

In Re:

*SEC 2015-05 Joint Public Hearing of
Site Evaluation Committee Pursuant to RSA 162-H:10,I-c*

*Hudson, New Hampshire (Hillsborough County)
December 8, 2015*

*SUSAN J. ROBIDAS, N.H. LCR
(603) 622-0068 shortrptr@comcast.net
(603) 540-2083 (cell)*

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

December 8, 2015 - 6:02 p.m.
Hudson Memorial School
Memorial Drive
Hudson, New Hampshire
(Hillsborough County)

IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-05
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:
Joint Application of New England
Power Company d/b/a National Grid
and Public Service Company of
New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource
Energy for a Certificate of
Site and Facility.
(Public Hearing of the Subcommittee
members held pursuant to
RSA 162-H:10,I-c, for a
Presentation by Eversource Energy
and National Grid, followed by a
Question-and-Answer Session, and
comments received from the public.)

PRESENT:	SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:
F. Anne Ross, Esq.	Public Utilities Commission
(Presiding as Presiding Officer)	
Cmsr. Kathryn M. Bailey	Public Utilities Commission
Cmsr. Jeffrey Rose	Dept. of Resources & Economic Development
Dr. Richard Boisvert	DCR-Div. of Historical Res.
Michele Roberge	Dept. of Environmental Serv.
Patricia Weathersby	Public Member

Also Present: Michael J. Iacopino, Esq.(Brennan...)
Pamela G. Monroe, SEC Administrator

COURT REPORTER: Susan J. Robidas, NH LCR No. 44

1 ALSO NOTED AS PRESENT:

2 FOR THE APPLICANTS:

3 Reptg. Eversource Energy: Barry Needleman, Esq.
4 Adam Dumville, Esq.
(McLane, Graf...)

5 Reptg. National Grid: Mark Rielly, Esq.

6
7 COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC: Christopher G. Aslin, Esq.
8 Asst. Atty. General
N.H. Dept. of Justice

9 DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL
10 SERVICES (DES): Collis Adams, Admin
Wetlands Bureau - DES

11
12 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF APPLICANTS:

13 Sherrie Trefry - VHB

14 Dr. William Bailey - Exponent
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P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to a public meeting of the New Hampshire Energy Facility Site Evaluation Committee. We have one docket for consideration on today's agenda, the joint application of New England Power Company, doing business as National Grid, and Public Service Company of New Hampshire, doing business as Eversource Energy, for a Certificate of Site and Facility, Docket 2015-05. I'm serving as chair of the Subcommittee. My name is Anne Ross. I'm going to ask the rest of the members of the Subcommittee to introduce themselves.

MS. ROBERGE: My name is Michele Roberge. I'm the state implementation program manager for the Department of Environmental Services, the Air Resources Division.

MR. BOISVERT: I'm Richard Boisvert, New Hampshire state archeologist and deputy state historical preservation officer with the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources.

COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I'm Kate

1 Bailey, a commissioner at the Public Utilities
2 Commission.

3 COMMISSIONER ROSE: Good
4 evening. Jeff Rose. I serve as the Commissioner
5 of the Department of Resources and Economic
6 Development.

7 MS. WEATHERSBY: Patricia
8 Weathersby, public member.

9 MS. MONROE: My name is Pam
10 Monroe. I serve as the Administrator to the Site
11 Evaluation Committee.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: And
13 sitting to my right is Attorney Iacopino, who
14 serves as attorney to the Site Evaluation
15 Committee. Also, we have some agencies, some
16 state agency representatives here. If you could
17 introduce yourselves.

18 MR. ADAMS: Good evening. My
19 name is Collis Adams. I represent the Department
20 of Environmental Services. I am the
21 administrator of the Wetlands Bureau.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Thank
23 you. Are there any other agencies represented?

24 (No verbal response)

1 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Okay.

2 Also tonight, Attorney Chris Aslin, with the
3 Attorney General's Office, is serving as Counsel
4 for the Public. Perhaps you could just stand so
5 people know who you are.

6 MR. ASLIN: Good evening.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Chris
8 will be handling -- if members of the public have
9 any concerns or questions, you should certainly,
10 in addition to putting them on the public record
11 tonight, take a moment at some point to chat with
12 Attorney Aslin.

13 All right. Docket 2015-05 is
14 titled "Joint Application of New England Power
15 Company, Doing Business As National Grid, and
16 Public Service Company, Doing Business As
17 Eversource Energy, For a Certificate of Site
18 and Facility."

19 On August 5th, 2015, New
20 England Power Company and Public Service
21 Company, known as Eversource Energy, filed a
22 joint application for a Certificate of Site and
23 Facility with the Site Evaluation Committee.
24 The application seeks the issuance of a

1 Certificate of Site and Facility, approving the
2 siting and operation for a new 34 kV electric
3 transmission line, known as "the Project." The
4 proposed transmission line will be constructed
5 in an existing, developed transmission line
6 corridor between New England Power Company's
7 Tewksbury 22A Substation in Tewksbury,
8 Massachusetts, and PSNH's Scobie Pond 345 kV
9 substation in Londonderry, New Hampshire. The
10 pre-existing transmission line corridor
11 traverses the towns of Pelham and Hudson in
12 Hillsborough County, and Windham and
13 Londonderry in Rockingham County.

14 On August 12th, 2015, the
15 Committee designated a Subcommittee to review
16 and address the Application in this docket. On
17 September 1st, 2015, Attorney Christopher Aslin
18 was designated to serve as Counsel for the
19 Public in this docket. On October 5th, 2015,
20 the Subcommittee found the Application was
21 complete and accepted it. On October 8th,
22 2015, a procedural order was issued in this
23 docket. In this order, the Subcommittee
24 ordered the Applicant to conduct public

1 information sessions in Rockingham and
2 Hillsborough Counties on October 29th and
3 November 4th, accordingly. The Subcommittee
4 also scheduled a prehearing conference for
5 December 3rd, 2015, and ordered potential
6 intervenors to file motions to intervene by
7 November 13, 2015. On October 16, 2015, the
8 Applicant supplemented the Application by
9 filing its Shoreland Impact Permit that was
10 issued by the Department of Environmental
11 Services on October 1st, 2015. On October 29th
12 and November 4th, pursuant to the
13 subcommittee's procedural order, the Applicant
14 conducted public information sessions in
15 Rockingham and Hillsborough Counties. The
16 Subcommittee received one motion to intervene
17 in this docket. That motion was filed by
18 Margaret Huard on November 5th, 2015. Ms.
19 Huard's motion to intervene was granted on
20 November 30th, 2015. A prehearing conference
21 in this docket was held on December 3rd, 2015.
22 As a result of the prehearing conference, a
23 procedural schedule was issued. A final
24 adjudicative hearing is scheduled for

1 June 2016.

2 We are here today for a joint
3 public hearing in this docket. Under R.S.A.
4 162-H:10,I-c, within 90 days after acceptance
5 of an Application for a Certificate, the
6 Subcommittee is required to hold at least one
7 public hearing in each county in which the
8 proposed project is to be located. The public
9 hearings are joint hearings with
10 representatives of the agencies that have
11 permitting or other regulatory authority of the
12 subject matter and are deemed to satisfy all
13 initial requirements for public hearings under
14 statutes requiring permits relative to
15 environmental impact. The hearings are also
16 joint hearings with the other state agencies
17 and are conducted in lieu of all hearings
18 otherwise required by any of the other state
19 agencies. Notice of this joint public hearing
20 was served upon the public by publication in
21 the New Hampshire Union Leader on November 16,
22 2015.

