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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

July 21, 2016 - 6:04 p.m.
Newington Town Hall
205 Nimble Hill Road
Newington, New Hampshire
{Rockingham County}

NHPUC AUG16'16 PM 2:38

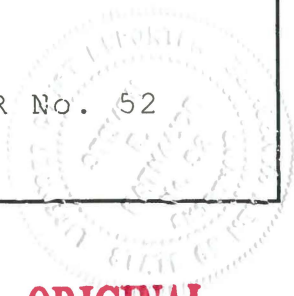
IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-04
APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE
COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a
EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY.
(Public Information Session held
pursuant to RSA 162-H:10, I-a)

[Consisting of a presentation by
the SEC, a presentation by the
Applicant, followed by a
Question-and-Answer Session, and
comments received from the public.]

PRESIDING: Michael J. Iacopino, Esq. (Brennan...)
(Presiding as the Presiding Officer)

ALSO PRESENT
FOR THE SEC: Pamela G. Monroe, SEC Administrator

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



 **ORIGINAL**

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NOTED AS PRESENT:

Counsel for the Applicant:

Barry Needleman, Esq. (McLane Middleton)
Adam Dumville, Esq. (McLane Middleton)
G. Dana Bisbee, Esq. (Devine Millimet)
Elizabeth Maldonado, Esq. (Eversource Energy)

Also noted as present from the Applicant (as well as others who are not listed below) who were available to provide the presentation* and answers to questions:

Jim Jiottis*
David Plante
Robert Varney
Sarah Allen
Dr. William Bailey
Cherilyn Widell
Lisa Shapiro
David Raphael
Todd Goyette
Robert Clarke

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I N D E X

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P R O C E E D I N G

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Good
3 evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Mike
4 Iacopino. I am Counsel to the Site Evaluation
5 Committee in this docket. We are here tonight
6 for Docket Number 2000 -- for a Public
7 Information Session in Docket Number 2015-04,
8 the Application of Public Service Company of
9 New Hampshire doing business as Eversource
10 Energy. That Application seeks a Certificate
11 of Site and Facility for a transmission line.

12 And I'll go through a description of
13 the Project quickly. The Application was filed
14 on April 12, 2016. It seeks the issuance of a
15 Certificate of Site and Facility approving the
16 siting, construction, and operation of a 115 kV
17 transmission line from the Madbury Substation
18 to the Portsmouth Substation. This Project is
19 approximately 12.9 miles in length, and is
20 comprised of a combination of aboveground,
21 underground, and underwater segments. The
22 Project is slated to be located in the Towns of
23 Madbury, Durham, Newington, and in the City of
24 Portsmouth.

1 On April 29th, 2016, the Chairman of
2 the Site Evaluation Committee, Martin
3 Honigberg, appointed a subcommittee in this
4 docket. On June 13th, the Subcommittee issued
5 an order finding that the Application contains
6 sufficient information for the Subcommittee to
7 carry out the purposes of RSA 162-H.

8 We are here tonight for a Public
9 Information Session that is required by
10 statute. There are agendas that are out in the
11 front. And I'll go over the agenda quickly.

12 But, again, I forgot to introduce
13 Pamela Monroe. She is the Administrator of the
14 Site Evaluation Committee. And she is your
15 main contact. If you have to have business
16 with the Site Evaluation Committee or you have
17 questions, Pam is the person to call. Her
18 e-mail and telephone number are up on the
19 screen there.

20 The process we're going to use
21 tonight is, first, I'm going to make a
22 presentation to explain to the public how the
23 Site Evaluation Committee works, some of the
24 background of it, and what to expect in this

1 docket.

2 Following that presentation, we're
3 going to allow Eversource to make a
4 presentation about the Project. And they will
5 tell you about what it is they're proposing to
6 build and construct, and why they think it's a
7 good idea.

8 After that, we will take questions
9 from the public. Anybody who has a question
10 should write their question down on these green
11 sheets, and give them either to the folks at
12 the rear of the room or bring it up here to
13 Pam. And what we'll do is, while the questions
14 are coming up, we will group them by subject
15 matter, and we will ask them of the Applicant's
16 representatives who will be here today.

17 Following, once we've exhausted all
18 of the questions and answers, we will then move
19 into a segment of the meeting where we allow
20 the public to make statements. You will come
21 up to the podium right there in the middle, if
22 you have a statement to make, but first you
23 will have filled out one of these cards, and
24 will have brought it again either to the rear

1 table or up here. We take the people in order
2 of which they have submitted their cards,
3 unless you're a public official, and then you
4 get to go to the front of the line.

5 Finally, one thing that we'll go into
6 a little bit later in the presentation, but you
7 should be aware of now, is the Site Evaluation
8 Committee takes written public comment
9 throughout the pendency of any docket that they
10 have. So, from today, all the way until they
11 have made a final decision in this case, until
12 they have closed the evidence and go into their
13 deliberations, you can submit written comments.

14 If you would like to make a written
15 comment tonight, we have a blue sheet that's
16 available for you to do that. You don't have
17 to use this form. If you want to go home and
18 get on your word processor and write a lengthy
19 comment and e-mail it to Pam Monroe, whose
20 e-mail is up on the screen, you can do that as
21 well. And, like I say, we accept comments
22 right through until the Committee begins their
23 deliberations in the docket.

24 So, with that, just go through them

1 one more time. If you have a question of the
2 Applicant tonight, or of the Committee, if you
3 have a question about our process, write that
4 question out on the green sheet. If you wish
5 to speak and make your views known or just
6 comment on the Application or the presentation
7 you hear tonight, fill out one of these gold
8 cards. And, if you would like to provide a
9 written comment to go into the Committee's
10 record, fill out one of these blue sheets.
11 And, of course, you don't have to do it on a
12 blue sheet. You can go home and e-mail us
13 something longer if you wish.

14 So, that's the process that we are
15 going to use tonight. *Www.nhsec.nh.gov* is our
16 website. On our website, we have every docket
17 that is open right now, and all of the filings,
18 as they come in, they make their way up onto
19 the website.

20 The Application of Eversource to
21 build the Seacoast Reliability Project is on
22 our website. And you can find it there, as
23 well as we have motions to intervene that have
24 been coming in, any notices or orders from the

1 Committee will be on there. So, that's the
2 best place to go if you're seeking information
3 about the Site Evaluation Committee or this
4 docket in particular. And, again, if you have
5 questions, our Administrator, Pam Monroe, is
6 the best person to speak to, at least in the
7 first instance, to find out how to get your
8 questions answered.

9 The Site Evaluation Committee is
10 established under a state law, which is
11 designated as "RSA 162-H". The purpose of RSA
12 162-H is really a big balancing act. The Site
13 Evaluation Committee, pursuant to the statute,
14 is required to balance the benefits and the
15 impacts of the site selection for any energy
16 facility on these factors here: The welfare of
17 the population; the effects on private
18 property; the location and growth of industry;
19 the economic growth of the state; the
20 environment of the state; historic sites; air
21 and water quality; aesthetics; natural
22 resources; and public health and safety.

23 Another purpose of the Site
24 Evaluation Committee and its process is to

1 avoid undue delay in the construction of new
2 energy facilities, and also to provide a full
3 and timely consideration of all of the
4 environmental consequences of a proposed energy
5 facility.

6 Also, part of our job is to make sure
7 that we provide to you full and complete
8 disclosure about the siting, construction, and
9 operation of energy facilities.

10 And, finally, the Site Evaluation
11 Committee is charged with the obligation to
12 assure that the siting, construction, and
13 operation of energy facilities is treated as a
14 significant aspect of land use planning, in
15 which all environmental, economic, and
16 technical issues are resolved in an integrated
17 fashion.

18 In a way, it's like a supermarket for
19 permitting. It's a statewide energy planning
20 board, is really what the Site Evaluation
21 Committee is. It's designed to integrate all
22 of the various state and local permitting
23 processes into a single funnel, if you will,
24 which includes environmental, economic, and

1 technical issues.

2 The Site Evaluation Committee's
3 authority preempts the authority of local
4 boards, your land use boards, your boards of
5 selectmen, your city council. What that means
6 is that your towns don't make the determination
7 whether or not an energy facility can be sited,
8 constructed, and operated in your town, because
9 it's considered to be a statewide obligation
10 that falls to the Site Evaluation Committee
11 under RSA 162-H.

12 The Site Evaluation Committee,
13 however, does take into account the viewpoints
14 of your local communities, and does take into
15 account their existing ordinances and other
16 laws that are local, in terms of deciding what
17 to do with respect to any particular
18 application. As I said, it's a supermarket or
19 one-stop theory of permitting.

20 Today, the Site Evaluation Committee
21 consists of these individuals: Martin
22 Honigberg, who is the Chair of the Public
23 Utilities Commission, is the Chair of the Site
24 Evaluation Committee; Tom Burack, DES

1 Commissioner, is our Vice Chairman; our two --
2 our other two PUC Commissioners, Robert Scott
3 and Kathryn Bailey, sit on the Committee; as
4 does the Commissioner of the Department of
5 Transportation; Commissioner of DRED; the
6 Director of the Division of Historical
7 Resources or our Cultural Resources
8 Commissioner, who we just lost this week,
9 unfortunately. There are two public members
10 presently. There usually is two, plus an
11 alternate, but one of the public member seat is
12 currently empty. The public members are
13 Patricia Weathersby, from Rye, New Hampshire,
14 and Rachel Whitaker, from Berlin.

15 Each member of the Committee who
16 holds a state position has the authority under
17 the statute to designate a senior administrator
18 from their agency to sit in their place on a
19 subcommittee determining what happens on any
20 particular application. And, in this
21 Application, many of our members have done
22 that. Bob Scott has been designated as the
23 Chair for this particular Application.
24 Commissioner Burack has designated Michele

1 Roberge to sit in his place. Chairman
2 Honigberg has designated David Shulock, from
3 the Public Utilities Commission Legal Division,
4 to sit in his place. Beth Muzzey sits on the
5 panel by statute. Commissioner Sheehan, from
6 the Department of Transportation, has
7 designated Charles Schmidt, who's is the
8 Administrator -- Right-of-Way Administrator, I
9 believe, for the Department of Transportation.
10 And, then, our two public members will also sit
11 on the particular committee in this case.

12 In every case before the Site
13 Evaluation Committee, the Attorney General is
14 required to appoint Counsel for the Public.
15 Counsel for the Public is usually a Senior
16 Assistant or an Assistant Attorney General, is
17 appointed by the Attorney General for the
18 purpose of representing the public in seeking
19 to protect the quality of the environment and
20 in seeking to assure an adequate supply of
21 energy for the State of New Hampshire.

22 Counsel for the Public has all of the
23 rights and responsibilities of any party in any
24 type of case. In this particular case,

1 Assistant Attorney General Christopher Aslin
2 has been appointed as Counsel for the Public.
3 Unfortunately, he can't be here tonight. He
4 was at our meeting last week in Durham.

5 But, if he were here, he would tell
6 you that his job is to represent the public.
7 And he asked me to tell you that that does not
8 mean representing any individual members of the
9 public, but it means that he represents the
10 public of the State of New Hampshire as a
11 whole. What that means is that, although there
12 may be folks who have certain viewpoints about
13 a project, he is not necessarily going to
14 represent those viewpoints. He's going to
15 assess the situation and make a determination
16 of what issues he will pursue or not pursue in
17 any given case.

