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1 STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 2 SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE
 3
 4 September 9, 2015 - 6:00 p.m.
 5 Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa
 6 101 Mountain View Road
 7 Whitefield, New Hampshire
 8
 9 IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06
 10 JOINT APPLICATION OF NORTHERN
 11 PASS LLC AND PUBLIC SERVICE
 12 COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a
 13 EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR A
 14 CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY
 15 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW
 16 HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION
 17 LINE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE:
 18 Public Information Session held
 19 pursuant to RSA 162-H:10.
 20
 21 *(Presentation by Northern Pass
 22 Transmission LLC and Eversource
 23 Energy, followed by a
 24 Question-and-Answer Session)*
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I N D E X

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Presentation by Mr. Quinlan (Eversource Energy) 10

Question-and-Answer Session 29

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NOTED AS PRESENT:

Counsel for the Applicant: Barry Needleman, Esq.
 (McLane Graf Raulerson & Middleton)

Also noted as present for Northern Pass Transmission LLC and Eversource Energy Project Team who provided answers to questions:

Bill Quinlan, President, Eversource New Hampshire
 Jim Muntz, President of Transmission, Eversource
 Sam Johnson, Senior Project Manager, Burns & McDonnell Eng.
 Bob Clarke, Director of Siting/Outreach..., Eversource
 Lee Carbonneau, Sr. Principal Scientist, Normandeau & Assoc.
 Jerry Fortier, Project Director, Eversource
 Mark Hodgdon, Outside Counsel to Eversource on Northern Pass
 Brian Bosse, Engineer, Eversource
 Chris Soderman, Senior Engineer, Eversource

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P R O C E E D I N G

THE MODERATOR: Good evening. My name is Kathleen McGuire, and I'm a retired Superior Court judge. I was on the bench for about 25 years before I recently fully retired. I sat up in Coos County, in the old courthouse, and also the new one, particularly when I was new on the bench, and the new judges got sent up north, when we still rode circuit.

My function tonight, though, is to moderate this public information session about the Northern Pass Project. This is a 192-mile transmission line proposed to bring energy from hydroelectric plants in Canada to New Hampshire and the rest of New England. The project is proposed jointly by the Northern Pass, LLC, and Public Service Company of New Hampshire doing business as Eversource Energy. I want to thank you all very much for coming out tonight to participate in this event.

Tonight's public information session is the first step in a state administrative process required by statute, RSA Chapter 162-H. Before new energy facilities of a certain size can be built, the company proposing the project must receive a Certificate of Site and Facility from the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee, or the SEC, an entity formed by the Legislature

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1 for the purpose of reviewing proposed energy facilities.
 2 RSA Chapter 162-H was recently amended
 3 to require that at least 30 days before submitting an
 4 application to the SEC, the company, here Northern Pass,
 5 must hold a public information session in each county in
 6 which the project is to be built. The Northern Pass
 7 Project is proposed to go through five counties: Coos,
 8 Grafton, Belknap, Merrimack, and Rockingham.

9 This meeting is the fourth of the five
 10 pre-application information sessions. The statute further
 11 requires that the public information session be recorded,
 12 which is why we'll have two court reporters, Steve
 13 Patnaude is beginning, and Sue Robidas will be here in a
 14 while, to take down everything that is said tonight. They
 15 will then prepare a transcript from the record, which will
 16 be made part of the application to the SEC. The purpose
 17 of these sessions is for Northern Pass to present
 18 information to the public and provide the public with an
 19 opportunity to ask questions, and to make comments about
 20 the proposed project.

21 As part of the -- as part of this effort
 22 to provide information to the public, an open house began
 23 in the rooms outside at 5:00, and that open house will
 24 continue throughout the evening. Project engineers and
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1 there's enough variance in the question to warrant a
 2 separate answer, then I'll ask those questions. For
 3 example, "Why isn't the line being buried at a particular
 4 location?" Or, "How much does it cost to bury the line?"
 5 Those would be different questions, and, of course, I
 6 would ask those. I hope that by minimizing repetition in
 7 this way, we can make the most productive use of the hour
 8 that we have for questions and answers.

9 Now, what we've found is that many
 10 people ask multiple questions. And, so, in order to be
 11 fair to everyone, I'm going to ask the first question of
 12 these multiple questions, unless that answers -- that
 13 question has been asked already and answered, in which
 14 case I'll go to the second or third. And, we'll go
 15 through all the questions that way. And, then, time
 16 permitting, we'll cycle through the questions again and
 17 ask the next question that you've asked. So, this way,
 18 we'll reach hopefully at least one of everybody's
 19 questions.

20 Finally, if a question is not really a
 21 question, but rather a comment or opinion about the
 22 proposed project, I'll not read that comment or opinion,
 23 but I'll add it to the written comments and leave it, and
 24 that can be filed with the rest of the comments with the
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1 experts will be available throughout the evening, so that
 2 you can ask any questions that you want about the project.

3 Tonight's meeting has three parts.
 4 First, after I've completed my introduction, Bill Quinlan,
 5 President of Eversource New Hampshire, will make opening
 6 remarks on behalf of Northern Pass, and present a short
 7 video that gives an overview of the project. After that,
 8 he will make a brief presentation specific to Coos County.

9 Second, Mr. Quinlan, aided by a project
 10 team, will address questions for about an hour. To make
 11 the most efficient use of this limited time, questions
 12 will be taken in written form. Index cards are available
 13 at the back of the room, over in that corner, for you to
 14 write your questions on. Because you may want to ask
 15 questions on different topics, I ask that you use one
 16 index card for each topic. This will help us group
 17 questions by category. I may then consolidate or
 18 summarize your questions within the category to ask as
 19 many questions as possible. For example, in the three
 20 previous sessions, many people asked the question "why
 21 can't the whole project be buried?" You'll be glad to
 22 know I'm not going to ask that 15 or 20 times. Rather,
 23 I'm going to consolidate those questions and ask them
 24 once. However, if a question about burying the line, if
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1 SEC. I'll leave it to the writer to take advantage of the
 2 comment portion to come up and put his or her comment on
 3 the record.

4 Again, my goal is to make the hour-long
 5 question and answer portion as productive as possible, and
 6 hopefully reach every topic that everyone -- that has been
 7 raised. Please remember again that the project engineers
 8 are available throughout the evening in the open house to
 9 discuss in-depth any questions you may have about the
 10 project.

11 During the third portion of the program,
 12 you will have the opportunity to comment on the project.
 13 To do so, you will need to write your name and number on a
 14 sheet of paper, again, at the same desk in the back of the
 15 room. In receiving your comments, preference will be
 16 given to residents and property and business owners of
 17 Coos County. Non-county residents will follow. I will
 18 call your name out in the order that I receive the forms.
 19 You may also comment in writing, if you'd prefer not to
 20 come up and speak at the microphone. These comments will
 21 be given to the SEC as part of the Northern Pass
 22 application.

23 These public information sessions are
 24 the first step in a lengthy administrative process. The
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1 next step will be for Northern Pass to file its
2 application with the SEC. Pursuant to the statute, this
3 may occur no sooner than 30 days after completing the five
4 public information sessions. The application, including
5 all public comments, will be available online at the SEC
6 website, and hard copies will be delivered to each town
7 affected by the project.

8 Once the application is filed, the SEC
9 has 60 days to determine whether to accept it. Within 45
10 days after acceptance, the SEC will conduct another set of
11 public information sessions in each county. Additionally,
12 within 90 days after the application is accepted, the SEC
13 and other state agencies are required to hold joint public
14 hearings. In the past, those hearings involve, like
15 tonight's session, the applicant presenting information
16 about the proposed project, the public making comments,
17 and the SEC moderating a public question and answer
18 session. Additionally, the SEC and state agencies also
19 ask the applicant questions about the project.

20 The last part of the state
21 administrative process occurs when the SEC holds public
22 adjudicative hearings, at which it will consider evidence
23 from Northern Pass and other parties, and decide whether
24 or not to issue a certificate authorizing Northern Pass to
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1 this evening, we do intend to respond to you, once we've
2 got the answer to your question. Okay? So, again, thank
3 you for being here.

4 So, as I said, this is part of the
5 process of listening to New Hampshire that, you know, we
6 began, or, I began about a year ago, when I first started
7 getting involved with this project. And, really, what was
8 important to me was to understand "where are the issues
9 that are most important to New Hampshire?", and then
10 change the project and change the approach in a way to
11 address those issues, to the extent possible, and still
12 have a balanced, viable project.

