at Lempster, give or take. So it's not necessarily an issue that would become apparent immediately.
Q. And just for at least my understanding, can you elaborate on what you mean by an "intruder"?
A. (Foss) Nighthawks seem to have the habit of, once young have hatched at a given nest -and I've seen this with ospreys as well -adults from neighboring territories will come in and inspect the family, or whatever they're doing. But they will come in to the area. And they're very focused, so they're not paying attention to the turbine rotors.
Q. And what about a turbine pad makes it an attractive site for nesting?
A. (Foss) Pads are typically gravel. Nighthawks do not build a nest. They lay their eggs directly on the surface of the ground. So gravel provides good camouflage for the eggs.
Q. Earlier testimony in this matter from Mr.

Bartlett -- excuse me. I combined those --
from Mr. Butler and Mr. Martin on Day 4,
November 1st, the PM testimony, on Page 11,
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Lines 9 to 16, the earlier testimony was that rock removal would be required; that rock will be removed according to how the contractor chooses to do it; that the contractor will be chosen later; therefore, the exact method of rock removal is not known now; and that possible rock removal methods include blasting, pressurized water and chemical methods.

Now, looking at Exhibit ASNH 8, which you should have in the pile before you. If you don't, I have a copy here.
(Witness reviews document.)
Q. Looking at that exhibit, it depicts a person looking at boulders. Is this an example of the boulder fields in the project site area?
A. (Foss) It is represented to be such. I have not personally been there.
Q. And do boulder piles such as this have any wildlife habitat value?
A. (Foss) From what I see in the picture, this would be an ideal location for a bobcat den, a porcupine den, and even a turkey vulture nest site.
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Q. And are such boulder piles common in the New Hampshire landscape?
A. Of this magnitude, not to my knowledge. MS. GEIGER: I'm going to object to this line of questioning. It seems to me like this is information that could have been put in the parties' direct testimony, or in the supplemental testimony. I believe Ms. Von Mertens, in some of her testimony, talked about some of these things, boulders, if I'm not mistaken. So I just think this is too late in the game to start bringing in all this stuff at this level of detail. And I'll just leave it at that. MS. MANZELLI: Based on the testimony from Mr. Butler and Mr. Martin, we learned the different methods that these rocks would be removed and the extent to which they would be removed and the volume to which they would be removed. We also learned that we're not going to learn anything more about the rocks at this time because of them not hiring a contractor right now. And I only have one more question on this point.
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MS. GEIGER: I think these witnesses started testifying about these rocks as "habitat," and I just think that that could have come into the record through direct testimony, and we would have had a chance to do some cross-examination on it. And I'm just not prepared to do that today because my experts aren't here. So I just think it's really unfair to start going into this level of detail on information that could have been presented a long time ago. (Discussion among Subcommittee members off the record.)

MS. BAILEY: I think it's fair rebuttal. We saw similar pictures from the Applicant, I believe. So I'll allow you to proceed.

BY MS. MANZELLI:
Q. I believe the pending question was: Are such boulder piles common in the New Hampshire landscape?
A. (Foss) I already answered that.
Q. Okay. Final question on this. What species would be expected to use such boulder piles,
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aside from the ones you've already mentioned, if any?
A. (Foss) Those would be the prime species.
Q. Okay. Now, Francie, these questions are for you.

Earlier testimony -- for example, Day 7, November 28th, from Ms. Vissering in this hearing mentioned the "Forest Legacy Program." And you mentioned the program in your testimony also. Can you describe basically what that program is?
A. (Von Mertens) The Forest Legacy Program is federal funds from the Department of Agriculture. And I'm mostly familiar as a volunteer for land trust. It's very collegial. The major land trusts in this state work with the State --

MS. GEIGER: Excuse me. I'm going to object to this. And I apologize. But again, this witness was not asked to rebut anything that Ms. Vissering said or another witness said. She was asked the question to explain the Forest Legacy funds. And I just think that's information that
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could have been shared with everyone earlier in the process. And I would object to the witness now explaining and adding to the record information that could have and should have been placed in her direct prefiled testimony.

MS. MANZELLI: As I said, she did reference this in her direct prefiled testimony and --

MS. GEIGER: Right, and my objection --

MS. MANZELLI: Let me finish, please. However, there has been some question raised during the hearing from Ms. Vissering, and I believe, but I can't provide a cite, from at least one other witness, about the nature of this program. At the time that her prefiled testimony was filed, we didn't know that that would be an issue. But it is now, and so we would like the chance to clarify it.

MS. GEIGER: I guess I don't have a problem with rebuttal, but I do have a problem with clarifying information about a
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program that this witness referenced in her testimony. I think it's beyond the scope of rebuttal that our witnesses were allowed to do, and I would object.

MS. BAILEY: Everybody on the
Committee works for a state agency. We understand what the Forest Legacy Program is. So I think we can move on.

BY MS. MANZELLI:
Q. Earlier testimony in this matter, including Mr. Kenworthy's testimony on Day 1, October 29th, Page 74, Lines 21 to 24, Pages 75 and 76, and on Page 76, Lines 1 to 6, that testimony regarded the agricultural and forestry practices that would be allowed under the four conservation easements proposed as the Conservation Plan. Can you comment on this?
A. (Von Mertens) This is where I can address the word that I mentioned in my supplemental -first supplemental prefiled direct testimony on Page 2, towards the bottom, third paragraph from the bottom.

MR. IACOPINO: Is that
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Exhibit 28?
MS. MANZELLI: It should be the supplemental prefiled testimony of Paul Nickerson. I can give you the reference.

MR. IACOPINO: I have that as ASNH 28.

MS. MANZELLI: Yes, thank you.
MR. IACOPINO: And what page
are we on?
WITNESS VON MERTENS: Page 2, third paragraph from the bottom.

MR. IACOPINO: Thank you.
A. (Von Mertens) I wrote, "There are no restrictions or guidelines on forestry practices," and I was incorrect. There are guidelines. And I'd like to address my concerns about the restrictions and talk a little bit about conservation easements, if I could. And this directly relates to the four conservation easements on four of the seven leased properties for the project. And a conservation easement results from dialogue between the landowner and the entity that's going to hold the easement, the land trust or
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government agency.
MS. GEIGER: Excuse me. I'm going to object here to an explanation about conservation easements. If Ms. Von Mertens or any other panel member wants to rebut what Mr. Kenworthy said in the transcript that Ms. Manzelli cited, I'm happy to let them do this. But to go into a lengthy explanation about what's in the easements that have been in this record since June -- we filed them in June of 2012 -- these witnesses could have very easily gone into this on their direct prefiled testimony which was filed in July of 2012. I think now to sit here and listen to an explanation or some issues concerning the conservation easements that the project is proposing is something that is not permitted on rebuttal. It's something that should have been put in the witnesses' prefiled testimony. I would object.

MS. MANZELLI: If you would allow me, let me remind Ms. Von Mertens what the question is.

MS. BAILEY: Okay.
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BY MS. MANZELLI:
Q. The question is: Mr. Kenworthy characterized the agricultural and forestry practices that would be allowed under the four conservation easements. He described them as "limits" to that development. Can you comment on that?
A. (Von Mertens) And that's where there are guidelines. Those are guidelines.

Conservation easement is -- a typical conservation easement is 80-percent boiler plate, and then you get down to Section 3, the Reserved Rights.

And the forestry and agricultural practices/guidelines are boiler plate conservation easements. But if you don't have a forestry -- the requirement of a forestry management plan done by a licensed forester submitted to the agency or land trust holding the easement for their approval, then they're simply best management practices and guidelines. And we are a very agricultural and forestry-friendly state. And the guidelines are just that; they're guidelines. And that's the issue, that
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there's not the requirement of a forestry management plan specified. It's the generalities, boiler plate. And that's in response to Mr . Kenworthy's saying that there are restrictions. And in my opinion, there are guidelines, but not restrictions. And restrictions, to me, have a higher level of ability for the agency or land trust holding the easement to follow up and make sure that these restrictions are honored.
Q. Turning now to Phil. Phil, earlier testimony from Mr. Gravel on Day 3, October 31st, 2012, the PM Session, on Page 114, Lines 2 to 6, in his testimony he said that, in Vermont, the little brown bat and the Northern long-eared bat are listed in the state as endangered, whereas in New Hampshire they're not. Can you please comment on that?
A. (Brown) From what I'm aware, currently, the little brown bat is listed as a species of special concern in New Hampshire. I am not aware of the status of the other species of bat.
Q. And with respect to the bat that you are
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aware of, do you know if that bat had that status, for example, for the entire year of 2012?
A. (Brown) I'm not aware of when that came into status.
Q. Okay. Do you know why it's listed as a "species of special concern"?
A. (Brown) I believe primarily because of White Nose Syndrome playing a role in its precipitous decline.
Q. Earlier testimony, again from Mr. Gravel, Day 3, 10/31/12, PM session, this time on Page 166, Lines 4 to 13, his testimony was that, if an animal is using a particular area a certain way, you can expect it to use it in a similar manner in the future. And he also said there's a relatively high degree of certainty there, but that the witness -- he also said that he had not applied statistics to those type of surveys that we were discussing during that testimony. Can you please comment on this?
A. (Brown) Yes. I believe that statement is very general. And while it may apply to some \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
species of migratory raptors, it certainly doesn't apply to all of them; in particular, to the broad-wing hawk, which comprises about 80 percent of migratory count totals at New Hampshire Audubon's hawk watches. It exhibits very high variability from year to year in the numbers that it occurs in.
Q. Earlier testimony from Mr. Valleau, same Day 3, 10/31/12, PM Session, on Page 180, Lines 5 to 19 , was that the ridge would not be characterized as a "leading line." "It's unlikely that it's a leading edge -- or a leading line." It's not possible, based on the survey data. "We saw relatively small numbers of raptors, and we correlated the data we collected with data from other nearby sites that are known hawk watch sites. And we have significantly smaller numbers on those particular days than these other ridges which are known to be kind of leading-edge ridges for raptor migration. So those are focal points, and that's why they're used for hawk watch sites. So we saw relatively small numbers of raptors."
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Could you please comment on this testimony?
A. (Brown) Can you please repeat part of that? Q. Sure.
A. (Brown) I missed the second half of that.
Q. Sure. He said that it would not be characterized as a "leading line." It's unlikely that it's a leading edge or a leading line, based on the survey data. "We saw relatively small numbers of raptors, and we correlated the data we collected with data from other nearby sites that are known hawk watch sites. And we had significantly smaller numbers on those particular days than these other ridges which are known to be kind of leading-edge ridges for raptor migration. So those are focal points, and that's why they're used for hawk watch sites. And this is how he concludes, "So we saw relatively small numbers of raptors."
A. (Brown) Okay. There are a few points in there, so I'll start with the leading lines assessment.

I don't believe it's easy to make that \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
assertion, that the site isn't a leading line or the ridgeline isn't one that's a leading line, based on the amount of data we've seen. I believe it speaks to the need for more years of data to show that variability playing out.

And regarding the other points about comparing the site to comparable hawk watches in the area, I can -- I have a personal observation that was made on one particular day from Bald Mountain, which is located along the southeastern edge of the Tuttle Hill to Willard Mountain ridgeline. And assuming that this is similar points of view that observers had from the ridgeline where they were doing the surveys, my numbers actually showed more species, more individuals of certain species than a hawk watch at Pack Monadnock Mountain that New Hampshire Audubon runs during the same time frame.
Q. So are you saying that this project site could be a leading ridge or a leading line, but more data is needed?
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A. (Brown) I would say that's fair.
Q. Earlier testimony, also from Mr. Valleau, same Day 3, October 31st, PM, Page 181, Lines 2 to 20, he said, typically, birds aren't moving when the weather's bad. "They're typically not going to be in the cloud cover. You know, they can't just follow the wind current, because you can't necessarily see the wind current. But they're looking for other ridges. They're looking for other birds migrating. So they'll see another concentration of birds and move in that direction. So they like to have visibility when migrating is what we think."

Can you please comment on that?
A. (Brown) While it may be true that birds aren't flying directly through clouds all the time, there are conditions at hawk watch sites that would actually be more beneficial when there is some cloud cover in order to actually see some of the smaller specs of distant raptors migrating; in particular, broad-winged hawks, which can be distant, are often not picked up visually against a clear \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
blue sky. So, cloud cover is beneficial.
Q. So you're saying cloud cover, in some instances, increases or improves visibility?
A. Yes.
Q. Now, Mr. Valleau, on the same day, on Page 188 of the transcript, Lines 20 to 23, said that, if you look at the hawk watch site data, which is pretty well distributed around New Hampshire, they always have golden eagles on their hawk watches. Can you please comment on this?
A. (Brown) From the data from two hawk watches that New Hampshire Audubon has been involved with over the past eight years, Pack Monadnock averages between 3 and 11 golden eagles per season, and that's typically with around 400 or more hours of observation throughout the season. The Carter Hill Observatory in Concord only has documented four golden eagles in a total of five years, with a similar number of hours of observation.
Q. So are you saying that they're less common than the earlier testimony indicated?
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A. (Brown) From that testimony, my indication was that the expectation was that golden eagles would be more common than they actually are at our sites.
Q. Also from Mr. Valleau and Mr. Gravel, but this time, the next day, Day 4, November 1st, in the morning -MS. GEIGER: I'm going to object to this. And I apologize. I should have objected earlier. I thought the ground rules going into this area of rebuttal was for the purpose of allowing the witnesses to conduct brief rebuttal of what was put in the parties' supplemental prefiled testimony. Now we're getting into -- I mean, we're getting into witnesses rebutting things that were said by other witnesses at the hearing. And Mr. Iacopino can correct me if I'm wrong, but I thought, going into this, the purpose of this brief oral rebuttal was to rebut what was in the supplemental prefiled testimony.

MR. IACOPINO: You are
correct. That was the purpose of rebuttal in this. And when we sent out the memo, I
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forget what date it was under, that's what the purpose of rebuttal was to be, because we were concerned that somebody might ask questions on cross-examination and then rebut the answers that they raised themselves on cross-examination of witnesses. So you are correct.


#### Abstract

MS. GEIGER: Can we please have an order from the Bench limiting the scope of this rebuttal to comments of these witnesses rebutting what's been put on other parties' supplemental prefiled testimony, as opposed to what other witnesses testified to at the hearing?


MS. BAILEY: Ms. Manzelli. MS. MANZELLI: I understand the applicable rules here would be limited to the extent that I understood the previous order. But $I$ understood that the practice the parties have been engaging in so far during the hearing was to rebut testimony that has come in during this hearing, as well as exhibits that have come in during this hearing, which is substantive information
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that we are processing and have a right to respond to.

MS. BAILEY: Does anybody else have anything to say about this?

MR. ROTH: Yes, I agree with what Ms. Manzelli just said. I know that in my rebuttals, I did do what Ms. Geiger is complaining about. And I believe I heard during the prehearing conference -- and I'm not going to quote you on this -- but $I$ believe I heard Mr. Iacopino say to us at the prehearing conference that the rebuttal could be used to rebut some of the testimony that was given at least during the rebuttal by the witness who had just been sworn in. And I can't speak to what the order or the memorandum says. But that was my recollection. So I believe that this practice has been employed in this case thus far.

MS. GEIGER: If I might add, I mean, obviously this puts the Applicant at a disadvantage. We have the burden of proof, and we're not going to be able to rebut
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anything that these witnesses -- orally rebut anything that these witnesses say here today. So, you know, if we're going to go down this path, I would respectfully ask for the opportunity to bring my witnesses back to rebut what other witnesses have said here at the hearing.

MR. ROTH: I guess I would just make one more point, and it's not to contest anything she just said, because I don't have a problem with what she said. But as I recall, again, from the prehearing conference, one of the reasons -- because I thought this practice was actually not a good practice to employ for this very reason. But one of the reasons that was explained to me, that I found somewhat persuasive, was that it puts into sort of direct focus what otherwise people would sort of use a friendly cross-examination to attempt to accomplish anyway. So $I$ think it's not a question of how -- whether the information gets in; it's a matter of how. And so I guess that's where we are.
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(Discussion among Subcommittee members off the record.)

MS. BAILEY: Okay. I am going to allow you to ask questions about responses that other witnesses gave that were different than information that was provided in their rebuttal written testimony or prefiled testimony. So --

MS. MANZELLI: Thank you. I understand the ruling. But it doesn't answer the question of testimony that a witness gave that was not different, but additional.

MS. BAILEY: Okay. In that case, I want you to identify who asked the question that elicited that additional testimony. And I don't want -- and I would like a direct question, not, "Can you just comment."

MR. IACOPINO: Can I just -MS. BAILEY: Yeah.

MR. IACOPINO: Ms. Manzelli, I believe part of the problem is that when you ask the question, you know, "What are your comments on that?" it just opens the door,
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which is really unfair to the other parties, to your witness to expound even beyond just saying, I think what he said there was wrong because of whatever the reason is. And that's, I think, causing part of our problem here. If the Committee knows that the witness from the other parties said $A$, and your witness says $B$, the Committee can then assess the weight to give that. But to just give them free rein is unfair because it does affect the ability of the other parties to cross-examine them.