18 But his phone number is there, his
19 e-mail is there. And he has asked me to make
20 sure that members of the public know it. You
21 can contact him, you can tell him what you
22 think about the Project, you can ask him
23 questions, and he will be responsive to you.

24 Before an Application is filed, as

1 many of you in this room know, a lot goes on.
2 Applicants that come before the Site Evaluation
3 Committee have usually had meetings or
4 correspondence with all of these types of
5 entities: The Independent System Operator that
6 runs the grid for the New England area; they
7 have generally already performed environmental
8 studies, resource studies; they have generally
9 had pre-permitting meetings with federal and
10 state agencies that would be relevant to the
11 project; they have usually either had
12 correspondence or met with the regional
13 planning commissions, your city and town
14 boards.

15 If you were -- in this case, our
16 Applicant is a transmission company. If it
17 were a power plant, they would have meetings
18 with the transmission companies, make sure they
19 can get their power away from the plant. There
20 are power purchase agreements that get reached.
21 There's financing decisions that are made,
22 eligibility for tax credits.

23 Most importantly, before an
24 application is filed, each applicant must hold

1 public information sessions in the counties in
2 which the project is proposed for. And I
3 understand that that occurred here, in
4 Newington, and also in Durham. And, as a
5 result of those public information sessions, it
6 is my understanding that some changes were made
7 to this Application.

8 The Application is required to
9 hold -- is required to contain a lot of
10 different types of information. It must
11 describe in reasonable detail the size of each
12 major part of the proposed facility. It must
13 identify the preferred choice of the applicant,
14 and any other choices for the site of each
15 major part of the facility. It must describe
16 the impact of each part of the facility on the
17 environment. It must describe in reasonable
18 detail proposals for studying and solving any
19 environmental problems. It must describe in
20 reasonable detail the applicant's financial,
21 technical, and managerial experience that
22 permits it to site, construct, and operate the
23 project. An applicant must document in its
24 application that written notification of the

1 project has been provided to the governing body
2 of each community in which it is proposed to be
3 located; it must describe the details and
4 elements and financial assurances for a
5 facility decommissioning plan. And it must
6 provide such additional information as is
7 contained in rules that were adopted by the
8 Site Evaluation Committee.

9 And those rules are cited there. If
10 I put the rules up there, we'd be here all
11 night going through them. But a New Hampshire
12 Code of Administrative Rules Site 301 is where
13 they begin. You can find those on the
14 Internet, they're on our website as well, if
15 you'd like to look through those.

16 But our applications that are filed
17 with the Site Evaluation Committee are
18 generally expansive and extensive and contain a
19 lot of information. Some of it very readable
20 to laypeople, like myself, some of it very
21 technical. But all of this information should
22 be contained in the application.

23 The Site Evaluation Committee has
24 certain time frames that it must abide by when

1 an application is filed. First of all, each
2 applicant, as I said before, must do a
3 pre-filing information session in each county
4 in which the project is proposed for. Once an
5 applicate -- then they can file their
6 application 30 days after that.

7 Once an application is filed, the
8 Chairman of the Committee is charged with the
9 obligation of expeditiously providing copies of
10 that, of the Application, to state agencies who
11 would normally have jurisdiction or regulatory
12 authority over the project. So, for instance,
13 if this were not an energy facility, but was a
14 strip mall, there would be DES permits that
15 would have to be sought. So, DES is considered
16 under our statute to be an agency that has
17 "jurisdictional authority" or "regulatory
18 authority".

19 So, it's incumbent upon Chairman
20 Honigberg to make sure that all of the state
21 agencies that would have jurisdiction or other
22 regulatory authority get a copy of the
23 application. It's incumbent upon the Committee
24 itself to do a preliminary review of the

1 application. And, within 60 days of the filing
2 of the application, the Subcommittee of the
3 Site Evaluation Committee must determine if
4 that application is complete.

5 And, in this particular case, a
6 meeting was held on June 13 -- well, before
7 June 13th, but an order was issued on June 13th
8 from the Subcommittee finding that this
9 Application, in this particular docket, was
10 complete and provided enough information for
11 the Committee to go forward and do its job. A
12 Subcommittee, as we already discussed, was
13 appointed in this particular -- in this
14 particular docket.

15 And, then, the next step is the
16 meeting that you're at tonight, and the one
17 that we had last week in Durham. We're
18 required to hold a public information session
19 in each county where the project is proposed to
20 be located. We were in Strafford County last
21 week, on the 14th. We're here tonight, in
22 Rockingham County, on the 21st. And that has
23 to occur within 45 days after the acceptance of
24 the Application.

1 The acceptance of the Application on
2 June 13th, 2016 is a very important date for
3 the Site Evaluation Committee, and for the
4 public as well, because that's the date on
5 which all the other dates are based.

6 Everything runs from the date that the
7 Application was accepted. So, our meeting
8 today had to be within 45 days of June 13th.

9 The next set of meetings that we have
10 are public hearings. They are different than
11 what we are going to do tonight, although they
12 follow pretty much the same format. The big
13 difference is is that the members of the
14 Subcommittee will be here on the nights of the
15 public hearings. I don't know if it will be in
16 this particular venue, but there will be a
17 public hearing in Rockingham County and one in
18 Strafford County.

19 And, at those public hearings, the
20 members of the Subcommittee will be there.
21 And, in many cases, we'll have representatives
22 from the various agencies that have permitting
23 or other authority. And those hearings have to
24 occur within 90 days of the acceptance of the

1 Application. In this particular case, we have
2 to hold those two public hearings by
3 September 12, 2016. As I said, the exact time
4 and places have not been determined yet, but
5 there will be a public notice of those meetings
6 that will be made available to the public.

7 The next date that the statute
8 requires is, within 150 days of the acceptance
9 of the application, state agencies that have
10 jurisdictional authority or other types of
11 regulatory authority must file reports or draft
12 conditions with the Committee, or requests for
13 more information. And those generally come
14 from the various state agencies, and they can
15 be -- and they come in many different forms.
16 Some state agencies will actually issue what
17 they call a "Draft Permit", other state
18 agencies will send a letter reporting where
19 they are in their progress of reviewing. But
20 the first -- but that deadline is for 150 days.

21 The state agencies that have
22 jurisdiction or other regulatory authority must
23 complete their process and provide their final
24 decisions and reports to the Site Evaluation

1 Committee within 240 days. And, in this
2 particular case, that will be February 8, 2017.

3 Once that is done, the Committee goes
4 into what we call "adjudicative hearings". And
5 those are hearings that are like a trial, like
6 you see on TV. There will actually be
7 witnesses who will take the witness stand. The
8 Committee will sit in the front of the room.
9 Lawyers for various parties will be permitted
10 to cross-examine the various witnesses. There
11 will be exhibits presented. And, then, once
12 the adjudicative process is over, the
13 Subcommittee will go into its deliberative
14 process and issue a decision. By statute, that
15 decision is required to be issued within 365
16 days of the acceptance of the application.

17 The interesting thing about that
18 deliberation process, it's done in public.
19 Just like your planning board does or your
20 zoning board of adjustment, the Site Evaluation
21 Committee must deliberate in public, on the
22 record.

23 And, as you can see to my left, we
24 have a court reporter here tonight. All of our

1 hearings are generally reported by a court
2 reporter, and those transcripts are put up on
3 the website as they become available.

4 So, that's the time frames and pretty
5 much a pretty good summary right there of the
6 process that the Site Evaluation Committee will
7 use in considering whether or not to grant the
8 Certificate of Site and Facility that is
9 requested in Eversource's Application.

10 There are many ways that the public
11 can participate in this process. First of all,
12 there is Counsel for the Public. You can
13 contact Chris Aslin at the Attorney General's
14 Office, that's another number for the Attorney
15 General's Office up there. And, as I said
16 before, you can let him know your views, you
17 can ask him questions, and you can participate
18 through his Office.

19 Another way that you can participate
20 or could have participated was at the
21 pre-filing information sessions. Could come
22 and make your views known to the Applicant.
23 Tonight is another way in which you can
24 participate, these public information sessions

1 that we had last week and tonight, by asking
2 questions or letting the Committee know --
3 letting the Committee and the public know your
4 view on the Project by speaking from the dais.
5 There will also be the opportunity for you to
6 speak directly to the Subcommittee members at
7 the public hearings that will come up, and
8 those have to occur within 90 days of the
9 acceptance of the Application.

10 In addition, as I indicated before,
11 we take written public comments right up
12 through the end of the docket. And the statute
13 actually says that the Committee must consider
14 and weigh the public comments that come in and
15 any reports that come from the public with
16 those comments.

17 The sixth way that you can
18 participate as a member of the public is by
19 filing a motion to intervene, if you believe
20 that you have an interest that is affected by
21 the outcome of the proceeding. The statute
22 says that "if you have a right, duty,
23 privilege, immunity or other substantial
24 interest that might be affected by the

1 proceeding, you have the right to intervene, as
2 long as the interests of justice and orderly
3 and prompt conduct of the proceedings would not
4 be impaired by your intervention."

5 In this particular case, a deadline
6 for filing motions to intervene is July 22,
7 that's tomorrow. That was published in our
8 notice. But anybody who is seeking to file a
9 motion to intervene, wants to become an actual
10 party in the adjudicative process, should file
11 that motion to intervene by the end of business
12 tomorrow. And you can file those by e-mailing
13 them to Pam Monroe, our Administrator.

14 I would ask you that, if you're
15 inclined to file a motion to intervene, that
16 you make sure that you specifically lay out in
17 that motion what your substantial interests in
18 the outcome of the proceeding is. For
19 instance, are you an abutter? Do you live
20 right next to where this is going to be built?
21 Is it something that you're going to see?
22 Whatever it is that gives you what you believe
23 to be your substantial interest, please make
24 sure that you explain that, so that, when the

1 Subcommittee considers the motions to intervene
2 or when the Chairman considers the motions to
3 intervene, he knows exactly why it is that you
4 want to intervene. Just saying "I would like
5 to intervene" is probably not going to get you
6 very far.

7 Ultimately, at the end of the
8 adjudicative process, when the Site Evaluation
9 Committee goes into its deliberations, it is
10 required by statute to consider certain
11 criteria. If the -- in order to grant an
12 application, in order to grant the Certificate
13 of Site and Facility, the Site Evaluation
14 Committee must find that an applicant has
15 adequate financial, technical, and managerial
16 capabilities to assure that the construction
17 and the operation of the facility will occur in
18 continuing compliance with any conditions that
19 are set in the certificate.

20 Secondly, the Committee must
21 determine, if they're going to -- in order to
22 grant a certificate, the Committee must
23 determine that the -- that the project will not
24 interfere with the orderly development of the

1 region, and, in doing that, they must give due
2 consideration to the views of municipal and
3 regional planning commissions and municipal
4 governing bodies. And that's what I said --
5 referenced earlier. Although the Site
6 Evaluation Committee's authority preempts the
7 authority of your local boards and agencies,
8 the Site Evaluation Committee is required to
9 take their views into consideration and to
10 consider things such as your, you know, your
11 zoning ordinances, your planning ordinances,
12 and your long range plans, and of both
13 individual towns, as well as the region.

14 In addition, in order to grant a
15 Certificate of Site and Facility, the Site
16 Evaluation Committee must first find that the
17 project will not have an unreasonable adverse
18 impact on aesthetics, historic resources, air
19 and water quality, the natural environment, and
20 public health and safety.