23 In this docket, we will
24 proceed as follows: We will first hear a

{SEC 2015-05}[Public Hearing of Subcommittee]{12-08-15}

1 presentation by the Applicant. Following that
2 presentation, the Subcommittee members, agency
3 representatives and Committee Staff will have
4 the opportunity to pose questions to the
5 Applicant. Thereafter, the public will be
6 permitted to pose questions to the Applicant.
7 If you ever a question for the Applicant, we
8 ask that you please write your question down on
9 a card and hand it to Counsel for the
10 Committee, Mike Iacopino, sitting on my right,
11 or the Committee's Administrator, Pamela
12 Monroe, down on my left. We will try to
13 organize all of the questions by subject matter
14 and present them to the Applicant in an
15 organized fashion. Once we have asked all the
16 questions that the public may have, we will
17 then take public statements or comments on the
18 Application. Please make your public
19 statements as succinct as possible, and please
20 try not to be repetitive. You can sign up to
21 make a public statement on the sheets provided
22 at the door. Currently, I have one sheet here.
23 Now we will hear a
24 presentation by the Applicant.

1 MR. HUDOCK: So I want to say,
2 first of all, thank you everyone for your
3 attendance this evening. And my name is Bryan
4 Hudock. I'm here on behalf of National Grid to
5 present this joint project between National Grid
6 and Eversource on the Merrimack Valley
7 Reliability Project.

8 Go ahead. Can everybody hear
9 me okay? All right. Good.

10 Okay. So, I just wanted to
11 start with -- is this better? Can you hear me
12 now? Okay. That's fine. I can stand back.

13 So I'll just start by
14 reiterating that at all of these presentations,
15 we really want to foster open and regular
16 communication on this project. We want to make
17 sure that the public is educated and informed
18 about what this project is and what we intend
19 to do. We want to make sure that community
20 issues are heard and addressed, and overall
21 make sure that throughout the Project there's
22 open channels for feedback.

23 So, just as a bit of
24 background, when we're talking about this

1 project, this project is a transmission
2 reliability project. And in terms of the
3 overall electric system, when we look at it,
4 electricity is produced at generating stations
5 in various locations, where it's from a
6 substation will be transmitted onto the
7 transmission system. And that's like the
8 highway or the backbone of the electric system.
9 It allows large amounts of bulk power to be
10 transmitted over long distances. At periodic
11 locations, substations will tap into that
12 transmission system and lower the voltage to a
13 distribution voltage, where that provides the
14 service that you receive in your homes and
15 businesses here. So, just to reiterate, this
16 project is a transmission project designed to
17 reinforce the backbone of the electric system.

18 Okay. So, why did this
19 project come about? This project began in a
20 study by the Independent System Operator in New
21 England. They're the independent organization
22 that's in charge of moderating and maintaining
23 the overall electric grid. And what they did
24 is they studied and identified a number of

1 potential overloads on the system, both at
2 current load levels and projected out in the
3 future. And so they developed a solution that
4 would address these needs. So the Merrimack
5 Valley Reliability Project, which you can see
6 the purple line towards the top of the graph
7 there, is one of those projects.

8 So, this project, what is it?
9 It's a new overhead 345 kilovolt transmission
10 line. As was mentioned, it starts at a
11 National Grid substation in Tewksbury,
12 Massachusetts, runs northward about 24.5 miles
13 on an exiting right-of-way and will end at an
14 existing substation for Eversource, Scobie Pond
15 in Londonderry. So we currently estimate an
16 overall investment of around \$123 million. We
17 have the distances of about 18 miles in New
18 Hampshire, 6.5 miles in Massachusetts. And we
19 anticipate a construction start in the fall of
20 2016, with the overall goal to have this
21 project in service by the end of 2017.

22 So, in terms of the benefits,
23 I think, first and foremost, the Independent
24 System Operator has identified a need for the

1 transmission system. So this project is going
2 to ensure reliable transmission service for the
3 whole region. That's something that benefits
4 everybody, as far as strengthening of the
5 electric grid. Additionally, for more local
6 positive benefits, there will be a significant
7 local investment. We estimate over \$80 million
8 will be invested in New Hampshire. So that
9 will result in tax revenues for the
10 municipalities that are affected. And then
11 also the effects of the investment, in terms of
12 jobs, both a direct result of the construction
13 and indirect for the size of a project to be
14 able to provide services for this project.

15 So, just a quick summary of
16 where we are in the process. We started all
17 the way up here towards the top, further back,
18 obviously, soliciting community input. We had
19 public information sessions back in May, and
20 that was in support of soliciting and fostering
21 that communication. As was mentioned, we filed
22 our application in August and are currently in
23 the process now. So we had the post-filing
24 project information sessions at the end of

1 October and the beginning of November, and we
2 are currently in the next step of the process
3 in terms of these hearings tonight. So,
4 overall, what we're looking at is continuing
5 the process to get a positive decision in 2016.

6 So I'll end the way we end all
7 our presentations here. Again, we can't
8 emphasize enough the need for communication
9 with the stakeholders on this project. So we
10 have up here a couple ways that anyone can get
11 in touch with us: The project web site, as
12 well as a toll-free number that's available if
13 anyone has any feedback now or in the future.
14 So that information is there.

15 I think that's about it. So,
16 thank you, everyone, for your attention this
17 evening and coming back out. I'll turn it back
18 over to the members of the SEC.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: So,
20 Committee members and agency representatives may
21 now ask the Applicant questions.

22 (No verbal response)

23 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: I have
24 a question. How do the height of the new towers

1 that you're going to be constructing in the
2 corridor compare to the height of the existing
3 towers?

4 MR. PLANTE: Good evening,
5 ladies and gentlemen. My name's David Plante.
6 I'm the manager of the transmission project
7 management group for Eversource in New Hampshire.
8 And I guess I'll take that first question. And I
9 actually did have some statistics compiled here
10 so I'd get it right.

11 The average existing height of
12 the transmission structures in the corridor
13 right now is approximately 79 feet in
14 Londonderry, 78 feet in Hudson for Eversource;
15 and for National Grid, it ranges from 55 feet
16 to 125 feet because they have a much wider
17 variety of voltages that they're constructed
18 at. The proposed heights for these structures
19 are, for Londonderry, approximately 90 feet,
20 and Hudson, 86 feet for Eversource. So,
21 probably, you know, 8, 9 feet taller than the
22 existing structures. And in Hudson, Windham
23 and Pelham, for National Grid, the average
24 proposed heights are in the 75- to 80-foot

1 range, which is actually kind of in between
2 what's there now.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: On
4 average, how many wires or cables will be hanging
5 on each of the towers.

6 MR. PLANTE: Of the proposed
7 structures?

8 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Yes.

9 MR. PLANTE: Each structure will
10 support two overhead lightning protection cables,
11 as well as six phased conductors. It's a
12 three-phase system, and each phase is consisting
13 of two individual conductors. So there'll be
14 two --

15 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: So,
16 roughly eight cables, two and six?