MS. MANZELLI: Understood.
BY MS. MANZELLI:
Q. With respect to testimony from Mr. Valleau and Mr. Gravel on Day 4 in the morning, on Page 40, Lines 4 to 4, Page 41, Lines 20 to 24, and also Pages 42 and 43, and Page 44, Lines 1 through 10, this testimony was in response to questions from -- it appears that the questions are from Mr. Robinson. And this was an ongoing $Q \& A$ between $M r$. Robinson and the witnesses. I just want to make sure all of it regarded -- yes, all of
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it was questions from Mr. Robinson.
That testimony indicated that no nighthawk surveys were performed during the time which they migrate, and that data was gotten on the nighthawks from other surveys. Do you believe that that's adequate?
A. (Brown) No, I don't.

MS. GEIGER: Could I object to this? I mean, it seems to me what's happening here is Ms. Manzelli is getting an opportunity to do recross. Because if a Committee Member asks a question, and then obviously the Applicant's witness, which this was back then, we got to do redirect, other parties were not allowed to do recross. I was not allowed to do recross examination after redirect. So the transcripts have been out there now for a couple of weeks. She's had an opportunity to review them, to develop a list of questions. I just think this is totally unfair. Not only does she have the benefit of time in reviewing the transcripts and formulating questions, but she also basically has the benefit today of doing re-
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cross-examination. And I'd object to that. I think these questions could have been asked on cross, perhaps. But the fact that they're now being asked after the Committee has had a chance to ask questions, I thought the last thing that happened -- or has been happening here since I've been involved, is that we do redirect, and that's the end of it. I just think this is getting too many bites at the apple, and I think there's got to be a cut-off somewhere.

MR. ROTH: I don't see Mr. Valleau on the stand, so I don't see how this is recross. I think what she just did was consistent with the order of the Chair. (Discussion among Subcommittee members off the record.)

MS. BAILEY: Ms. Manzelli, can you tell me if the response that Mr . Gravel and Mr. Valleau provided in answering Mr. Robinson's questions was different than what was in his prefiled testimony?

MS. MANZELLI: I'm not sure.
I could look it up if we want to take the
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time. But I'm not sure that their prefiled testimony mentioned -- characterized their nighthawk data as "incidentally gotten from other surveys," and that's the issue that we're trying to explore here.

MS. BAILEY: Does the
Applicant know?
MS. GEIGER: I don't -- I'm
sorry. I didn't hear the question. I'm trying to find the transcript.

MR. PATCH: Could you repeat
the transcript you're referring to?
MS. MANZELLI: Sure. Let me just turn back to my notes here. I'm referring to Day 4 AM , and it starts on Page 40 and extends through Page 44, to Line 10.

MS. BAILEY: Ms. Manzelli, while looking that up, can I ask you how many more of these types of questions do you have? MS. MANZELLI: Three. MS. BAILEY: Of any transcript cites?

MS. MANZELLI: Yes.
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MS. BAILEY: There's only three left?

MS. MANZELLI: Yes.
(Discussion among Subcommittee members off the record.)

MS. BAILEY: Okay. Here's what we're going to do. We're going to take a 15-minute break, and you're going to share -- or a 10-minute break, and you're going to share with the Applicant the transcript cites, and they're going to try to determine whether it was new information or whether it was covered in prefiled direct or rebuttal testimony, and we'll take it from there.

MS. GEIGER: Okay. I don't think we need to take a break. I think we found it in the witnesses' prefiled testimony --

MS. MANZELLI: Excuse me.
I'll withdraw the question, and $I$ will not ask the remaining questions.

MS. BAILEY: Okay.
BY MS. MANZELLI:
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Q. So at this time, any further corrections or updates? We've covered that already; right? MS. MANZELLI: Okay. So at this time, the witnesses are available for cross-examination. Thank you.

MS. BAILEY: Thank you.
Mr. Roth.
MR. ROTH: Okay. I'll see if I can make more progress in the next hour. CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. ROTH:
Q. I'm going to start here. Ms. Foss, as I recall, you had -- you or Audubon had some role in the Granite Reliable Project; is that correct?
A. (Foss) Yes, it is.
Q. Okay. Are you familiar with the High-Elevation Mitigation Settlement Agreement that was reached in that case between the Applicant and the, believe it was the Fish and Game Department --

MS. GEIGER: I'm going to object on --
Q. -- and the Appalachian Mountain Club?
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MS. GEIGER: I'm going to object on the grounds of relevance.

MS. BAILEY: He hasn't asked the question yet.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q. Are you familiar with that?

MS. BAILEY: Can you give me an offer of proof?

MR. ROTH: Certainly. The offer of proof is that, in the Granite Reliable case, there was a High-Elevation Mitigation Settlement Agreement which was reached between the project proponent, the New Hampshire Fish \& Game Department and the Appalachian Mountain Club. Under the terms of that --

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Mr. Roth, can I -- can you just give us -- not fully testify on what you think the answer is? What I'm hoping to hear is where you're heading with the question, and why is it relevant to this case.

MR. ROTH: Okay. There was
land that was put into conservation use,
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basically fee-simple to Fish and Game, and it was subject to certain conditions and provisions. And there's been a lot of testimony in this case, and including by these witnesses, I believe, about Forever Wild easements and whether they are infrequent or whether they're common or whether they've ever been done in cases like this, and I wanted to ask about that.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right.
Well, if you can focus it on the Forever Wild easements that there's been testimony about, and really zero in on that and not general discussion about Granite or other cases, that would be helpful.

MR. ROTH: Oh, yeah. Believe me, $I$ don't intend to do that. There's a lot in this document. I really want to zero in on Forever Wild.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q. So the basic question was: Are you familiar with the agreement that was reached?
A. (Foss) In general, not in detail.
Q. Okay. And is it -- in your general
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understanding, did you -- do you believe that permanent conservation of approximately 1700 acres of high-elevation use for habitat was provided?
A. (Foss) Yes.
Q. I put my ear to the microphone. That was clever.

And that there was an additional 620-acre conservation parcel that was also put into permanent conservation?
A. (Foss) Again, I'm familiar with it in general, but not in detail.
Q. Okay. I'm going to show you a page from the High-Elevation Mitigation Settlement Agreement, which in the Granite Reliable Power case was introduced by the Applicant as Petitioner's Exhibit 48. The pages aren't numbered, but this appears to be Page 3 of that document. I'm going to give you Pages 2 and 3.

Now, of course, I'm flying blind here.
But on Page 2, which is the first page you're looking at, there's some highlighted text there. Can you read that for me, please? \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
A. (Foss) This is under the section of Mitigation Provisions, No. 1. "GRP shall secure the permanent conservation of the following lands above 2700-feet elevation, plus or minus, per A.7, totaling approximately 1735 acres through transfer of fee title to New Hampshire Fish and Game or other appropriate state agency, approved by New Hampshire Fish and Game.
Q. Thank you. I'm sorry?
A. (Foss) I was just going to say, and there follows specific descriptions of parcels.
Q. Thank you. Now, on the following page there's some highlighted text. I'm not going to ask you to read that into the record, but just read it for yourself.
(Witness reviews document.)
MS. GEIGER: Could I see a
copy of what she's reading, please?
MR. ROTH: It's the only one I
have. So when she's -- you want to look at
it right now before she looks at it?
MS. GEIGER: Yes, please.
MR. ROTH: You don't have a
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copy of the Granite Reliable exhibit with you?

MS. GEIGER: I didn't bring that record with me. I'm sorry.

MR. FROLING: Madam Chairman, I'd also like to see a copy.
(Pause in proceedings.)
MS. GEIGER: I'm going to object to information -- or object to the questioning along these lines, because it's clear from that document and from the question -- excuse me -- from the information Ms. Foss has just put into the record about what's in that document, it relates to permanent conservation of high-elevation lands which are above 2700 feet. And in this particular case, we have heard testimony, I think have evidence in the record, that the site in Antrim for the Antrim Wind Project is not at that high elevation and not considered a high-elevation habitat because it's under 2300 feet. So I'm not sure what the High-Elevation Mitigation Settlement Agreement has to do with the Antrim site,
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which does not have high-elevation areas. And in addition to that, I think it's important to note that Fish and Game intervened in the Granite Reliable project docket and was a party to that proceeding, and they're not a party to this proceeding. And I understand that none of the Committee members sitting here today sat on the Granite Reliable project, so I'm just offering this information by way of background.

MR. ROTH: She's making an argument, and that's fine for a closing memorandum. But I think yesterday we heard testimony from Mr. Jones who said that, yeah, it's not above that elevation, but it's habitat representative of the same type of habitat.

In addition, the purpose of this is not to say that this is high-elevation spruce-fir habitat and that it necessarily should have a high-elevation mitigation settlement, but simply to point out that in another case before this
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Committee, not that long ago, mitigation through conservation easements was done by permanent conservation. What I think -- and I'm going to ask the witness to confirm that this is Forever Wild.

MR. FROLING: Madam Chairman, I'd like to address this as well.

MS. BAILEY: Mr. Froling.
MR. FROLING: Can I have the document? This appears to be two pages of an agreement between --

MS. BAILEY: Could you use the microphone, please?

MR. FROLING: This appears to be an agreement between two parties. I can't tell from the two pages that $I$ have of it even who the parties are, let alone the context of the agreement. I don't have the benefit of sitting through the Granite Reliable case. Others here may have done that. But this appears to be -- I don't know why this would be introduced. It hasn't been offered in the case. I don't think we should be relying on agreements that we don't even
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know the context or the parties.
MR. ROTH: This is
cross-examination. I'm simply asking -- you know, we're going to be here a really long time if everything the parties try to do is met by a phalanx of objections and discussion like this. But I'm simply trying to ask the witness about the provisions of this agreement. The Committee can take judicial notice of the entire agreement. It's in the record of the Granite Reliable case. And I'm simply trying to ask the witness to confirm that those provisions that are in there look like a Forever Wild conservation package.
(Discussion among Subcommittee members off the record.)

MS. BAILEY: Okay. I am going to defer the Presiding Officer title to the Chairman, because she will deal with this a lot faster than $I$ will.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: I don't know about faster, but...

Mr. Roth, I'd asked you to be
very specific in your question about Forever
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Wild easements, and you said you would do that. And then we got into whether or not Ms. Foss was familiar with an agreement reached in another document, and she said she was not, other than in a very general sense. So, again, getting into everything about the other docket, questions about what else was in that -- we're not taking judicial notice of the entire record. That's not going to become part of this record. We've got enough to deal with in this record.

Now, the fact that you want to talk about Forever Wild easements is fine. I told you that. But --

MR. ROTH: I'm trying to get there.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Well, then get there. We don't need to talk about Granite Reliable. You said you wanted to ask about Forever Wild easements. Why don't you ask the witness if she know about them, what do they entail, and what you think is good or bad about them, rather than what happened in Granite Reliable.
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MR. ROTH: I was asking her -that's what $I$ was going to do before I met the objections. But all I asked her to do is read Paragraph 3 of this document. And there are provisions in there that describe this particular grant, and I was going to ask her if those are reflective of things you would see in a permanent Forever Wild grant.

Now, if I may proceed with the question?

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: If you please will focus it on what a Forever Wild easement is, as opposed to what happened in Granite Reliable, I think that's fair.

MR. ROTH: I'm trying to do that.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q. Would a Forever Wild easement or grant include, such as you just read in this paper that I just showed you, restrictions on future development and timber harvesting being prohibited?
A. (Foss) Yes.
Q. Would it include restrictions on operation of \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
motorized recreational vehicles?
A. (Foss) Yes.
Q. Would it prohibit additional roads or structures?
A. (Foss) Yes.
Q. Would it -- okay. That's all. Thank you. On that.

Now, Ms. Foss, you've had an opportunity to review the $A B P P$ and other documents in this file; correct?
A. (Foss) Correct.
Q. Did you find in there, anywhere, an adequate plan for managing existing or created habitat for nighthawks?
A. (Foss) Not in the last versions that $I$ have reviewed.
Q. Okay. Do you believe that there are things that could be done to do that? And if so, what would they be?
A. (Foss) Yes. I mean, the first thing that would need to be done would be surveys to determine whether or not nighthawks were nesting on the site. And as I think we've seen with the Lempster case, this is not --
this is not something that can necessarily be determined in the first year or two post-construction. It would need to be done on an annual basis during the operation of the facility.

We're still working with the owners and operators of the other facility to come up with an appropriate strategy for dealing with this situation. We have a conference call scheduled in a couple of weeks to come up with a plan for 2013. There's a little more research that's going to need to be done in the field before we can come up with a specific plan. So I can't offer specific -a specific mitigation strategy at this time. That's going to be somewhat dependent on the exact situation. But I do believe that mitigation will be possible.
Q. Were you here when Trevor Lloyd-Evans testified?
A. (Foss) I was not.
Q. So you have not had an opportunity to review his testimony?
A. (Foss) I have not.
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Q. How about his prefiled written testimony?
A. (Foss) I read it, but that was some months ago.
Q. Okay. Now, in your prefiled testimony, you mentioned that migrating golden eagles typically migrate at altitudes of approximately 100 to 200 meters above ground level over summits, ridge tops, cliffs, et cetera. And that's on Page 4 of your original prefiled. Is that 100- to 200-meter area, from your knowledge, is that within the rotor sweep of this project?
A. (Foss) I believe it is.
Q. Okay. In your testimony on Page 5, you speak of the "documented passage rate" for Antrim Wind. That's at the bottom of Page 5. And is that documented passage rate calculated by the Applicant's people, or is that somebody else?
A. (Foss) I calculated passage rates based on the number of hours of observation at this site and a number of other sites, and the number of a given species that was observed during that passage rate -- I mean during
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that time period. And I did limit the time periods to the migration period of the species in question.
Q. So that. 020 GE per hour, that's your figure?
A. (Foss) Correct.
Q. Okay. Do you think that the information that you relied upon is sufficient to know for sure what the passage rate would be?
A. (Foss) I guess I'm not entirely clear on the question. I mean, a passage rate for a given species at a given site is going to vary from year to year, in all probability. So I would want to express it as an average passage rate over at least five years if $I$ was going to generalize about a passage rate at a given site.
Q. But does more information improve your confidence level in stating a figure? And I don't mean year to year. But in any given year, if you were to spend more hours and more days in the field making observations and counts --
A. (Foss) You would have a more accurate passage rate.
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Q. Okay. Now, this is in Ms. Foss's supplemental testimony, but $I$ think it perhaps is a question better for Mr . Nickerson, given his experience with golden eagles and eagle permits and the like. And this is -- your testimony is about, I believe, the ABPP. And on Page 2 of your testimony, you say, "This section should" -the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection section -- "should state that at the present time, the USFWS is issuing no incidental take permits for golden eagle east of the 100th meridian."

So do I take from that, that even if the Applicant wanted to get a golden eagle take permit, it could not do so?
A. (Nickerson) That's correct.
Q. And what would it mean to the project if they were to kill a golden eagle?
A. (Nickerson) That would depend upon the negotiations between them and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A lot of it would depend upon the extent on which they tried to mitigate the likelihood that a golden eagle \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
would be taken. Fish and Wildlife Service has prosecutorial discretion in cases like this.
Q. Have there been any golden eagle kills in the Northeast or in the East in general?
A. (Nickerson) I'm not -- by wind? By wind?
Q. Yes.
A. (Nickerson) I am not aware of any.
Q. Okay. Now, Ms. Von Mertens, I'm going to ask you about the Forest Legacy Program, but I'm not going to ask any details about repeating how it's done or anything. And I have a very specific question -- well, one very specific question and another for a little more detail.

The first one is: It's my understanding that the Forest Legacy Program has contributed funds in various ways to conserve properties that are in the "Super Sanctuary" and around it. Is that a fair summary?
A. (Von Mertens) That's correct.
Q. Okay. And are there other properties around the project area that might be under consideration or eligible for future
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consideration as being in the or put in the Forest Legacy Program?
A. There was one recently completed, Crotched Mountain in Greenfield, abutting the town of Antrim, and that was just in the news two months ago. The Forest Legacy funds were approved -- I'll be brief.
Q. Yeah, I'm going to stop you right there because I'm not interested in projects that have already been approved by Forest Legacy. I'm asking you about whether there were properties -- and again, $I$ know this is perhaps secret information. But are there properties around Antrim or in Stoddard or other adjacent to or near the project that might be considered for Forest Legacy?
A. (Von Mertens) Forest Legacy has four main criteria. Can I state those? I know you're familiar with them, but $I$ think it's helpful. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Briefly.
A. (Von Mertens) It's intact forests, which means not fragmented; it's wildlife habitat; it's aesthetics, how we view them; and recreation. They're open to the public. And \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
so those four criteria, yes, it's as we've all heard in testimony. It's a very natural resource-rich area. So, yes, there are large blocks of intact forest that would qualify. BY MR. ROTH:
Q. Okay. Do you think that the presence of the project might have an adverse effect on the ability of those other possible projects to qualify under the Forest Legacy Program?
A. (Von Mertens) I think the life of the project, as I understand it, cannot go beyond 50-odd years. And I think... I think those in charge know that -- can look that far in the future. So I don't know. I would hope that people would be farsighted enough to -so I guess I don't know.
Q. But it is possible that the fragmentation and visual effects of the project might make the Forest Legacy Program decide to look elsewhere?