21 And, finally, before a certificate
22 can be granted, the Site Evaluation Committee
23 must determine that the granting of the
24 certificate is in the public interest.

1 Those are the criteria that the Site
2 Evaluation Committee must use. And, if you go
3 on our website, you look at any of the other
4 orders that have been issued by the Site
5 Evaluation Committee in previous dockets,
6 you'll see that they go through each and every
7 one of these criteria in those orders.

8 Again, there's our website and Pam's
9 e-mail and telephone number. If you need
10 information, the website is the first place to
11 go. You'll find the Application and any
12 filings in this docket on our website. If you
13 have questions, either e-mail them to Pam or
14 call her, and we'll try to get them answered.

15 At this point, I'm going to sit down.
16 I'm going to turn the presentation over to
17 Mr. Jiottis, from Eversource, who is going to
18 make a presentation to you about what this
19 Project is all about.

20 MR. JIOTTIS: Thank you. Good
21 evening. As Mike mentioned, my name is Jim
22 Jiottis. I'm with Eversource. I'll be talking
23 to you about the Project tonight.

24 First, I want to thank everybody for

1 coming out and hearing what we're planning --
2 what we're planning for the Project.

3 Hopefully, we'll provide the information you're
4 looking for. If not, again, we're available
5 for questions afterwards.

6 First, I just want to review where we
7 are with the Project. As many of you know,
8 we've been working on this for quite a while
9 now. And it's been a while since we've been
10 back to Newington in a formal session. So,
11 just to run through, the Project is for a new
12 transmission line. It's approximately 13 miles
13 long. It's going to go from Madbury to
14 Portsmouth.

15 If you remember, we were back here in
16 April of 2015 with our initial presentation
17 where we laid out the first plans for the
18 Project. Again, we used that session to gather
19 a lot of feedback, a lot of design changes, a
20 lot of changes in our approach to the entire
21 Project.

22 Eventually, almost a year later is
23 when we filed the Application, in April. We
24 got our determination of completeness on

1 June 13th, again, as Mike mentioned. And, now,
2 we're starting the next set of Public
3 Information Sessions.

4 Just a reminder, the Seacoast
5 Reliability Project is a transmission line.
6 And the pictorial gives you an idea where the
7 transmission line is and how electricity gets
8 to your house. It's the portion of
9 infrastructure between the generating station
10 and the distribution system. The distribution
11 system is what you see on the street that
12 serves you. It's designed to move significant
13 amounts of power over distances. It doesn't
14 really have a lot of taps. It usually goes
15 from one point to another with very few stops
16 in between.

17 The Project itself is really being
18 driven by need in what we call the "Greater
19 Seacoast Area". You know, what we tried to do
20 with that map is illustrate what we consider
21 the "Greater Seacoast Area". It's not
22 necessarily a geographic item, it's more, for
23 us, it's an electrical area. It's how we feed
24 the area.

1 In this case, when we talk about the
2 "Seacoast Region", we're talking about from as
3 far north as Rochester and the outlying areas
4 in Rochester, down to almost the Massachusetts
5 border, as far west as Epping/Raymond area.
6 So, it's a fairly large area.

7 And, for all of us who live out here,
8 I think we can all say it's an area that's been
9 growing. If you look around, there's been a
10 lot of new businesses coming in, a lot of
11 housing additions. There's really been a lot
12 going on. To support that, you need
13 infrastructure. In the same way you need new
14 roads and bridges to supply this area, you need
15 infrastructure to supply electricity to those.

16 When we look at what's the growth in
17 the area, we factor that into the studies that
18 we do, looking at the time, looking at the
19 demand of what we're going to need, not only
20 for today, but also for tomorrow, in terms of
21 electricity usage.

22 And, in this case, when we look at
23 the studies, the issues we have are today.
24 These aren't future issues. They aren't issues

1 we're worried about in ten years. It's an
2 issue that's happening today. We really don't
3 have the infrastructure to ensure that the
4 lights are going to be on reliably every time.

5 In this case, this Project is really
6 being driven by loss of elements. Day in/day
7 out, we have the infrastructure. But, if we
8 were to lose those, say, during severe storms,
9 some type of event, equipment failures, that's
10 when we'd have trouble supplying the load, and
11 that's what this line is all about; it provides
12 a measure of redundancy to the area.

13 And I mentioned the studies, those
14 studies are really led by ISO-New England.
15 They're the Independent System Operator.
16 They're the ones who are responsible for
17 running the transmission system in New England,
18 and they're also responsible for the long-term
19 planning and studies.

20 They're the folks who look at the
21 area, they look at the load growth. They
22 factor in things like solar, energy efficiency.
23 They make their projection, then they start
24 doing those studies. Looking at, you know,

1 "can the infrastructure supply under all
2 conditions?"

3 When they identify an issue, they
4 come back and say "Okay, we've got a problem
5 now. We need to fix it." In this case, they
6 identified a problem in this area that we can't
7 supply the load reliably when we lose certain
8 lines. So, they go out and they solicit a
9 solution to that problem. And it could be a
10 generator locating, it could be a transmission
11 company, like us, building a new line. It
12 could be any number of solutions. In this
13 case, the only solution that was presented was
14 for a transmission line.

15 And the solution is -- it's a
16 geographic solution, it's a solution for the
17 entire Seacoast area, where this transmission
18 line is one part of it. The transmission line
19 is -- it's part of a suite of projects to
20 address our ability to serve reliably.

21 So, ISO looked at that, and then they
22 select the project. We present the project,
23 they selected the transmission line, actually,
24 the suite of projects that go with the

1 transmission line to address the solution.

2 So, that's really where we are today,
3 is we've been working on these projects for a
4 while. We've been building the other parts of
5 the suite of solutions for the Seacoast area.
6 This is really the last one of the -- the last
7 project in that suite of projects.

8 Talk a little bit about the Project.

9 This is the Project as proposed in the
10 Application. As we mentioned, it's a
11 transmission line that runs from Madbury to
12 Portsmouth. It's designed to use existing
13 corridors. From Madbury, to almost where you
14 see it makes a turn to the -- I'm sorry, to
15 about where it says "Oyster River", that's
16 railroad corridor, we coexist there with the
17 railroad. We come out of that and we jumped
18 into our own right-of-way that follows the
19 railroad, goes south, and then you see it take
20 a turn to the east. Again, that's all existing
21 corridor that currently contains a distribution
22 line. That line, in some cases, is going to be
23 replaced or factored into our Project. That
24 line continues to the east. It goes to Little

1 Bay. It goes under -- the Project proposes to
2 go underwater, under Little Bay. It comes up
3 in Newington. It continues in an existing
4 corridor through Newington to Portsmouth.

5 A couple things that are different
6 from when we proposed the Project back in April
7 2015. You see some areas of violet, those are
8 areas of underground. That's part of the
9 Application. There's a section of underground
10 in Durham, primarily through the Main Street
11 area of Durham, by the UNH campus. There's
12 also a short section of underground on the
13 shores of Little Bay, in Durham.

14 The section in Main Street was really
15 to address a lot of concerns, a lot of feedback
16 we got from Durham about that area, about
17 addressing visual impacts, about addressing
18 historic impacts in that area.

19 The underground that you see on
20 Little Bay, that was really about aesthetics,
21 about getting the structure off of Little Bay.
22 It was also looking at protecting our
23 structure, getting further from the Bay, to
24 more protection from storms, from rising sea

1 levels, all those types of things.

2 The line comes under Little Bay. The
3 section of underground you see in Newington,
4 again, that's in the Application, that was
5 always proposed to be there. That's primarily
6 through Gundalow Landing, that runs
7 underground --

8 *[Court reporter interruption.]*

9 MR. JIOTTIS: Through Gundalow
10 Landing. It then, again, it follows existing
11 corridor overhead.

12 A timeline of where we've been. We
13 started working on this Project back in 2013,
14 we started some of our initial outreach, was
15 late 2013.

16 In 2014, we started more meetings.
17 And that's really when we circled internally
18 and looked at our route. When we talked with
19 ISO to come up with a solution, we proposed a
20 route based on our existing infrastructure.
21 What we did later was go back and say "okay, is
22 that route really the best one?" We had other
23 options. But we went through and did a route
24 analysis to essentially verify that the route

1 we selected was the best option.

2 In 2015, that's when we made our
3 first public information session. The work we
4 did the rest of that year was really a
5 refinement of the Project. It was taking the
6 feedback that we got from the public, taking
7 the feedback we got from meeting with
8 stakeholders, from various public officials,
9 from abutters, and incorporating that in our
10 design. Our design has really morphed
11 significantly since then and as a result of
12 that input.

13 And, then, finally, in 2016, we
14 actually submitted the Application. The
15 Application that was submitted reflected most
16 of those discussions we had with the
17 stakeholders, and most of the changes to the
18 line itself, to the line design.

19 Just a summary about the outreach
20 effort that went with this line. As I
21 mentioned, back in 2015, when we had the first
22 rollout, we got a lot of feedback. A lot of it
23 wasn't overly positive. We knew we had a lot
24 changes to make. So, we feel we listened, we

1 took a lot of that information and we changed
2 things.

3 There were 120 different meetings
4 with individual folks. A lot of those
5 meetings, they were not one meeting and that
6 was it, they were continual meetings. In the
7 case of the municipalities in Durham and
8 Newington, we had monthly meetings with town
9 officials to review the design. Come in,
10 again, getting more impact, getting their
11 feedback into our design, presenting them with
12 ideas we had come up, understanding what their
13 concerns were and modifying the design.

14 We met with various environmental
15 groups. Some of the large stakeholders, like
16 UNH, other large businesses. A lot of
17 residential meetings. We reached out in some
18 measure to all the abutters on the line, either
19 face-to-face meetings, phone calls, e-mails,
20 really tried to get to talk to everybody. And
21 we really tried to talk with most of the
22 abutters on the line to get their feedback.

23 In Durham, we actually had a bus tour
24 of the line. Also been out speaking to things

1 like chamber of commerces, different municipal
2 groups, and gotten letters and feedback from
3 them also.

4 Just really to talk about some of the
5 things, the changes we made, based on the
6 feedback. Really, there was a change made in
7 almost every town the Project goes through.

8 Starting in Durham, we had an
9 existing corridor, the line was designed to use
10 an existing corridor. When we spoke with the
11 folks in Madbury, they were really concerned
12 about structure visibility. And what we were
13 able to do was acquire a wider right-of-way,
14 acquire additional right-of-way width, lower
15 the structures, allowed us to use fewer
16 structures, but it also gets us further off the
17 railroad. So, we were able to make some
18 changes there.

19 Where we have a crossing on Madbury
20 Road, if you're familiar where that is, it's
21 right off of Route 4, just north of Durham. We
22 were able to reduce the structure heights where
23 we cross there, again, as a result of widening
24 the right-of-way.

1 In Durham, really, again, it's
2 similar -- similar to what we did in Madbury,
3 we were able to actually work with UNH and
4 other abutters to get additional right-of-way
5 width, again, to lower structures, to reduce
6 the number of structures, really trying to
7 adjust visibility.

8 Also, in working with the town and
9 working with UNH, working with our experts, our
10 visual and historical experts, we came up with
11 a design to underground a section through UNH.
12 Beginning roughly in A-Lot, going across A-Lot,
13 underneath Main Street, down through the --
14 kind of the utility area of the campus, and
15 coming up on Colovos Road back onto our
16 right-of-way.