17 MR. PLANTE: Exactly eight
18 cables.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: And
20 what -- I think I noticed in the Application that
21 there were some areas in the right-of-way where
22 you had to clear additional trees to the width of
23 the right-of-way; is that correct?

24 MR. PLANTE: That is correct.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: About
2 how much of the length of the right-of-way in New
3 Hampshire is going to require clearing?

4 MR. PLANTE: Clearing will be
5 required on most sections of the right-of-way.
6 However, the widening is on approximately 4 miles
7 of the corridor in Hudson and Londonderry.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: But
9 that's clearing of the brush in the existing
10 right-of-way and not all trees.

11 MR. PLANTE: Yes. So there's
12 some side trimming. And in the section of the
13 right-of-way from Scobie Pond south toward Wiley
14 Hill Road in Londonderry, there's actually a
15 narrow strip of trees in the middle that will
16 have to be removed in order to provide space for
17 the proposed transmission line.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Thank
19 you. I'm sorry. I don't mean to monopolize. Do
20 other people have questions? I'm sorry.

21 MS. WEATHERSBY: Going back to
22 the clearing for a minute. Will the right-of-way
23 itself, the amount that's cleared, become wider?

24 MR. PLANTE: Yes, for the 4-mile

1 section between approximately David Drive in
2 Hudson and Wiley Hill Road in Londonderry, the
3 cleared width will now be approximately 85 feet
4 greater than it is now. However, it's not a
5 widening of our corridor, per se. It's just
6 actually clearing the trees that have been in
7 there for many, many years.

8 COMMISSIONER ROSE: I did have a
9 question. It was referenced in Bryan's comments
10 that this was identified as a need of ISO-New
11 England to strengthen the electric grid. I was
12 just hoping to try to get a little bit more
13 information about what it is that they
14 identified, in terms of, assuming the title of
15 "reliability," that the ultimate objective was to
16 try to strengthen the electric grid.

17 MR. PLANTE: Okay. You want it
18 or me? All right. I'll take it.

19 Yeah. So, basically our
20 mission as a public utility is to provide safe
21 and reliable energy to every customer all the
22 time. And ISO-New England is our planning
23 body. They oversee the planning and operation
24 of the entire transmission system in New

1 England. They've undertaken a study that's
2 been going on for a very, very long time to
3 determine the strengths and weaknesses of our
4 system. And what they do is they look at tens
5 of thousands of scenarios of transmission
6 configurations to determine, under reasonably
7 stressed conditions, can we provide energy to
8 every customer all the time. So, those
9 conditions would include, you know, storm
10 conditions, obviously, because we do experience
11 occasional storm issues. But there are also a
12 variety of other things that affect or stress
13 the system, including the availability of
14 generation, what generators are on or off at
15 any given time, and what types of maintenance
16 are going on in the system at any given time.
17 Certain lines could be out of service. Certain
18 substation elements could be out of service for
19 plant maintenance. And if something happens at
20 that time, the planning entities have to look
21 and understand whether the system can actually
22 support all the load with that next element of
23 service. So that's how the planning kind of
24 works. I'm not sure if I'm heading in the

1 right direction for you.

2 COMMISSIONER ROSE: Yeah. I'm
3 familiar with how the planning parcels work. I
4 was just curious as to what it was they
5 identified that was inadequate under the current
6 scenario.

7 MR. PLANTE: Oh, so what they
8 identified is that, under certain of these
9 contingencies, there are thermal overloads on a
10 variety of transmission elements, particularly
11 the 345 kV and the underlying 115 kV and 230 kV
12 systems under peak load conditions, even at the
13 2013 load levels. And also, there are voltage
14 concerns, high voltage concerns under these same
15 contingencies when the system is at a minimum
16 load level. So, without enough load, the voltage
17 rises to such a level that it can damage
18 electrical equipment. So the proposed project
19 addresses both those concerns.

20 COMMISSIONER ROSE: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Mr.
22 Plante, what happens if the project isn't built?

23 MR. PLANTE: If the project
24 isn't built...

1 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: To the
2 electrical system. I mean, is it going to fail?

3 MR. HUDOCK: I guess I'll take a
4 stab at that one. Obviously, today the system
5 isn't failing or anything like that. The whole
6 idea around the study is that it investigates
7 possibilities or contingencies; so, what would
8 happen if certain things would happen? So what
9 they did find in today's load level is that
10 certain contingencies could cause failures of
11 other components in the system or overloads of
12 other components in the system. So the shorter
13 answer is: Hopefully nothing will happen until
14 this is built. But at the same time, there is a
15 need with today's load levels to make sure these
16 improvements are made.

17 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: So an
18 overload condition on a peak day might cause a
19 power outage.

20 MR. HUDOCK: Again, this is
21 based not necessarily on the demand or how high
22 it is, but also having certain contingencies in
23 the system. As Dave mentioned, this could be
24 generators that have to be out or certain lines

1 or components that are out of service. So it's
2 more a matter of having the right combination of
3 those things and the loading where you can see
4 something happen. So, if that addresses your
5 question...

6 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Okay.

7 MS. WEATHERSBY: So is the
8 electricity that's being transported between
9 Tewksbury and Scobie Pond pretty much staying in
10 that area and the smaller lines that go off of
11 it, or is this basically just transporting power
12 to the grid?

13 MR. HUDOCK: So the transmission
14 system is designed to bring energy from where
15 it's generated to where it's needed. And so it
16 isn't necessarily restricted to, I would say the
17 immediate areas of Scobie Pond or for Tewksbury
18 22A. There's further transmission lines from
19 there that carry the electricity to other areas
20 of the system -- so, Eastern Massachusetts and
21 otherwise. The study identifies the specific
22 components in the system. But the whole system
23 is interconnected in terms of where the power is
24 going. So it's not going to be a matter of power

1 coming from Scobie Pond, let's say, to Tewksbury
2 and just really serving those residents there.
3 It's going to go elsewhere.

4 MS. WEATHERSBY: One last
5 question. What will be the cost to New Hampshire
6 ratepayers?

7 MR. HUDOCK: So, the overall
8 investment for New Hampshire, we currently
9 estimate it at \$82 million. And what we
10 calculated is that, for the local residential
11 ratepayer, that would equate to a little --
12 between \$1 and \$2 annually for their bill.

13 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Do the
14 other New England ratepayers share in the cost?

15 MR. HUDOCK: Yes, they do. This
16 project falls under the portion of your bill that
17 is basically funding the transmission system,
18 which is a regional pool. So all the ratepayers
19 of New England fund all of the transmission
20 upgrades, regardless of where it is. And that
21 percentage is based on a formula that's
22 calculated based on the loads served by those
23 customers. So I believe New Hampshire is
24 9 percent, I think, of the pool. So, no matter

1 where a transmission project is built, whether
2 it's in New Hampshire, or it's partially in New
3 Hampshire or Massachusetts, or even in Rhode
4 Island, Massachusetts ratepayers will pay that
5 9 percent of the total transmission upgrade
6 costs.

7 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: So is New
8 Hampshire paying 9 percent of \$82 million, or is
9 \$82 million 9 percent of the total project cost?

10 MR. HUDOCK: No, \$82 million is
11 the investment in New Hampshire for this project.
12 So it's over half of the total investment. But
13 in terms of the total funding, it would be
14 9 percent of \$120 million would be the amount
15 that New Hampshire ratepayers would be paying.