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: I think she just said she didn't know, didn't she?
A. (Von Mertens) It's possible. Thank you. BY MR. ROTH:
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Q. Now, do you have, or can you point out on the map that's behind you -- I guess I want to understand better what -- because when I look at all your testimony, $I$ still have only sort of a vague idea about where the Super Sanctuary is and what are the conserved lands surrounding the project. Is that something you can --
A. (Von Mertens) Can we look at exhibit -- there is a map. It's ASNH Exhibit 3.
Q. Okay.
A. (Von Mertens) I believe this is the only map in the record that gives an accurate delineation of Audubon's dePierrefeu-Willard Wildlife Sanctuary.

MR. IACOPINO: If I might, I
actually have colored paper copies for the Committee, because when I scanned it, it was only a black and white. I'm just going to pass these out to you.
A. (Von Mertens) And I'll be happy to point out Forest Legacy land here.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q. Let's wait until we're all -- are we there?

MR. IACOPINO: Ms. Manzelli, did you make these available to everybody? MS. MANZELLI: Not in color on paper.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Perhaps if each party, if there are enough to go around, each party have one copy; that way, if Ms. Von Mertens refers to a color, everyone will know what that reference is. So if you can look on each other's, that would help.

MS. MANZELLI: I did
distribute all the Audubon exhibits electronically, and those are in color.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: I know. Our scanned version is black and white.

MS. MANZELLI: Oh, okay.
MR. IACOPINO: Because it's in the first set that was provided before you were involved.

MS. MANZELLI: My apologies.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q. Okay. Ms. Von Mertens, you were about to describe the Forest Legacy aspects of the project. I think this picture gives a pretty
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good idea of what the Audubon Sanctuary configuration is, and now I understand it much better. But which of these is sort of Forest Legacy money and --

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: I'm sorry,
Mr. Roth. I thought your question was, how do the proposed conservation lands relate to what's been called the "Super Sanctuary," as opposed to funding sources?

MR. ROTH: That's correct.
And what she did is she provided -- or once we got a look at this chart, I thought what I just said was, I think I understand now what the Super Sanctuary and the conservation land looked like with respect to the project area. Now I'm asking her to describe how it was funded.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: And why is that relevant to this case?

MR. ROTH: Because I think
there's Forest Legacy money in there and -CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: And why is
that relevant to the decision this Committee has to make?
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MR. ROTH: Because there was discussion with Ms. Vissering a few days ago about whether these properties were of so-called "statewide significance." And one of the criteria for that was, at least explained by some witnesses, whether it had public funding behind it. So I'm trying to show that there's public funding behind the Audubon Society's conservation projects surrounding the project.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right.
Anything you can do to focus the questions and not have a general discussion about programs and criteria would be helpful. Thank you.

MR. ROTH: I'm just asking her to describe which of these parcels had Forest Legacy money, and if you know how much.
A. (Von Mertens) There was one Forest Legacy grant, and it was called "Forest Legacy Willard Pond, Phase 1 and Phase 2." Phase 1 expanded the sanctuary to the -- stretching down to the southwest 376 acres. That was about -- it was over a half-million dollars.
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Five hundred and something. That was Phase 1. Phase 2 was what Jeff Jones talked about yesterday; it was $\$ 3$ million. And that's -the Stoddard line there -- this map doesn't show it -- it's 1700 acres. I believe you can see Robb Reservoir there. But those 1700 acres aren't clearly delineated here. And there also was an LCHIP grant from the state, and that's federal money administered by Division of Forest Lands. There was also federal -- local matches required. And so there was an LCHIP grant of $\$ 250,000$, and $I$ believe Fish and Game contributed $\$ 150,000$. So that's federal and state investment in the forest and aesthetics and recreation and wildlife habitat.
Q. Thank you. Now, you've had an opportunity to review the conservation easements that have been proposed for this project?
A. (Von Mertens) I have.
Q. Is it your understanding that those easements are proposed for all of the properties that are part of the project?
A. (Von Mertens) It's my understanding that they
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are not.
Q. So there are some that will not be at all easemented or conserved --
A. (Von Mertens) And those are indicated on this ASNH Exhibit 3.
Q. Okay. Which ones are those?
A. (Von Mertens) They're the red cross-hatched, one, two, three, four properties.
Q. Okay. Thank you.

MS. GEIGER: Could I just ask?
I want to make sure $I$ understand what's on this map. Ms. Von Mertens, does this map depict the project --

MR. ROTH: I'm sorry. You can ask questions when it's your opportunity to do cross-examination.

MS. GEIGER: I'm sorry. I just wanted to make sure $I$ understood what was being shown here. But I'll wait until cross. I apologize.

MR. ROTH: That's okay.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q. Is there anything special about the project -- the properties that don't have
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conservation easements on them?
A. (Von Mertens) It's fragmented the conservation. The conservation easements are applied to a certain percentage of the project impact area and the ridgeline.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Can I
clarify? Because $I$ also misunderstood, and I think what Ms. Geiger was asking about -- so, Mr. Roth, I'm going to ask it.

You said the areas that are under the Company's -- the areas that do not have conservation easements are in red cross-hatching. But that looks different from my reading of the legend. Is that correct?
A. (Von Mertens) The four conservation easement properties have the diagonal red striping. And the five properties -- I'm not sure my math is right. But the properties that are not -- that are under lease, that do not have protection, are outlined in red, but do not have the cross-hatching. And this map is -I think there's been some -- have been a couple changes in the locations of the
turbines. But this is pretty close.
CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right.
So I think --
MR. ROTH: I understand the
confusion now, because the cross-hatch was --
(Court Reporter interjects.)
MR. ROTH: I think she earlier
testified that the cross-hatch was the unconserved areas, but in fact it's the other way around.
A. (Von Mertens) Thank you. I'm sorry.
Q. Now, Ms. Von Mertens, have you looked at the project's proposals with respect to control of invasive species?
A. (Von Mertens) I've looked through -- I've done a word search for "invasive species" with what's been entered into the testimony so far.
Q. Have you found a plan in there for controlling invasive species?
A. (Von Mertens) I've found -- and this is not to say there wasn't mention that $I$ didn't find. So what $I$ did find had to do with construction period only.
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Q. Okay. Is there a program for dealing with invasive species after construction?
A. (Von Mertens) Not that $I$ could find.
Q. Okay. Are you aware of any other projects that have been certificated by the Committee that have invasive species programs?
A. (Von Mertens) Again, I did a search. And I believe it's Granite Reliable that has one of the conditions. And I might have this reversed. But I believe it's 23 made mention about invasive species. This is plant species, upland plant species. But, again, only during the construction stage, and it mentioned two species in particular. I couldn't find anything else.
Q. Is there anything that you would recommend to the Committee for including as a condition for invasive species control?
A. (Von Mertens) The main challenge -MS. GEIGER: I'm going to object to the question. It seems to me that this is the type of thing that the witnesses could have put in their prefiled direct testimony. I'm just hearing about this from \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
this group of witnesses right now for the first time, and I guess I wonder why.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Mr. Roth, is this in response to something that's come up from another witness, or could it have been addressed previously?

MR. ROTH: I didn't prepare the witness's testimony, so I don't know what she could or what she might have put in it with respect to it. But I think she does mention invasive species in her testimony. And so --

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Where is that?
A. (Von Mertens) Could I just mention one -CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: No, please hold on. I'm sorry.

MS. MANZELLI: Excuse me.
Unless, Francie, you have a citation to where you discuss invasive species in your testimony, then I believe the Committee would allow you to speak to that.
A. (Von Mertens) I don't believe I did mention invasive species.
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MR. ROTH: Okay. I'll withdraw that question then.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q. Ms. Von Mertens, you talked in your testimony about Willard Pond being a premiere trout pond. Is that pond stocked with trout, or are they native?
A. (Von Mertens) It is, I believe, both.
Q. So who stocks the trout?
A. (Von Mertens) I'm afraid you're asking the wrong person.
Q. Would that be the Fish and Game Department?
A. (Von Mertens) I don't know.
Q. Mr. Brown, do you know the answer to that?
A. (Brown) Yes, I believe New Hampshire Fish and Game does stock the trout.
Q. And are there also native trout in the pond?
A. (Brown) I would clarify that. Possibly those trout are naturalized. I'm not sure if they're a native trout.
Q. While we're on this subject, I note in your testimony, Mr. Brown, that you said you spoke to fishermen who say that the presence of the project would, if I'm remembering it
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correctly -- I'll just get to it.
You said, "Many of the fishermen I spoke to that morning expressed their unsolicited opinions of how the proposed wind facility would negatively affect their fishing experience here."

Now, the question is: First of all, don't you agree that fishermen are notorious liars?
[Laughter]
Q. That aside, do you think those statements by those people were credible?
A. (Brown) In what way can I say --
Q. Well, do you think they were being sincere?
A. (Brown) Sincere. That's how I interpreted it.
Q. Okay. I recall one witness -- or one person, and I can't remember which witness said this, but may be it was you, Mr. Brown, that the fishermen complained that the fishing wasn't particularly good. Do any of you remember who actually made that comment? That was you, Ms. Von Mertens?
A. (Von Mertens) I have a friend, Ed Henault,
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who I mentioned in my testimony. And again, this is anecdotal. But we talk about the Patriots and fishing quite a lot. And he came back from fishing one day, and I said, "How did it go?"

And he said, "Oh, I didn't catch anything. But that's not what it's all about."
Q. Maybe he's just not very good at it.
A. It could be. But he saw an osprey and said the osprey had better luck fishing than he did.
Q. Do any of you believe that the water quality or the fishing opportunities in the pond will be affected by the construction of the project?

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Can I -- I
think you want to focus that on any witness who spoke to that in their testimony and not just generalized among the four, so that we have some kind of control here.
A. (Von Mertens) I spoke about water quality, and it was -- the word "pristine" is what people use for Willard Pond. And I wasn't
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talking about the water quality with fears of water-quality degradation because of the project. I was talking about the experience, the pristine experience that draws people to Willard Pond, including water quality, fishing, visual, et cetera.
Q. Now, Mr. Brown, you spoke about aesthetics and the management of the sanctuary. Are you familiar with Ms. Vissering's testimony?
A. (Brown) Somewhat.
Q. And are you aware that she recommended that, as mitigation, among other things, the project take out Turbines No. 9 and 10?
A. (Brown) I think I recall that.
Q. And replace those -- replace all of them, minus 9 and 10, obviously, with smaller turbines?
A. (Brown) Okay.
Q. You remember that?
A. (Brown) I believe I remember that.
Q. Do you agree with those recommendations?
A. (Brown) From what perspective would I have that decision to make?
Q. That's a fair question. Do you believe that
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if those two things were to occur, would that satisfactorily mitigate the impact, the aesthetic impact of the project on the sanctuary?
A. (Brown) I think that could help mitigate. But essentially, it's mitigation rather than --
Q. Avoidance?
A. (Brown) -- not having the turbines themselves.
Q. Now, you spoke -- I think it was in your rebuttal -- about the need for more data. Are you aware that in Granite Reliable and Groton, the Committee required three years of post-mortality -- or post-construction studies?
A. (Brown) Are you addressing me?
Q. Yes, Mr. Brown.
A. (Brown) I seem to recall that.
Q. Okay. And do you think that that would be an appropriate thing to do in this case as well?
A. (Brown) Yes.
Q. Okay. And I believe in response to a question from Ms. Manzelli, you said that you
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thought that the project site could be a leading line.

What is the evidence that you would refer to, to support that assertion?
A. (Brown) Well, $I$ don't have any evidence to support that. But I don't think there's any evidence that speaks against that, either. Just speaking to the need for more data collection to determine that. It certainly would be possible.
Q. So there's no observations that you made that lead you to that conclusion, other than the fact that it wasn't done?
A. (Brown) I have one observation, one comparable, in looking at one day of data collection for the period of two hours, comparing that to Pack Monadnock and looking at the comparable numbers of raptors of certain species between the two sites. And what I saw could indicate that there would be essentially good migration patterns along that ridge.
Q. So is Pack Monadnock recognized as a leading line or edge as it's --
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A. I think it's generally recognized as that.
Q. Okay. How has bald eagle use been documented within the sanctuary? Have you seen them?
A. (Brown) Yes, probably mainly incidentally. But also on dedicated hawk watching days from various points, I would say the bald eagles are fairly common visitor to the sanctuary itself, in both migration and during the breeding season and other times of year.
Q. Based on your work at the sanctuary -- and I take it you're there sort of full time? Is that --
A. (Brown) No.
Q. No?
A. (Brown) I did spend one year as a resident, as I stated in the testimony.
Q. Okay.
A. (Brown) But I'm a frequent visitor.
Q. Okay. And you're familiar with the people who use it, the user groups and populations that go there?
A. (Brown) Somewhat.
Q. Do you think that the presence of the wind project up on the ridge above the sanctuary
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and the pond will negatively impact visitation to the sanctuary and the pond?
A. (Brown) I do think that that would limit visitation to the pond and the sanctuary.
Q. Okay. There were some questions the other day about clearing of the summit of Goodhue Hill. When was that cut down?
A. (Brown) It's been -- it's complete now. But the majority of the cutting I believe occurred last winter. It was a two-year operation, and I'm a little vague on my memory of actually when that cut was begun and completed. But it was all completed by the end of this past winter.
Q. When was the decision made to do that?
A. (Brown) I don't recall exactly when. But it was guided by a forest management plan.
Q. Okay. When you made the decision to do that, were you aware that there was a proposal to construct a wind farm on the other side of the pond, up on the ridge on the opposite side?
A. (Brown) I don't recall if $I$ was aware of that.
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Q. Okay. There has been some discussion about whether the sanctuary and the pond are used at night and in the winter time. Mr. Brown, have you seen or are you aware of people using the property at night?
A. (Brown) Yes, it certainly does occur. And I've seen that firsthand, both unregulated and on authorized Audubon field trips.
Q. So I understand that the -- I can't remember whose testimony it was in, but somebody said the sanctuary is officially closed at night. Is that correct?
A. (Brown) The trails are closed from dusk through dawn.
Q. But people go in there, anyway?
A. It does happen occasionally.
Q. Is the boat ramp and the pond closed in the dark?
A. (Brown) I'm not certain of what Fish and Game's rules say about that. But the boat ramp and the pond are both used at night as well sometimes.
Q. Okay. And how about in the wintertime? Is the sanctuary closed in the winter?
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A. (Brown) No, it's open all winter.
Q. The roads are plowed all the way in there?
A. (Brown) It is.
Q. And who plows the road in there?
A. (Brown) I believe the Town of Hancock is still doing the plowing.
Q. Right up to the boat ramp?
A. (Brown) Yeah, typically to the boat ramp.
Q. And what kind of activities go on there in the wintertime?
A. (Brown) Guided field trips, skiing, snowshoeing, hiking. You know, pretty much everything except the water-based activities that occur throughout the year.
Q. No ice fishing?
A. (Brown) No, it's fly fishing only.
Q. Is it catch and release?
A. (Brown), No. Not as far as I know.
Q. Mr. Brown, in your testimony on July 31st, on Page 6 -- and this is really just a clarification point for me -- you say, "An old logging road and relatively newly created foot trail provide foot access to and around this parcel" -- which I think you're
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referring to the Tamposi parcel -- "on which a conservation easement is held by the State of New Hampshire."
A. (Brown) Yes. What is the question about that?
Q. The question is: Is that Fish and Game or some other agency that holds that easement?
A. (Brown) That's the Forest Legacy easement that was being referred to before.
Q. Okay. And which part of the State holds that? Is it Fish and Game or DRED? Or do you know?
A. (Brown) I believe the Department of Resources and Economic Development.
Q. Okay. That's all my questions. Thank you very much all, of you.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you.
Mr. Froling.
MR. FROLING: I have a few, very brief questions about Forever Wild easements.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you.
And can you borrow one of the microphones?
MR. FROLING: I'd be delighted \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
to.
CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. FROLING:
Q. I believe these are all directed to Ms. Von Mertens, who I know. But I'll introduce myself. I'm Stephen Froling, and I represent the Harris Center.

Could you show the Committee where the Tamposi easement is -- that is to say, where the Forest Legacy is easement on this map? Can you just point to it?
A. (Von Mertens) On ASNH Exhibit 3 that I referred to earlier, you can see "Bald Mountain" written there.
Q. Yes.
A. (Von Mertens) And it's 376 acres. And Phil Brown might have to help me here. I know it goes down to the southwest to the road. You can see that there's a trail down through there. That's the Tamposi easement. It goes up close to the summit of Bald Mountain and then cuts due east to where the logo of the sailboat -- well, a little south of that.
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But it's -- is it okay for Phil to help me out there? He's -- how did I do?
A. (Brown) I think you described it pretty well. It doesn't contain the entire trail leading up from the junction of Willard Pond Road, but it is the higher elevations to the west of Willard Pond Road and south of the summit.
Q. Sorry. Do you know or can you tell from the map behind you whether that's an area that includes highest-ranked habitat in the state?
A. (Von Mertens) It does.
Q. Do you know whether that's a Forever Wild easement?
A. (Von Mertens) Insofar as -- it's not. It allows commercial logging following a forest management plan.
Q. Is it a requirement of that easement, that there be logging?
A. (Von Mertens) Forest Legacy is for forestry resources. Yes, it is. There is.
Q. Can you show the Committee where the Gilbert easement is?
A. (Von Mertens) Just a -- can I do a postscript to that? And again, Phil Brown, oversees the
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forest management plan. I believe that there are no cut areas designated on the Tamposi Forest Legacy parcel. That would be Forever Wild. But I need to check with Phil to make sure that's true.

WITNESS BROWN: Do I have permission?