13 So, you know, the two things that I've
14 heard most consistently about this project over the last
15 year is, you know, "You need to be respectful of important
16 viewsheds within the state. You know, you need to do what
17 you can to reduce the view and scenic impacts, and you
18 need to take a hard look at that issue and take it very
19 seriously." That was the number one issue I heard.

20 The second issue I heard, and I think,
21 in some cases, this is a misperception, but the
22 misperception has been that "this project is all about
23 getting power from Quebec, down to southern New England,
24 specifically, Boston or Connecticut, and that none of the
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1 proceed with the proposed project. These hearings
2 typically occur eight months or more after an application
3 is accepted.

4 Again, thank you very much for
5 participating in this initial step of the SEC siting
6 process.

7 And, I'd like to now introduce Bill
8 Quinlan, President of Eversource New Hampshire.

9 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. Thank you, Judge
10 McGuire. And, thank you, everyone, for being here this
11 evening. You know, as Judge McGuire indicated, this is
12 our fourth of five public information sessions that we're
13 conducting across the state. These are important sessions
14 for us as a company as we move forward into the next
15 critical phase of this project. It's really an
16 opportunity for us to continue listening to New Hampshire,
17 and to understand where any issues are, and, to the extent
18 possible, address those issues as we work our way through
19 the siting process. So, an important session here
20 tonight. I appreciate you taking the time out of your
21 evening to come and ask questions, and also we welcome
22 your public comment certainly.

23 And, to the extent you ask questions
24 that are at a level of detail we're not prepared to answer
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1 benefits of the project would reside here in the State of
2 New Hampshire. So, if the project's going to move
3 forward, you need to also prove to us that it's going to
4 deliver direct and substantial benefits to New Hampshire,
5 if we're going to host this project, if it's going to be
6 built in this state." Those are the two issues that I've
7 heard most consistently for the last year.

8 Now, there are a lot of variations on
9 that. You know, what's important in one portion of the
10 state might be different than what's important in another
11 portion of the state. But, when you boil it all down,
12 those are the two principal issues that I've been working
13 to address. That's really what led to the ForwardNH Plan
14 that Judge McGuire mentioned that was announced two weeks
15 ago. It was really our attempt to address those two
16 principal issues, and to have a project that we believe
17 has stronger support here in the State of New Hampshire
18 and strikes an appropriate balance as we move into siting.
19 Okay?

20 Again, we're going to continue to
21 listen. You know, if there are areas that require further
22 review, further evaluation, further adjustment, we're
23 certainly going to take that into consideration as we move
24 forward.
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1 So, how do we address the two issues?
 2 The first one, around view impacts, really led to some
 3 very significant changes to the Northern Pass Project
 4 itself. Okay? First and foremost, you know, what we were
 5 hearing here in the State of New Hampshire is "you need to
 6 put more of the project underground." And, I think Judge
 7 McGuire explained that that's a question that we continue
 8 to get. Essentially, more of it needs to be placed
 9 underground, so the view and the scenic impacts are
 10 mitigated.

11 To do that, and to go beyond what we had
 12 originally proposed, we had to make some very substantial
 13 project changes. First, we had to reduce the size of the
 14 project. So, what was previously a 1,200-megawatt project
 15 is now a thousand [1,000] megawatts. So, we've
 16 essentially reduced the amount of power flowing into New
 17 Hampshire by 200 megawatts. So, it's a sizable change
 18 from what was originally envisioned. What does that mean?
 19 It means that, you know, the energy benefits, meaning
 20 lower energy costs that New Hampshire and New England are
 21 going to enjoy from the project, got reduced by
 22 200 megawatts. The environmental benefits of the project,
 23 in the sense that it offsets carbon emissions from fossil
 24 fuel burning plants, that gets reduced by a like
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1 New Hampshire, and to address that primary issue of view
 2 and scenic impacts.

3 So, why did we select that area? It's a
 4 question that I've gotten repeatedly sense we made this
 5 announce. You know, "why the White Mountain National
 6 Forest and not Concord?" "Why the White Mountain National
 7 Forest and not another area of the state?" And, it really
 8 comes down to what we had heard for the last year across
 9 New Hampshire. You know, almost universally, when we had
 10 discussions with almost any stakeholder in the state
 11 around view and scenic impacts, it universally started
 12 with the White Mountain National Forest, and then
 13 progressed, you know, the Appalachian Trail, Franconia
 14 Notch. That's really what guided that decision, as to,
 15 you know, if we're going to have 50 plus miles of
 16 additional underground construction, where along the
 17 route? That's what guided us, was the voices we heard
 18 most consistently across the State of New Hampshire.
 19 Okay?

20 So, you know, very significant changes.
 21 And, it's in an effort to strike a balance. And, if you
 22 look at the final bullet, not only have we changed the
 23 cable technology, we are looking now
 24 structure-by-structure along the areas that are planned to
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1 percentage. But it's part of a trade-off. It's part of a
 2 balanced approach moving forward with the project. So,
 3 that's the first thing we announced, was we were going to
 4 reduce the size of the project.

5 What that allowed us to do and enabled
 6 us to do was we actually have now changed the technology
 7 that we're going to use for the project. So, the cable
 8 itself that's going to carry the power across the border,
 9 into Deerfield, New Hampshire is a different cable
 10 technology. It's one that we can bury, place underground,
 11 more cost-effectively than the cable that we were
 12 originally planning to use. So, we've switched the cable
 13 technology. We've switched the technology that converts
 14 the DC power flowing over the border, to AC power, and
 15 back. So, there's been a lot of technological changes
 16 associated with the project, really to allow us to address
 17 the viewshed issue.

18 And, what did we do to address that?
 19 Last week we announced that we are going to place 52 miles
 20 of the line in and around the White Mountain National
 21 Forest underground, in state roadways. So, the previous
 22 proposal, there was 8 miles of underground construction;
 23 there are now 60 miles of underground construction. And,
 24 that was all based upon feedback that we had received from
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1 be overhead construction, to do what we can to lower
 2 structure heights, use a more streamlined structure,
 3 perhaps move the location of a structure, so it's not
 4 visible. So, we're going to continue to work on the
 5 project design and engineering in this important area of
 6 view impacts. So, we'll talk more about this, I'm sure,
 7 the question-and-answer. But that's what led to that
 8 portion of the announcement and the issue raised by New
 9 Hampshire.

10 The second issue, "Where are the
 11 benefits in this for New Hampshire? If we allow this
 12 project to be built in New Hampshire, prove to us that New
 13 Hampshire is going to benefit." And, you know, "it has to
 14 be direct, and you have to be able to demonstrate that
 15 there are multiple benefits, particularly in the areas
 16 that are hosting the line, like here in Coos County."

17 So, it starts with energy costs. You
 18 know, if you talk to business customers across this state,
 19 whether they are here in Coos County or elsewhere in the
 20 state, one of the big issues they're struggling with right
 21 now are high electric rates and volatile electric rates
 22 that are moving pretty significantly during seasons.
 23 What's causing that? What's causing that is we have
 24 insufficient supply into this region during critical
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1 portions of the year, particularly during the winter.
 2 So, when you take a thousand [1,000]
 3 megawatt line, like Northern Pass, and you place it into
 4 Deerfield, New Hampshire, it looks like a large power
 5 plant. It looks like almost the equivalent of a Seabrook
 6 Station in size. And, what that does is it lowers energy
 7 costs throughout New England, because it's a new supply,
 8 with the same demand. But, in particular, it lowers
 9 energy prices here in New Hampshire. That's our
 10 conservative estimate as to what that means to New
 11 Hampshire customers every year, once this goes into
 12 service, about \$80 million a year in lower electric costs.
 13 So, a direct, provable benefit to New Hampshire as a
 14 result of the line.