16 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Because
17 part of the cost is in Massachusetts and part is
18 in New Hampshire, and the total cost is \$120
19 million?

20 MR. HUDOCK: Correct.

21 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: So we
22 would pay -- New Hampshire ratepayers would pay
23 9 percent of \$120 million over time.

24 MR. HUDOCK: Yeah, the total

1 project costs a little more than \$120 million.

2 But yes, you have the concept exactly right.

3 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Thank you.

4 MR. IACOPINO: I don't know
5 which representative is best to answer this
6 question. But we often hear about electric and
7 magnetic fields, electrical fields coming from
8 these high-tension wires. Can you tell us if
9 this project will increase those fields in the
10 local areas where it's being built, and is there
11 a reason to be concerned about public safety from
12 that?

13 MR. HUDOCK: Sure. So I think
14 the best person to address that question is here
15 tonight. We do have Dr. William Bailey, who we
16 commissioned a study on just these matters. So
17 I'll turn it over to him and let him speak to
18 your concerns.

19 DR. BAILEY: Thank you. Yes,
20 this project, like every other part of electric
21 system will produce electromagnetic fields when
22 it's in operation. So, whenever electricity is
23 flowing, whether it's on a transmission line, a
24 distribution line running outside your house,

1 appliance, the wiring in your home will be a
2 source of these fields.

3 We did a comprehensive report
4 at the request of the companies to determine
5 what were the current levels of these fields
6 along the project route, and to look how those
7 levels would change as a result of the addition
8 of a new transmission line. The results showed
9 that, for the most part, the changes will be
10 quite small. And part of this results from the
11 fact that there are advantages taken in the
12 fact that electromagnetic fields, unlike other
13 things we measure in our environment, like the
14 percent of oxygen in the air, have not only a
15 magnitude you can quantify the strength of
16 these, but they also have a direction. So if
17 you have a magnetic field coming from one
18 transmission line, and a magnetic field from
19 another conductor or another transmission line
20 is going in the opposite direction at the same
21 time, the fields will tend to cancel. So as
22 part of the analysis, we looked at how the
23 phases of the new line could be arranged in
24 such a way as to minimize the magnetic fields

1 at the edge of the right-of-way.

2 In addition, for a good part
3 of the Project, the primary work that's taking
4 place in addition to the new line is towards
5 the center of the right-of-way, which means
6 that there is a much greater distance to the
7 edge of the right-of-way and properties away
8 from the right-of-way, from the new line, for
9 much of the route. So, the combination of
10 these circumstances means that the Project will
11 have a relatively small impact on the levels of
12 electric and magnetic fields outside the
13 right-of-way.

14 MR. IACOPINO: Will that small
15 impact affect public safety at all?

16 DR. BAILEY: No. This is a
17 topic that has been researched, and I've been
18 heavily involved in this for the last 35 years.
19 Today there's not a single national or
20 international health agency that has determined
21 that either electric or magnetic fields at the
22 levels that we encounter in our environment, even
23 directly underneath the conductors of the
24 transmission line that exist today, or would

1 exist in the future with this project, is a cause
2 of any adverse affect on health.

3 As you are probably aware,
4 there have been studies looking at the question
5 about whether exposure to these fields over a
6 long period of time might influence chronic
7 diseases like cancer or neurological diseases.
8 And today, the World Health Organization and
9 other agencies has examined all of this
10 research. The most recent review of this
11 research was just in 2015 and was published by
12 an agency of the European Commission. And
13 their conclusion, like the World Health
14 Organization, is that exposure to these fields,
15 so long as they're under the recognized
16 guideline levels of international
17 organizations, are without any known adverse
18 effects on health. I would point out that
19 calculations show both existing levels and
20 after-construction levels of these fields will
21 be a very small fraction of these recommended
22 exposure guidelines.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Will
24 there be any measurement to confirm that your

1 modeling is correct once the lines are in place?

2 DR. BAILEY: I don't know what
3 the plan is. Sometimes that is the case. I can
4 tell you from having done post-construction
5 measurements for a project that we worked on in
6 the past, we have found a very good agreement
7 between the Projected levels of electromagnetic
8 fields and those that we measured after
9 construction.

10 MR. IACOPINO: One other
11 question. Will there be any constructed along
12 right-of-way between the two substations any new
13 permanent access points?

14 MR. PLANTE: I think I'd like to
15 have Sherrie address that question. She's the
16 Director of Energy Services for VHB and the lead
17 environmental consultant with the Project.

18 MS. TREFRY: Good evening.
19 Sherrie Trefry with VHB.

20 So we have submitted
21 Department of Transportation right-of-way
22 permits to access the right-of-way during
23 construction. So those have been filed.
24 There's four locations where we have permanent

1 wetland crossing proposed for some permanent
2 access ways in the National Grid portion. The
3 reason for that is because there is a -- Pelham
4 substation is in that area, and we have to
5 routinely access that area for switching
6 equipment. So there is some permanent access
7 way proposed in that location.

8 MR. IACOPINO: And all of those
9 have been the subject of the permits that you
10 requested at the Department of Environmental
11 Services?

12 MS. TREFRY: Yes.

13 MR. IACOPINO: Thank you.

14 MS. WEATHERSBY: What will be
15 the effects of both the construction and the
16 operating facility on wildlife?

17 MS. TREFRY: Sherrie Trefry from
18 VHB answering that question.

19 We looked at the existing
20 wildlife habitat cover, looked at what Fish and
21 Game has mapped, and also field-verified the
22 wildlife habitat in those areas, and looked at
23 the clearing impacts that would be necessary
24 for construction of the Project. And in our

1 analysis, the level of conversion for the
2 amount of clearing that's required is not going
3 to significantly impact the wildlife habitat in
4 those areas. It's not generating a significant
5 change in the landscape level of wildlife
6 habitat that is out there. And in certain
7 cases, the conversion of forested area to
8 scrub-shrub area within the right-of-way does
9 increase the habitat for some species, like the
10 New England Cottontail, which is known to exist
11 in the Londonderry area. And we're also
12 performing some surveys for New England
13 Cottontail this December and January when the
14 snow falls to determine the presence of that
15 species in the right-of-way.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: All
17 right. At this point I'm going to start the
18 questions from the public. I have some written
19 questions. Some of them are longer, so I will
20 just read them.

21 The first is: What are the
22 health risks from exposure to electromagnetic
23 frequencies from high-voltage transmission
24 lines, and what standards do you use?