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Yes, please.
A. (Brown) Yes, that is the case. The forest management plan did specify that certain stands would be left uncut, as long as -- at least in this round of management.
Q. Is it also true that you amend that forest management plan or steward plan every 10 years and redesignate those lands?
A. (Brown) I can't recall if it's 10 or 15. It may be a 15-year redesignation.
Q. But it is a requirement that you consider and amend it from time to time.
A. (Brown) Yes.
Q. Can I move to the Gilbert parcel? Can you show me where the Gilbert parcel is on that map?
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A. (Von Mertens) Yes. There's Willard Pond, blue. And it's 130 acres that cover about a third of the shoreline, and it goes back into the upland.
Q. Does that easement include land which is highest-ranked habitat in the state?
A. (Von Mertens) It does.
Q. Is that a Forever Wild easement?
A. (Von Mertens) Again, there are areas there that, through forestry management, are no-cut areas. And then there are areas -- you know, I could go into more detail. It was clear-cut by the owner before, so there was -- it's forest management. Audubon does guide its forest management plans by wildlife considerations.
Q. I understand that. But it's not a Forever Wild easement.
A. (Von Mertens) There's not surveyed areas that are designated as Forever Wild. You're correct.
Q. All right. Can you point the Committee, please, to the Caughey easement, please?

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Can you
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spell that word, please?
MR. FROLING: Oh, sorry. It's
$\mathbf{C}-\mathbf{A}-\mathrm{U}-\mathrm{G}-\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{E}-\mathrm{Y}$.
A. (Von Mertens) That is the paler green. It's due west of the Audubon, darker-green, Wildlife Sanctuary. It's somewhat square-ish with a tail down to the southeast. It's privately owned by abutters to the sanctuary, but --
Q. And Audubon holds the easement on that.
A. (Von Mertens) Audubon holds the easement, yes.
Q. Does that include land which is highest-ranked habitat in the state?
A. (Von Mertens) It's mostly -- yes, it does.
Q. Is that a Forever Wild easement?
A. (Von Mertens) No, it's not.
Q. Can you tell the Committee whether Audubon holds any Forever Wild easements in the area of Willard Pond?
A. (Von Mertens) Again, I'll answer it, and then I'll let Phil.

Not strictly in terms of surveying. The Harris Center took an easement, a Forever
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Wild easement, recently in my town. And there was a surveyed area designated on the map that was Forever Wild after a natural resource inventory inventoried the natural resources found in the exemplary part. And in negotiations with the landowner, that was surveyed and marked on the map. So that was an easement that did have a survey. I don't believe that Audubon has a Forever Wild easement to that extent. But again, that's high natural resource. We do a natural -NRI, Natural Resource Inventory, on our properties to designate --
Q. Can I come back to the question?
A. (Von Mertens) -- no-cut areas.
Q. Could I please come back to the question? Does Audubon hold any Forever Wild easements in the area, in the vicinity of Willard Pond? It's a simple yes or no.
A. (Brown) I'm not certain of that. I would have to check the language.
A. (Von Mertens) Could we talk about farther north, where we do? No, I think the -sorry.
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Q. That's all my questions. Thank you. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. Mr. Beblowski? Mr. Jones? Ms. Sullivan? Ms. Longgood.

MS. LONGGOOD: No questions at this time.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Mr.
Stearns?
MR. STEARNS: No questions. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Ms.

Pinello.
MS. PINELLO: No questions.
CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Ms. Edwards
-- Ms. Allen. Excuse me.
MS. ALLEN: No questions.
CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Mr. Block.
MR. BLOCK: Yes. If you don't mind, I'd like to pass the microphone over to Loranne to ask a few questions.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: That would be fine. And let me ask you, do you anticipate a few or quite a few? MS. BLOCK: No, I don't have that many questions.
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CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. Why don't we go ahead, and then we'll take a break soon. But go ahead.

CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MS. BLOCK:
Q. Good morning. My first question is for Carol. And this is just a point of clarification for myself.

You said the common nighthawk is a listed species. And by that you mean state-endangered?
A. (Foss) Correct.
Q. Okay. Thank you.

I'm not sure who this is specifically directed to. So whoever feels comfortable with this -- maybe Carol.

I had actually asked questions similar to this to Mr. Lloyd-Evans. I mentioned that I have seen over the years, and I have been a very frequent visitor to the Willard Pond Sanctuary, that there appear to be significant bat colonies there. Is that an accurate observation on my part, and is that an area of concern for you?
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A. (Brown) I'm sure $I$ can address that a little bit.

Over the years, as we know, the bat populations have been declining pretty significantly only recently. But over the years, within the cabin owned by New Hampshire Audubon there was a significant bat population. That cabin is still standing. The bats aren't there anymore. But the bats have occupied a barn owned by Willard -owned by New Hampshire Audubon. And that is at least one significant colony, as said so by New Hampshire Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff.
Q. So my question, $I$ guess, is: Do you feel turbines would pose an additional risk to that colony?
A. (Brown) I don't know enough about that. I'm not an expert on bats.
Q. Okay. And I think this is a question again for Carol. I think it was in relation to something you said about Lempster and post-construction studies in regard to nighthawk habitat. And my question, $I$ guess,
is in this project, would it make sense to perhaps do pre-construction studies about habitat for nighthawk?
A. (Foss) To the extent that there is a potential nesting habitat along the area to be -- well, along the ridge, it would be -it would be helpful to know what the pre-construction situation is. I have not been on the ridge myself. So I don't know to what extent that suitable habitat is available. But from previous testimony, it's certainly been suggested that potential nesting habitat exists along the ridge.
Q. Thank you.

The other question $I$ had is about high-elevation land, that it was stated, I think just previously, that that needed to be 2700 feet and that the project was at 2300 feet; yet, Jeffrey Jones said something yesterday, and I'm really paraphrasing, that soil, vegetation, et cetera, can make an area "high elevation," even if it's not technically at that high elevation. Does that make sense to one of you?
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A. (Foss) Typically in New Hampshire, when we talk about "high-elevation spruce-fir habitat," we're referring to areas primarily in the northern part of the state that support a particular suite of plant and animal species. And I was not here to hear Mr. Jones, so I really don't want to comment on what he meant.
Q. Okay. Thank you. That was that spruce-fir -- that was exactly what he was talking about. So, thank you. That does help clarify things. And that's the end of my questions.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. Dr. Kimball? Ms. Linowes?
(No verbal response)
CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Then I
think we're here now for questioning from the Applicant. And I imagine you have a number of questions, so why don't we take a break. It's now 10:30. Let's resume at -- let's try to keep it to 10 minutes. We'll resume at 10: 40 .
(Whereupon a recess was taken at 10:30
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a.m., and the hearing resumed at 10:45 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: We are
back, and we are now beginning cross-examination from the Applicant. Ms. Geiger.

MS. GEIGER: Yes, thank you. CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MS. GEIGER:
Q. Good morning. I don't know that I've met all of you in person. But I'm Susan Geiger, and I represent the Applicant.

I think I'll start with you, Ms. Von Mertens. When did you first learn about the Antrim Wind Project?
A. (Von Mertens) I think I attended the second hearing in Antrim. Mr. Kenworthy and Mr.

Soininen were presenting. So whenever that was, I attended that hearing in Antrim Town Hall.
Q. How many years ago was that?

WITNESS VON MERTENS: When was
that?
MR. KENWORTHY: 2009.
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A. (Von Mertens) 2009, probably, I hear from Mr. Kenworthy.
Q. Okay. Thanks. I just wanted to make sure that the hearing you were referring to is not part of this Site Evaluation Committee process; right?
A. (Von Mertens) It was a town -- Antrim town citizens and interested parties.
Q. Okay. And have you had had an opportunity to speak with either Mr. Kenworthy or other representatives of Antrim Wind about the project?
A. (Von Mertens) I've talked to Mr. Soininen a bit.
Q. Okay. And have you been approached or discussed with them the possibility of having Audubon consider or discuss conservation easements for this project?
A. (Von Mertens) I was a bit of a go-between, between Mr. Soininen and New Hampshire Audubon for their meeting at Mr. Soininen -I think he initiated it. I e-mailed back and forth. I'm not sure who initiated it. But it was part of the Antrim Wind-Eolian, at \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}

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| 1 | that time, process. |
| 2 | Q. I believe, turning to Page 3 of your |
| 3 | testimony, you said, "Additions to large, |
| 4 | unfragmented blocks of conserved open spaces |
| 5 | have a high priority for Audubon; is that |
| 6 | correct? |
| 7 | A. (Von Mertens) Audubon -- for the land |
| 8 | conservation community in general, Audubon is |
| 9 | more interested in their existing |
| 10 | sanctuaries, expanding them, and exemplary |
| 11 | wildlife habitat. Those are our two |
| 12 | criteria. We're not a strict land trust. We |
| 13 | do lots of things -- or Audubon does lots of |
| 14 | things. |
| 15 | Q. So is that the reason why Audubon has not |
| 16 | engaged in or agreed to engage in |
| 17 | conversation with the project about the |
| 18 | possibility of having Audubon become more |
| 19 | involved with conservation easements that |
| 20 | would be part of this project? |
| 21 | MS. MANZELLI: Object. The |
| 22 | question presupposes testimony that's not in |
| 23 | the record. |
| 24 | CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Ms. |
|  | \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\} |

Geiger.
MS. GEIGER: Yeah, I'm just
trying to ascertain from Ms. Von Mertens' prefiled testimony concerning Audubon's -- or her position that conservation of open spaces has a high priority and understand why. And I believe there was testimony in earlier sessions, I think from Ms. Vissering, indicating that she thought it would be unlikely that Audubon would be willing to coordinate or discuss with the Applicant, and I'm trying to find out why.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Why not
ask directly if she has had those conversations or would be interested.

MS. GEIGER: Well, I'll ask
that. Thank you.
BY MS. GEIGER:
Q. Have you had those conversations?
A. (Von Mertens) I'm trying to be really --
listen to the question and then -- but my brain doesn't always work that way.

Audubon was very aware that the Harris
Center -- the Harris Center is the
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premiere -- it is the land trust in this particular geographic area. We were aware that active conversations were going on between Eolian, Antrim Wind and the Harris Center.
Q. Okay. And so are you satisfied that the conservation easements that the project has granted to Harris Center -- or would be held by the Harris Center, if the project is permitted, would be managed appropriately by the Harris Center?
A. (Von Mertens) I put in my testimony the concerns about residential development being allowed and forestry allowed without a forestry management plan.
Q. And I understand that. But do you have any concerns that the Harris Center would not engage or implement an appropriate forestry management plan, should it become the holder of these conservation easements?
A. (Von Mertens) They can't. They're not empowered to do that. That's the landowner's job. And that's how it's done. The
landowner determines what forestry they want \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
to do.
Q. And do you have any reason to believe that the landowners upon which these easements would be situated would not engage in an appropriate forestry management plan?
A. (Von Mertens) Landowners -- conservation easements -- I'm not going to speak quickly, but I'm aware that I might be cut off. Conservation easements change ownership. The first generation typically has a high land ethic. They negotiate with the land trust what they want to conserve, and then another generation of landowners comes. And typically land trusts have real trouble with the second generation, third-generation landowners who might not have a strong land ethic. These conservation easements are a particularly different kind of conservation easement; purchased, not donated. I wasn't part of the exchange between the landowner and the Harris Center and Antrim Wind Energy. But it's always back and forth. And these are unusual easements.
Q. Let's go back to your original testimony.
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As I understand it, you adopted Mr. Nickerson's supplemental testimony as your own; correct?
A. (Von Mertens) Yes.
Q. So if I have questions about that, I should be directing them to you instead of Mr . Nickerson.
A. (Von Mertens) Yes, thank you.
Q. Now, on your first testimony, your direct testimony, on Page 5 you explain that deeds to several properties around Willard Pond have restrictions on hunting and fishing; is that correct?
A. (Von Mertens) I was given a history of the sanctuary and how it grew. And they do, but they're not legal. Deed language is not legally binding. It was the wishes of the donor in 1930. And so there is fishing and there is hunting on some of the parcels. It's not legally -- you need a conservation easement with an agency or land trust to make it legal.
Q. Is it your position that hunting and fishing or other recreational activities that occur
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in the sanctuary would no longer occur if this project is built?
A. (Von Mertens) It would have no impact on hunting or the legality of hunting or fishing, where that is -- where hunting is somewhat restricted.
Q. Okay. On Page 14 of your testimony, you indicate that you have concerns about the visual impacts of the project on the Willard Pond Sanctuary; is that correct?
A. (Von Mertens) That's correct.
Q. Is this your own personal concern, or is this the position of New Hampshire Audubon?
A. (Von Mertens) It's certainly my concern. And Audubon has adopted a policy on wind energy, and I don't know to what extent aesthetics were mentioned in that policy.
Q. Do you have a copy of that policy?
A. (Von Mertens) I do.
Q. Is it in the record?
A. (Von Mertens) I believe it is.
Q. Could you give me the exhibit number, please?
A. (Von Mertens) Well, I'll need some help with that. I believe it's one of your exhibits,
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but I'm not sure. And I think Amy might need to help me here.

MS. MANZELLI: I'm sorry?
WITNESS VON MERTENS: The New Hampshire Audubon policy on wind energy projects.

MS. MANZELLI: I believe
that's an AWE exhibit?
MS. GEIGER: I was just
curious if the document -- to save some time, I thought maybe the document that she had in her hands had the number on it. And I apologize if --

MS. MANZELLI: It does not. I apologize for that also. Sorry.

BY MS. GEIGER:
Q. All right. So, to your knowledge, has New Hampshire Audubon, either members of the governing body, the governing board of that organization, taken a vote to the effect that the -- that it has concerns about the visual impacts of the project on Willard Pond?
A. (Von Mertens) I think Mr. Nickerson, as past board chair, might be more familiar with the
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a radar-activated lighting system?
A. (Von Mertens) I am.
Q. And what is your position on that?
A. (Von Mertens) It's an improvement.
Q. Okay. Thank you.

Now, Ms. Foss, turning to your
testimony, please. Is it fair to say that the bulk of your prefiled testimony concerns golden eagles?
A. (Foss) Yes.
Q. Okay. And on Page 4 of your prefiled testimony, you talk about golden eagles that have been killed by turbines in California, Wyoming, Oregon and Washington; is that correct?
A. (Foss) Yes.
Q. But isn't it true -- and $I$ think it's in response to a data request from Antrim Wind, which would be AWE 27, and I believe it was indicated this morning in testimony, maybe by Mr. Nickerson -- that there haven't been or you're not aware of any golden eagle fatalities or mortalities at an operational wind farm in the eastern United States? Is

|  |  |
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| 1 | that your testimony? |
| 2 | A. (Foss) That's correct. |
| 3 | Q. Why didn't you mention this back in your |
| 4 | prefiled testimony? |
| 5 | A. (Foss) I guess the density of bald eagles in |
| 6 | the west -- I'm sorry -- golden eagles in the |
| 7 | west is orders of magnitude higher than the |
| 8 | density of bald eagles in the east. |
| 9 | Likewise, the density of wind turbines in the |
| 10 | west is orders -- probably several orders of |
| 11 | magnitude higher than the density in the |
| 12 | east. This is an issue that is going to |
| 13 | become more likely as more wind turbines |
| 14 | occur in the east. So. |
| 15 | Q. So you didn't think it was important to |
| 16 | mention in your testimony that there haven't |
| 17 | been any golden eagle fatalities at eastern |
| 18 | wind farms in the United States? |
| 19 | MR. ROTH: Objection. She |
| 20 | didn't say that. That's your words, not |
| 21 | hers. |
| 22 | MS. GEIGER: I'm going to |
| 23 | object to Mr. Roth objecting to my questions |
| 24 | of this panel. If Ms. -- they're represented |
|  | \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\} |

by counsel. And if Ms. -MS. MANZELLI: I'll make the same objection. If you'd like to rephrase? MS. GEIGER: No. I asked the question and I got an answer and I'd like to move on, because $I$ don't think we need to bog the Committee down with this testimony.

BY MS. GEIGER:
Q. Are you aware that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated that, based on its risk-assessment model, the Service predicts that the project's risk to golden eagles is within the range that the Service considers low risk?
A. (Foss) Yes, I'm aware of that.
Q. Okay. And the model that was referred to in that exhibit that $I$ just referenced, AWE 43, which is, I believe, a copy of some e-mails from Ms. Nystrom --
A. (Foss) Correct.
Q. -- that's the only model that exists at the current time for assessing risk to golden eagles; isn't that correct -- that the Service uses?
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A. (Foss) That the Service uses, yes.
Q. Now, in your supplemental prefiled testimony, you comment on various sections of the Applicant's Avian and Bat Protection Plan. And you make some recommendations for changes in some instances; is that correct?
A. (Foss) Correct.
Q. Now, your recommendations were not adopted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; is that right?
A. (Foss) I beg your pardon?
Q. Well, the recommendation that you made in your prefiled testimony concerning the ABPP were not, in fact, accepted by U.S. Fish and Wildife when they --
A. (Foss) To my knowledge --

MS. MANZELLI: Objection.
There's nothing in the record here that indicates that any request was made to the agency to consider Ms. Foss's recommendation. MS. GEIGER: All right. I'll rephrase the question.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right.
Let -- you know, if the witness doesn't know, \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
you're always welcome to say you don't know. If you say, "But that's not the way it happened," you're also welcome to say that. If we can have a little more exchange -- if we can have the witnesses do more of the testifying than the parties' counsel, that would be helpful.