15 Second thing is, we announced the
 16 establishment of a ForwardNH Fund. This is a fund that we
 17 intend to deploy locally, really targeted at the areas of
 18 the project that are hosting the structures, generally.
 19 So, the overhead portion of the line, at a
 20 community-by-community level, we've established this fund,
 21 and we intend to use it for important initiatives in those
 22 towns. Many of which, as you know, are here in the North
 23 Country. So, this is going to have a particular emphasis
 24 on Coos County. It's a sizable fund. We really look
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1 You know, construction jobs. You know,
 2 it's clear, when you're building something of this
 3 magnitude, again, it's a roughly one and a half billion
 4 dollar investment, something we haven't seen in New
 5 Hampshire probably in two or three decades, it creates a
 6 lot of job opportunities. Whether it's the electrical
 7 workers who are actually installing the new cable, or the
 8 folks who are clearing areas of trees to allow a
 9 right-of-way, or supplying gravel, or building roads, or
 10 restaurants, who are providing meals, or hotels that are
 11 providing accommodations, there's direct jobs, and then
 12 there are second and third order economic effects of a
 13 project this size that New Hampshire, and I'll say Coos
 14 County, in particular, hasn't seen in many years. We know
 15 this to be the case, because we've had similar projects in
 16 other states, and we've also looked at projects that we
 17 haven't personally managed, but "what is the economic
 18 impact to those states where projects are undertaken?"

19 We have pledged and committed to a "New
 20 Hampshire first" approach to all of the sourcing of this
 21 project. So, we are first going to exhaust local
 22 resources across the entire range of the project, before
 23 we go outside of the state and bring folks in. Whether
 24 it's the electrical workers, whether it's the loggers,
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1 forward to making a difference in deploying these
 2 resources, whether it's economic development or
 3 initiatives we can do to promote tourism.

4 This is based upon feedback we received
 5 from many in New Hampshire, particularly here in Coos
 6 County. You know, I've heard from many, not universally,
 7 but many that, you know, "you need to demonstrate that
 8 this project is going to have a positive impact on the
 9 economy of Coos County." You know?

10 And, we'll talk about jobs and taxes in
 11 a minute. But this is in addition to what this project is
 12 going to generate from a tax perspective or from a -- just
 13 economic growth perspective, because it's a \$1.5 billion
 14 project. This is additional direct, firmly committed
 15 investment in each of the communities hosting this line.
 16 Okay?

17 The third area, which is what I was just
 18 alluding to, jobs and economic benefits, if you look at a
 19 project this size, and you run it out over time, it's
 20 about \$30 million a year in incremental new tax revenues.
 21 You know, that -- 60 percent of that goes to the
 22 communities hosting the line. The balance is divided
 23 between state and county level taxes. And, I'll show you
 24 later specifically what that means to Coos County.
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1 whether it's the gravel supply folks, going down the line,
 2 we're going to first focus on "Is that resource available
 3 here within the state and can we put people to work?" You
 4 know, it's a two and a half year construction project.
 5 So, this is not a short project. It's one that creates
 6 real job and economic opportunities for a long period of
 7 time that really could change lives. So, that's
 8 important. When you look at that, and what's the impact
 9 on New Hampshire, it's over \$2 billion of economic
 10 activity. That's based upon an expert review, we studied
 11 many, and then looked at this specific project, that's
 12 where they put the estimates. Okay? So, a significant
 13 New Hampshire economic benefit.

14 The other area is environmental
 15 benefits, and these are both regional and here in the
 16 State of New Hampshire. You know, this project was
 17 originally envisioned as a way for this state and this
 18 region to meet its carbon emission reduction goals. How
 19 do we clean up our energy supply? How do we reduce our
 20 reliance on coal plants, oil plants, natural gas plants
 21 and get to a cleaner energy supply? That was the original
 22 premise behind Northern Pass. It now has taken on other
 23 importance objectives, like lowering energy costs. But
 24 that carbon emission reduction, there's no project that
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1 you can envision that's going to have that kind of
 2 positive impact on cleaning up our environment for
 3 generations to come. And, that is certainly here in New
 4 Hampshire, it's in New England, and, honestly, it's at a
 5 national level. When you look at the Obama
 6 Administration's Clean Power Plan, this type of project,
 7 importing large-scale hydro, as a way of reducing our
 8 reliance on carbon-emitting fuels, critically important to
 9 reach this country's emissions goals. Okay?

10 More locally, we've made some
 11 commitments to address wildlife impacts and forest
 12 impacts. But, in the aggregate, when we sum all of this
 13 up, just economically, it's in a 3 to 4 billion dollar
 14 range in direct economic benefits to New Hampshire. And,
 15 really, I think there's upsides to these numbers, and I
 16 think there are things that we haven't quantified, like
 17 the environmental benefits.

18 But the point I'm making is, that second
 19 issue that came through so loud and clear when we listened
 20 to New Hampshire, you know, "What's in it for New
 21 Hampshire?" "Where are the benefits?" Those are the
 22 benefits that we really should be focused on. I'm going
 23 to drill down a bit layer into "what does this mean for
 24 Coos County?" This is really a statewide look at "what
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1 right-of-way is in a working forest. It's basically in
 2 what's referred to as the "Wagner Forest". It's routinely
 3 harvested. And, there was a very significant decision
 4 made back in 2013 to reduce view and scenic impacts. So,
 5 this was an area that the project had already made a very
 6 significant commitment to try to address.

7 So, once you exit the Wagner Forest, you
 8 basically join an existing right-of-way, and it's referred
 9 to as the "Coos Loop", the "Coos Transmission Loop", here
 10 in Dummer, and it brings you around this quadrant. So,
 11 you're running this new line parallel to an existing
 12 transmission line in an existing right-of-way. Okay?
 13 And, then, you take a jog west, and you exit Coos County.

14 And, these are kind of some statistics
 15 around how much underground and how much overhead
 16 construction. You know, a few important things here.
 17 When we changed the cable technology and reduced the size
 18 of the project, it has allowed us to reduce, basically,
 19 all of the structure heights in the DC portion of the
 20 line. So, all of the portion of the line through Coos
 21 County is DC, or direct current. So, when we look at
 22 that, on average, the structure heights come down by about
 23 7 feet, some are more, some are a little less, but around
 24 7 feet.
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1 does it mean?"

2 Okay. So, with that, we're going to run
 3 a quick video, and then we're going to talk more
 4 specifically about Coos County. And, then, we'll have a
 5 good question-and-answer period. Okay?

6 Go ahead, Andrea.

7 *(Whereupon a video presentation was*
 8 *shown to the members of the public.)*

9 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. I'm going to drill
 10 down now just for a few minutes -- can someone turn the
 11 lights on please? -- a few minutes on Coos County, and
 12 then we'll open it up for question-and-answer.

13 So, as the video did a nice job of
 14 illustrating, the project basically runs from Pittsburg to
 15 Whitefield in Coos County. And, just, when you look at
 16 this and break down the route, you'll see this dashed area
 17 through Clarksville and Stewartstown, that was the 8 miles
 18 that I was referring to earlier that was already planned
 19 for underground construction.

20 You'll recall, back in 2013, we moved
 21 the route that previously was along the western part of
 22 the state, and we moved it east, through Dixville,
 23 Millsfield, and Dummer, really, to move it away from
 24 public viewing places. So, this 24 miles of new
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1 As I said, this new line is going to run
 2 parallel to the Coos Loop. So, what does that do? It
 3 gives us another opportunity to deliver direct New
 4 Hampshire benefits, back to the other question, really
 5 benefits to this part of the state. And, so, this Coos
 6 Transmission Loop is one that is fed by a lot of existing
 7 small-scale, clean generation sources; wind power, biomass
 8 plants, small hydros located here in New Hampshire that
 9 feeds into the Coos Loop. Now, that Coos Loop today is
 10 undersized. It can't carry all that generation capacity.
 11 So, on any given day, a portion of that generation doesn't
 12 run, because the transmission infrastructure simply isn't
 13 big enough. It's too constrained to get that power to
 14 market.

15 While we're in this right-of-way, and
 16 building a parallel transmission line, we're going to take
 17 the opportunity to upgrade the Coos Loop. So, this is an
 18 upgrade that's been talked about for years here in
 19 northern New Hampshire. It's one that's been
 20 contemplated, but it's always been cost-prohibitive. It's
 21 somewhere between a 50 and \$75 million investment to
 22 unlock that Coos Loop and allow that small-scale renewable
 23 generation to run more often and get to market. So,
 24 that's an additional change that we've been able to make
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1 and announce as part of our ForwardNH Plan. And, we think
 2 it's an important one. And, it's not only important
 3 because it allows additional clean energy to be available
 4 to New Hampshire and the region, but it also allows that
 5 generation to run. So, if you're, you know, providing
 6 services to the Burgess biomass plant, for example, if
 7 you're providing wood to -- wood fuel, you know, when that
 8 plant runs more, it has a trickle-down effect on many
 9 folks here in Coos County. So, that is something we're
 10 very pleased to announce, and it's an important part of
 11 our design going forward.