1 DR. BAILEY: Bill Bailey again.
2 As I said before, no agency has determined that
3 there are health risks at the ordinary levels we
4 encounter in our environment. However, like
5 everything else in life, at sufficiently high
6 intensity, almost any exposure can be harmful.
7 So we have to distinguish between the likelihood
8 of effects based upon the magnitude of the
9 stimulus. So we know that for very strong
10 electromagnetic fields, higher than even would be
11 encountered by the workers at electric utilities
12 who are working directly with energized
13 equipment, at levels far higher than that, there
14 can be stimulation of the nervous system that
15 could cause electrical changes in the nervous
16 system. But those levels are -- occur at levels
17 that are literally hundreds of times to thousands
18 of times higher than would be encountered in our
19 everyday environment. So when the standards are
20 set -- two organizations that have set guidelines
21 for exposure to the general public and also for
22 workers to electromagnetic fields, one is the
23 International Commission on Non-ionizing
24 Radiation Protection, which is affiliated with

1 the World Health Organization, and they have
2 guidelines of 2000 milligauss for continuous
3 exposure to the general public; the other
4 organization has a guideline of 9,040. Now,
5 these guidelines, their recommended exposure
6 levels are not the level where if you go
7 5 percent over that level, that some harmful
8 effect is going to occur. These levels are set
9 so that they're roughly 50 times or more below
10 the level where there would be any noticeable
11 effect. So those are the standards that we have
12 used as guidelines and are used in
13 internationally to judge the likelihood of
14 effects from these exposures.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: How
16 does your modeling compare to those standards for
17 the level of magnitude of the electromagnetic
18 field after the Project is completed?

19 DR. BAILEY: Well, if I recall,
20 on the section that has the highest magnetic
21 field today at the edge of the right-of-way, it's
22 28 milligauss as opposed to 2,000 and 9,000
23 milligauss. And on that section of the
24 right-of-way, the field level I think decreases

1 after the Project by about 5 milligauss. So that
2 section where it's highest will actually go down
3 as a result of the Project.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Thank
5 you.

6 MR. IACOPINO: Can I ask a
7 question about that?

8 Sir, can I ask you one other
9 question? I understand that you say that
10 there's been no demonstration of any health
11 effects from continuous exposure at the levels
12 that are commonly seen. But are you aware of
13 anything in the literature that talks about
14 cancer clusters or things like that in the
15 vicinity of high-voltage lines?

16 DR. BAILEY: Questions about
17 clustering disease, such as cancer clusters, is a
18 topic that state health agencies everywhere are
19 called upon to address, where someone calls in
20 and says there appears to be an excess of
21 gastrointestinal illness in our area, maybe it's
22 a suspected outbreak infectious disease; could be
23 concerns about what appears to people to be an
24 excess number of miscarriages; could be concerns

1 about cancer in a particular area. And so the
2 state health agencies sometimes get dozens to
3 hundreds of such questions raised to them each
4 year. It's very hard, with the exception of
5 certain types of complaints, to actually
6 ascertain what the cause of a particular cluster
7 is, because sometimes these clusterings can be
8 just chance. So if I take a handful of my
9 child's jacks and I throw them down on the floor,
10 there's a random pattern. On some squares of the
11 floor there are going to be no jacks and other
12 places there are going to be two, sometimes
13 three, maybe one. And so when you have common
14 diseases in the population, their occurrence does
15 not occur uniformly throughout the population.
16 So when we want to answer a question about the
17 cause of some particular outcome, such as cancer,
18 we don't look at clusters, because it's
19 notoriously difficult for certain types of
20 questions, particularly diseases, take a long
21 time to find out what those causes are and
22 distinguish it from this random development of
23 disease. So, to those kinds of studies, we look
24 at human epidemiology studies in which we look at

1 large populations, sometimes of entire countries.
2 As in the case of a number of EMF studies that
3 have been done across Europe, countries that have
4 involved all of Norway, all of Sweden, all of
5 Denmark, all of the UK, and large states in the
6 U.S., including California, we have looked to see
7 is there a relationship between the occurrence of
8 disease when you have a large population study
9 and sources of exposure to electromagnetic
10 fields, like transmission lines and distribution
11 lines and substations. These studies as a whole
12 have not found a relationship that any agency
13 would suggest is a cause-and-effect relationship.
14 In some cases, particularly in the earlier
15 studies, we saw statistical correlations between
16 estimates of exposure to these fields and certain
17 types of cancer. What I mean by "estimates of
18 exposure," it might be in the early days of
19 counting the number of wires that were hanging on
20 towers and judging the apparent thickness of the
21 wires and looking at how close they were to
22 residences. This is obviously a very crude way
23 of estimating the exposure. Today we have much
24 more sophisticated methods by which we can

1 mathematically model the exposure both currently
2 and in the past at people's residences using
3 methods like we have applied for estimating
4 exposure from the current project. Or we can ask
5 large populations of people to wear a recording
6 magnetic field meter as they go about their
7 business during the day and measure 24 hours a
8 day what are the levels of magnetic fields they
9 encounter while they're at home, whether at
10 school or work, and how that relates to potential
11 sources.

12 So all of these types of
13 studies have been done with human subjects.
14 And also, we also look at animal studies,
15 because they're obviously -- the human
16 population and our circumstances is very
17 complex, and so it's hard to isolate out a
18 particular factor. So we go to experimental
19 studies in a laboratory where we can
20 experimentally control the genetics of all the
21 animals that participate in the experiments.
22 So we know if we do see a difference between
23 two groups, it can't be due to genetic
24 differences, because all the animals were

1 genetically identical when they went into the
2 experiments. And we can also control all of
3 the factors -- the temperature, the humidity,
4 the diet -- so if we do see a difference
5 between the animals, at the end of the
6 experiment we know what was the factor
7 involved.

8 Now, Congress, in the 1990s,
9 asked the National Institute of Environmental
10 Health Sciences to do studies to find out if
11 there was a supporting basis for the idea that
12 exposure to electromagnetic fields from power
13 lines or electrical appliances had adverse
14 effects on health. So the National Institute
15 of Environmental Health Sciences asked the
16 internationally recognized national toxicology
17 program to design a study to look at exposures
18 of animals to these fields over their entire
19 lifetime. So they looked at two species of
20 animals at levels of 200, 2,000 milligauss,
21 10,000 milligauss. And then with the idea that
22 maybe intermittent exposure might be different
23 from the continuous exposure, they had the
24 fields at 10,000 milligauss turned off every 15

1 minutes so that the fields were constantly
2 being switched on and off. At the end of the
3 lifetime, they analyzed 50 different tissues of
4 these animals under a microscope and looked to
5 see if the prevalence of cancer was different
6 in these two populations, exposed and
7 unexposed, and in particular, any relationship
8 between the level of the magnetic field they
9 were exposed to during their lifetime and the
10 incidence of cancer. The National Toxicology
11 Program determined, in fact, that there was no
12 relationship. Similar studies have been done
13 by scientists in Canada. And in Japan, the
14 study went as high as 50,000 milligauss, and at
15 the end of the experiment, they found no
16 difference between the animals that had
17 exposure to the magnetic fields or controlled
18 conditions. So these are the main types of
19 studies that we use to assess potential human
20 health risk from any exposure in our
21 environment, including electromagnetic fields.

22 MR. IACOPINO: I appreciate your
23 answer contained a lot of helpful information,
24 but my question was a little bit more limited.

1 It was, are you aware of any literature that
2 demonstrates that there may be cancer clusters
3 identified in areas where people are continuously
4 exposed to high transmission lines.

5 DR. BAILEY: I'm sorry if I went
6 on. I do not know of any confirmed cancer
7 cluster. I know that there have been allegations
8 of cancer clusters, but I don't know of a cancer
9 cluster that a state health department has
10 investigated and determined to be caused by power
11 line.