BY MS. GEIGER:
Q. Well, I guess you've indicated in your prefiled testimony that you made some recommendations about the project's Avian and Bat Protection Plan; correct?
A. (Foss) Correct.
Q. Is your position shared by U.S. Fish and Wildlife concerning those recommendations?
A. (Foss) I have no idea.
Q. Well, isn't it true that U.S. Fish and Wildlife indicated to the Applicant that its ABPP is consistent with the Service's land-based wind energy guidelines, and that that agency didn't have any additional comments or suggested revisions to it at this time?
A. (Foss) I don't know that $I$ had seen that
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| 1 |  | response from the Service at the time I |  |
| 2 |  | prepared my testimony. |  |
| 3 | 2. | But is it your understanding now that the |  |
| 4 |  | ABPP prepared by Antrim Wind has been deemed |  |
| 5 |  | satisfactory to U.S. Fish and Wildlife |  |
| 6 |  | Services at this time? |  |
| 7 | A. | (Foss) I guess what I would like to say on |  |
| 8 |  | that -- |  |
| 9 |  | MS. MANZELLI: Would it be |  |
| 10 |  | helpful for you to have the exhibit about |  |
| 11 |  | which you're testifying in front of you? |  |
| 12 |  | MS. GEIGER: I was just going |  |
| 13 |  | to show her that. And I apologize. I don't |  |
| 14 |  | want to. |  |
| 15 |  | MR. ROTH: Madam Chairman, to |  |
| 16 |  | the extent that, you know, there were |  |
| 17 |  | complaints about repetitive and duplicative |  |
| 18 |  | testimony, it seems to me that we've talked |  |
| 19 |  | about the Fish and Wildlife Services' |  |
| 20 |  | approval or non-approval, whatever it means, |  |
| 21 |  | a number of times by a number of witnesses. |  |
| 22 |  | And this is clearly a place where Ms. Geiger |  |
| 23 |  | should be objecting to her own questions in |  |
| 24 |  | that regard. |  |

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A. (Foss) No. And at the end it does refer more generally to the ABPP. However, I mean, I'm not the Fish and Wildlife Service. And even were Audubon not an intervenor in the process, I would feel that I had the right, as a professional biologist, to provide comments on the ABPP.
Q. Okay. Understood.
A. (Foss) And I would further say that state-listed endangered species are not the realm of the federal Fish and Wildlife Services' concern. So I would not expect the Service to have comments regarding the nighthawk recommendations.
Q. Okay. Turning to the nighthawks, if you will, just for a second. Are you aware that this project consulted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and New Hampshire Fish and Game in doing -- in developing its pre-construction studies?
A. (Foss) Yes.
Q. Okay. Do you know whether either of those agencies directed this Applicant to conduct pre-construction nighthawk nesting studies?
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A. (Foss) We were not aware of the nighthawk problem at the time.
Q. Which problem are you talking about?
A. (Foss) The fatalities at a New Hampshire wind facility.
Q. At the Lempster facility?
A. (Foss) Correct.
Q. Isn't it true that when the pre-construction studies were done for Lempster, that a nighthawk nest was found there?
A. (Foss) On an adjacent ridge, yes.
Q. Was there any nighthawk nest found during pre-construction here at this site?
A. (Foss) Let me back up for a minute, because I'm not sure that a nest was found during the Lempster pre-construction surveys. I know that there was activity observed. I don't -I can't testify to the presence of a nest.
Q. If I were to tell you that Mr. Gravel, in his testimony, indicated that there -- that he had found a nest during pre-construction studies at Lempster, would you have any reason to disagree with that?
A. (Foss) No, I would not.
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Q. Okay. So here in Antrim, we do not have a nest -- at least we've not found a nest during our studies pre-construction; correct?
A. (Foss) Correct.
Q. Okay. Now, Mr. Nickerson, your direct testimony provides information about federal laws that protect bald and golden eagles and other raptors; is that correct?
A. (Nickerson) Yes, it is.
Q. Okay. Your testimony, your supplemental testimony, which is now adopted by Ms. Von Mertens, indicates that you have a position -- you have some concerns about the land management committee, about the proposed conservation easements for this project; correct?
A. (Von Mertens) I think we both can answer yes on that. Mr. Nickerson is part of that committee.
Q. Okay.
A. (Nickerson) And I'll answer yes as well.
Q. Okay. Now, the conservation -- I believe I indicated earlier on the record that the conservation easements were filed by the
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Applicant on June 4th, 2012 in this docket; is that correct; is that correct?
A. (Von Mertens) I certainly trust your calendar better than mine.
Q. Okay. Thank you.

And you folks filed prefiled testimony in July of 2012. But none of you talked about this conservation easement, did you?
A. (Von Mertens) Not in prefiled.
Q. I guess I'm wondering why not.

MS. MANZELLI: I object.
CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: On what basis?

MS. MANZELLI: I've not done this with this Committee before, but I would like to discuss approaching the Bench, off the record, with co-counsel.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Oh, all counsel?

MS. MANZELLI: Yeah.
CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right.
MS. MANZELLI: Or if we can go
off the record for a moment?
CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right.
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| 1 |  | brought it to the attention of the sanctuary |
| 2 |  | committee and the New Hampshire Audubon, and |
| 3 |  | that's when I read Reserved Rights, |
| 4 |  | Section 3. |
| 5 | 2. | And when was that? |
| 6 | A. | (Von Mertens) It was certainly after the |
| 7 |  | initial filed testimony. |
| 8 | 2. | You're on the service list for this docket; |
| 9 |  | right? |
| 10 | A. | (Von Mertens) Yes. |
| 11 | Q. | And I believe that you would have received |
| 12 |  | all the e-mail correspondence that the |
| 13 |  | Applicant -- |
| 14 | A. | (Von Mertens) Absolutely. And I take |
| 15 |  | responsibility for not reading them all. |
| 16 | Q. | Okay. |
| 17 | A. | (Von Mertens) As someone interested in |
| 18 |  | conservation easements, I should have -- |
| 19 |  | June -- what was the date they were filed? |
| 20 | Q. | June 4th. |
| 21 | A. | (Von Mertens) I should have. And it's a... I |
| 22 |  | didn't. |
| 23 | Q. | Okay. Thank you. |
| 24 |  | Now, on Page 2 of your supplemental |
|  |  | C 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\} |


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| 1 |  | testimony -- and this again is Mr. |
| 2 |  | Nickerson's that you've adopted, Ms. Von |
| 3 |  | Mertens -- you note that the project's |
| 4 |  | conservation easements will be held by the |
| 5 |  | Harris Center for Education. Do you have any |
| 6 |  | concern with that? |
| 7 | A. | (Von Mertens) The Harris Center is a premiere |
| 8 |  | land trust. And I know it well and have |
| 9 |  | great respect for the Harris Center. |
| 10 | Q. | Now, isn't it true that some of the |
| 11 |  | conservation easements I believe that -- do |
| 12 |  | conservation easements that we've been |
| 13 |  | discussing this morning, that New Hampshire |
| 14 |  | Audubon has, I believe in response to |
| 15 |  | questions by Mr. Froling, are any of those |
| 16 |  | provisions similar to the conservation |
| 17 |  | easements that are part of Antrim Wind's |
| 18 |  | plans? |
| 19 | A. | (Von Mertens) That we hold around the state? |
| 20 | Q. | Yes. I believe you said in your testimony |
| 21 |  | that there's some standard boiler -- |
| 22 | A. | (Von Mertens) Oh, definitely boiler plates |
| 23 |  | everywhere. |
| 24 | 2. | So there are some easement provisions in |

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easements that you hold that are similar to the easement provisions that this project has in the easements granted to Harris Center; correct?
A. (Von Mertens) The conservation easements began in the '70s. They're evolving. And they're evolving towards requiring forestry management plans. And again, you're dealing with a landowner and the land trust, and it's a conversation back and forth. I have an easement with the Harris Center that I chose to restrict commercial logging, but not cord wood. So, it's all a dialogue back and forth. Very few easements are -- they're like snowflakes. Very few other than these four are similar.
Q. All right. So let's turn to these four, because I believe on Page 2 of your supplemental testimony you've indicated some concerns about the project's proposed conservation easements; is that correct?
A. (Von Mertens) Yes.
Q. Now, one of those concerns you've indicated is that the easements allow for future
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residential development on the ridgeline and that there are no siting restrictions on where houses can be built; is that right?
A. (Von Mertens) Correct. There are -- I did mention that there are -- correct.
Q. Okay. So in terms of where the houses can be built, can we talk about that for a minute?
A. (Von Mertens) Yes.
Q. Isn't it true that the agreement -- the easement on the Micheli -- I believe I'm pronouncing --
A. I'm glad you --
Q. -- that correctly -- the Micheli property --
A. I'm glad you pronounced it first.
Q. Hasn't Dr. Micheli agreed in writing that the easement on his property would restrict the right to build a future home to the low-lands section of Salmon Brook?
A. The easement doesn't mention that. But I have seen, and I believe it was filed after my -- I'm not sure when it was filed. But with great pleasure, $I$ saw the letter from Dr. Micheli to, I believe -- I did see it, and they said that we intend to build off
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Salmon Brook Road.
Q. So if you turn to AWE 42 that's in the binder in front of you, is that the letter that you're referring to?
A. (Von Mertens) I'm sure it is.
Q. Okay. So does that letter address that concern you had about that property?
A. (Von Mertens) I think there's language in that letter that says in a future amendment to the easement, the Michelis would be happy to put that language in, in Section 3, that they reserve the right to say that they can build a home.
Q. Okay. Thank you. Now, your supplemental testimony also states that, given site preparation and leveling for turbine pads and access roads, future residential development is likely to be on those locations high and visible on the ridgeline. Is that your testimony?
A. (Von Mertens) That is.
Q. Now, we've already established that the Micheli property construction would occur not on the ridgelines; correct?
\{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
A. (Von Mertens) Yes, and that's the most westerly property.
Q. Okay. Now, are you aware that there is a provision in Mr. Ott's easement, or the easement on his property, that would prohibit the use of the project's roads to access the other two easements that would allow houses to be built?

MR. ROTH: Madam Chairman, again, we're -- this is duplicative and repetitive testimony about the content of the easements. She's simply asking the witness to recite what is or is not in these easement documents. We've been over this several times before this week, and probably the last time we were all together.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Well, I thought she was asking whether those terms satisfied the concerns that Ms. Von Mertens raised in testimony. But if I'm wrong, Ms. Geiger --

MS. GEIGER: That's where I'm going. And these witnesses have not been on the stand yet, and I want to find out what \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
these witnesses know about them and what they feel about them.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: If you can focus your questions as much as possible on what those provisions' impact, if any, is on their recommendations, that would be helpful.

MS. GEIGER: Right. And I'm trying to reference the witness to this easement restriction to see whether it addresses her concern about ridgeline development.
A. (Von Mertens) I was aware for all four easements that there's no through right-of-way on the existing access road to any abutting property. And I knew that when I wrote my supplemental.

BY MS. GEIGER:
Q. Okay. So on Page 3 of the supplemental testimony, you recommend the Committee require a Forever Wild easement on the ridgeline if the project is approved; is that right?
A. (Von Mertens) Yes.
Q. Okay. And I think we've established earlier \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
this morning that the easements the Audubon itself holds are not Forever Wild easements; is that correct?
A. (Von Mertens) We tend not to hold easements on our own property. We manage our own property.
Q. Okay. But easements that are -- that exist around your property are not Forever Wild; is that correct?
A. (Von Mertens) I don't see the relevance.
Q. Well, I haven't heard an objection, and I think it's relevant.
A. (Von Mertens) Okay. Could you repeat the question, please?
Q. I think you indicated in answers to questions from Mr. Froling that the easements that you identified in the sanctuary are not Forever Wild.
A. (Von Mertens) I was shocked by the -- I was surprised by the question and had regrets about my answer.

Audubon does not put easements on its own property. We manage our own property. If you put an easement, that puts the
\{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
management in the hands of the easement language. And so it's rare. We do have -- I was asked about an easement on the easterly side. We inherited that easement. It was done 15 years ago. As I've said, easements have evolved. And we also own that property. We manage it. NRCS grants, we do a very good forestry management plan.
Q. Now, the supplemental testimony states on the last page that New Hampshire Audubon stands in strong opposition to permitting the project; correct?
A. (Von Mertens) Correct.
Q. Did the membership of New Hampshire Audubon take a vote on this position?
A. (Von Mertens) The board did.
Q. Okay. So the membership did not; correct?
A. (Von Mertens) That's certainly correct.
Q. Okay. Now, Mr. Brown, on Page 6 of your testimony, you described recreational activities that occur within the wildlife sanctuary at Willard Pond; correct?
A. (Brown) Let me take a look at that. Can you point out the reference on Page 6, please?
\{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
Q. I believe it's a description there about the type of recreational activities that occur, and they include: Hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and hunting. Do you see that?
A. (Brown) I'm not seeing that on Page 6. Okay. Missed that. Thanks.
A. (Nickerson) Right there.
Q. You don't have -- you got it?
A. (Brown) Okay. I think that refers specifically to the trail system. Yeah.
Q. Okay. And this project will not affect folks from engaging in those activities in the future, will it?
A. (Brown) I believe that people will still be able to partake in those activities.
Q. Okay. On Page 9 of your testimony, you state, "Aesthetics is an important consideration that has guided ASNH's management activity at the sanctuary since the beginning of its ownership"; correct?
A. (Brown) Yes.
Q. Has New Hampshire Audubon adopted any written standards or guidelines regarding how
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aesthetic considerations should guide management of the sanctuary?
A. (Brown) I don't believe it has, other than the wild -- the forestry management plan, which does speak to aesthetics.
Q. Okay. And on Page 9 of your prefiled testimony, you talked about the Goodhue Hill timber harvest on over 100 acres of forest land; correct?
A. (Brown) Correct.
Q. Is that the same harvesting you were talking about this morning?
A. (Brown) Yes, it was.
Q. Okay. And does New Hampshire Audubon have any objection to lands that abut its property in engaging in the same type of timber harvesting projects?
A. (Brown) Specifically this property? Is that the question?
Q. Any property.
A. (Brown) Any property?
Q. Any abutting property, let's put it that way. Since you folks are doing this on your property, would you have problems with
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in easements that Audubon holds that are similar to the easements that the project would be granting if it goes forward?

MS. MANZELLI: Objection.
That's already been asked and answered.
CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Ms.
Geiger.
MS. GEIGER: I'm asking this witness if he knows that.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: And has that not already been addressed?

MS. GEIGER: I believe the answer I got was that there is some boiler plate that's similar in all easements.

BY MS. GEIGER:
Q. Is that correct?

MS. MANZELLI: Well, I have a pending objection. I'm not sure why she's asking a question that's already been asked and answered.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Right. And I asked as well. Hasn't that already been addressed?

MS. GEIGER: I think I heard
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the answer that there was some similar boiler plate from Ms. Von Mertens.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Right. So is there a reason why you need to ask Mr. Brown the same question?

MS. GEIGER: Well, he's a -his position with the organization is for land conservation and management activities, and I wanted to make sure that his answer was the same. That's all.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. So why don't you ask him if he disagrees with Ms. Von --

BY MS. GEIGER:
Q. Do you disagree with Ms. Von Mertens' assessment of the fact that the Applicant's easements contain similar language to easements that Audubon holds?
A. (Brown) From what I've read, I think there is some similar language.
Q. Okay. Thank you.

I believe somebody on the panel this morning talked about folks coming to Willard Pond after the project is built and maybe not \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
having the same experience that they might have had beforehand. Did I understand that correctly?
A. (Brown) I think that was a question that was brought up before.
Q. And is it possible for people who value conservation and renewable energy, such as wind power, to enjoy the experience at Willard Pond post-construction?
A. (Brown) Sure.
Q. Are there any rights on either the easements that Audubon holds or the land that you own that would require the views from Willard Pond to Willard Mountain to remain the same forever?
A. (Brown) From Willard Pond to -MR. ROTH: I'm going to object. That sounds like a legal conclusion. She's asking Mr. Brown, who has a bachelor of science in biology, if I'm not mistaken, to interpret terms of property deeds and transactions that he may not even have personal knowledge of.

MS. GEIGER: He just testified
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that he's the conservation management person for Audubon and that he has familiarity with at least the conservation language, conservation easement language.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: I think everyone's been asking these witnesses about terms contained in conservation easements. So it's a fair question.

BY MS. GEIGER:
Q. Do you know of anything in the, at least the easements that you've looked at, that you're responsible for managing, that indicate that the views in the sanctuary, or on the land relating to those easements, require that the views either within the sanctuary or -- I guess from within the sanctuary remain the same forever?
A. (Brown) I'm a little unclear about the question, because you're asking about conservation easement deed language, but also the sanctuary, the fee-owned property. If you could just clarify that.
Q. Sure. Either one, if you know. Is there anything that restricts development on that
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ridgeline, such that it would affect the views?
A.
(Brown) On that ridgeline --
MS. MANZELLI: Objection. I don't understand the question or questions, and that might be the problem.

MS. GEIGER: And I apologize.
They're not artfully phrased. Basically, I just wanted to find out if there was anything Audubon was aware of, in the documents that this witness is familiar with, that would provide that the views from within the sanctuary remain the same.