17 Also, in Durham, again, outreach to
18 the neighbors, visiting with the abutters, we
19 modified our design, really based on abutter
20 feedback. We got -- we approached the design,
21 we had two, two line designs we could have
22 used, one was slightly taller, but a single
23 structure in the right-of-way, another one was
24 shorter, but there would have been three

1 structures in the right-of-way. Working with
2 the folks who were going to be right next to
3 that, we got their feedback, and we picked the
4 design that at least they had input on. It was
5 designed based on what they thought they could
6 live with.

7 On Little Bay, as I mentioned, we
8 were able to put in another short section of
9 underground, by getting new property rights to
10 allow us to get the structure off the Bay.
11 Based on a lot of the feedback, that was very
12 important to folks to get it off the Bay for
13 visibility purposes, and, again, for us, for
14 infrastructure protection, getting it off the
15 Bay helps.

16 And all along the route we made a
17 number of just individual modifications where
18 we would meet with an individual abutter and
19 adjust the structure wherever we could. We
20 can't do it all the time, we are limited on
21 what we can do, but, where we can, we will move
22 the structure. Things, you know, we would get
23 it out of someone's viewscape, whatever we
24 could do. Again, within -- we have some

1 limitations. We won't move a structure into a
2 right-of-way, we really can't move it to affect
3 another person, but we will try to work with
4 that abutter.

5 Also, Durham had a lot of requests to
6 adjust road crossings. We changed our design,
7 we modified our design at most of the major
8 road crossings, to try to lower structures, to
9 try to address the visibility as much as we
10 could.

11 And, then, one other thing in Durham,
12 something we're also doing in Newington, is
13 we're upgrading the local distribution system.
14 In Durham, again, as I mentioned, there's an
15 existing distribution line on that
16 right-of-way. To do work on that right-of-way,
17 we would have had to do something with that
18 distribution line. We couldn't have just shut
19 it off, we have to keep the lights on to folks.
20 So, we would have had to do a lot of temporary
21 work. And what we did, instead of that, was to
22 make a lot of new modifications along,
23 essentially, Durham Point Road, upgrade that to
24 allow the folks in this area to be fed from

1 that Durham Point Road while we're doing the
2 work.

3 And, rather than make those temporary
4 changes, we made it permanent. So, those folks
5 now are going to be left with a system that has
6 redundancy in it. So, it will address their
7 distribution reliability.

8 Another area that really had a lot of
9 focus was Little Bay. You know, we really
10 appreciate the fact, we understand the fact
11 it's very significant to the area. I mean,
12 it's, you know, it's one of the gems of the
13 area. We had to go through Little Bay to get
14 to where we need to go in Portsmouth, but we
15 didn't take that lightly. We spent a lot of
16 time talking with different agencies,
17 consulting with agencies, going over with them
18 what our design is proposed to be, getting
19 their feedback on the design, making
20 modifications where necessary, making sure they
21 were okay with the design. A lot of these
22 folks are going to be part of the SEC process.
23 So, we wanted to make sure that they understood
24 what they were going to be seeing and why we

1 made certain decisions.

2 There's a number of formal
3 organizations on there. There's also, I don't
4 want to say "informal" organizations, but folks
5 like the oyster farms. We actually met with
6 the folks that have oyster farms on Little Bay.
7 We rolled the Project out to them, explained
8 what we were going to do. Again, get their
9 feedback, if there's anything we can do. Show
10 them how we adjusted our construction methods
11 to not impact their operations. Again, it was
12 just all about feedback.

13 In Newington, again, going through,
14 based on the feedback, when we first got off
15 the Bay, initially, we were going to use the
16 same corridor where the old cable had come
17 across. When we looked at if we were going to
18 do that, with the new cable, we would have
19 created a significant amount of disturbance.
20 We really would have torn things up. So, we
21 were able to secure the required land rights to
22 move that right-of-way off to the side a little
23 bit, to minimize the impact to the area.

24 Also, back -- we're relocating a

1 distribution line in Newington. Again, there's
2 a couple reasons for this. One, it was going
3 to be in our way when we did our work, so we
4 were going to have to do something with it.
5 Also, taking it out of, essentially, down at
6 the historic area, getting it out of there
7 improves visibility, gets something else out of
8 the right-of-way. It allows us to use fewer
9 structures, lower structures. So, it's the
10 improvements we could make for an overhead
11 design.

12 And what that results in, much as
13 Durham, it results in an improved distribution
14 system. You know, rather than make temporary
15 relocations, we're going to make a permanent
16 modification, which is going to allow multiple
17 feeds into an area to improve the local
18 distribution system.

19 When we got to the historic area for
20 our overhead design, we were able to reduce
21 structure heights and limit the number of
22 structures we put in, having longer spans.

23 At the Mall, we were able to locate
24 our structures to not use up parking spaces.

1 Our right-of-way goes right through the Mall.
2 We tried to locate structures on islands or
3 areas where we weren't going to impact
4 business.

5 And I'll get the next slide. One
6 item we've talked a lot about with folks in
7 Newington, with the representatives, is some
8 underground, additional undergrounding in
9 Newington. We're still working with the
10 landowners to secure the rights on that. We're
11 close. But these are what we've been talking
12 about. Moving the underground through Gundalow
13 Landing, from the road onto some adjoining
14 properties. Relocating the transition
15 structure where we come out in the Flynn Pit
16 area. Right now we'll come up in the
17 right-of-way, but the proposal is to move off
18 the right-of-way somewhat.

19 And, also, the final underground
20 proposal is undergrounding really through the
21 historic area of Newington and through some of
22 the neighborhoods that adjoin that.

23 Again, these are all subject to
24 require property rights. That's why they

1 aren't in the Application that you see today.
2 We can't submit a design that we don't have the
3 property rights to build. So, that's what
4 we've been working on since we filed the
5 Application, even prior to the Application, to
6 secure those. We're really committed to get
7 that design through.

8 And, once we do get those land
9 rights, what we'll be doing is filing some type
10 of supplement or amendment to our Application
11 to reflect the new design.

12 Just a little bit to talk about the
13 benefits of the Project. Obviously, we're
14 building the Project to improve transmission
15 reliability. That's to improve the resiliency
16 of the system. It's to ensure the lights stay
17 on when things happen, when storms happen, when
18 we lose infrastructure for whatever reason. It
19 also results in improvements to the local
20 distribution system, as I mentioned. Rather
21 than making temporary modifications, we're
22 making permanent reconstruction of the existing
23 distribution facilities. It's obviously going
24 to provide jobs, folks have to build this line,

1 the folks who actually build it. Then, there's
2 the indirect jobs. The folks that come in,
3 they're going to eat lunch, they're going to
4 stay somewhere, they're going to supply
5 materials.

6 There's also an investment in the
7 town itself, in terms of property value. Like
8 anything else, if it's built in a town, our
9 facilities are taxed, they're taxable. So,
10 putting that in, it provides additional tax
11 base to the town. The chart there gives you a
12 little breakdown on what it would be by town.
13 And, again, those numbers reflect the
14 Application as filed. If we were to make
15 changes to the Application, those numbers would
16 change.

17 A little bit on the timeline. Mike
18 touched a little bit on that. The first -- the
19 bulk of that chart is really the SEC process.
20 The additional public information -- public
21 hearings, a lot of the other hearings that go
22 along with it. If everything goes as planned,
23 we look to start construction about the third
24 quarter of 2017, and be in construction for

1 about a year. When we start construction, it
2 won't be linear. It won't be starting from
3 Madbury and building all the way across. Due
4 to a number of restrictions on the Project,
5 we'll be really hopscotching around.

6 You know, for example, we have a
7 limited window when we can do work in the Bay.
8 So, that may be started before the terrestrial
9 work started. It really depends on what our
10 permit restrictions are. So, it won't be just
11 starting from one end and working to the other.
12 There will be a lot of jumping around, but it
13 will take about a year to construct.

14 And, again, you know, we're really,
15 you know, really sincere about listening to
16 questions and comments. We really think that,
17 after that first round of public meetings, and
18 the subsequent meetings afterwards, we've been
19 able to do something with that feedback. And
20 we can't make -- take care of everything, but
21 we've tried to address what we could. And we
22 think the new design reflects that.

23 That's it for me, my presentation.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.

1 How you doing, Steve?

2 MR. PATNAUDE: Keep going.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.

4 We're going to move into that portion of our
5 meeting then where we take questions from the
6 public. We have a whole bunch of them.
7 Anybody else who has questions should write
8 them out on a green sheet, and give them either
9 to the folks at the rear of the room or bring
10 them up here to Ms. Monroe.

11 The first question we have is
12 actually a series of seven questions. And I'm
13 going to stand up, because I can't really see
14 you. The first one is, "what is the
15 approximate per mile cost for the aboveground
16 transmission line?"

17 MR. JIOTTIS: Okay. Before I start
18 getting into questions, I want to just let
19 folks know, it won't just be me answering the
20 questions. I've got a number of our subject
21 matter experts on the Project. So, I may be
22 deferring to them for these answers in their
23 area of expertise.

24 Per mile cost of the Project, --

1 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: For the
2 aboveground portion.

3 MR. JIOTTIS: For the aboveground
4 Project? I guess I'll -- Dave Plante is the
5 Project Manager. I'll let Dave address that.

6 MR. PLANTE: My name is Dave Plante.
7 I'm the Manager of Project Management for
8 Eversource in New Hampshire. And, sadly, I
9 don't my statistics broken down exactly in that
10 fashion. But the average above-grade
11 construction cost for 115 kV transmission line
12 is in the two and a half to three million
13 dollar range.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Per
15 mile?

16 MR. PLANTE: Per mile, yes.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Second
18 question is "What is the approximate per mile
19 cost for shielded, below-ground transmission
20 lines?"

21 MR. PLANTE: Shielded?

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: That's
23 what it says.

24 MR. PLANTE: Yes. Our average

1 construction cost for underground transmission
2 at 115 kV is approximately \$10 million per
3 mile, and that varies depending on exactly what
4 sort of subsurface conditions you encounter
5 while you're doing the construction.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: That
7 kind of gets to the next question. "Does the
8 cost for shielded, below-ground installation of
9 the transmission line change based on the
10 environment? For example, would an urban,
11 paved environment with structures be more
12 expensive than a rural, wide open field? If
13 so, to what degree would one area be more or
14 less expensive than the other, either on a
15 percentage basis or dollarwise?"

16 MR. PLANTE: Well, there's a lot of
17 variables in that one.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Give it
19 your best shot.

20 MR. PLANTE: I'm not sure if I can
21 really put a number to that particular
22 question.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Let's
24 start with the first part. "Does the cost

1 change based on the environment?"

2 MR. PLANTE: The cost would vary
3 depending on the environment. And,
4 particularly, I mean, the question noted
5 "pavement". Obviously, if you're installing in
6 a paved area, you have the cost of
7 reconstructing the paved area. You also have
8 the inefficiency of construction in a paved
9 area, because you have to maintain traffic and
10 whatnot. So that has an incumbent increased
11 cost to it.