12 MR. IACOPINO: My question only
13 goes to the literature, not rumors or
14 allegations, but in the literature.

15 DR. BAILEY: That's what I'm
16 referring to. Those reports would be issued by
17 state health departments.

18 MR. IACOPINO: Thank you.

19 MS. ROBERGE: I had a question.
20 You referenced a model used to estimate the
21 magnetic field; is that correct?

22 DR. BAILEY: That's correct.

23 MS. ROBERGE: Can you speak to
24 the accuracy of the model, in terms of would you

1 say it's conservative or, you know -- and also,
2 is the model site-specific? Does it take
3 information specifically related to this project
4 and -- can you speak a little bit to that?

5 DR. BAILEY: Certainly. The
6 model, as we described it, is just a way to
7 produce calculations of the electromagnetic
8 fields. These follow the laws of physics. So if
9 you know the exact location of the conductors in
10 space, if you know exactly what the voltage is
11 applied, and you know exactly what the current
12 is, the laws of physics will give you an exact
13 solution as to the magnetic field at any point in
14 space around those conductors. The particular
15 program that's used to input this data is one
16 that was developed by an agency of the U.S.
17 Department of Energy and has been tested over the
18 decades. It is recommended by several states as
19 the program to use for modeling exposures from
20 transmission lines. And in our experience, and
21 that of others, when you know those conditions
22 that affect the outcome, such as the voltage, the
23 current flow and so on, the results are quite
24 accurate to within maybe 10 or 15 percent,

1 depending upon what the field conditions are.

2 MS. ROBERGE: And does the model
3 take into account specific factors related to
4 this project, or the proposed project -- for
5 instance, transmission lines location and things
6 like that? Is it relatively site-specific?

7 DR. BAILEY: Yes. The report
8 that was presented divided the entire route into
9 basically a dozen sections to account for
10 differences in the configuration of the lines in
11 each component of the route. And that takes into
12 account which lines are on the right-of-way in
13 that section, what the loading is on those
14 transmission lines, what their spacing is, what
15 their height above ground is, everything about
16 the design layout of those facilities, and the
17 factors that affect the calculations of fields
18 was taken into account in those sections.

19 MS. WEATHERSBY: Are there
20 practical measures of screening these EMFs; if
21 so, do you plan to use them in areas where homes
22 or intensive uses may be close by?

23 DR. BAILEY: Well, the term
24 "EMF" that's commonly used consists of both

1 electric and magnetic fields. So, electric field
2 is related to voltage, and that is -- electric
3 fields are easily blocked by conductive
4 materials, like fences, trees, shrubberies,
5 buildings and so on. And so any intervening,
6 conductive objects like that between the location
7 where I'm standing and the transmission line
8 would reduce or even totally block the electrical
9 field.

10 Magnetic fields are not
11 influenced by most materials. And so,
12 therefore, if I take the magnetic field meter
13 and I put it inside a block of wood or inside a
14 stone structure, I will measure exactly the
15 same magnetic field inside or outside. So the
16 techniques that we described of increasing the
17 distance of the new line from the edge of the
18 right-of-way and also arranging the magnetic
19 field so they tend to cancel are the recognized
20 methods used to minimize magnetic fields, and
21 that shielding is not really practical. In
22 very small circumstances, like in a laboratory
23 setup, where you have a very small source, one
24 can design combinations of aluminum and steel

1 in such a way that will reduce or shun the
2 magnetic field away from the location you'd
3 like to lower. Obviously, in the case of a
4 transmission line, this is not practical or
5 economically feasible.

6 MS. WEATHERSBY: So, for the
7 electric fields, then, are there plans to plant
8 trees? The poles are quite high, so a fence
9 wouldn't do it. Are there plans to screen in any
10 way, or is that not necessary?

11 DR. BAILEY: Well, to date,
12 despite over 30 years of research, scientists
13 haven't found that electric fields at the levels,
14 even without any screening, pose a health risk.
15 So I don't know of any plans that the companies
16 have made to do special plantings to reduce the
17 electric field. In areas like this, there are
18 many trees both on and off the right-of-way that
19 potentially could, you know, reduce the electric
20 fields below that of bare wires alone. But I
21 don't know of any places that have specifically
22 planned to plant trees in order to achieve such a
23 reduction. I think perhaps it would be on the
24 idea that there wasn't an expectation that doing

1 that would produce any kind of a health benefit.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: All
3 right. I'm going to read the next question.
4 You'll have to be patient. It's fairly long.

5 Are you aware that the Project
6 runs through a large watershed to one of
7 Hudson, New Hampshire's finest pieces of
8 conservation land, Robinson Pond? This
9 watershed area falls within the area of the
10 proposed project between David Drive, Lenny
11 Lane and Kienia Road. The watershed also
12 extends to a large area around the pond. There
13 are two brooks at David and Kienia that feed
14 into the pond. A piping system that collects
15 runoff water also brings water down to the
16 pond. The Project will cross both of these
17 brooks. The brook at Kienia has been dammed by
18 beavers quite some time ago and has turned into
19 a large body of water more resembling a pond;
20 therefore, a rather large crossing is needed
21 and planned for this so-called "brook,"
22 including a 100-by-300-foot pulling pad and a
23 massive transmission tower, 50 to 75 feet from
24 the shoreline. There will also be a

1 considerable amount of woodland buffer removed.
2 Robinson Pond is attached to Beaver Brook on
3 the other end by a small tributary. Beaver
4 Brook leads directly to the Merrimack River.
5 This watershed also supplies water to the
6 aquifers deep beneath the surface that is used
7 for private drinking water. These facts did
8 not appear to be stated in either the Project
9 Application or the application to DES for
10 permits. Please comment on the procedures that
11 you propose to prevent deleterious impacts to
12 this conservation land, the water bodies they
13 feed into and the aquifers that we use for our
14 drinking water.

15 MS. TREFRY: Sherrie Trefry,
16 VHB, responding to that question. We looked at
17 the wetland impacts within the right-of-way and
18 the surface waters. The majority of the impacts
19 for this project are temporary in nature and
20 needed for construction access. All of our
21 surface water impacts are temporary in nature,
22 with the exception of one minor stream location
23 that requires 17 linear feet of relocation for an
24 intermittent stream around a pole location. So

1 the Project should not have any impact on a
2 large-scale watershed like the Robinson Pond
3 watershed. We have taken precautions to
4 implement the sediment erosion control measures
5 that is proposed on our wetland permitting plans.
6 The sediment erosion control will address water
7 quality concerns during construction.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Are you
9 familiar with this 100-by-300-foot pulling pad,
10 and what that's referring to in the Project?

11 MS. TREFRY: So there are, in
12 certain areas within the right-of-way, there are
13 100-by-300-foot work areas called "pulling"
14 sites. And those areas are designated areas for
15 when they're actually pulling the cable between
16 angled structures.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Okay.
18 On Page 61 in the Project application, the
19 possibility of using explosives to remove
20 below-surface boulders as well as bedrock is
21 noted. Please confirm whether this will occur,
22 what the alternatives are, and how you will
23 notify the area residents of the final decision.