12 The other thing we are doing, and,
 13 again, I said this at the outset, we're going to work
 14 structure by structure and try to minimize view impacts.
 15 What's referred to here, and this is the streamlined
 16 structure that I was talking about earlier, is a monopole
 17 structure. So, it's basically a pole that is a single
 18 pole, looks more like a telephone pole, versus a lattice
 19 structure. A lattice structure is a four-legged
 20 structure. This is kind of a comparison. You're probably
 21 familiar with many of these. This is a monopole. It's a
 22 more costly approach to structure design, but it is
 23 certainly more streamlined and less visible and reduces
 24 view impacts. We've identified or our experts have
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1 state. Okay?

2 Drilling down a little bit further into
 3 Coos County, these are some of the other benefits that
 4 we've already introduced here in Coos County. And, you
 5 may have heard of our North County Job Creation Fund.
 6 It's basically a seven and a half million dollar fund that
 7 we've established. We're putting that money into the
 8 hands of basically an independent board, comprised of
 9 leaders here in Coos County. And, they're going to
 10 determine how best to deploy those funds to create jobs
 11 here in the region. Okay? That was something that had
 12 been announced previously. We just recently made some
 13 advanced funding to that group. And, you know, I was
 14 personally very pleased with the outcome of their initial
 15 grant selection. And, I think those grants are going to
 16 make a real difference here in Coos County, and there's a
 17 lot more to come.

18 I talked about the Coos Loop upgrade.
 19 You know, we are also looking at opportunities to use real
 20 estate that we've acquired over the years. So, at this
 21 point, we've got about 5,000 acres of landholdings here in
 22 the North Country. And, what's the highest, best use of
 23 that property here in Coos County? You know, I've been
 24 hearing now consistently here, from many, "don't just lock
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1 identified 91 structures in Coos County where we're going
 2 to move to a monopole design construction. And, again,
 3 it's back to "how do we address view impacts?" Okay?

4 So, you know, and our work's not done
 5 here. That's something I do want to emphasize. We're
 6 going to continue to look at the project design and ways
 7 to reduce view impacts up and down the route, particularly
 8 here in Coos County.

9 Talked a little bit about taxes, the \$30
 10 million a year in annual taxes that this project should
 11 generate across New Hampshire. This is a look at it from
 12 a Coos County perspective. At a county level, it's
 13 somewhere between a million and a half dollars a year and
 14 two million dollars a year. And, then, at a municipal
 15 level, it's two and a half to five million dollars,
 16 roughly. Okay? And, this is what it looks like at a town
 17 level. So, that that range will tighten, once we have a
 18 final cost estimate around this project. This is based on
 19 kind of the range of project cost estimates that we're
 20 looking at, as well as some other variables that we've
 21 factored in. But these ranges will tighten. You'll see
 22 some of them are, you know, quite significant. It's an
 23 important benefit to New Hampshire that comes as a result
 24 of, you know, infrastructure being developed here in this
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1 up that land". You know, "don't lock up that land, so no
 2 one ever walks on it again and conserve it." You know,
 3 "think about it from a mixed-use perspective." You know,
 4 "can you use it to create recreational opportunities?"
 5 "Certainly preserve natural resources, but also is there
 6 an economic development opportunity that you can pursue?"
 7 We're really open on this. So, it's our intention to use
 8 that land for these purposes. And, we're going to really
 9 listen to key voices here in the North Country to decide
 10 specifically how best to utilize it. But that is
 11 certainly part of our going-forward plan.

12 What I have got down at the bottom,
 13 these are just illustrative, the community-level
 14 investments that we intend to be pursuing, once we have
 15 funded or established the ForwardNH Fund. That's the
 16 \$200 million fund. These are relatively modest, in the
 17 scheme of things, but they're illustrative of where we're
 18 going to go in the future. Okay?

19 So, that's kind of a focus on Coos
 20 County. You know, this is the going-forward process. We
 21 have our fifth and final public information session
 22 tomorrow, in Belknap County. And, then, we are actually
 23 going to move into the formal siting process by filing our
 24 Site Evaluation Committee application. That will create
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1 additional opportunities for public input. So, you know,
2 there's plenty of opportunity as we move forward for
3 further public dialogue around this. We certainly
4 welcome, you know, the comments we've heard. We welcome
5 the questions that, in many instances, have driven
6 decisions that we've made, and we look forward to
7 continuing to do that going forward.

8 So, with that, I think we're going to --
9 I'm going to turn it back over to Judge McGuire, and we're
10 going to move into the question-and-answers.

11 THE MODERATOR: Okay. There are a lot
12 of people standing around the edges, and there are empty
13 seats in the middle. So, I don't know if perhaps people
14 could move to one side, left to right, or something, if
15 there are empty seats in your row, so we can have more
16 seats for people standing up.

17 MR. QUINLAN: No takers.

18 THE MODERATOR: No takers. Okay. Or,
19 if you spot some seats, take those please. Okay.

20 *[Question-and-Answer Session commenced at 6:41 p.m.]*

21 THE MODERATOR: So, first question: Who
22 is funding Northern Pass?

23 MR. QUINLAN: So, Northern Pass is, as
24 you know, it's a basically -- I'm sorry? It's basically a
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1 THE MODERATOR: Okay. How will this
2 impact your New Hampshire ratepayers?

3 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, specifically,
4 let's start, first, for all of New Hampshire ratepayers,
5 not just the Eversource New Hampshire ratepayers, energy
6 costs will be lower and more stable as a result of
7 Northern Pass. And, that's not -- that's true not only in
8 New Hampshire, but across New England. The New Hampshire
9 portion of that is \$80 million a year. So, New Hampshire
10 is about 9 percent of New England. When you extrapolate
11 that out, it's almost \$900 million a year in lower energy
12 costs for New England. Okay?

13 Now, specific to our New Hampshire
14 customers, incremental to that savings, we are entering an
15 agreement with Hydro-Quebec to reserve 10 percent of the
16 power flowing over this line specifically for Eversource
17 New Hampshire customers. So, those are my customers.
18 Okay? That 10 percent power is going to lead to further
19 cost savings for our Eversource New Hampshire, above and
20 beyond --

21 *[Audience interruption]*

22 THE MODERATOR: Sir.

23 MR. QUINLAN: -- above and beyond --

24 THE MODERATOR: Sir. I'm sorry, Bill.
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1 partnership between Hydro-Quebec, which is the owner of
2 the generation that we're talking about, they basically
3 own and operate the hydroelectric stations north of the
4 border, and Eversource. Okay? There is a portion of the
5 project that has to be built, which is a transmission line
6 from that generation, down to the U.S. border, that's
7 being permitted and pursued directly by Hydro-Quebec.
8 And, then, we have the transmission line here, to bring it
9 from the Canadian border, down to Deerfield, New
10 Hampshire.

11 There's an agreement that's in place as
12 between Eversource and Hydro-Quebec. It's been approved
13 by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. That governs
14 the cost allocation around that project.

15 THE MODERATOR: Okay. And, what kind of
16 compensation is Eversource getting from Hydro-Quebec?

17 MR. QUINLAN: So, it's basically spelled
18 out in the Transmission Support Agreement. That's the, if
19 you will, agreement between the two parties that govern,
20 in essence, the recovery of our project costs. So, think
21 of it as we're the project developer here in New
22 Hampshire, and we recover our costs through the
23 Transmission Support Agreement. That's in the public
24 domain. You can access it through the FERC website.
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1 You cannot ask questions --

2 *[Audience interruption]*

3 THE MODERATOR: No. Sorry. Sir.

4 *[Audience interruption]*

5 THE MODERATOR: Sir, you're being really
6 rude. We have a --

7 *[Audience interruption]*

8 THE MODERATOR: Sorry. We have a format
9 here. We have almost 300 people here. And, we're going
10 to conduct this in an orderly fashion.

11 *[Audience interruption]*

12 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

13 *[Extended audience interruption]*

14 (Court reporter indicating to the
15 Moderator that he is not recording the
16 audience interruption.)

17 THE MODERATOR: No, don't write it,
18 Steve.

19 MR. QUINLAN: As I said, --

20 THE MODERATOR: I'm just going to say
21 this, Bill. You're taking the time out from other
22 people's questions.

23 *[Extended audience interruption]*

24 THE MODERATOR: All right.
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1 *[Extended audience interruption]*
 2 THE MODERATOR: Go ahead, Bill.
 3 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, back to the
 4 question. And, I know these are audience questions. They
 5 are not Company questions. Back to the question on energy
 6 cost savings. There is incremental energy cost savings or
 7 benefits for Eversource New Hampshire as a result of the
 8 power purchase agreement. So, you know, one of the
 9 reasons we entered into that was to address the
 10 misconception that all this power was going to
 11 Massachusetts and Connecticut. So, 10 percent of the
 12 power flowing over this line is specifically reserved for
 13 Eversource New Hampshire customers, at very beneficially
 14 priced terms.