12 Whereas, an off-road type of an
13 installation has some efficiencies, but it also
14 has inefficiencies as well. Wetlands tend to
15 be more of an issue in an off-road
16 installation, whereas on roads, if the road is
17 already there, you probably don't have as much
18 of a wetland concern. So, construction in --
19 let's call it an "unknown subsurface
20 condition", it could be quite expensive.
21 Because you run into ledge, which is popular in
22 New Hampshire, I'm not so sure that right here
23 in this area of New Hampshire it's as big a
24 deal, but it is a very expensive aspect of

1 underground construction.

2 Underground utilities are an issue,
3 more in a roadway than in a off-roadway
4 installation. Typically, we would know where
5 those utilities are as part of our predesign
6 effort. We would do an assessment and
7 understand where all of those are and be able
8 to price that into our work.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
10 question is "Have actual ELF EMF measurements
11 been taken of the existing distribution line to
12 the extremity of the right-of-way along the
13 entire length of the proposed transmission
14 line? If so, were they taken by a third party?
15 Were the measurements performed using an
16 approved standard? Were the transmission lines
17 operating at full capacity? And where can that
18 data be found? If no, why not?"

19 MR. PLANTE: Okay. Yes. I'd like to
20 turn that over to our expert on EMF. That's
21 Dr. Bill Bailey.

22 DR. BAILEY: Good evening. I'm
23 Dr. Bailey. And we were involved in assessing
24 the fields that were modeled by Eversource.

1 Obviously, if you're going to assess fields
2 associated with a facility that hasn't been
3 constructed, you have to estimate the levels of
4 electric and magnetic fields by modeling, not
5 by measurements. And, so, Eversource modeled
6 the electric and magnetic fields associated
7 with the existing lines along the route, and
8 then how that would change after construction.
9 And that was the information that we used for
10 our assessment.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And just
12 so -- why don't you hold on to that,
13 Dr. Bailey, because there's another question
14 about EMFs. But just so, you know, to answer
15 the question, you didn't actually take
16 measurements on the existing distribution
17 lines?

18 DR. BAILEY: That's correct.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
20 And can you explain why not?

21 DR. BAILEY: The loads on
22 distribution lines are highly variable. And
23 they were taken into account, those loadings --
24 the historical records of these loadings were

1 taken into account by Eversource when they
2 calculated the magnetic fields along the route,
3 both from the transmission lines and the
4 distribution lines. So, to that extent, it was
5 based upon historical records of the loading on
6 those distribution lines. And we know, from
7 the basic laws of physics that, if you know the
8 loading, and you know the design of the lines,
9 that you can quite accurately calculate the
10 magnetic fields.

11 The advantage about using
12 calculations to compare before and after
13 conditions is that you hold all the other
14 factors constant, and you can make a fair and
15 accurate comparison.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
17 question is about EMFs as well, and it's
18 similar. But it says "Have actual ELF EMF
19 measurements been taken of an existing
20 comparable 115 kV transmission line, to the
21 extremities of the right-of-way along its
22 entire length? Again, if yes, were they taken
23 by a third party? Were the measurements
24 performed using an approved standard? Were the

1 transmission lines operating at full capacity?
2 And, if so, where can that data be found? If
3 it was not done, why not?"

4 DR. BAILEY: Again, this is -- the
5 question relates to sort of confirmation of
6 what the field levels are after a transmission
7 line is constructed. I don't know of any
8 examples in New Hampshire, but there are quite
9 a number of examples. For instance, in the
10 State of Connecticut, the State of Connecticut,
11 in almost every project, requires measurements
12 of the electric and magnetic fields produced by
13 newly installed transmission lines afterwards.
14 And those are compared to the levels that were
15 calculated before the project was constructed.
16 And, in every case I know of, there is quite
17 close agreement between the levels that were
18 projected before the project was completed and
19 those that were measured after the project was
20 completed.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Dr.
22 Bailey, is there a place where the questioner
23 might be able to find that data that you're
24 aware of?

1 DR. BAILEY: They would be found in
2 the records of the Connecticut State Siting
3 Council, and you'd have to go into individual
4 records for particular cases. I'm not sure,
5 however, that all of that data has been put on
6 the Web by the Connecticut Siting Council.
7 But, for a particular project, you could
8 request from the Siting Council that that
9 report be sent to you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
11 question: "Can Eversource divulge the cost of
12 the Exponent, Inc. report titled "Current
13 Status of Research on Extremely Low Frequency
14 Electric and Magnetic Fields and Health"? If
15 so, how much was paid to Exponent for that
16 report?"

17 DR. BAILEY: Our firm conducted that
18 study and, to tell you the truth, I actually
19 don't know what the total charges of that,
20 preparing that report, involved.

21 MR. PLANTE: I don't have the numbers
22 off the top of my head. I'm certain that we
23 could get that information and provide it to
24 the Committee.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
2 you. Next question is for Committee members
3 and Eversource representatives: "Do any of the
4 New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
5 members, Eversource representatives, or other
6 parties representing Eversource in attendance
7 tonight reside within 300 feet of an existing
8 115 kV or greater transmission line?"

9 *[No verbal response.]*

10 MR. JIOTTIS: I take that as a "no".

11 MR. PLANTE: My daughter is buying a
12 house next Friday within 200 feet of 115 kV
13 transmission line. And my grandchild will be
14 living there, too.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: In full
16 disclosure, I live near some kind of
17 transmission line. I don't know what it is,
18 though. It goes through, in Manchester,
19 through the north end, down into Hooksett. I
20 don't know what it is, but I live -- and I
21 don't know if I'm within 300 feet, but I'm
22 pretty close to it.

23 Okay. The next question is "Has any
24 thought been given to going underground in

1 areas where abutters' property values will be
2 affected?"

3 MR. JIOTTIS: I guess, as far as
4 underground, the underground that's in the
5 design is what we feel is -- it's a balance
6 between the two.

7 As far as property values, I guess
8 I'll let Bob Varney answer, Bob, what the
9 impact might be on the property value there.

10 MR. VARNEY: Sure. Bob Varney,
11 President of Normandeau Associates. I'm not
12 the property value expert, a Dr. James Chalmers
13 submitted prefiled testimony and an expert
14 report on property values. Dr. Chalmers, for
15 those of you that have not read the
16 Application, has a Ph.D in Economics from the
17 University of Michigan, a real estate appraiser
18 certified in multiple states, economics
19 professor at Amherst College, and worked at
20 Coopers & Lybrand and PricewaterhouseCoopers.
21 So, a very highly qualified, well-known expert,
22 who's looked not only at transmission lines,
23 but also highways, pipelines, and even
24 contaminated sites, and the effect on property

1 values.

2 His testimony is included in the
3 Application. He has an extensive report that I
4 urge you to read, which is Appendix 45. In
5 that, he reviewed all of the pertinent
6 professional literature, about 25 major studies
7 that have been done, some of which he was
8 involved in.

9 He also undertook three New
10 Hampshire-specific research studies, involving
11 58 individual property sales, subdivision
12 studies of 13 different subdivisions in New
13 Hampshire, and also MLS information.

14 And, based on all of that information
15 together, he determined, consistent with the
16 national literature, that there's no
17 discernable effect on regional and local real
18 estate property values or marketing times.

19 And, again, I would urge you to read
20 the details of his report and testimony for a
21 full explanation, because sometimes there's
22 public perception that is contrary to the
23 empirical data, based on actual sales data,
24 actual market analysis of real properties that

1 are associated with these parcels.

2 There are some instances in which
3 there can be an effect for individual
4 properties that are very close to a
5 right-of-way. Typically, they would look at
6 less than 100 feet in looking for potential
7 impacts. There are multiple factors that are
8 considered in the evaluation. And, if there
9 are impacts, those impacts decrease very
10 rapidly with distance away from the
11 right-of-way, and are considered to be very
12 small impacts, generally in the one to
13 six percent range. But those instances are
14 very rare. And the overwhelming data suggests
15 that there is no discernable effect on regional
16 or local real estate values or marketing times
17 for selling property.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "For the
19 purposes of future property development, can
20 new roads and utilities be installed to cross
21 portions of the transmission line that you
22 propose to bury in Newington? If so, what's
23 the procedure for crossing the buried
24 transmission line? And what are the

1 construction standards and techniques?"

2 MR. JIOTTIS: The answer is "yes".

3 Our underground design is designed to allow the
4 traffic roads to go over it. It would proceed
5 like any other road project, where you would
6 essentially go out to DigSafe and find out what
7 is underneath there, underneath there, what
8 you're building the road over. We would work
9 with whoever's developing the road and us to
10 come up with a design that's suitable.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.

12 The next question is really, I guess, one for
13 the Site Evaluation Committee. And the
14 question is "Can the Site Evaluation Committee
15 require Eversource to consider an alternative
16 solution for the transmission line, or is the
17 Committee bound to only look at the submission
18 made by Eversource? Or is the Site Evaluation
19 Committee's authority limited to approving the
20 proposed location (with or without conditions)
21 or denying approval of the proposed location?"

22 And I'm going to give you my best
23 lawyer's answer, and that is "it depends."

24 What it depends upon is what is in the record,

1 because the Site Evaluation Committee can only
2 act based upon what is in the record.

3 If you look at RSA 162-H, Section 16,
4 IV requires the Committee to "give due
5 consideration of all relevant information
6 regarding the potential siting or routes of a
7 proposed energy facility, including potential
8 significant impacts and benefits". That means
9 that that information has to be before the
10 Committee.

11 So, if there is a transmission line
12 proposed, and we have information about
13 wetlands and the natural environment and
14 wildlife and historic sites that are in the
15 effective area of that transmission line, we
16 may have a record to either grant or deny that.

17 However, there may be no record if we
18 moved it to the other side of the highway,
19 because we won't know what the wetlands are
20 over there, it's not in our record. So, the
21 Site Evaluation Committee can't do something
22 like that on its own.

23 However, if an applicant presents to
24 us and the record presents to us information

1 that does give us sufficient information to
2 rule, we can rule that "well, this alternative
3 is a better alternative." Generally, it's
4 something that is presented by the applicant at
5 the beginning as an alternative. And it would
6 be, in most cases, impractical for the Site
7 Evaluation Committee to, on its own, determine
8 that a different route or a different place for
9 an energy facility is appropriate, because they
10 have to rule based on the record.

11 And the next question is similar to
12 this one, is "Can changes be made to the
13 location of the route without triggering a new
14 application? If so, what extent of changes
15 could be made? For example, could the route
16 through Newington be changed?"

17 The answer is that the Site
18 Evaluation Committee does have authority under
19 RSA 162-H, Section 4, to delegate authority to
20 make minor changes to the route to an
21 appropriate state agency.

22 In past cases, the state agency which
23 has received the most delegation authority from
24 the Site Evaluation Committee has been the

1 Department of Environmental Services. So, for
2 instance, if one of the towers, in the
3 aboveground portion of the route, had to be
4 moved because of some subsurface problem or
5 whatever, minor changes in alignment are
6 allowed to be made -- are allowed to be
7 delegated to a state agency to make.

8 Would a major change, such as, for
9 instance, picking up the line and moving it to
10 the other side of town or to another town be
11 considered a "minor change"? I doubt it. I'm
12 not on the Committee, so, I can't answer that.
13 But that just gives you an idea of what the law
14 requires of the Committee. And that's the best
15 answer that I can give you here today. And, of
16 course, every case depends upon what the record
17 is before the Site Evaluation Committee.