24 MR. PLANTE: David Plante. The

1 intended methods of bedrock and ledge removal for
2 this project consists primarily of the use of a
3 core bore technique, using a large drill to
4 establish the hole in the excavation to set the
5 structures. And a secondary plan would be to use
6 hole rams, basically an excavator with a
7 hydraulic hammer that would chip away at the rock
8 until they achieved the desired amount of
9 removal. There could be situations or
10 circumstances where, at least on the Eversource
11 side of the Project, we may opt to use explosives
12 to remove rock if for some reason the first two
13 methods are proving particularly difficult or
14 just ineffective. We don't expect that. It's
15 been quite some time since we employed blasting
16 as a method for pole installation. But we don't
17 want to rule it out at this point. If the case
18 does happen where we opt to use blasting as a
19 method for ledge removal, we would follow all of
20 the appropriate local and state rules for
21 notifications and pre-blast surveys, post-blast
22 surveys, that type of thing. So there are
23 established procedures for that.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Are

1 those procedures local or state, or do you know?

2 MR. PLANTE: It's largely by the
3 fire departments of most municipalities that
4 govern blasting operations. We have -- both
5 companies have outreach specialists who would
6 assist with notifications to the abutters to each
7 work site.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Would
9 you be in touch with the state fire marshal for
10 use of blasting?

11 MR. PLANTE: I'm not certain. I
12 don't know if I could quite answer that one. I
13 would assume that that's part of the
14 notifications that would involve the state fire
15 marshal, but I'm not absolutely sure.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Okay.
17 On Page 62 in the Project's Application for this
18 project, the possibility of using helicopters for
19 wire stringing is noted. Please confirm whether
20 this will occur, what the alternatives are, and
21 how you will notify the area residents of the
22 final decision.

23 MR. PLANTE: I'll take that one
24 as well. Eversource often allows contractors to

1 utilize helicopters for construction activities.
2 I believe at this point National Grid does not.
3 We don't specifically dictate construction
4 methods to contractors. We basically will issue
5 a competitive bid for the work and allow the
6 contractors to propose whichever methods they're
7 most comfortable with and they feel will give
8 them the most economical project. They do,
9 however, have to propose to us the specific
10 subcontractor who they would use for helicopter
11 services, and that would have to be approved by
12 our safety group based on past performance,
13 particularly through safety. And we also do have
14 a fairly formal process we use for notification
15 of any of our helicopter activities. In fact, we
16 had one today. We were doing an emergency patrol
17 of a transmission line in the northern part of
18 the state because we had a -- there was an
19 unplanned operation. Something tripped out of
20 service and went back into service. So we chose
21 to do a helicopter patrol of that facility during
22 the day today. As part of the process, we
23 notified the municipalities who, you know, might
24 see activity, so they'll know what's going on.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Thank
2 you.

3 MR. IACOPINO: Do you own the
4 helicopters?

5 MR. PLANTE: No, we do not.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: On
7 Page 64 of the product -- of the Project
8 Application, power outages during the
9 construction are noted. Please confirm whether
10 this will occur and for how long.

11 MR. HUDOCK: This is Bryan
12 Hudock. I'll answer that question. So,
13 referring back to the presentation, this project
14 is affecting the transmission system. And the
15 way that system is managed, it's through the
16 Independent System Operator. So they're
17 constantly having people on duty to maintain the
18 transmission system. And part of their process
19 is to ensure that maintenance work can occur,
20 such that it won't cause actual outages to
21 customers. So, lines or components of the
22 transmission system can be taken out of service
23 only under certain conditions and with their
24 permission in order to ensure that the remaining

1 system can have the redundancy it needs to
2 provide the service in the end. So we will be
3 taking a measurement with some outages and
4 transmission components during construction, but
5 they will be short in duration, and they will be
6 carefully scheduled with the Independent System
7 Operator so that those transmission system
8 component outages won't have any effect to
9 customers.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: So, to
11 distribution customers, the service will not be
12 interrupted.

13 MR. HUDOCK: That's correct.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Thank
15 you.

16 MR. IACOPINO: We have one more
17 question, but this is one best answered by the
18 Committee itself. The question is: Why don't
19 you face the audience when you respond to the
20 questions?

21 The reason why these witnesses
22 are speaking directly to the Committee is
23 because this is a joint public hearing. This
24 is different than the public information

1 sessions that we had previously. Those public
2 information sessions were designed to present
3 information to the public. As you'll note at
4 tonight's hearing, we have our Subcommittee
5 here. And the purpose of this hearing and the
6 one tomorrow night in Londonderry is for the
7 Subcommittee to obtain information. So that's
8 why we have the witnesses facing the Committee
9 in these particular proceedings, because it's
10 better, it's easier for the Committee to hear
11 when you can see the person speaking. We
12 apologize to anybody in the audience if they're
13 having any difficulty in hearing or
14 understanding the witnesses. But for this
15 particular hearing and tomorrow night's
16 hearing, that's the reason why they face the
17 Committee itself.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Okay.
19 Seeing no other questions from the Committee and
20 having gone through the public questions, I have
21 a few people who have indicated that they would
22 like to make comments. The first is Gil
23 Gilcreast. Am I pronouncing your name correctly?

24 MR. GILCREAST: Yeah. Thank

1 you.

2 Good evening. Gil Gilcreast.

3 I live in Hudson, 38 Boyd Road. I just wanted
4 to mention and make some comments that this
5 will be the fifth power line in a row that's
6 going to go by my house. This new one is
7 345,000 volts. There are three more that I'm
8 not sure the voltage on those. One other is
9 345 [sic] volts. So we're going to have two
10 lines running 345 [sic] volts together,
11 parallel to each other. There is also a DC
12 line that comes down from Quebec. So we're
13 looking at five. So I don't know if there's an
14 interaction in the magnetic field because two
15 power lines at 345,000 volts will run together.
16 I have personally been there in the rain and
17 gotten out of my vehicle, and honestly, you can
18 feel it on your feet. So I share the concerns
19 about the effects, and I appreciate the
20 questions that you asked about the effects on
21 all of us.

22 And your question that you
23 had -- I'm sorry, I don't remember your name --
24 about the clearing, if people hear the words

1 "it's on the right-of-way," well, they envision
2 what they're seeing that's already there.
3 There will be another 85 to possibly more,
4 100 feet or so, of woods that will be cut.
5 They will be gone to put this new power line
6 in.

7 And I want to mention
8 something that probably no one wants to really
9 hear about, but it does affect Public Service
10 and National Grid. It is the pipeline. And
11 there's a general terminology that's been used
12 by Kinder Morgan and the SEC, Site Evaluation
13 Committee -- which, by the way, are you folks
14 related, or do you know this Committee? Are
15 you part of that same Committee?

16 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: We are.

17 MR. GILCREAST: So you are part
18 of that same Committee. So, I don't know. Is
19 that a real conflict of interest going on here or
20 what? Think about it. Think about what you're
21 doing.

22 It's been publicly said by
23 Kinder Morgan that the pipeline will co-locate
24 with the power lines, in general terms. That's

1 what's been said. I was at a meeting in
2 Milford last Thursday. Co-locate, co-locate,
3 co-locate. To someone who's not in the know,
4 or who's actually not involved in this, this
5 looks like, what's the big deal. The
6 pipeline's going under the power lines. That's
7 not true. We know that. They can't. Even our
8 governor wrote a statement in opposition to the
9 pipeline. And in that letter she said it's
10 going to lay along -- or lay with the existing
11 utilities right-of-way, meaning the
12 transmission line. So I feel that has been
13 misleading the public, the general public,
14 since the outset. And I'm not sure how it is
15 that National Grid or Eversource has any
16 authority at all to authorize anything to do
17 with the gas line. I've read some of the
18 deeds. I've gone back to 1929. If you read
19 the deeds and the rights-of-way, in some
20 cases -- I can't say all of them -- it clearly
21 says that they have the right to erect an
22 electrical transmission line to maintain these
23 lines and so forth and so forth, all directly
24 related to electrical transmission lines. So

1 I'm not sure how they can have that authority
2 to even authorize anybody from Kinder Morgan to
3 even be there or to even be part of it.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: I'm
5 going to interrupt you for just a moment.