15 *[Audience interruption]*

16 MR. QUINLAN: Speak up? Can you turn --
 17 can the folks in the back hear me? You can? Okay. So,
 18 my point is, that's incremental energy cost savings and
 19 reductions for Eversource New Hampshire customers beyond
 20 other customers in New Hampshire. Okay? And, those are
 21 quite significant, and also designed to address the issue
 22 of this power flowing south. So, if you think about that,
 23 10 percent of the power is going to reserve for New
 24 Hampshire specifically. We're about 9 percent of New
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1 reporters for 25 years. I understand the difficult job
 2 they have. And, I understand the orderly process that has
 3 to be followed in order to make a good record. That's
 4 what we have to do. We have an obligation to make a good
 5 record, and to give that to the SEC. We're not making it
 6 up. It's what the statute requires. And, we really do
 7 want to ask as many questions and get as many comments as
 8 possible.

9 So, to be fair to everybody, and to
 10 ensure that we're not stopping all the time and taking
 11 that time, I really ask you to understand the process. We
 12 had a similar number of people last night, and we didn't
 13 have interruptions.

14 *[Audience interruption.]*

15 THE MODERATOR: And, I ask you to be
 16 respectful to the process, okay?

17 Next question, Bill, is, if you bury the
 18 line on 93, what would the environmental impact be?

19 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, I'm going to
 20 turn that question over to our project team, who have
 21 spent a far amount of time looking at the 93 burial
 22 option.

23 MS. CARBONNEAU: Okay. Thanks, Bill.
 24 The project's understanding is that, to bury the line
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1 England's total load. So, we are receiving at least our
 2 fair share of the portion of the power flowing over the
 3 line, okay?

4 So, the short answer to that question,
 5 and I apologize for the length, is energy costs are going
 6 to be lower and more stable than they otherwise would be.

7 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Bill, I'm going
 8 to take a minute from your presentation or your answering
 9 questions for a minute. People will say "why can't we
 10 have a town hall type of forum, where we can shout out our
 11 questions?" Well, let me -- I'm going to explain that the
 12 difference between this type of meeting and the town hall
 13 type of meeting, is that, as required by statute, this
 14 meeting is all on the record. And, you can see Steve
 15 Patnaude up here trying to take down everything that
 16 everybody says. This is required by statute. It's
 17 required that, when the meeting is over, Steve, and then
 18 Sue, will take the record that they make, make a
 19 transcript and make it part of the application to the SEC.

20 The gentleman who was just speaking out,
 21 we can't hear what he says, Steve can't take that down.
 22 This has to be conducted in an orderly fashion. This is
 23 why this proceeding is more like a court proceeding than
 24 it is a town hall meeting. I've worked with court
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1 along the 93 corridor, this would have to be in the outer
 2 edge of the right-of-way. So, they would not allow it to
 3 be in the travel lane or in the immediate shoulder area.
 4 By pushing this out to the edge of the right-of-way, and
 5 the right-of-way varies in width along the entire route,
 6 it's a bit more like a cross-country route than a route
 7 through a road corridor that's already been disturbed.

8 So, outside of the edge of the
 9 right-of-way we have some forested areas, we have
 10 wetlands, we have potentially rare plants. We have
 11 terrain that has not been worked, it's not fill, it's new
 12 right-of-way. And, so, the environmental impacts there
 13 would be more substantial than if we had individual
 14 structures located in an existing right-of-way.

15 The line would be trenched underground,
 16 there would be some excavation required. There is less
 17 opportunity to wiggle around sensitive resources, because
 18 the line is a little bit more -- the underground line
 19 needs to be a bit more of a straight line, there's some
 20 opportunity to curve it, but that's a bit more difficult.
 21 So, it's much harder to avoid some of the sensitive
 22 resources that are out there. There could be an
 23 opportunity to restore some of those areas, if you had to
 24 excavate in a wetland and then place the cable in there.
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1 You would backfill over it. However, the material that
2 has to be around the line would be of a different nature,
3 because of what has to go in around the line. So, there
4 could be some long-term changes in drainage in some of the
5 wetland areas.

6 So, generally, the impacts would be more
7 substantial than putting an overhead line in the existing
8 right-of-way.

9 THE MODERATOR: Okay. How much exactly
10 has the project and its principals spent on personnel,
11 lobbying, marketing, routing, purchasing land, and all
12 other associated costs, from the time this project was
13 announced, until now? And, parenthetically, wouldn't you
14 have had enough to cover the cost of full burial if you
15 had used all that money --

16 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

17 THE MODERATOR: -- to bury the line
18 along public rights-of-way?

19 MR. QUINLAN: So, just so we have a
20 sense for what the cost of "full burial" means, and we say
21 that casually, but it's basically an additional billion
22 dollars to fully bury this project. You know, from the
23 design that we now have, and using the smaller project,
24 with the cable we're now using, it's roughly a billion
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1 You know, we're trying to strike a
2 balance between a project that is economic and can deliver
3 those benefits, that's what we've been striving to do. We
4 think we've taken a big step in the right direction. But,
5 at a point, the economics just don't work. Our view is
6 that an all-underground project is not economic.

7 THE MODERATOR: Northern Pass claims
8 that it intends to use certain PSWH [PSNH?] right-of-way
9 -- or, rights-of-way or easements in Coos County. If
10 Northern Pass gets its permits to build, will it fully
11 abide by all of the restrictions and conditions that PSNH
12 agreed to more than 60 years ago, when it negotiated those
13 easement agreements with landowners?

14 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, there's a couple
15 of questions there. And, you really would have to look at
16 it kind of easement-by-easement. But, I would say, as a
17 general matter, yes. You know, the obligations that PSNH
18 has under existing easements that have been granted to it
19 would have to be passed on to a party to which it is
20 granting its easement rights. So, the short answer is
21 "yes".

22 You know, additionally, for use of that
23 right-of-way, there's an accepted approach to valuing
24 those rights that are granted. And, we would, obviously,
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1 dollars of incremental cost, you know? I don't quite know
2 exactly how much we have spent on this project to date,
3 but it's nowhere near a billion dollars. I can assure you
4 of that.

5 And, you know, probably more importantly
6 and more specifically to the question, if you were to add
7 a billion dollars to this project, it basically becomes
8 uneconomic. You're taking a --

9 *[Audience interruption/applause]*

10 MR. QUINLAN: -- and that's, you know,
11 that's the reality of an all-underground construction
12 approach. You know, the benefits that we tried to
13 illustrate here today, if the project doesn't get built,
14 obviously, the benefits don't exist. You know, if you --
15 so, when you look across that range of benefits that we
16 talked about, you know, a cleaner fuel supply going into
17 the future, or we're going to remain dependent on, you
18 know, carbon-emitting fossil fuels; the job opportunities
19 that are created as a result of this project; the lower
20 energy costs and more stable energy costs that are really
21 going to change, you know, the business profile for
22 businesses across this state, and residential customers as
23 well, all of those benefits don't exist if the project
24 doesn't get built.
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1 abide by that, and the project would reimburse PSNH for
2 use of that right-of-way, essentially, the grant of the
3 easement. And, those economic benefits or payments would
4 flow back to customers. That, in essence, a way to
5 further reduce energy rates ultimately for PSNH customers.

6 THE MODERATOR: How many people are here
7 tonight who work for Eversource or were hired to work at
8 this event?

9 MR. QUINLAN: I would guess, 20 or 30.
10 You know, one of the things that we want to ensure that
11 we're in a position to do is to have an open house that is
12 meaningful. We have the necessary project expertise to
13 answer your questions, that we can handle your questions
14 here. So, that requires a certain level of staffing. I'm
15 going to guess 20 or 30.

16 THE MODERATOR: Why should New Hampshire
17 be concerned about the affordability of this project, when
18 the construction costs are being funded by Hydro-Quebec?