18 In further answer to both of these
19 questions, if the Site Evaluation Committee
20 believes that a particular proposal does not
21 meet the criteria that I went over with you,
22 they will deny the certificate that's being
23 requested.

24 The next question is for Eversource.

1 "Can sections of line currently planned to run
2 above ground, nevertheless" -- actually, it's
3 for the Site Evaluation Committee, too --
4 "nevertheless be buried if a property owner
5 agrees, and will burial mitigate negative
6 aesthetic impacts on historic properties or
7 nearby" -- on a historic property or nearby
8 historic properties?"

9 I can tell you that, once a
10 certificate is granted, there are conditions in
11 virtually every certificate that the Site
12 Evaluation Committee grants. If there's going
13 to be a change that is not delegated to a state
14 agency as a minor alignment issue, in order to
15 do what this question asks, to go underground
16 when the certificate says aboveground, the
17 applicant would have to come back to the
18 Committee and seek an amendment or modification
19 of its certificate.

20 Whether or not the Company engages in
21 such types of agreement, I'll let them answer.

22 MR. JIOTTIS: Yes. I guess I'll
23 refer back to we're sort of at that point now.
24 We feel that the Project that we proposed does

1 meet all the requirements for aesthetic and
2 historical.

3 But, if we were to make a change to
4 go underground somewhere, we would file an
5 amendment to the Application to our Project to
6 the Site Evaluation Committee.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
8 question: "What time of day is construction
9 proposed to begin and when will it end? And on
10 what days of the week will construction
11 activity occur?"

12 MR. PLANTE: Good question. The
13 general answer to that is our proposal would be
14 Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
15 However, there would be certain portions of the
16 construction that get to a point where
17 continuity of the effort is important, such as
18 the effort to cross Little Bay with the
19 underground or the submarine cable. Once you
20 start, you kind of have to go till it finishes.
21 The duration anticipated for each pass across
22 the bay is about 13 hours. So, you know, with
23 prep time before the start, and wrap-up time
24 after the finish, those would be some long

1 days. But, in general, it's a, you know, 5/10s
2 work schedule.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Will
4 you comply with all state and town blasting
5 regulations in place at the time that blasting
6 is proposed to begin? And will Eversource give
7 notice to the Town and affected property owners
8 prior to blasting?"

9 MR. PLANTE: The short answer is
10 "yes". The longer answer is that we don't
11 intend to blast. Our blasting would be our
12 "last resort" means for ledge removal.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "This
14 transmission line is proposed to run from
15 Durham, across the bay, to Newington, and will
16 be buried under the seabed. Have you
17 communicated with the appropriate officials,
18 including the Army Corps, the Port Authority,
19 New Hampshire DES, to learn whether channel
20 dredging ever occurs across this area of the
21 bay, and, if so, will the line be buried at a
22 depth so as not to impede any further dredging
23 that may occur?"

24 MR. JIOTTIS: And I'm going to ask

1 Sarah Allen to answer that question for us.

2 MS. ALLEN: Hi. I'm Sarah Allen.

3 I'm with Normandeau Associates. I'm a wildlife
4 and wetland ecologist by training, and I'm also
5 the Environmental Project Manager on this
6 Project. Excuse me.

7 And the answer is that we have been
8 in contact with all the regulatory agencies for
9 several years now, we have been meeting with
10 them periodically, both as the Project has
11 developed and in advance, to make sure we
12 understood what their concerns were. We have
13 met with the Corps of Engineers. The Corps
14 Project Manager is well aware of the design and
15 has raised no concerns about dredging. The
16 primary reason for this is that that channel in
17 Little Bay is not a federal channel. So, the
18 Corps does not routinely dredge there, nor is
19 there a reason for them to be dredging there.
20 And, historically, I'm not aware of dredging
21 that's occurred in that area.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: So, if
23 your line is buried there, will it be buried so
24 as to not impeded any future dredging that may

1 occur?

2 MS. ALLEN: I don't think we can
3 answer that, because we don't know what the
4 future would propose. But I can tell you that
5 the line is proposed to be eight feet under the
6 bay bottom. And the reason for that is partly
7 to protect the line, to ensure that it's
8 meeting the design requirements.

9 The primary reason for it going as
10 deep as it is is to protect it from scour in
11 the channel. Anybody that lives on Little Bay
12 knows that there's a whole lot of current that
13 runs through that channel as the tide turns.
14 And also to protect it from any anchors that
15 may be deployed there. It's technically in a
16 described cable corridor on nav charts. So,
17 boats are not supposed to be dropping anchor
18 there. But, if they do, we certainly don't
19 want them hitting the cable by accident.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
21 you. "Will Eversource reimburse the Town of
22 Newington for damage to town roads or property
23 caused by the construction of this Project?"

24 MR. PLANTE: I'm not sure if

1 "reimbursement" is the right term. But
2 restoration of any of the Town facilities that
3 are affected through our construction would be
4 completed to the satisfaction of the Town.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Can you
6 explain whether, when you or your contractors
7 excavate soils to install the underground
8 portions of the transmission line, or to
9 install structures or access improvement, the
10 soils that are excavated will remain on the
11 site and will be used for purposes of
12 restoration?"

13 MR. PLANTE: Yes, a good question.
14 Again, it depends on the characteristics of
15 those soils, if they're suitable for reuse as
16 backfill for an aboveground structure that's
17 being embedded in the soil, they would be used.
18 If it's suitable for use as the thermal
19 backfill required for the underground cable
20 installation, then, again, it would be used
21 there. If they're unsuitable, we would have to
22 dispose of those soils in a suitable fashion
23 and replace with acceptable thermal backfill
24 materials.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
2 The next question is very similar. "When
3 contractors excavate for the underground
4 portion of the line, what will become of the
5 material excavated, and to what degree will the
6 property be restored?"

7 MR. PLANTE: That, as far as the
8 disposition of the materials, I kind of got to
9 that a little bit. If the underlying property
10 owner in an easement area wishes to take
11 possession of those soils for whatever reason,
12 they're welcome to them. Otherwise, they will
13 be deposited of off-site through appropriate
14 manner.

15 And "restoration" was the second part
16 of the question?

17 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Yes. To
18 what degree will the property be restored?

19 MR. PLANTE: The property will be
20 restored to existing or preexisting conditions.
21 If it's a driveway, the driveway would be
22 repaired to existing conditions. Lawns would
23 be repaired and replaced to the existing grade
24 and vegetation status, I think, for lack of a

1 better term.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "If one
3 of your contractors damages utility supply
4 lines to residences, specifically water supply
5 lines, how quickly will appropriate repair
6 crews be contacted? And are there any
7 contingencies in place for a prolonged
8 disruption in water supply, since this could be
9 a public health issue?"

10 MR. PLANTE: We would immediately
11 respond to damage to a customer's water supply
12 or if there's an underground electric supply or
13 whatever. Any contract that we have in place
14 with the installers of our underground system
15 would have appropriate terms and conditions in
16 their contract to respond to those types of
17 things. And the first thing that would happen
18 is a notification to our field construction
19 supervisor, who would be an immediate contact
20 for that property owner to let them know what's
21 going on and provide appropriate information on
22 when and how the restoration was going to take
23 place.

24 Did I get it all?

1 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: I think
2 you covered everything that was asked in that
3 one. Well, actually, what if there's a
4 prolonged disruption in water supply, what will
5 you do then?

6 MR. PLANTE: Though, I don't
7 anticipate a prolonged water supply
8 interruption, we would certainly supply
9 whatever potable water is necessary for the
10 neighbor to the Project to proceed with life as
11 normal, hopefully, as normal as can be.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: You
13 touched on this before, but here I guess you
14 can give a "yes" or "no" answer. "Can you
15 confirm that you or your contractors will
16 remove no property owner's excavated soils
17 without their express, written permission?"

18 MR. PLANTE: I can confirm "express
19 permission", I don't know about "written". I
20 don't know what the terms of the easements
21 specifically are. Typically, with an easement,
22 we have a conversation about the disposition of
23 those materials, and act accordingly.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Will

1 there be access roads constructed to support
2 the Project? And, if so, where will they be?"

3 MR. PLANTE: The answer is "yes". I
4 don't know if, Sarah, do you want to take this
5 one? The where, where they would be is well
6 defined in the Application documents. I'm not
7 sure I could stand up here and explain exactly
8 where every one of those access points and
9 access roads will be. I don't think we have
10 enough time tonight for that.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Do you
12 recall what section of the Application that
13 might be in, so that the --

14 MR. PLANTE: It would be in
15 environmental drawings. Do you know what
16 appendix that is?

17 MS. ALLEN: Appendix 2. I think it's
18 Appendix 2.

19 MR. PLANTE: Appendix 2. It's in the
20 11 and a half by 17 version of the booklet.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And, for
22 the public, there is -- the Application is on
23 our website, and it's broken down into the
24 various appendices. So, if you look at

1 Appendix 2, you will actually see a bunch of
2 charts that have been prepared by -- or, maps,
3 I guess, plans that have been prepared by the
4 Applicant and submitted to the Committee as
5 part of their Application.

6 So, again, our website is a good
7 place to go to get the exact information that
8 you're looking for. Do you have --

9 MR. IACOPINO: These are, by and
10 large, temporary access roads, that will be
11 restored to --

12 *[Court reporter interruption.]*

13 MR. PLANTE: Okay.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: I was
15 just going to say, in addition, if you don't
16 have access to our website, the Town of
17 Newington has a complete copy of the
18 Application as well. I'm sure that you can
19 come and see it here at your town. I don't
20 know if it's in your library bulb or here at
21 the Town offices.

22 I'm sorry I interrupted you.

23 MR. PLANTE: No. That's okay.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Why

1 don't you finish your answer.

2 MR. PLANTE: By and large, the access
3 roads that are defined in these environmental
4 plans are temporary in nature, and will be
5 removed post construction and be restored to
6 their preexisting state, to the extent that
7 it's possible and practical.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
9 question is very similar: "Can you please
10 explain what the terms "marshalling yards" and
11 "laydown yards" mean? Where will such yards be
12 located in Newington? And where will the
13 equipment and trucks be parked during project
14 construction?"

15 MR. PLANTE: Okay. A good question.
16 In developing our Application, we tried to find
17 terms that we could use to define different
18 areas of the Project and types of activities
19 that needed to occur. So, the term
20 "marshalling yard" is what we use to refer to
21 an off-site area where our construction crews
22 could show up in the morning and have their
23 construction vehicles parked, so that they
24 could then deploy to each individual work site

1 along the Project right-of-way. Also, at those
2 locations would be -- most of the major
3 materials would be received there and deployed
4 from those locations.

5 "Laydown area" is a term that we have
6 used to refer to an "on the right-of-way" or
7 "on the Project location", where we would move
8 materials from the marshalling yard to this or
9 these areas along the Project to then deploy to
10 individual construction sites.

11 The laydown areas are defined in the
12 access plans. The marshalling areas are not
13 yet defined. Typically, we would have to lease
14 those from some entity off the Project. So, we
15 don't have those defined yet. We expect that
16 probably sometime late this year or early next
17 year.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And,
19 when you say that "the laydown" -- "the
20 marshalling" -- I'm sorry, "the laydown yards
21 are defined", you mean you can find them in the
22 environmental plans in the Application?

23 MR. PLANTE: No, that's not true?

24 MS. ALLEN: We don't -- we don't show

1 the laydowns.