6 MR. GILCREAST: Sure.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: This
8 right-of-way and this project that we're
9 considering tonight does not propose to put any
10 pipelines into the ground. This is purely --
11 this particular project is purely an electric
12 transmission project. So I appreciate your
13 comments, but I don't think they apply to this
14 particular project. I think they apply more
15 generally to another project that is not
16 currently filed yet with the SEC.

17 MR. GILCREAST: I anticipated
18 that you would probably feel that way because I
19 know this is directly related to the transmission
20 line. But they are related because the public,
21 all the public, has been told since the beginning
22 that this is a co--- if it's a co-located, then
23 you are involved. You really are. Thank you.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Thank

1 you.

2 Debora Covino.

3 MS. COVINO: I live at 15B Lenny
4 Lane. I also own 17A and B Lenny Lane, and I
5 rent those out. That's going to be my only
6 retirement income. And I just feel like with all
7 the trees coming down, there's going to be less
8 privacy and more noise. And if any of the wells
9 are affected, I could lose tenants and everything
10 I've invested. And that's my concern.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Thank
12 you.

13 Are there any other members
14 of the public who didn't fill out a paper but
15 would like to make a statement? You can do
16 that and then fill out the paper afterwards if
17 you'd like. Yeah.

18 REP. ULERY: Representative
19 Jordan Ulery, U-L-E-R-Y.

20 The question regarding the
21 purpose of this transmission line was to
22 increase reliability of the system. We got on
23 the edge of this as to why it was necessary.
24 Some comments were made regarding how it would

1 be a better literal distribution of the power
2 that would decrease the cost -- or the heat
3 generation and the degradation of the lines.

4 The question is: Would the
5 people of the area be better served by
6 upgrading the distribution lines as opposed --
7 the local distribution lines as opposed to the
8 transmission lines? Would the same effect be
9 done? And would the people, the ratepayers,
10 receive better service by upgrading the
11 distribution lines to do the same distribution,
12 using different terminology meaning the same
13 thing, of the current across a wider spectrum?
14 Is that possible? Has that been considered,
15 and is it even part of the consideration?
16 Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Would
18 you like to answer that since it seems to be
19 posed as a question as opposed to a comment?
20 Would you like to try to respond? Thank you.

21 MR. HUDOCK: Sure. This is
22 Bryan Hudock from National Grid. And it's a very
23 good question. And the response is that you
24 really are talking about two parallel systems.

1 The transmission system is designed to carry
2 large bulk quantities of electricity over large
3 distances, and the distribution system taps off
4 of that transmission system periodically over a
5 much more local distance to provide the service
6 to your homes and businesses. So, really,
7 they're independent of each other, in terms of an
8 upgrade to the transmission system is maintaining
9 the reliability of the transmission system.

10 Parallel or separate from that, upgrades can be
11 made to the distribution system. But the only
12 thing I would say is just that you cannot upgrade
13 the distribution system to have the same effects
14 or impacts that we're talking about with this
15 project.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: Thank
17 you. I think that completes -- oh, I'm sorry.
18 Yes, go ahead.

19 MR. BOISVERT: Richard Boisvert.
20 I heard a couple questions
21 about notifications in the case of blasting or
22 use of helicopters. And as I replayed it in my
23 mind, I really didn't hear an answer as to how
24 or if people would be notified. I heard

1 reference to notifying municipalities in some
2 locations, but I don't understand if that means
3 notifying the fire chief, selectmen, or
4 notifying specific individuals who live in the
5 vicinity. I'd like to know, in the event of
6 blasting, will the individual property owners
7 within a certain distance be notified? Would
8 it be the municipality or both? And the same
9 for helicopters. How will a notification, if
10 there's notification, be carried out, and
11 specifically who will hear it?

12 MR. PLANTE: Good question.
13 Sorry if I wasn't clear enough in my earlier
14 response. But yes, absolutely, every abutter
15 within the vicinity of any of these activities
16 would receive notification either via e-mail or
17 via public notification in the newspaper. The
18 local fire, police and volunteer boards also get
19 notifications through our outreach program. So
20 we have a variety of methods that are used to
21 ensure that all of the affected and interested
22 stakeholders do get notified of what's going on.

23 MR. BOISVERT: So you say
24 e-mail. But you don't necessarily put a notice

1 at the person's door or mail it to them?

2 MR. PLANTE: We use a variety of
3 methods. Our application actually has a list of
4 the types of notifications that we do use. I
5 can't state here today that in every situation we
6 would use this particular one. I think we rely
7 on our outreach folks to understand the scope of
8 what's going on and the particulars of each area
9 along the Project to employ the appropriate
10 outreach methods. We also require our
11 contractors to employ certain outreach because
12 they have some obligations. And particularly in
13 the case of blasting, the contractor itself has
14 some obligation to reach out to certain entities,
15 as well as the local fire and police. Am I
16 helping?

17 MR. BOISVERT: You say there are
18 obligations. Am I to understand there are state
19 regulations or just municipal regulations? You
20 say they have an obligation. What is the basis
21 of that obligation? Is it in the law or is it
22 your company practice?

23 MR. PLANTE: I can't cite the
24 specific state regulations that apply to

1 blasting. I can certainly do some research and
2 get back to you, to the Committee on that.

3 MR. BOISVERT: Okay. Thank you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: I
5 believe that completes our --

6 MS. WEATHERSBY: Can I follow-up
7 on that?

8 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: I'm
9 sorry.

10 MS. WEATHERSBY: Just a quick
11 follow-up. If someone wants to be notified, can
12 they -- is there a spot where they can
13 proactively contact you and get on the list so
14 that they receive notifications of blasting or
15 helicopter activity or anything else they want to
16 know about?

17 MR. PLANTE: Absolutely. The
18 closing slide of the presentation Bryan gave has
19 a web site and an 800 number that you can reach
20 us and provide any sort of request for specific
21 notifications, and we'd be happy to comply with
22 that.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER ROSS: All
24 right. I think we're finished with questions and

1 comments. I want to thank you all for your
2 attention. I also want to let you know that
3 there has been a court reporter here recording
4 what's been said. That will become a transcript.
5 It will be filed on the Site Evaluation Committee
6 web site. We would ask that the Applicant supply
7 the court reporter with a copy of your slides,
8 hopefully in electronic form, so that they can be
9 included in the transcript. The Site Evaluation
10 Committee web site is also linked to the Public
11 Utilities Commission web site, which is
12 www.puc.nh.gov, and you can go to that web site
13 and follow the links to the SEC web site. And we
14 appreciate you're coming out tonight and helping
15 us to be begin to consider this project. Good
16 evening.

17 (Whereupon the joint public information
18 session was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed
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