MS. MANZELLI: I have no objection to that.
A. (Brown) I don't think it would be possible or enforceable to require that something can't happen on a property that's outside of our ownership or easement.

BY MS. GEIGER:
Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

MS. GEIGER: Could I just have
a moment, please?
CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Please.
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(Pause in proceedings)
MS. GEIGER: Thank you very much for your patience. I have no further questions.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. Questions from the Committee members. Ms. Lyons.

INTERROGATORIES BY MS. LYONS:
Q. Ms. Von Mertens, I just have a couple questions on Forever Wild, and if anybody else on the panel has more experience. You've just brought it up several times.
A. (Von Mertens) Certainly.
Q. Is "Forever Wild" a term or a type of easement that has an accepted structure?
A. (Von Mertens) Again, conservation easements are evolving. And there is a land trust, the Northeast Wilderness Trust, that specializes in Forever Wild easements. And New Hampshire Audubon is about to complete an easement with them on a sanctuary farther north. That's one -- that's the strictest category. And that would be a Forever Wild easement. I don't know that that term necessarily becomes \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
part of the -- it does sometimes, and it doesn't sometimes. So it's a convenient -- I mentioned an easement that the Harris Center did in Peterborough, my town, possibly within the year, maybe within two years, that is a large parcel, hundreds of acres. And there is a designated surveyed area within that larger property that has exemplary natural communities, and that is Forever Wild. And I believe -- I don't know what terminology was used for that. So that's the middle range. I guess legally those would be the two kinds of easements that I'm familiar with that would be Forever Wild.
Q. Now, in your response, you just mentioned an organization. You said it quickly.

Northeast --
A. Northeast Wilderness Trust. It's a regional land trust. Headquarter's in Boston. But it's active in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, that I'm aware of.
Q. Do you know of any other organizations that hold those types of easements that have that language?
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A. (Von Mertens) I'm not aware. I believe there are.
Q. If offered, would Audubon agree to a Forever Wild language in an easement?
A. (Von Mertens) We are doing that in our Thompson Sanctuary up north.
A. (Brown) I think I might be able to answer that question, and the last one a little better, too, just to clarify, that we also do have -- one of our easements is Forever Wild, and it has a backup with it, the nature conservancy. So, one property in New Hampshire at least does have a Forever Wild easement on it.
Q. Is that for the whole property or a portion of?
A. (Brown) The entirety, although there's a house cut out of the easement itself. So, yeah, it's the entirety of the property.
Q. Thank you. That's all I have. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you.

Mr. Simpkins.
DIR. SIMPKINS: Thank you.
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INTERROGATORIES BY DIR. SIMPKINS:
Q. I had a few questions. I'll kind of go off what Ms. Lyons was talking about, as far as land conservation. I'm not sure who's the best person on the panel to answer this, because several of you have talked about land conservation.

But as far as the conservation easement proposed by the Applicant, do you feel that that is adequate if they added in a requirement of a forest management plan written by a licensed professional forester and restricted where development could occur? Are those the two issues?
A. (Von Mertens) Those were the two issues I brought up. And a Forever Wild easement -- a traditional easement often has, as I said in my testimony, a designated building site. And that's what Phil is talking about. That would usually, typically protect an exemplary national resource.

The other issue which I mentioned is that the easements are fragmented. The larger two properties are not under easement.
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And the largest property that's not under an easement has more ridgeline than any other individual property. And I believe there's four turbines on that parcel.
Q. So then, what I'm hearing you -- I think I understand what you're saying is that you feel that there should be additional properties covered by easement. Is that what you're saying?
A. (Von Mertens) Do I get a chance to very respectfully say to the Site Evaluation Committee that I believe that every application should require a Forever Wild easement on the ridgeline, the project impact area, which is -- and a little bit bigger? And I think that's very important mitigation, given that wind projects are on our wild ridgelines. That's where industrial wind capacity lies.
Q. So I guess I want to ask -- I want to understand this Forever Wild easement a little bit more. Is the Forever Wild easement to replace the forestry management plan written by a
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licensed forester? Because if I'm understanding you correctly, Forever Wild would not allow harvesting; is that correct?
A. (Von Mertens) Again, easements are negotiable. But a typical New England forestry -- Northeast Wilderness Trust's Forever Wild easement restricts commercial logging. It doesn't restrict activity. But again, they're negotiated. Sometimes there's a particular area where commercial logging is not allowed. But what I'm recommending is no commercial logging and no residential development on the ridgeline.
A. (Brown) If I could just jump in and add that the Northeast Wilderness Trust does require a management plan drafted for every property that it holds an easement.
Q. Okay. So this Forever Wild easement, I did hear that Audubon uses forest management to enhance wildlife habitat; is that a correct statement?
A. (Brown) Yes.
Q. So are you saying -- there's roughly 600-some acres of proposed easements by the Applicant.
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Are you saying you would have Forever Wild on all of that or just portions?
A. (Von Mertens) The ridgeline. The exemplary natural community.
Q. And when you use the term "exemplary natural community," are you using a specific definition of that, such as like National Heritage Bureau would use, and it's actually been identified as such, or are you using your own definition?
A. (Von Mertens) Typically you have a credentialed wildlife biologist do a natural resource inventory and identify the exemplary. That would -- I don't believe that would bring in aesthetics. So I think that's important to bring into it. That's a major component of why you don't want houses up there.
Q. Do you know if the ridgeline has been identified as an exemplary natural community by any state agency?
A. (Von Mertens) I believe it has not.
Q. Okay. Thank you.

Switching gears. This question is
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probably for Mr. Brown. It was in his testimony. It was also brought up by several other people over the last few days, including Ms. Vissering and Mr. Jones. The issue of Quabbin to Cardigan, could you explain, from Audubon, what's the importance of that effort?
A. (Brown) I know a little bit about it, but I'm not intimately familiar with all of its goals and objectives. But it's a regional effort throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire to conserve and protect land within the highlands regions of those states: The southwestern part of New Hampshire and northwestern Massachusetts. Do you have any other specific questions about that, that $I$ can address?
Q. Well, you mentioned it in your testimony, so I just wanted to understand from Audubon's viewpoint what the importance of that effort is.
A. (Brown) Can you just refer me to a page, please?
Q. I can give you the...
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A. (Brown) I was able to find it. I see it on the bottom of Page 3. Yeah, it's a multiple-partner effort and multiple-state effort, which typically gives a higher credibility to the resources contained in these focused areas. Multiple conservation groups have decided that this is a high-value area. So I'm simply stating that that falls within this area.
Q. Would you consider the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Initiative a statewide, New England regional or a national significant project?
A. (Brown) Just by the definition of where it lies, I would call it a New England regional, since it extends beyond state boundaries.
Q. And do you feel that this project would somehow have unreasonable impacts on that effort?

MS. MANZELLI: Objection. I just want to make sure that the question is clear. By "this project" --

DIR. SIMPKINS: The wind.
MS. MANZELLI: And "on this
effort," you mean --
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DIR. SIMPKINS: Quabbin to
Cardigan.
MS. MANZELLI: Thank you.
A. (Brown) Well, since $I$ believe aesthetics does factor into their -- the placement of value through the Quabbin-to-Cardigan effort, I would say there is -- you know, that would be -- that could be a place that does draw from the value given to that area.
Q. Okay. The last few questions I have deal with Audubon Society of New Hampshire's policy statement on energy conservation. I believe it's AWE 26. And it says that -- and I'm not sure again who's the best panel member to -- maybe Mr. Nickerson -- to answer this. But it says, "The Audubon Society of New Hampshire supports renewable sources, including wind." Is that a correct statement?
A. (Nickerson) Yes, that's correct.
Q. Okay. And there's several bullets on Page 2 of that, which state various ways that impacts could be mitigated. One of them is Bullet No. 2 with a little asterisk there, "Developing compensation programs for public \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
lands." Can you describe what Audubon means by that?
A. (Nickerson) I can't find that here.
Q. It's on Page 2. Do you see --
A. (Nickerson) There's two dots on Page 2.

MS. MANZELLI: Excuse me. If
I might interject to clarify? As I understand it, there are two Audubon policies that are in the record. Mr. Nickerson, we're not discussing the New Hampshire Audubon policy on wind energy projects.

WITNESS NICKERSON: Oh, we're
not?
MS. MANZELLI: No. We're
discussing the Audubon Society of New Hampshire energy conservation policy.

And may we get that in front of him?

DIR. SIMPKINS: Sure. That's
AWE 26.
A. (Nickerson) That was before my time, so I'm not very familiar with that one.
Q. I don't know if there's anyone else on the panel that may be able to speak to it. Maybe
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I should ask the question.
Is this still an official policy statement of Audubon?
A. (Nickerson) I think it's fair to say it's been supplanted by New Hampshire Audubon's policy on wind energy projects approved by the board of directors on 1/24/2012. Obviously, wind is an evolving technology in the energy arena, and we're evolving along with it.
Q. So, just to clarify, then, this energy conservation policy, AWE 26, is no longer an official policy statement of Audubon?
A. (Nickerson) That's correct.
Q. Okay. Thank you. I don't have any further questions.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you.
Dr. Boisvert.
DR. BOISVERT: Thank you. CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY DR. BOISVERT:
Q. In listening to your discussion of easements, what I understand, leads me to this question:

Is it Audubon's condition that, as a
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condition of the permit that would be granted by the PUC, that the Applicant should put the ridgeline into a Forever Wild status easement?
A. (Von Mertens) Yes, that's correct.
Q. And as I understand it, it's because the ridgeline is an exemplary natural community?
A. (Von Mertens) That talks mostly about habitat and natural resources. And I think added to that is the aesthetics that Jean Vissering did a good job in her report highlighting.
Q. Don't you see a contradiction between maintaining the aesthetics and putting 10 turbines up there?
A. (Von Mertens) Definitely.
Q. So how do you reconcile the establishment of an easement, a Forever Wild status, that would have within it 10 turbines?
A. (Von Mertens) I think that's the problem. And I tried to address it in my supplemental, that recommending the Forever Wild easement on that geographic area is presupposing that it's going to be approved. But I also said Audubon stands in strong opposition to the
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project. So we have to...
Q. Okay. And potentially related to that, do you see the establishment of the access road to the turbines as fragmenting the property, by definition of "fragmenting" in a natural resources sense?
A. (Von Mertens) Yes. And also houses up there would be -- as Jeff Jones said yesterday, would also contribute. And residential development is another form of fragmentation. And so looking beyond the life of this project to residential -- with the possibility of residential development, that's the long-term fragmentation, permanent fragmentation, that's the concern.
Q. But are you not then concerned that by having a Forever Wild designated area that has potentially -- or that has 10 turbines, and potentially houses in it, thereby creates a whole new category of Forever Wild that might be used in other circumstances in the future to say such that intrusions are not necessarily prohibitive of a Forever Wild status?
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A. (Von Mertens) It's looking at 50 years down the road when decommissioning and the site is restored as much as possible, that thereafter it would be Forever Wild. The concern is that the roads and the development will increase the possibility of future residential development. I don't --
Q. So you see the Forever Wild status outliving the project life.
A. (Von Mertens) Oh, very definitely. Thank you for that clarification.
Q. Okay. For it to be -- accepting all these apparent contradictions, in order for the Forever Wild status to be created, would there need to be a survey by qualified biologists, naturalists, whoever is most appropriate, to define the area that would come under the Forever Wild restrictions?
A. (Von Mertens) Yes.
Q. And do you see this as the responsibility of the Applicant? Who's going to do the survey, and who will pay for it?
A. (Von Mertens) I think it would be a cost of the project.
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Q. So, the Applicant.
A. (Von Mertens) I'd be willing to pay for it.
Q. And that's on the record. That's all I have.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you.
Mr. Dupee.
MR. DUPEE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

INTERROGATORIES BY MR. DUPEE:
Q. Thank you, panel members, for being witnesses this morning -- for $I$ guess the next eleven minutes this morning. I'd like to start my questions with Mr. Brown.

And on Page 4 of your testimony, you talk about Willard Pond, and you mention the fact that it is a relatively pristine body of water, free of surrounding development. You further go on to characterize it as being "96 acres, plus or minus," in size; is that correct?
A. (Brown) Yes, that's correct.
Q. Do you know how many ponds there are in New Hampshire that would be 96 acres or larger in size?
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A. (Brown) I don't have any idea.
Q. If the Committee were to ask you to obtain that information, would you be willing to find it for us?
A. (Brown) I think we would be able to find that, yeah.
Q. Yes? I see panel members nodding. Okay. Thank you.

Do you know how many -- and I know you may not know this -- how many great ponds are -- I'll rephrase that.

How many ponds of 96 acres or greater have undeveloped shorelines?
A. (Brown) Again, $I$ don't know the answer to that, but -- no, I don't know the answer.
Q. But would you be willing to find that out if we asked you to do so?
A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Mr. Dupee, are you making a record request that that be identified as an exhibit to be submitted as soon as it can be developed by the witness? MR. DUPEE: Yes, Madam Chair. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right.
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Why don't we reserve -- any objection to that?

Ms. Manzelli, any concern you have on the commitment your witness just made to go do some work?

MS. MANZELLI: No, as long as
Ms. Von Mertens is not expected to show up with a check that would be the next exhibit. [Laughter]

MS. MANZELLI: We can
certainly come up with this. Obviously, it won't be this week.

MS. GEIGER: Actually, during the break, if we have a chance to confer with this panel, we have documents that might help them answer that question.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right.
Well, maybe that's a good idea, to discuss it. We'll hold off on reserving an exhibit number. Thank you for that offer.

MR. DUPEE: I have several
more questions, Madam Chair, along similar lines. And maybe you want to combine exhibits, perhaps not.
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BY MR. DUPEE:
Q. So I would ask you, once we determine how many ponds greater than 96 acres there are in New Hampshire with undeveloped shorelines, how many of those exist in the southern part of the state? I'll arbitrarily call that south of Plymouth.

And in a similar manner, how many of those 96-acre or larger ponds have dams on them? Would you be willing to get that information?
(Court Reporter interjects.)
MR. DUPEE: How many have dams on them?
A. (Brown) Okay.
Q. And the same -- I guess the last question along that line is how many of these ponds, 96 acres or greater in size, are part of a wildlife sanctuary, a state park or a federal preserve?
A. (Brown) Can I ask, wildlife sanctuary designated by any particular organization? MR. ROTH: Madam Chairman, I'm sort of reluctant to make this suggestion and \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
this commentary, but $I$ think putting the burden on the Audubon Society for producing what could be a rather detailed and difficult research project, seems to me it's not Audubon's burden to do that. However, I'm looking over at Director Stewart and realized that his program probably has people who think about this sort of thing all the time, and perhaps a request of this nature to the Water Division of DES would be more appropriate.

MS. MANZELLI: Quite frankly, that is who we would contact.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: I think this is something we can discuss in a break to see what is already available that Ms. Geiger referenced. There may be state records that already have identified that. So let's identify, first, the information that's being sought and then during a break have some discussion about the best way to locate it.

I'm sorry. Mr. Froling.
MR. FROLING: Madam Chairman,
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|  |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | could we include in that -- |
| 2 | (Court Reporter interjects.) |
| 3 | MR. FROLING: Could you |
| 4 | include in that request private water |
| 5 | impediments, not great ponds -- |
| 6 | MR. ROTH: I'm going to object |
| 7 | to this. Mr. Froling had his opportunity to |
| 8 | cross-examine and ask for information when it |
| 9 | was his turn. And I've noticed throughout |
| 0 | this proceeding he hasn't asked a single |
| 1 | question until today, and that was his |
| 2 | opportunity. So I think this is out of |
| 3 | order. |
| 4 | CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: And the |
| 5 | reason that you're requesting that, Mr . |
| 6 | Froling? |
| 17 | MR. FROLING: Well, for |
| 8 | instance, the Robb Reservoir is not a great |
| 19 | pond; it's a private water impediment. It's |
| 20 | in the same vicinity. It serves the same |
| 21 | function. |
| 22 | CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: I think |
| 23 | I'm going to accept the objection and not |
| 24 | include that in the request. |

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Please continue, Mr. Dupee.
MR. DUPEE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

BY MR. DUPEE :
Q. In regards to your question to me, Mr. Brown, if there's a statutory definition, either a New Hampshire law or rule defining a wildlife sanctuary, I would ask for whatever gets to that. If not, it could be the sanctuaries owned by the Audubon Society.
A. (Brown) Okay.
Q. How many sanctuaries does Audubon Society operate in New Hampshire?
A. (Brown) I believe the number is 39.
Q. And this might be any panel member. Does the national Audubon Society contribute in any way towards the maintenance of the Willard Pond Sanctuary -- and by "maintenance," do they provide management expertise, funding, technical assistance, or any other way support the Willard Pond Sanctuary?
A. (Foss) New Hampshire Audubon is completely, politically and financially and in every other way independent of the national arm.
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Q. Thank you. And I think I heard the answer to my next question, which is: Are there acreage under the control of other organizations adjacent to the Audubon Society holdings? I'm calling it the leveraged holdings, meaning there are other parcels of property contiguous with the Audubon holdings also used for conservation purposes. And I believe the answer I heard earlier was yes.
A. (Brown) Can you just clarify that, please?
Q. I'm sorry. If we looked at --

MS. MANZELLI: I think it's
ASNH 3.
MR. DUPEE: Thank you for pre-assuming my question. You are correct. BY MR. DUPEE:
Q. This document -- what I'm really asking you is, are there parcels of land contiguous with that held by Audubon which essentially serves the same purpose of conservation?
A. (Von Mertens) Very definitely a significant corridor of conserved lands.
Q. I believe $I$ heard a figure of 30,000 acres, or I saw that in your testimony?
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A. (Von Mertens) Yes.
Q. And in terms of purchase of these acreages, $I$ believe I heard earlier testimony today of a figure of 500,000 was out there for some payments by the, $I$ guess, Forest Legacy Management Program? Is that right?
A. (Von Mertens) Specifically for the Audubon Sanctuary.
Q. And did I hear of a Phrase 3 cost of \$3 million? Is that right?
A. (Von Mertens) For land abutting the sanctuary that's held by the Harris Center.
Q. And then the State contributed -- I believe I heard LCHIP contributed $\$ 250,000$ ?
A. (Von Mertens) That's correct.
Q. And then an additional $\$ 150,000 \mathrm{I}$ understand was donated by the Fish and Game Department.
A. (Von Mertens) Correct. That's my understanding.
Q. So it would be correct to assume that this "Super Sanctuary," as it's referred to in your testimony, has significance beyond the town of Antrim?
A. (Von Mertens) Yes.
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Q. Would it be of state-level significance?
A. (Von Mertens) I don't know how to define that.
Q. I would say, are state dollars contributing towards the project?
A. (Von Mertens) Then it would be federal.
Q. That would be my next question. So there are state and federal dollars obviously involved with the purchase and, I assume, management of this area.