2 MR. PLANTE: Okay. I guess we don't
3 show them in that.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Do you
5 know where they will be?

6 MR. PLANTE: No. If they're not
7 shown in the access plans, they would be, you
8 know, it's some location on the right-of-way,
9 probably close to a structure at a road
10 crossing, and then deployed from that road
11 crossing out for a distance.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Will
13 Eversource provide the Town of Newington with
14 advance notice of the proposed routes and
15 timing of delivery of oversized loads, for
16 example, loads of utility poles and cables?"

17 MR. PLANTE: If the Town of Newington
18 so desires, then, yes. Now, I would hope that
19 that communication path would be well-defined,
20 so that we know who to provide the information
21 to.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
23 question is for the Committee. "How long will
24 the public have a chance" -- by the way, I

1 think that gentleman right in the back is the
2 one who will let you know if they want to be
3 noticed, since he's asked all these questions.
4 That would be Mr. Hebert.

5 MR. HEBERT: Thank you.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "How
7 long will the public have a chance to comment?
8 When will the docket close? And is it a matter
9 of days, weeks, or months?"

10 It's a question for the Committee.
11 We take written public comment right up until
12 the time that we've listened to all of the
13 witnesses and begin deliberations. The Site
14 Evaluation Committee, after the adjudicative
15 hearings, will go into deliberate session.
16 Obviously, if you file written comments after
17 they have decided, they can't consider that.
18 But, as long as it is filed prior to them going
19 into their deliberative process, it will be
20 considered and weighed by the Committee as
21 required by the statute.

22 There are other questions here that
23 were answered, apparently for the questioner,
24 but I'm going to go through them again, because

1 they are important for the public to know.

2 "What is the deadline for registering as an
3 intervenor?" Right now it is tomorrow,
4 July 22.

5 And "what are the deadlines for the
6 Applicant filing amendments to their
7 Application?" There are no scheduled deadlines
8 for filing amendments right now. One of the
9 things that happens is, relatively shortly
10 after the public hearings and the consideration
11 of motions to intervene, there will be
12 scheduled a prehearing conference for all of
13 the Parties to attend. Dates like deadlines
14 for any amendments to the Application and
15 issues about trading information or what us
16 lawyers call "discovery", those issues and
17 those deadlines will all be determined after
18 that prehearing conference, where all of the
19 Parties who are going to participate in the
20 adjudicative process have an opportunity to
21 weigh in.

22 I guess our prehearing conference is
23 already scheduled for September 7th.

24 Okay. I have a series of four

1 questions here. The first one is, "Is there a
2 detailed explanation and analysis of the need
3 for the Project? The Application does not" --
4 no, "the Application does state that ISO New
5 England has made findings regarding reliability
6 concerns, but no details are provided." So,
7 the question is, "is there a detailed
8 explanation and analysis of the need for the
9 Project?"

10 MR. JIOTTIS: The short answer is
11 "yes". The studies are done by ISO-New
12 England. Only portions of those studies can be
13 made public. A lot of the information that's
14 contained in there is considered "critical
15 energy infrastructure information" and requires
16 a certain clearance to look at.

17 There are public documents on the ISO
18 website. In this case, it would have been
19 filed under one of the regional system plans.
20 So, it is out there.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "The
22 "Seacoast Region" as defined in your
23 Application includes a significant area served
24 by Unitil. How does the need addressed by this

1 Project relate to needs in the Unitil system,
2 if at all? For instance, does this affect
3 reliability in the entire Seacoast Region?"

4 MR. JIOTTIS: Again, the very short
5 answer is "yes". While Unitil is served from,
6 in some cases, a different substation, their
7 backup service comes from us. Some of their
8 load is fed off of the 115 circuits that were
9 going to be -- that were affected as part of
10 our contingents. Unitil is served from a
11 number of different locations. In most cases,
12 in the Seacoast area, they're not a
13 transmission customer, they're actually a
14 distribution customer. So, the same type of
15 things that would affect Eversource would
16 affect Unitil.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "What is
18 the current status of the transmission line in
19 Newington, above" -- "both above and below
20 ground segments? And by when must the final
21 status be resolved?"

22 I'm not sure I'm reading the question
23 correctly. "What is the current status of the
24 transmission line in Newington? And by when

1 must the final" I think it says "status be
2 resolved?"

3 If the question is about "when must
4 the Site Evaluation Committee rule?" They must
5 rule within 365 days of the date of the
6 acceptance of the Application.

7 Do you know the date?

8 ADMINISTRATOR MONROE: June 2017.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: It's in
10 June 2017, is by when the Site Evaluation
11 Committee must give a final decision in
12 writing.

13 I don't know if the question means
14 anything other than that to you?

15 MR. JIOTTIS: Yes. I guess maybe it
16 refers back to where we sought a number of
17 items, specifically in Newington, as far as
18 undergrounding under discussion. Those are
19 still under discussion. We're still working
20 with the landowners on that.

21 Again, the deadline, as Mike alluded
22 to, is around that September 7th timeline
23 there, because, you know, it affects everything
24 else we do after that.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Are
2 improvements being made to the transmission
3 system" -- "are the improvements that are being
4 made to the transmission system future proofed?
5 For example, do they include "smart grid"
6 features?"

7 MR. JIOTTIS: Yes. It really depends
8 on your definition of "smart grid". That means
9 a lot of different things to a lot of different
10 people. For most of our work, it's the brains
11 at the end of a line. It's "how do we react to
12 something?" And the answer is "yes", we use
13 state-of-the-art equipment at the end of our
14 lines. The distribution upgrades that we're
15 putting in have smart devices on them to tie
16 back and forth for outages. So, I guess the
17 answer is "yes".

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
19 question: "I understand that there will be a
20 humming sound coming from the 115 kV power
21 lines. Is this from the lines themselves or
22 just at the pole? Can you explain the sound or
23 direct me to where I might actually hear it?"

24 MR. JIOTTIS: I guess, first off, 115

1 lines are typically not noise generators. So,
2 you shouldn't be hearing a hum from a 115 line,
3 which is what we're building here. It is
4 discussed in the Application. There's a
5 section on noise that talks about that. But it
6 shouldn't be an audible noise generator for a
7 115 line.

8 What it might be referring to is some
9 of the larger lines, for example, over in the
10 parking lot in Newington, the Newington Mall
11 parking lots, that's 345 kV, you may hear
12 something from those.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: I think
14 the rest of the questions or most of the rest
15 of the questions at least deal with the Great
16 Bay issues.

17 First one is "How will you do the
18 work crossing the bay? Will you use boring or
19 dredging or what?"

20 MR. JIOTTIS: Sarah. I guess I'll
21 ask Sarah Allen to answer those.

22 MS. ALLEN: The method for getting
23 the majority of the cable across we'll be using
24 a jet plow, which is a system that will use

1 water pressure to create a narrow trench to
2 depth and simultaneously lay the cable. When
3 you get closer to shore, the jet plow is towed
4 by a boat, so it's not able to get too close to
5 either shore, the cable will be brought ashore
6 using a system called "hand-jetting". It's
7 essentially the same concept, but, rather than
8 using a device towed by a boat, it's using
9 divers with water jets.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
11 question is "Have there been any changes to the
12 Little Bay crossing design and construction?
13 And, if so, what changes have been made?"

14 MS. ALLEN: There have been changes.
15 There have been a number of changes to adjust
16 both to the site conditions, as we've learned
17 about them a little bit better, and design
18 conditions that will decrease the impact to
19 Little Bay.

20 I think the most significant ones Jim
21 alluded to, routing the cable coming ashore on
22 the Newington side so it does not immediately
23 come to the point, but it actually wraps into a
24 shallow cove, just above Welch Cove, and comes

1 ashore there. By doing that, it's avoiding the
2 need to bore into ledge, to cut into ledge, and
3 it greatly reduces the impact to the landowner,
4 and is a overall better system for bringing the
5 cable ashore.

6 Another significant design change is
7 that the number of cables was initially planned
8 as six, partly for redundancy and partly due to
9 cable size and layout. That's been reduced to
10 three to reduce the impact to Little Bay. And,
11 along with that design change, the depth in the
12 shallows, as you -- anyone familiar with Great
13 Bay or Little Bay knows that the western side
14 of it, on the Durham side, there's a very large
15 intertidal flat. That was originally proposed
16 to have -- to bury the cable at eight feet in
17 that location. That's been decreased to three
18 and a half, again to minimize impacts wherever
19 possible. As I've said earlier, we're keeping
20 it at 8 feet to provide the protection in that
21 scoured channel at depth.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
23 series of questions gets back to ledge in the
24 bay or in your -- in drilling and your

1 construction in the bay. I'm going to ask all
2 three questions, because I think they probably
3 will flow.

4 "What will be the impact of
5 encountering ledge in the Little Bay crossing?
6 Has there been an assessment of the likelihood
7 of ledge? And do the sediment distribution
8 models change based on the nature of the soil
9 or ledge encountered" -- "soil and ledge
10 encountered?"

11 MS. ALLEN: Okay. I'm going to try
12 to remember all three of those. But I'm going
13 to start with the second one first. And that,
14 yes, we have done an assessment of presence of
15 ledge and actually other obstacles as well.
16 Eversource early on hired Ocean Surveys, Inc.
17 to come in and do some sub-bottom profiling,
18 which is basically looking at the sediment
19 depth in the bay to understand where -- the
20 distribution of substrate types. So, one of
21 the ways you know you've hit bedrock is
22 essentially when your signal starts bouncing
23 off. It cannot penetrate bedrock. But it can
24 penetrate other types of soils, like fine

1 sediments and unconsolidated sediments, and it
2 can define boulders as well.

3 So, we have that data. And we do
4 know that, for the entire jet plow area, the
5 bedrock is below the depth that we're proposing
6 to go.

7 So, I think that answers questions
8 one and two. And what was three?

9 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Three is
10 "do the sediments distribution models change
11 based on the nature of soil and ledge
12 encountered?"

13 MS. ALLEN: I think what the question
14 is asking is "did our water quality modeling
15 take that -- take sediment texture into
16 effect?" Forgive me if I'm wrong, you can --
17 if I'm misinterpreting that, talk to me later.
18 But, yes, when we, "we" being the team,
19 Normandeau did not do that water quality
20 modeling, we had a organization called "ASA" do
21 the work. They're very renowned for
22 hydrodynamic modeling, they're out of Rhode
23 Island. They have done it worldwide. They
24 have actually worked in Great Bay, and they

1 used a water flow model that they had developed
2 earlier, back in 2008, I think, for Great Bay,
3 to use in this model as well.

4 And what we provided them was
5 substrate texture. And, as you know, again,
6 those shallow tidal flats are a much finer
7 substrate. Anyone who has tried to go
8 shellfishing out there knows how very soft and
9 mucky it is.

10 As you get into the deeper channel
11 where the scourings occur, those very fine
12 sediments have been scoured away, and you're
13 left with a sandy, compact, courser substrate.
14 So, when you look at the model, you'll notice
15 that the video loop that was playing out there
16 showing the model, you'll see that, in the
17 shallow intertidal flats, where those sediments
18 are very fine, there is a -- the plume
19 generated by there persists longer than the
20 plume that is generated during the section
21 going through the sands. And that's primarily
22 because those sediments stay in suspension a
23 little bit longer and are carried further from
24 the site. Whereas, if you look at the sandier

1 substrates, those sediments are heavier and
2 they drop out of the water column faster.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Can you
4 please identify any known jet dredging projects
5 that involve tidal waters, ledge, estuaries,
6 and environmentally sensitive and protected
7 waterways?"