19 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. There comes a point
20 where the project doesn't -- is not economic. And, again,
21 you know, we have a partner who's very committed to this
22 project today. You know, I think there's a mutual benefit
23 in it, not only to them, but to us and to the State of New
24 Hampshire. You know, as project costs go up, and they
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1 have gone up, as you probably know, as a result of some of
2 the changes we've made to date, probably by several
3 hundred million dollars, you know, you get to the point
4 where it's not economic.

5 You know, and I think then it's really a
6 question of "does the project go forward at all?" And,
7 "does it deliver the benefits that we think it can to New
8 Hampshire?"

9 THE MODERATOR: Can you explain how much
10 logging and road construction you anticipate in Coos
11 County?

12 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, I'm going to
13 turn this over to the project team to answer. So, Sam.
14 Sam is one of our project engineers.

15 MR. JOHNSON: So, the right-of-way, the
16 new right-of-way that will be constructed will basically
17 start, as Bill mentioned, in Pittsburg, and will continue
18 easterly through Clarksville and Stewartstown, towards
19 Dixville, and then going into the Wagner Forest as it
20 comes down into Dummer. And, so that the 24 miles of the
21 active forest will basically be about a 120-foot wide
22 right-of-way. And, so that the logging activities there
23 will be coordinated with the Wagner folks as we go
24 forward. To the north, again, there's 8 miles of
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1 underground, generally, in and around the White Mountain
2 National Forest, I know it's a bit south of here, but that
3 was made specifically based on feedback that we had heard
4 from New Hampshire consistently. You know, "you need to
5 protect those views, because of the -- I'll say "the
6 tourism impacts and other impacts."

7 You know, here, again, we've already
8 done certain things to address view impacts. Whether it
9 was the prior move of the 24-mile portion of the route
10 eastward, some of the underground construction that's
11 going to take place in this region, the use of different
12 pole designs, different pole heights, different pole
13 locations. All of that is based upon view impact analysis
14 by experts in the field or historic resource analysis
15 based upon experts in the field, geared towards exactly
16 the issue you're raising. "How do we move forward with a
17 project that's balanced, and mitigate that critical
18 issue?"

19 THE MODERATOR: Hydro-Quebec seems very
20 anxious to export energy to New England. Has Hydro-Quebec
21 told Eversource/Northern Pass that it will not build the
22 line if it's required to go underground?

23 MR. QUINLAN: You know, I'm going to
24 turn that over to Jim Muntz, the President of our
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1 underground, so that leaves 8 miles left of logging, and
2 that, again, is on -- would be 120-foot wide.

3 Access roads themselves will be created
4 along those rights-of-way. So that the total mileage
5 again would be the 24 miles, plus the 8 miles, and then
6 whatever else you have, through meandering back and forth
7 across the right-of-way itself.

8 As we go further south, into the lands
9 that are already on PSNH right-of-way, effectively, those
10 lands are managed already, in terms of a vegetation
11 management. So, there already is tree clearing, for the
12 most part, all the way down. There will be selected tree
13 clearing done there, in certain areas, where they will
14 take down either trees right along the edge of the
15 right-of-way, but there will be no wholesale clearing, for
16 the most part, for the remainder of the right-of-way
17 that's on PSNH -- or, Eversource, sorry.

18 THE MODERATOR: Many of the local
19 businesses are based on the fact that people come for the
20 views. How do you address this?

21 MR. QUINLAN: You know, as I said, you
22 know, several times, we are doing what we can to address
23 view impacts, and to mitigate those to the extent
24 possible. Now, the areas that we've selected to go
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1 Transmission. He has handled a lot of the interface with
2 Hydro-Quebec around this project. Jim.

3 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. Hydro-Quebec, you
4 know, is continuously evaluating numerous opportunities
5 they have. They can sell power in pretty much any
6 direction. They like the New England market, they have
7 been a good partner for us over the years on the existing
8 DC line, that they run at very high capacities. They see
9 an opportunity to help us meet our goals down here, as far
10 as green power, as far as diversifying the fuel supply.
11 We're very dependent on natural gas, as you may know, and
12 we're getting more dependent every winter. We've got --

13 *[Audience interruption.]*

14 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. Okay. So,
15 Hydro-Quebec --

16 FROM THE FLOOR: Would you repeat the
17 question?

18 THE MODERATOR: The question is this:
19 Hydro-Quebec seems very anxious to export energy to New
20 England. Has Hydro-Quebec told Eversource/Northern Pass
21 that it will not build the line if it's required to go
22 underground?

23 MR. MUNTZ: So, I gave you a lot of
24 background of how Hydro-Quebec looks at this. And, the
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1 short answer is "no", they haven't said "if it's
2 underground, they're not going to export power." But they
3 have said "if we're not competitive in the market", you
4 know, "we're not going to participate in that market."

5 MR. QUINLAN: And, I will say, on just
6 one other element to this, you know, as I mentioned
7 earlier, there is a interconnecting transmission line
8 being built on the Canadian side of the border that is
9 planned for overhead construction in its entirety. So,
10 the portion that Hydro-Quebec is developing is not
11 underground.

12 THE MODERATOR: Hydro-Quebec has broken
13 contracts with native peoples that resulted in
14 inexpensive -- no, in expensive lawsuits throughout the
15 years. How can we be assured that Hydro-Quebec will
16 follow the agreements in the Eversource contract?

17 MR. MUNTZ: You know, our experience,
18 Northeast Utilities, and many of the other utilities in
19 New England who have partnered with Hydro-Quebec over the
20 last 20 years, has been a good one. They have honored all
21 the contracts on what we call the "Phase II Project", the
22 DC line. They have been a reliable provider of power. We
23 know they have had -- they have had issues in Quebec with
24 building some of the dams. But, you know, we believe they
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1 at the issue of those more local economic impacts. We are
2 also conducting a whole range of outreach to landowners up
3 and down this route, to have the one-on-one discussion
4 around particular properties, questions/concerns that
5 property owners have had. You know, those have been very
6 constructive. You know, we, I think, conducted over 3,000
7 such contacts at this point. And, many have been very,
8 very constructive and led to, you know, good satisfaction
9 on the part of those property owners. Not to say we have
10 addressed every issue at this point. We understand there
11 are further discussions that need to take place. And,
we're certainly committed to doing that as we go forward.

13 THE MODERATOR: Once you realize that
14 "4a all the way" is the only way to do this project, will
15 you bury a single line or multiple lines for added
16 reliability and future expansion?

17 MR. QUINLAN: So, right now, we are, you
18 know, keenly focused on this project and this line. You
19 know, it's a function of a few things. You know, it's a
20 function of how much hypothetical does Hydro-Quebec have
21 available for export into New England? That's a critical
22 factor. There's certainly sufficient excess to support
23 one line. Can they support multiple lines? We've never
24 had that discussion with them.
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1 have put those behind them.

2 They have had very clean experiences
3 with their construction on the most recent dams. They
4 formed a partnership with the natives up there. And, you
5 know, we feel good about Hydro-Quebec as a partner.

6 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. And, I will add, you
7 know, we've had -- New England has had a contractual
8 relationship with Hydro-Quebec for three or four decades.
9 You know, we are heavily reliant today on imported
10 hydropower from Hydro-Quebec over two existing lines that
11 feed into New England. You know, if you look at Vermont,
12 for example, hugely dependent on imported hydroelectric
13 power from Canada, from Hydro-Quebec, in particular.

14 So, that's a long-standing relationship.
15 And, they have been there when we needed them, they have
16 been very reliable. Those lines have operated well. And,
17 they have been a good partner.

18 THE MODERATOR: What about the decrease
19 in my property value? I live next to the current line
20 across from the substation here in Whitefield. It will
21 decrease my ability to sell my home and directly impact
22 the price I can get.

23 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, one of the
24 things that is part of the SEC process is we are looking
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1 You know, as to the so-called "4a", what
2 the questioner is referring to is, it's one of the route
3 alternatives look at by the Department of Energy. And, we
4 have looked at that. You know, the fundamental issue with
5 it is around the economics of it.

6 But, for that particular underground
7 alternative, there are a whole range of other challenges,
8 and I'm going to turn to the project team to share with
9 you. So, not only is it uneconomic, because it's all
10 underground construction, this "Route 4a", but I'll turn
11 it over to Mark Hodgdon, who can share with you some of
12 the other challenges of "Route 4a" or "Option 4a".