And when did the Audubon Society begin the process of creating what became the Willard Pond Sanctuary?
A. (Von Mertens) It's a wonderful story, and I could tell it in a half an hour. But it was back with the death of Elsa dePierrefeu in 1962. How is that for short?
Q. Okay. I think I noted also in the testimony, a number 1985. But maybe it's another number.
A. (Von Mertens) It's expanded and expanded and expanded. But the original donation was upon Elsa dePierrefeu's death.
Q. You mentioned that was in the 1960s?
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A. (Von Mertens) Yes.
Q. So, even the 1985 number -- or year would have been 27 years ago, by my math. And obviously, the 1960s would be a good deal earlier than that.
A. (Von Mertens) What is the 1985 date?
Q. I understood from, I believe it was your testimony, that it was when the process began of procuring the Willard Pond Sanctuary. But maybe I'm incorrect about that.
A. (Von Mertens) No. I have an exhibit that gives the chronological dates. And I believe it's No. 2 or 3 in the packet. Let me just...

MS. MANZELLI: I believe what you're looking for is ASNH 5.

WITNESS VON MERTENS: Thank you.

MS. MANZELII: Which is
"Willard Pond, A Legacy Of Protection." WITNESS VON MERTENS: Thank you. MS. MANZELLI: You may not
have a copy there. Give me a moment.

WITNESS VON MERTENS: I have one.

MS. MANZELLI: Okay. Go ahead.
A. (Von Mertens) Yes. I had it wrong. It was 1967 that Elsa dePierrefeu died. And do you have that in --
Q. I will take your word for it. I'm sure it's in the record.
A. (Von Mertens) And then it's about 15 transactions gradually adding on to her initial bequest, which was 650 acres. And then her family members, one by one by one added on. And then the State and Harris Center and Audubon --
Q. So, from almost the middle of the last century until the present, this has been an ongoing effort organized and led by the Audubon Society.
A. (Von Mertens) And as recently as last year was the most recent purchase -- fundraising and purchase.
Q. Ms. Von Mertens, has the Audubon Society publicized the existence of the Willard Pond \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}

Sanctuary, such as in places like books, pamphlets, magazines, web sites, news releases, or otherwise made the public aware of the fact there was a wildlife sanctuary up in that area?
A. (Von Mertens) It is a wildlife sanctuary. And Audubon's mission is for wildlife and for people, and we try to keep a balance. And we were horrified when the Boston Globe, I don't know how many years ago, featured it in their Travel Section as "the place to go." And so I guess Phil should answer that question. WITNESS VON MERTENS: Do we publicize the sanctuary?
A. (Brown) I think we do a pretty good job of publicizing it on our level, anyway, through most of the sources that you referred to.
Q. So nobody would be surprised, do you think, to know that there's a wildlife sanctuary at that pond?
A. (Von Mertens) There's signage, certainly. I would say, as someone who was fundraising for two of the expansions of the project, there are a number of people that go to the
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sanctuary and have no idea it's an Audubon sanctuary. And we try to address that education in our fundraising.
Q. Thank you. So, Mr. Brown, you thought there was some publication going on. So it's not recently, the last month or last year that the Audubon Society has made an effort to make this known. It's been known for a period of time?
A. (Brown) Yeah, since I've been managing the land, anyway.
Q. And do you think the business community in the Antrim area is aware of the fact that Willard Pond is a sanctuary?
A. (Brown) Yes, certainly.
Q. Okay. And so my next question is going to go to aesthetics. I guess I'll ask panel members for each or all of you to comment as you wish. But in your opinion -- and I'm asking you strictly on the basis of aesthetics, not on whether or not there's another solution that could be done or you had to make some sort of other arrangement to maybe obtain some offsetting benefit.
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Strictly on the basis of aesthetics, is the visual presence of a wind farm aesthetically consistent with an abutting piece of property which is managed as a wildlife sanctuary, as managed by intention to be an undeveloped piece of property?
A. (Nickerson) I think it is. Obviously, I think it depends on how pristine the property is and the purposes for which it was purchased and expanded. But I think in this case the answer is yes.
Q. You're telling me that you think that they are aesthetically consistent?
A. (Nickerson) I think they're inconsistent.
Q. Okay. My question was: Do you think they are consistent?
A. (Nickerson) Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you said -- my apologies.
Q. So your answer, sir, would be inconsistent.
A. (Nickerson) Inconsistent.
Q. Which I think would be probably consistent with the position taken by your policy committee and your --
A. (Nickerson) Yes, sir.
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Q. -- exhibit.

And was that committee, was that a duly constituted, bona fide committee of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire?
A. (Nickerson) Yes, sir. It's the board of trustees.
Q. So it represents the Audubon Society membership, do you think?
A. (Nickerson) I feel that it does. Yes, sir.
Q. Now, does -- okay.

And I believe, Ms. Von Mertens, I think in your testimony you mention meeting a canoeist or a kayaker out on Willard Pond who worked for EPA; is that correct?
A. (Von Mertens) Yes.
Q. And what was that individual doing there?
A. (Von Mertens) He was with his children. He was collecting water-quality samples. He was also going to depths and exploring sediment. I really don't know. But it's a national program that he was involved in, and he was testing Willard Pond as the only baseline water body in the state against which -because it's undeveloped, against which water \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
quality in other water bodies in the region were compared.
Q. So, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had taken notice of Willard Pond as being a clean, unmolested water body which could then be used to compare to other water bodies as a sort of baseline quality?
A. (Von Mertens) They have a label for that category, and I don't remember what the label is. But $I$ do remember that there's only one water body in the state that has -- is the baseline, the gold standard against which other water-quality bodies are compared.
Q. Maybe we'll be able to confirm that through Director Stewart's organization so we can learn more about that EPA initiative.

Mr. Brown, would you agree that the -or what is -- I should just ask you that. What is your opinion about the compatibility of the aesthetics between a wind turbine facility visible from a wildlife sanctuary?
A. (Brown) I personally feel that they're aesthetically incompatible.
Q. And for the larger group, do you think \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
there's way to mitigate that? If the windmills were painted a different color or they were relocated along the ridgeline in some way or they were made smaller? Do you think any of those particular things would, I will say, solve the aesthetics problem?
A. (Foss) I would need to see the visual approximation of what it would look like under any other conditions in order to make that judgment, the visual simulation or whatever they call them.
Q. Which goes back to my earlier question. Do you feel there's a fundamental incompatibility? So I guess if you answered that you're willing to entertain, it would suggest to me that you would think there wasn't. But if you feel that there is, then you would say that there is no different size that would change your opinion.

So, just to make sure I'm clear on the question I'm asking you and I'm not confusing anybody, in other words, you're not trying to mitigate. You're simply telling me whether or not you think those views are compatible
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in any sense.
A. (Foss) If the size and placement was such that they were not visible from the pond, then that would be sufficient. However, I'm not sure that -- given that there's, I think, 8 or 10 that are visible from the pond, I think mitigation would be very difficult.
Q. So then, if they're visible from your perspective, there's no mitigation that would allow for a co-existence, in your opinion.
A. (Foss) In my personal opinion? If the visibility was limited above the ridge, there is a potential for it to be compatible. But for them to loom essentially another almost full distance above the horizon, that's pretty incompatible.
Q. I guess I'm a bit confused. So I guess my question is: Are these compatible aesthetically, these two programs? Is there any way they can be made aesthetically compatible? It sounds like you're telling me, yes, that they can be. But I understood a person on the panel say, no, they aren't. So I'd like to maybe have some sense as to \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
what the panel thinks.
A. (Foss) As currently proposed, they are incompatible.
A. (Brown) And that's what I would agree as well.
Q. Then let me go back to my question. Is there any change that could be made that would make it compatible? Or is it the very existence of a wind farm in conjunction with your facility visually not subject to mitigation?
A. (Brown) I feel that upon seeing a proposal, I could feel differently about visual effects, if a lot of alterations were made.
Q. Mr. Nickerson?
A. (Nickerson) Yeah, the focus is strictly on aesthetics. But let's keep in mind the fact that we're carving up the ridgelines, fragmenting the forest. We may kill migratory birds and bats. And those things are all issues for Audubon as well. So I'll take the hard line. I think they're incompatible under any circumstance. That's my personal opinion.
A. (Von Mertens) And that's what I was going to
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say. I have trouble isolating the aesthetics as the only consideration. And I think Mr. Nickerson expressed that well.
Q. Dr. Foss?
A. (Foss) I would agree with that. I was limiting my response to your restriction on aesthetics.
Q. Mr. Brown?
A. (Brown) As was I.
A. (Von Mertens) We were trying to listen to the question and respond to it, and we did too good a job.
Q. You realize it's sort of a key thought here. Nothing further, Madam Chairman. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. Thank you. Other Committee member questions? Ms. Lyons.

MS. LYONS: I just have a -we're struggling for an exhibit here. I was looking for the wind energy policy from Audubon that was referenced from 2012.

MR. IACOPINO: I have been told it's an AWE exhibit. But I think the AWE exhibit is the energy conservation policy \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
that, as been testified, is no longer the policy.

Does anybody know if the wind energy policy is actually in the record?

MS. MANZELLI: I don't know if it's in the record. I know that it is not currently an Audubon exhibit, and I was going to ask you about that over the next break.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Wasn't Mr. Nickerson looking at it, and we told him, no, don't look at that one, look at the other one?

MS. MANZELLI: We did.
CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Okay. So
we know it's here. We just don't know --
MS. MANZELLI: I have a copy
in my hand.
CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: So at a break, let's sort that out.

Other questions? Ms. Bailey.
INTERROGATORIES BY MS. BAILEY:
Q. You don't have an electronic device up there that you can look at exhibits?

MS. MANZELLI: Oh, I can --
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MS. BAILEY: No, no, not that. I'm looking at Exhibit PC 1, the Vissering testimony, the pictures in the back. And it's specifically the picture of Willard Pond. Actually, we --

MR. ROTH: We have the boards.
MS. BAILEY: Yeah, it might be on the board. It's the picture that's labeled 1B, but it's on -- I don't remember what exhibit on the board it is.

MR. ROTH: Glad I did that without dropping it --

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: You can't whack the witness. That's one of the rules.

MR. ROTH: 1B?
MS. BAILEY: Picture 1B.
BY MS. BAILEY:
Q. Now, can you look at Exhibit ASNH No. 3. That's the map that was provided by you this morning in color. What's the exhibit on that board? What's the exhibit number on the original corner of the board that your --

MR. IACOPINO: Upper right orange sticker.
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A. (Brown) PC 1B.

BY MS. BAILEY:
Q. PC 1B. And we're looking at the middle picture, which is a simulation photograph that Ms. Vissering -- yeah, that Ms.

Vissering created of Willard Pond. Do you recognize that area of Willard Pond? Anybody?
A. (Brown) Yes.
Q. Okay. Can you orient me on the map, on ASNH 3, as to where that picture was taken from?
A. (Brown) Okay. Well, on the actual exhibit it says "Willard Pond Dam." So --
Q. Right. But I don't know where Willard Pond Dam is.
A. (Brown) Okay. On this exhibit, the dam would be the far southeastern corner of Willard Pond. So, to the right of that corner of the boat picture.
Q. All right. Thank you. That's all I needed. INTERROGATORIES BY CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS:
Q. While we're sticking with that, does that mean that the orientation of the photograph
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is away from the direction of the turbines if it's -- did you say the dam is to the right of the boat picture on the map? So does that mean that the picture is taken pointing towards the east?
A. (Foss) Northwest.
A. (Brown) Yeah, the map says "northwest" on this exhibit.
Q. So it is in the direction of the turbines?
A. (Brown) I would say so.
Q. I'm asking you. I'm just trying to compare where we see the location of the turbines on the map and try to align that with what the photograph is. I can't see the picture, so I don't know. Do you see turbines in the picture?
A. (Panel Members) Oh, yes. Yes.
Q. Thank you.

MR. ROTH: You're supposed to
stand 17 inches from the picture.
BY CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS:
Q. I have some other questions that I hope are more coherent than the first. I'd love hear, Mr. Nickerson, about the bald eagle egg
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Q. Well, let's make sure everybody finds that. It's towards the bottom of Page 8. And that the placement of Turbine 10 -- actually, it wasn't all the turbines. And then I'm jumping ahead "will determine the direction in which runoff from the turbine pad and associated roads will flow." Can you explain why you draw that conclusion?
A. (Brown) Yes, I --
(Discussion between Mr. Brown and Dr. Foss off the record.)
A. (Foss) The placement of Turbine 10 is very near the boundary between three different watersheds, one of which is the Willard Pond watershed, one of which drains east and is called the Great Brook Antrim Tributaries, and one of which drains to the west. So it's difficult with the scale of this map to know which watershed that turbine pad is actually going to drain into because the precision may not be exact.
Q. And what's the import of that? It will determine the direction one of those three ways. But why does it make a difference \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
which of them it may go to, the runoff may go to?
A. (Foss) Because of the quality of the water in Willard Pond, which was recently discussed. The potential for sedimentation getting into streams that drain into Willard Pond was the concern.
Q. Are you aware that any construction authorized would have runoff protocols and management of construction impacts?
A. (Foss) I am. But I'm also aware that in events of major precipitation, sometimes those structures can fail.
Q. All right. Ms. Von Mertens, in your direct testimony, on Page 12, you said that no other water body of equal size in the region has this degree of undeveloped shoreline. That's not a full quote. But when you refer to "this region," what region are you talking about?
A. (Von Mertens) I don't know of any other -- I don't know where the nearest one is. But I was -- we talk about "our Monadnock Region" all the time. And I think, default, \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
that's -- of course, I was a little surprised when I heard people in Keene talk about their Monadnock Region, too. So it's a loose definition.
Q. So it's not quite so quantifiable. But I take it you're saying it is fair to say that it's an unusually large water body to have no developed shoreline.
A. (Von Mertens) I think the point I was making, and it's a bit of a Catch-22, but it's accessible. People go there. And of course, in the summer, I think I mentioned, on a hot summer Saturday it becomes a swimming beach. And the wildlife sanctuary, you would not know it was a wildlife sanctuary. But that activity is limited. And our management of the sanctuary creates undisturbed areas. But that's the importance, that people do go there because -- I think probably you could hike to an area that was pristine. I can't think of one without development. But you can drive to this one. And you park away from the launch, but...
Q. In the materials that were handed out in
\{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}

|  |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | color this morning, looking at Attachment -- |
| 2 | well, that's got another siting, FVM-4F. |
| 3 | That must refer to something else. |
| 4 | MS. MANZELLI: It should also |
| 5 | have the ASNH dash number on the top |
| 6 | somewhere written in handwriting. |
| 7 | CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: It may be |
| 8 | part of No. 6. ASNH 6 has a series of |
| 9 | photographs. |
| 10 | BY CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: |
| 11 | Q. And so No. 4 F is a picture that says it's a |
| 12 | poster created by Trout Unlimited. And I |
| 13 | don't want to ask about the Trout Unlimited |
| 14 | project, but I do want to ask you about, in |
| 15 | the bottom right-hand corner, it says the |
| 16 | "Willard Pond Forever Wild Project" is |
| 17 | referenced. What is the Willard Pond Forever |
| 18 | Wild Project? |
| 19 | A. (Von Mertens) That was my terminology for the |
| 20 | fundraiser for the last remaining unprotected |
| 21 | parcel on Willard Pond. And my pitch to |
| 22 | donors was that this would make what you see |
| 23 | Forever Wild. And it's a confusing -- it has |
| 24 | nothing to do with an easement. |

Q. Okay. Thank you.
A. (Brown) I can jump in. We do have a self-imposed forestry restriction on that last parcel --
A. (Von Mertens) Could I add a little humor?
Q. Okay. I think we could probably use it.
A. (Von Mertens) There's a picture here of a great blue heron with a rainbow trout. And my friend, Ed Henault, who I mentioned before, said, "Wait a minute. I've never caught a brookie" -- or a rainbow. Is that a brook trout or a rainbow? I think it's a brookie. "I've never caught a fish that large."
A. (Nickerson) It's a big brook trout.
A. (Von Mertens) It's a brookie.
Q. That's great.