8 MS. ALLEN: I can talk to that
9 secondarily. Should we have somebody else
10 probably talk to it? Is that appropriate?

11 MR. JIOTTIS: One of our engineers
12 working on the Project. Yes. Todd, can you
13 speak to that?

14 MR. GOYETTE: I'm not aware of any.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO:

16 MR. JIOTTIS: Okay.

17 MS. ALLEN: Okay. I can tell you
18 that Eversource had a marine contractor who is
19 experienced in this jet plowing process. And
20 we had asked them that question, of course, you
21 know, "what do they know?" And they gave us a
22 list of projects that they have done. That
23 list is actually included in the SEC
24 Application under both the -- the name of the

1 organization is called "Caldwell Marine". And,
2 in their prefiled testimony, there is a list of
3 their experience. They have done jet plowing
4 in, the one that sticks in my mind, I know they
5 have done some in Connecticut, the one that
6 sticks in my mind is one that was done in New
7 York Harbor. And anyone who knows New York
8 Harbor knows that there's very similar
9 conditions, only it's further contaminate --
10 I'm sorry, further complicated by clays, there
11 are very dense clays there. So, as they're
12 passing through, they're cutting into clay,
13 which is a very difficult material to work in.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Can the
15 scouring that occurs in the bay dig up and
16 expose the lines over time?"

17 MS. ALLEN: We don't think so. I
18 mean, that's the reason that they have been
19 buried as deep as they are.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "What is
21 the cubic volume of material displaced in the
22 jet plowing? How is that calculated? And what
23 is the multiple increase if ledge is
24 encountered and blasted?"

1 MS. ALLEN: I'm not sure I can give
2 you the volume of sediment. We could calculate
3 that. I don't think we've done that
4 calculation. I can give you a different
5 estimate. And, again, if you have further
6 questions, you can talk to me later.

7 The trench that the cable is going
8 into is, let's talk about the 8-foot depth, is
9 8-foot deep, it's approximately 13 inches wide,
10 that's the width of the jet plow blade. And
11 the estimate that was used by ASA, again, in
12 consultation with Caldwell Marine, was that
13 approximately 30 percent of that trench is
14 going to be thrown up into the water column by
15 the jet plow process.

16 Areawise, if you look at Little Bay,
17 that -- the footprint of the entire Project
18 comprises less than 1 percent of Upper Little
19 Bay. So, that's only looking at the section
20 from Adams Point north to Fox Point.

21 That's as far as I can go right now.
22 I'd have to get back to you with numbers. But,
23 hopefully, that gives you a sense that it's a
24 relatively small amount. And, in terms of

1 total volume of sediment relative to the volume
2 of water in Little Bay, I am quite confident
3 that it's a very small number.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Looks
5 like we've exhausted our green sheets that
6 contain the questions. Are there any other
7 green question sheets out there coming in?

8 *[No verbal response.]*

9 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
10 If not, we're going to take a break, before we
11 go into the public comment session. I'm going
12 to ask everybody to come back in ten minutes.
13 But we'll take a ten-minute break to give our
14 reporter's fingers a rest.

15 *(Recess taken at 7:45 p.m. and*
16 *the Public Information Session*
17 *resumed at 7:59 p.m.)*

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
19 We're going to go back on the record for the
20 next portion of our Public Information Session,
21 which is the public comment section.

22 As I said before, if you have a
23 public comment, please fill out one of these
24 sheets, we'll put you in line. We're going to

1 ask that, when you make your public comment,
2 you come right up here to the dais, speak into
3 the microphone. Remember that what you're
4 saying is being heard not only by everybody in
5 the room, but is also being recorded by our
6 court reporter. So, please speak slowly and
7 clearly, so that he can take down everything
8 that you say. If you are reading something,
9 please be very careful to read it slowly,
10 sometimes when we read we go fast. And, also,
11 if you are reading from something or referring
12 to something during your statement, please
13 provide a copy of it to the court reporter by
14 placing it in the basket with the pink sign on
15 it.

16 That having been said, our first
17 speaker tonight will be Helen Frink.

18 MS. FRINK: Thank you. My name is
19 Helen Frink. I'm co-owner of the Darius Frink
20 Farm, on Nimble Hill Road, together with my
21 sister Sally and my brother John.

22 A great deal has been said and
23 written and published in newspapers about the
24 difficulty of negotiating with the Frink family

1 for the underground rights that are the
2 standard mitigation for a property that is in
3 the Newington Center Historic District. Our
4 farm is part of the Newington Center Historic
5 District and on the National Register of
6 Historic Places. The standard mitigation is to
7 place the line underground. The Eversource
8 Application to the Site Evaluation Committee
9 fails to mention, except in one very small
10 footnote, the fact that our farm is protected
11 by a Farmland Conservation Easement. In 2005,
12 the taxpayers and voters of Newington paid
13 almost half a million dollars toward the cost
14 of that easement. That easement specifically
15 forbids any expansion of the old Public Service
16 of New Hampshire right-of-way utility easement
17 that was placed in 1952.

18 For that reason, it has been a series
19 of very protracted negotiations with Eversource
20 to construe what is being done to our farm as
21 an improvement to the Farmland Conservation
22 Easement. We have met numerous times with
23 them, and with the Rockingham County
24 Conservation District, holder of the easement.

1 On June 21st, one month ago, we
2 finally reached a settlement with them to
3 satisfy the conditions for Farmland
4 Conservation improvements to justify rewriting
5 the easement. On those grounds, we're prepared
6 to accept the underground line through our
7 property.

8 We were moved to accept it, in part,
9 because we have been threatened. We have been
10 told, and our neighbors have been told, that
11 "if the Frink family refuses the underground
12 easement, the line will be put overhead through
13 Hannah Lane and other residential properties."
14 We do not wish to be a party to any strategy
15 that pits neighbor against neighbor. We're
16 better people than that.

17 When you drive up Nimble Hill Road
18 then, after the line is complete, and when you
19 look to the west, across the fields where John
20 has cut the hay, you will see an intrusive
21 industrial transition structure, from where the
22 line goes overhead through the Pickering
23 property to the underground line on our
24 property.

1 We have been told, and it appears in
2 the option agreement, that those poles will be
3 65 feet high. The diagram we were just
4 provided shows the pole 85 feet high. That has
5 been fairly typical of our negotiations with
6 Eversource where things change frequently.
7 This rise of structure is an intrusion into a
8 rural landscape that is actually prohibited by
9 Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act
10 that celebrates its 100th anniversary this
11 year.

12 So, in short, the Frink family is
13 prepared to accept the underground line, but
14 with great sorrow and trepidation. It's a
15 painful decision for us. I want to urge our
16 neighbors in Newington to be vigilant, to be
17 cautious, to continue asking the difficult
18 questions, and to be very aware of what this
19 means for the Town.

20 Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
22 you, Ms. Frink.

23 Mr. Paul Riccardi?

24 *[No verbal response.]*

1 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: I'll
2 come back, maybe he stepped out.

3 Tom DeCapo? And, Mr. DeCapo, I'm
4 going to ask you to identify yourself when you
5 approach as well.

6 MR. DeCAPO: Thank you. I'm Tom
7 DeCapo. My wife and I own property at 315
8 Durham Point Road, in Durham. And, I think, in
9 part, I want to echo some of the sentiment that
10 Ms. Frink just set forth.

11 Much has been said here tonight about
12 the efforts that were made, have been made by
13 Eversource to reach out to the community, and
14 to take into account the concerns of
15 stakeholders, and to make reasonable changes
16 where they could. That hasn't been our
17 experience. I believe ourselves to be fairly
18 substantial stakeholders, with a large portion
19 of easement that the lines will run through, as
20 well as almost a half mile of shore frontage on
21 Little Bay immediately adjacent to the dredging
22 project. And our experience has been that the
23 only reach-out to us has been to more or less
24 demand that we give a very short portion of

1 underground rights to help move the structures
2 back away from the bay.

3 We propose that it go underground for
4 the entirety of our easement, and that was
5 simply flatly rejected without any
6 counterproposal.

7 We also propose that some efforts be
8 made to ensure that the assumptions that are
9 being made about the impact on the bay and the
10 impact to the shore, in terms of sediment
11 buildup, and the effects on oyster and clam
12 beds and boating access be protected by
13 Eversource stepping up to say "if, in fact,
14 their estimates turn out to be incorrect, that
15 they would take steps to mitigate the damage
16 that was done." That, too, was simply flatly
17 rejected without any counterproposal or
18 discussion.

19 And, so, we don't feel that there's
20 been friendly, helpful outreach. We feel
21 there's been much misinformation, along the
22 line as with the 65 height versus the 85
23 height. There are various aspects where we've
24 asked questions and gotten one answer and later

1 gotten quite different answers.

2 So, it's been an unpleasant process.
3 And he understand the process isn't over.
4 We're openminded people. And we hope we can
5 find a way to be able the way the Eversource
6 folks seem to think that they feel about how
7 it's going so far.

8 That's my comment.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
10 you. The next speaker will be Sheryl Bagley.

11 MS. BAGLEY: My name is Sheryl
12 Bagley. I'm a property owner on 30 Hannah
13 Lane, in Newington, New Hampshire.

14 The current power lines and the new
15 power lines will be literally in my backyard.
16 And, when I say "literally", they fall within
17 70 feet of my house. So, I fall within the
18 adverse impact that the economic survey said.

19 Literally, with the high line towers,
20 I'll be sleeping and my son will be sleeping
21 and my grandchildren will be sleeping in the
22 shadow of these power lines. Because of this,
23 I feel the high lines will cause severe adverse
24 impact to me as a property owner, both

1 aesthetically, they will be huge, they will
2 high, they will be in my yard. The
3 construction will be damaging to us as well.

4 However, with that said, we have
5 worked extensively with Eversource, and they
6 have made every -- taken every opportunity to
7 try to resolve this through our satisfaction,
8 and to the satisfaction of the other residents
9 of Hannah Lane. We've made a lot of
10 compromises, and we're very happy with their
11 agreement for the underground rights.

12 So, because of that, we feel that
13 this is a win/win solution, if the SEC would
14 support the Project contingent on the alternate
15 proposal for the underground lines through the
16 historic area and through Hannah Lane. We
17 support this with that contingency, and we do
18 commend Eversource for their work with us in
19 trying to come to a satisfactory resolution.

20 Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
22 you. Again, Mr. Riccardi? Paul Riccardi?

23 *[No verbal response.]*

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.

1 Does anybody else wish to speak? We're out of
2 yellow cards?

3 *[No verbal response.]*

4 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: If not,
5 again, if you need information about the
6 Project, the Site Evaluation Committee's
7 website is the best place to go. If you have
8 questions for the Site Evaluation Committee,
9 you should comment Ms. Monroe, our
10 Administrator.

11 The PowerPoints, the PowerPoint that
12 was -- the PowerPoints that you saw this
13 evening will go up on the website as well.
14 And, again, the website for the Site Evaluation
15 Committee is *www.nhsec.nh.gov*.

16 And, with that, I guess we are
17 adjourned.

18 ***(Whereupon the Public***
19 ***Information Session was***
20 ***adjourned at 8:10 p.m.)***