13 MR. HODGDON: Option 4a is essentially
14 burying the line primarily in I-93. I-93 is not really a
15 viable option for a variety of reasons. First and
16 foremost, DOT and federal regulations prohibit using the
17 interstates for this kind of longitudinal, meaning "down
18 the right-of-way" installation, unless you can show
19 "extreme hardship". And, there's a specific set of
20 criteria you have to meet for that. One of which is you
21 have to show that there's no other viable alternative.
22 And, from DOT and Federal Highway's perspective, what
23 we're proposing is, obviously, a viable alternative, from
24 their perspective. So, we can't meet that criteria.
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1 Secondly, dealing with I-93, you're
 2 dealing with a high-speed freeway. It's posted at 70 for
 3 most of the length that we're talking about. I think
 4 anybody that drives it knows that the average speed on
 5 that is considerably higher. You also know, if you've
 6 driven it, that it has an extremely high percentage of
 7 truck traffic. That's a major connection from the Boston
 8 area, up into both Coos County and into the Northeast
 9 Kingdom. Those make utilizing the highway very
 10 problematic, from a traffic safety point of view. And,
 11 DOT and Federal Highway would require us, as a result, to
 12 be outside the -- what we call the "disturbed area",
 13 meaning the shoulders or the pavement. That means you're
 14 on the outside of the road or outside of the guardrail, as
 15 it may be, and you're towards the edge of the
 16 right-of-way.

17 In order to do that, the next time you
 18 drive up there, imagine an access road, a gravel access
 19 road running the full length of that parallel. From an
 20 aesthetics point of view, and from an environmental impact
 21 point of view, that's going to be unacceptable. DOT and
 22 Federal Highway won't let you go on and off at the
 23 highway. They're going to require you to construct,
 24 essentially, an access road parallel to it. And, those
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1 impacts would be enormous.
 2 Finally, Franconia Notch is, I think,
 3 arguably, the most environmentally sensitive and
 4 culturally sensitive spot in the State of New Hampshire.
 5 That's why, when the Parkway was built in the 1980s, it
 6 was the only connection approved by Federal Highway on the
 7 Interstate System that has one lane of traffic both ways.
 8 It's the only exception Federal Highway ever made. They
 9 may have made one since, but I haven't heard of it. But,
 10 at the time, it was the only one. And, that's a
 11 reflection of how sensitive that area is.

12 And, the construction techniques that
 13 would be required in there are devastating to that area,
 14 and they would not be acceptable on an environmental or a
 15 cultural level. So, those are some of the problems with
 16 I-93. In our opinion, and based on the construction
 17 surveys we've done, it's not a viable option.

18 THE MODERATOR: If the line stays above
 19 ground, what prevents you from adding more lines to the
 20 towers' power lines in the future, I think it means?

21 MR. QUINLAN: This is probably an
 22 engineering/design question. So, I'm going to turn this
 23 over to Jim. Again, Jim is the President of our
 24 Transmission business.

1 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. Basically, the New
 2 England Power Grid is sized such that getting any more
 3 power, either from Quebec or down into a deliver point in
 4 New Hampshire, is extremely difficult and would require
 5 other system upgrades. So, it just becomes, you know, a
 6 nonstarter, prohibitively expensive, just based on those
 7 upgrades, even if we wanted to do it.

8 So, when, you know, we looked at the
 9 size of this project, when we began, we talked about
 10 "should we build it like Phase II, where it can carry
 11 2,000 megawatts?" "Can we build it up to
 12 1,400 megawatts?" And, we basically had to size the
 13 project at 1,200 megawatts. So, there isn't going to be a
 14 second line in this corridor any time, you know, that we
 15 could envision, based on the system's capacity in New
 16 England to accept that power.

17 THE MODERATOR: Would you agree that, if
 18 Northern Pass is buried -- if the Northern Pass is buried,
 19 that the route -- okay, let me start this again. Would
 20 you agree that, if Northern Pass buried the route in Coos
 21 County from the international boundary south, along the
 22 road right-of-ways, to the now proposed Bethlehem start of
 23 burial, that the route would be almost 15 miles shorter,
 24 require two, rather than six, above-to-belowground
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1 transition stations, and not require cutting a new
 2 destructive swath, with steel towers, from above Dixville
 3 Notch and parallel to the 13-miles Woods for about 40
 4 miles?

5 MR. QUINLAN: And, I do think this
 6 probably -- probably refers back to the Option 4a that we
 7 just discussed. And, I think Mark explained why that
 8 option is really not viable. When you look at it in
 9 detail, from an engineering and constructability
 10 perspective and environmental perspective, it's truly not
 11 a viable objection here in New Hampshire, for all the
 12 reasons articulated.

13 I think that's the route this question
 14 is based upon?

15 THE MODERATOR: I think -- no, they're
 16 asking, from -- if Northern Pass buried the route in Coos
 17 County, from the international boundary south, along the
 18 roadways to Bethlehem?

19 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. Which would include
 20 I-93 --

21 [Audience interruption.]

22 THE MODERATOR: No.

23 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. I want to --

24 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

1 MR. WIESNER: So, we're talking about
2 from Pittsburg to --

3 THE MODERATOR: From the boundary, from
4 the border, down to Bethlehem.

5 MR. QUINLAN: Oh, along the border.

6 THE MODERATOR: From the border, to
7 Bethlehem, why can't you use -- the question is, if you
8 use that instead, if you went along existing rights-of-way
9 instead, wouldn't the route be 15 miles shorter, --

10 MR. QUINLAN: Oh, oh. Oh, okay.

11 THE MODERATOR: -- require two, rather
12 than six, transition stations?

13 MR. QUINLAN: Oh, okay. I misunderstood
14 the question. I'm going to turn this over to Sam Johnson,
15 our project engineer.

16 MR. JOHNSON: Again, so, the way the 4a
17 alternative is there, I believe, from a pure distance
18 perspective, it's closer to 10 miles shorter, if you went
19 along -- across in Pittsburg, and then south on Route 3.

20 THE MODERATOR: Okay. But, so, --
21 *[Audience interruption.]*

22 THE MODERATOR: All right. Wait. The
23 question is, do you agree that, if it was -- if the line
24 was buried in existing rights-of-way, from where it enters
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1 New Hampshire, from Canada, all the way to Bethlehem, so,
2 I think you've answered that you think, instead of
3 15 miles shorter, it's more like 10 miles shorter?

4 MR. JOHNSON: Correct.

5 THE MODERATOR: Would it also not --
6 would it require only two, rather than six, aboveground
7 transition stations?

8 MR. JOHNSON: That's correct. Yes.

9 THE MODERATOR: Okay. And, would it not
10 require cutting a new swath, putting steel towers in?

11 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Obviously, if you
12 have a different route, then you wouldn't be creating a
13 new right-of-way in that area, yes.

14 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Okay. How does a
15 worker go about joining the Eversource Enterprise Program?

16 MR. QUINLAN: The Eversource -- I assume
17 this is referring to our Apprentice Training Program? So,
18 the Apprentice Training Program is a new program we
19 announced earlier this year, which is really intended to
20 create job opportunities for folks interested in becoming
21 electric workers. We're going to use projects like
22 Northern Pass as, essentially, a training ground to
23 develop future electrical workers. So, you know, these
24 are highly skilled, highly technical positions, that take
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1 multiple years to become a fully qualified electrician.

2 That's the program we rolled out earlier
3 this year. We've actually begun our first Apprentice
4 Training Class of 15 apprentices. We have a website that
5 is available to express interest in joining the next round
6 of Apprentice Training. And, if you have your name and
7 contact information, you can give it to one of our project
8 members here tonight, and they can get your expression of
9 interest into the Program.

10 It's an exciting, new initiative. You
11 know, it's very highly subscribed. We're getting a lot of
12 interest from across the state, particularly here, in Coos
13 County, where folks are looking for a career, and a career
14 that they can pursue here in New Hampshire, or they can
15 take it elsewhere, where these skills are in very, very
16 high demand. So, it's a great program. And, I encourage
17 you to get your interest to a project member, or through
18 the website.

19 THE MODERATOR: Here's a more general
20 question about job opportunities. How do I get info on
21 jobs?

22 MR. QUINLAN: Yes.

23 THE MODERATOR: Perhaps, other than the
24 Apprenticeship Program.
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1 MR. QUINLAN: So, again, on the Northern
2 Pass website, there's a section that's dedicated to other
3 opportunities beyond the Apprentice Training Program. So,
4 these are for folks who may run an existing business and
5 have an interest in providing services or goods to the
6 project. Or, you know, folks who run an existing
7 business, and could be a service provider to those who are
8 actually working on the project doing the physical work,
9 whether it's a hotel, a restaurant, or the like.