MR. ROTH: The heron's the better fisherman.

BY CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS:
Q. You also have a photograph of someone in a black fly mask. Only the true lovers of winged creatures would want to be sure that we're preserving the black flies. But...
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A couple of other questions. Dr. Foss, you had stated in your direct that migrating raptors and golden eagles concentrate along ridgelines that are perpendicular to the prevailing northwest winds.
A. (Foss) Correct.
Q. Is that -- well, first of all, does the ridgeline where these turbines are proposed meet that definition of what you're talking about?
A. (Foss) Yes.
Q. And is it unusual in this area to have those sorts of ridgelines? Do you know?
A. (Foss) No. The whole kind of western backbone of New Hampshire has ridgelines trending in that direction, which is why the American Bird Conservancy has included that in their Atlantic migration -- raptor migration corridor.
Q. So it's not that you're saying that this is the only location they might go to, but that they're likely to go to that area and be at risk?
A. (Foss) Correct.
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Q. You stated in your direct -- and this was on Page 3 -- that flight altitude -- and I forget if we're talking about raptors or who specifically -- the flight altitude decreases as wind speed increases.
A. (Foss) Correct.
Q. What's the import of that? What should we make of that?
A. (Foss) Well, early in the migration season, late August and during September, there's still a fair amount of heat. And the heat rising from the ground creates what are called thermals. And they're basically rising pockets of warm air. And during their migration, raptors will find those pockets and circle around in them to gain altitude and then glide off to find the next pocket. So that is one way in which raptors make their migration efficient. Later in the season it's colder, and that option is less available, if at all.

And during that portion of the migratory period they use what's called "orographic lift." And if you imagine a wind coming \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}
across this room and hitting this wall, it's going to rise, and it's going to trend kind of along that ridge, so to speak. And those -- that orographic lift only -- I'm trying to remember the figure. That only rises to maybe 200 meters, whereas the thermals go way, way up. So raptors using orographic lift are migrating at lower elevations than raptors using thermals. Does that help?
Q. It does. But your statement had been that the flight altitude decreases as the wind speed increases. So how does that then factor in?
A. (Foss) Okay. As wind speed increases, these thermals break up because the wind kind of blows them apart. So thermals really develop under fairly calm conditions. So that's the relationship between wind speed.
Q. And what import does that have on us considering the turbine proposal? I mean, if -- go ahead.
A. (Foss) Particularly with respect to golden eagles which migrate later in the season and
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are much more apt to use orographic lift than thermals. So they are flying at lower elevations than, for example, broad-winged hawks which travel through New Hampshire in huge numbers, but typically at very high elevation. So it's a matter of the risk. Does the speed of the wind, and therefore the speed of the rotation of the turbines, create a greater risk or a lesser risk to golden eagles, in terms of collisions?
A. (Foss) I'm not sure I understand the question.
Q. Are they -- are the golden eagles any more likely to have a collision in high wind conditions or in low wind conditions, or is there no difference on wind speed?
A. (Foss) I would really need to defer to my colleagues in West Virginia on that. But I believe that, in general, the stronger the wind, the lower they're flying.
Q. And the lower they're flying, then that increases or decreases the risk of collisions, if you know?
A. (Foss) Well, if they're flying within the
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turbine pads inhospitable to nighthawk nesting.
Q. Have you ever heard anyone propose anything other than the gravel base that might be helpful?
A. (Foss) We've been discussing all kinds of possibilities, including the tarps that they use on football fields. But we haven't quite got that figured out yet. I mean, it depends on what you're dealing with for a turbine pad to begin with.
Q. Do people ever create gravel bases somewhere away from turbines as a way to mitigate, to encourage nighthawks, but somewhere that isn't in the danger zone near a turbine, similar to the sort of wetlands mitigation that Mr. Stewart was mentioning the other day?
A. (Foss) I have no idea if that would work for nighthawks.
Q. You also said, going back to golden eagles, that you could minimize the risk -- this is on Page 5 of your direct -- that you could minimize the risk with a combination of
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conservation measures and forms of mitigation. What kind of mitigation were you thinking of?
A. (Foss) Well, there are a lot of cutting-edge forms of mitigation that are being developed right now for large birds of prey, including using radar to detect when large birds are coming and then contacting the operators to shut down specific turbines. I don't think we're quite at that level of sophistication in New Hampshire at this point. But possibly there's -- there are scientists working on modeling the specific wind conditions under which these birds are migrating. And there's the potential for identifying conditions under which migration is likely and constraining turbines under those conditions.
Q. And it's probably in your testimony. The migratory period for the golden eagles, or I guess let's do it in a broader sense, the large birds of prey is what?
A. (Foss) Well, for everybody it starts in August and runs into November. Goldens tend to be later and are more October, November.
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Q. You also recommended a change in the period of time that clear cutting would be allowed.
A. (Foss) I believe Fish and Game also recommended that in their recent comments.
Q. I have it here somewhere. You had said to avoid tree clearing until after August 1st; is that right?
A. (Foss) Yes.
Q. That was on Page 2 of your supplemental testimony. And the reason for holding off until after August 1st is what?
A. (Foss) Is to enable forest-nesting birds to complete their nesting cycle.
Q. How early would that period of time where there would be a moratorium on cutting start, in your view? If it's going to end August 1st, when do you think it would begin?
A. (Foss) Well, given mud season, it's generally better to do harvesting in the fall, and in many cases in the winter when you're on frozen ground and avoiding soil compaction and erosion issues.
Q. And at what point does the nesting cycle begin that you'd want to -- I assume you'd be
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| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  | concerned about the beginning of the cycle |
| 2 |  | phase as well as the end. |
| 3 | A. | (Foss) Depends on the species. I mean, if |
| 4 |  | you're a great horned owl -- but we're not |
| 5 |  | going to -- we can't worry about great horned |
| 6 |  | owls. |
| 7 |  | I guess my recommendation would be to |
| 8 |  | start August 1st and then go as long as you |
| 9 |  | can on frozen ground. I mean, by the time |
| 10 |  | you're done with mud season, your migrants |
| 11 |  | are back and things are starting. |
| 12 | Q. | So when you say "done with mud season," what |
| 13 |  | do you mean by that? |
| 14 | A. | (Foss) That depends on the year. I expect |
| 15 |  | our local residents can be a better judge |
| 16 |  | when that occurs in that particular area than |
| 17 |  | I. But March, for sure. In some years, I'm |
| 18 |  | sure it runs well into April. |
| 19 | Q. | You also -- I'm sorry to be jumping around on |
| 20 |  | you. My notes are jumping around on me. |
| 21 |  | Also back on golden eagle migration, you |
| 22 |  | had said on Page 7 of your direct testimony |
| 23 |  | that another way to minimize risk would be to |
| 24 |  | curtail operations during daylight hours |

during golden eagle migration periods; is that right?
A. (Foss) Correct.
Q. And so when you say "daylight hours," do you really mean sunup to sundown, or is there a particular time of day that's more active?
A. (Foss) I would need to look at data on when goldens are starting in the morning and when they're putting down at night, and that's not something I can answer here.
Q. Those are all my questions.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Anything
else from the Committee?
Yes. Well, from Mr. Iacopino, questions.

INTERROGATORIES BY MR. IACOPINO:
Q. My first question, and it doesn't really matter who answers it, just as long as you know, because I was surprised -- ASNH 3, the map that you submitted as one of your exhibits, it does not appear from that map that the summit of Bald Mountain, at least, is in protected land by conservation easement or otherwise. Is that correct?
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A. (Brown) I can clarify. There are two distinct summits on Bald Mountain. So the northern summit, which has the loop trail as part of its feature, that's the actual high point of Bald Mountain.
Q. So where the designation of Bald Mountain is, that would be at the southern summit?
A. (Brown) Yeah, the map's a little misleading in that way.
Q. And that southern summit is not in conservation land?
A. (Brown) That is correct.
Q. Okay.
A. (Brown) At least it's not in New Hampshire Audubon conservation.
Q. But this map tries to designate other conservation land abutting your properties; correct?
A. (Brown) I see that, yes. So it's not in conservation, from my knowledge.
Q. Okay. Ms. Foss, early on in your testimony today, you indicated that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' model is one, for golden eagle analysis, is one of a number of things
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that should be used in making a determination. Did I understand that correctly?
A. (Foss) Yes.
Q. You also then indicated that it was your impression in this case that the Fish and Wildlife Service only used the model.
A. (Foss) That's my impression. I don't know one way or the other.
Q. Well, $I$ was going to ask you. What did you base -- what brought you to that impression?
A. (Foss) What brought me to that impression was discussions at the conference $I$ just returned from and in the -- I'm not sure if it's in the e-mail I have here. But in -MS. MANZELLI: I believe it's AWE 43. Is that the e-mail, Susan? MS. GEIGER: Yes. MS. MANZELLI: Yeah. If you want to refer to AWE 43, that's the Nystrom e-mail.

WITNESS FOSS: Is that the one that includes the output from the model?

MS. MANZELLI: Why don't you \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}

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Q. Land-based wind energy guidelines.
A. (Foss) Right, which is different from the bald and golden eagles guide. I'm just getting a little confused about which document you're referring to.
Q. So I guess your determine -- your understanding is that those guidelines don't address golden eagles at all.
A. (Foss) They do not address any specific -any species specifically. They're more general guidelines.
Q. Okay. So that contributed to your impression that only the model was used to send this e-mail out.
A. (Foss) That contributed to my impression, yeah.
Q. You also mentioned something about discussions at your conference in Denver. Did you -- was Sarah Nystrom there, and did you have any discussions with her about this?
A. (Foss) She was on the list of people who were to attend, but I never laid eyes on her while I was there.
Q. Also, you indicated early on in your \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}

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| 1 |  | testimony that you were concerned because |
| 2 |  | there was no reference to the common |
| 3 |  | nighthawk in the materials that you had |
| 4 |  | reviewed with respect to the project. |
| 5 | A. | (Foss) Correct. |
| 6 | Q. | Do you recall, in the Breeding Bird Survey, |
| 7 |  | seeing reports of incidental findings of the |
| 8 |  | common nighthawk in that survey? |
| 9 | A. | (Foss) I do. I'm pretty certain that there |
| 10 |  | were incidental observations. |
| 11 | Q. | Okay. I think you indicated to Commissioner |
| 12 |  | Ignatius that you were familiar with the New |
| 13 |  | Hampshire Fish and Game letter that is marked |
| 14 |  | as Committee Exhibit 16, dated October 26, |
| 15 |  | 2012. |
| 16 | A. | (Foss) Yes. |
| 17 | 2. | That letter contains what appears to be at |
| 18 |  | least two specific, or maybe three specific |
| 19 |  | recommendations to the Applicant with respect |
| 20 |  | to the common nighthawk. |
| 21 | A. | (Foss) Yes. |
| 22 | 2. | And I guess my question to you is: Do you |
| 23 |  | believe that those recommendations would |
| 24 |  | resolve -- if they were made conditions of a |
|  |  | C 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\} |

certificate of site and facility, would they resolve your concerns with respect to the common nighthawk?
A. (Foss) I believe so, yes.
Q. Okay. If I understand correctly, your own assessment -- and I'm sorry. I'm going back to the golden eagle again.

I guess your assessment of the risk factor to the golden eagle was a "high" risk factor; is that correct?
A. (Foss) I would have put it "moderate." I would not have put it at "high."
Q. Oh, okay. All right. So you would have the same opinion as the -- I think I'm getting my eagles mixed up. Let me just pull up AWE 43 again. I'm sorry. Sorry about that. It's the Fish and Wildlife e-mail.

Okay. Let me ask you about each one. Do you disagree with their assessment -- is your assessment the same as theirs with respect to golden eagles, that golden eagles is a low risk?
A. (Foss) No.
Q. What is your assessment of the impacts to \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 9 MORNING SESSION] \{11-30-12\}

the transcript reference?
MR. IACOPINO: Sure.
MS. MANZELLI: Okay. Give me a second.

MR. IACOPINO: Actually, it's okay, Ms. Manzelli.

BY MR. IACOPINO:
Q. Do you believe that Tuttle Ridge is a leading line?
A. (Brown) As I answered before, I said I couldn't make that determination one way or the other, but that many ridges with that sort of geography and direction can be considered -- are considered leading lines.
Q. Did you review the various pre-construction studies provided by the Applicant?
A. (Brown) Not to very much extent.
Q. Okay. Could you just give us a quick definition of what a "leading line" or "leading edge" is? I think we do have it in the record, but just for everybody's refreshed recollection.
A. (Brown) If you want to say it better that I can --
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A. (Foss) A leading line is a geographic feature that kind of guides migrating birds. It could be a lakeshore, such as the shores of the Great Lakes; it could be a coastline; it could be a ridgeline.
Q. What is it that makes them more important?
A. (Foss) In the cases of ridges, it's an area where you get orographic lift as I described before.
Q. Okay. And then, Ms. Von Mertens, I just want to understand something. You used the term "exemplary natural community." And there is, in fact, an exhibit that we have -- it's AWE 6 -- which I'll pull it up. It's the first supplement to the application. And I believe there's a letter from the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau, dated August 2nd, 2012. Did you review that?

MS. MANZELLI: Excuse me,
Mike. Where in the first supplement?
MR. IACOPINO: It's electronic
Document 5.
MS. MANZELLI: Thank you.
BY MR. IACOPINO:
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Q. Did you have occasion to review that?
A. (Von Mertens) I do remember the conclusion that there was no exemplary natural community there.
Q. And all I want to know is, when they're talking about "exemplary natural communities," are you using the same definition as them? Or is this something that's your own terminology, or somebody else's?
A. (Von Mertens) No. Thank you for asking the question. I think it's a combination. And I think Sue Morse's testimony about wildlife -it's a combination of -- that's natural community. The Natural Heritage Bureau, the State, would define it in terms of species, specifically ferns, spruce. There's numbers of plant communities. And I've broadened it out more to wildlife. And often plant species relate to wildlife. But I have a looser -- as a layperson, I have a looser definition of it. Thank you.
Q. So your understanding of the definition used by the Natural Heritage Bureau is that
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exemplary natural communities does not apply to wildlife?
A. (Von Mertens) It's a broader -- I would broaden it out. I think that's the danger of a layperson versus a credentialed master's Ph.D., that they're very specific with their terminology. And as you've noticed with Forever Wild, I'm not.
Q. And then $I$ guess my final question is really -- and I think Ms. Foss may be the best person to answer this. It's about this "high elevation," just the definition. Somebody, I think, said, is it spruce-fir is the vegetation that characterizes "high elevation"?
A. (Foss) Well, it depends on your -- it depends on the context. But in New Hampshire, high-elevation spruce-fir is a specific habitat type that's characterized by red spruce and balsam fir.
Q. Is it also characterized by other things other than just the vegetation, though? Soils and things like that? Aren't they all part of the designation of "high elevation"?
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A. (Foss) You're talking about high elevation, period, or high --
Q. Elevation habitat or -- well, I shouldn't say habitat, but -- well, that's why I asked you.
A. (Foss) The high-elevation habitat that was of concern with the Granite Reliable project, which is kind of what $I$ assume we're talking about here, is inhabited by a particular suite of wildlife species. And perhaps the flagship species of that habitat is the big-nose thrush, which was a major issue with respect to that application. The big-nose thrush does not occur this far south in New Hampshire if that's what you're trying to get at.
Q. Well, what I'm trying to determine is whether -- I mean, we've had somebody testify that, in his opinion, this is high-elevation habitat. And that wasn't my understanding of the definition of "high-elevation habitat" before I came into this thing. And I'm asking you whether or not you would say that this area where this ridgeline is, Tuttle Ridge, fits within that definition.
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A. (Foss) Well, wait a minute. I mean, "high elevation" is a relative term. In the context of Hillsborough County, which I guess is what we're talking about here, that is high elevation. However, with respect to the species that we are typically concerned about in the New Hampshire high-elevation spruce-fir context, it is not in that category.
Q. Okay. Thank you. I don't have any other questions.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right.
Anything further from the Committee? If not, Ms. Manzelli -- I'm sorry.
(Discussion among Subcommittee members off the record.)

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Ms.
Manzelli, it's your opportunity for redirect.
I don't know how much you have. If it's very short, $I$ would recommend doing it with a -if you need a quick consultation, that would be fine. If it's going to be anything lengthier, we may need to take a break.

MS. MANZELLI: Well,
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definitely not very short. I'm betting somewhere between 15 and 35 minutes. And I definitely do want a consultation.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right.
I'll tell you 15 to 35 minutes isn't going to go over well with me, because it's hard to imagine that that's all within our very narrow standards of what we allow on redirect.

So why don't we take a break.
Let's take a lunch break. Over that time, anything you can do to really focus your questions and be certain that they are appropriate as redirect, based on things that have not already -- on things that emerged during the cross-examination, as opposed to things that you kind of wished you'd asked beforehand and forgot to. Thank you. And that goes to everyone. That wasn't -- that sounded like a dig against you. I didn't mean it that way. So we'll take a break until 2:00. Thank you. (Whereupon the lunch recess was taken, and this MORNING SESSION ONLY ended at
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