10 So, all of that is accessible online
11 through the Northern Pass website. We've got quite a list
12 going of businesses across the state who have a really
13 keen interest in the opportunities available in and around
14 this project.

15 Again, you know, if you want to take the
16 opportunity tonight to get us your contact information,
17 give it to one of our project team members, and we'll
18 certainly factor that in as we plan the project going
19 forward.

20 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Why is
21 underground or burial of power lines feasible in Vermont,
22 but not New Hampshire?

23 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

24 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So, I'm going turn
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1 that over to Jim.

2 MR. MUNTZ: Okay. Well, it's feasible
3 to propose a power line anywhere. You know, to do a power
4 line, you know, into New England, from Canada, you need a
5 few things. You need a partner with a power supply that,
6 you know, you can identify and name. We've got
7 Hydro-Quebec, who is a good partner, we believe. You need
8 to make sure that, when you show up at the border, there
9 is going to be a line there to, you know, give you a power
10 supply. You need somebody to site and design and build
11 and operate that line, and we've got that process underway
12 in Canada, with Hydro-Quebec. There's no other process
13 under way in Canada for siting a connection to, you know,
14 to the U.S., to our knowledge. That's a public process.

15 And, then, you need a project that's
16 sitable. And, then, you need contractors that are willing
17 to do the project for the price that, you know, you talked
18 about. We're actually in the process of negotiating our
19 contracts with suppliers, equipment suppliers, and
20 constructors, that will, you know, sign up to work on this
21 project, and then make sure that we can deliver on, you
22 know, what we commit to, to provide, you know, a great
23 value for New England.

24 And, then, the last thing you need is
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1 where you are in this state, when you talk about the
2 potential for additional underground construction, it
3 started with, you know, the White Mountain National
4 Forest, the Franconia Notch area. That's where we put our
5 priority. You know, and then we determined how do we
6 commit to that and have a project that still is economic,
7 and satisfies some of the other balance points that Jim
8 was referring to. You know, we can site it, it's
9 economic, it will get power from the generation source
10 into New England. That's what we referred to as a
11 "balanced approach".

12 That commitment, which is the additional
13 52 miles, was a very big one. You know, we are still
14 digesting, you know, "what does that mean from a project
15 cost perspective?" And, we're going to, you know,
16 announce that, once we have a -- have gone through the
17 process Jim was referring to to firm up our pricing. But
18 we also scaled down the project almost 20 percent. This
19 is a big trade-off.

20 My point is, there's a limit as to how
21 much additional underground construction we could commit
22 to. We think we have struck the right balance. And, we
23 focused on the areas that we heard of most consistently as
24 we listened to New Hampshire.

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1 somebody to pay for that. Okay? So, you can have a
2 concept and say "I'm going to do this, and it's only going
3 to cost this much." And, you can take that all the way
4 through the siting process and you can get your permits,
5 and you can sit there for a long, long time, because
6 there's nobody that's willing to pay the price that it's
7 actually going to cost, or there's no contractor that's
8 willing to supply it for that cost. Because, in the
9 construction of these projects, it's all about the risks.
10 And, contractors aren't signing up on these projects to
11 not be able to complete them or to lose money.

12 So, those are the things that, when we
13 look at our project, we feel we bring those attributes to
14 the table. We feel we've got a lot of creditability,
15 we've delivered a lot of large projects. And, we'd like
16 an opportunity to do this one.

17 THE MODERATOR: Now that you've decided
18 to use new technology, have you looked at burying down
19 Halls Stream Road, to Route 3, and on south?

20 MR. QUINLAN: Specifically, we've looked
21 at and committed to now the underground construction I
22 referred to earlier, which is that additional 52 miles.

23 And, that was based on I'll say "feedback" we received
24 across the State of New Hampshire. Almost irrespective of
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1 THE MODERATOR: What is your plan for
2 avoiding visual impact to the Cohos Trail?

3 MR. QUINLAN: So, the Cohos Trail, I'm
4 going to ask Sam to perhaps address that.

5 MR. JOHNSON: So, we are aware of the
6 Cohos Trail. And, we are -- right know, we're looking at
7 various ways that we can address this. You will note that
8 there are other things, trails in the state, such as the
9 Appalachian Trail, that crosses underneath an existing
10 power line. Effectively, you're opening up the
11 right-of-way. And, in the case of the Appalachian Trail,
12 there's actually a beautiful vista from that edge where
13 the trees have been cleared. But we are -- we are
14 actively looking at the Cohos Trail itself.

15 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. And, just to be
16 clear about the Appalachian Trail. You know, while
17 there's an existing right-of-way, an existing transmission
18 line that intersects with the Appalachian Trail, and our
19 decision to go with underground construction around the
20 White Mountain National Forest avoids any further impacts
21 to that Trail. We're going to, as Sam indicated, take a
22 hard look at the Cohos Trail as well.

23 THE MODERATOR: Specifically, how much
24 would it cost to bury the entire Northern Pass line?
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[Audience interruption.]

1 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, it's
2 approximately a billion dollars of additional cost. So,
3 you know, our earlier cost estimate for our prior project
4 was roughly \$1.4 billion. As Jim indicated, we're now
5 taking a look at all the changes we've committed to, and
6 what does that do to the project cost? Certainly, there's
7 cost savings, because we've scaled down the project.
8 We've gone to a different cable technology. We've gone to
9 a different converter technology, smaller. There's also a
10 lot of upward pressure on costs by our commitment to
11 underground 52 additional miles.

12 Net/net, we do expect the project cost
13 to increase. We'll share that new cost estimate, once we
14 have firmed it up through the competitive bid process that
15 Jim alluded to earlier. We are not going to roll out a
16 new number until we have certainty around this. And, we
17 know that we're going to be able to deliver this project
18 at or about that number. And, those of you who have been
19 following that project in Vermont that was alluded to
20 earlier, I ask you to take a look at it from that
21 perspective. You know, what's that number look like, and
22 how has it changed over time? And, you know, judge for
23 yourself.

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1 of New Hampshire's municipalities, will Eversource provide
2 a guarantee to all towns that the Northern Pass line would
3 pass through -- that all the towns that the Northern
4 [Pass?] line would pass through, that it will pay the \$30
5 million in total taxes annually, for each year of the
6 40-year term of the line, and not seek similar tax
7 abatements?

8 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, that \$30 million
9 estimate -- that \$30 million estimate is based upon kind
10 of the industry-accepted practice for valuing and taxing
11 utility property, not just here in New Hampshire, but
12 elsewhere. It's a methodology that, you know, that we're
13 committed to, we think it's the right way to value and
14 impose taxes on utility property. It's generally
15 accepted, you know, across the region. That's what led to
16 the \$30 million figure I shared. That's applying the
17 methodology we're comfortable with to the expected
18 investment in Northern Pass.

19 Where we have had issues with
20 municipalities is when the approach to taxation results in
21 a significantly higher number. You know, in some cases,
22 75 percent higher than what this methodology yields, or
23 100 percent higher than what the methodology yields. We
24 owe it to our customers, Eversource New Hampshire owes it
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1 But, you know, here, a lot of different
2 moving parts on the project costs, but that \$1.4 billion
3 number, you can expect it to go up a bit. We do know that
4 making further commitments to go fully underground for the
5 full length of this route will add an additional billion
6 dollars to whatever our next project cost estimate would
7 be. So, --

8 THE MODERATOR: In light of -- I'm
9 sorry. Were you done?

10 MR. QUINLAN: So, let's assume,
11 hypothetically, the new estimate is \$1.5 billion. You
12 know, full underground construction would increase that to
13 2.5 billion without any incremental benefit, if you will,
14 from the perspective of the amount of energy being
15 delivered. And, you know, you can take a look at the
16 Department of Energy's Draft Environmental Impact
17 Statement, they basically conclude that, you know, project
18 costs double, if you had an all-underground solution,
19 versus an all-overhead solution. So, you know, we look at
20 it now, and it's approximately a billion dollar
21 incremental cost, to move from what we just announced to
22 full underground.

23 THE MODERATOR: In light of the tax
24 abatement appeals Eversource has filed against 25 percent
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1 to its customers to question those bills. Just like a
2 property owner questions your tax bill. You know, we
3 don't benefit by lower taxes. That is a cost of doing
4 business that is ultimately borne by our customers. So,
5 we're, in essence, raising those questions on behalf of
6 our customers, to ensure that the taxes that we pay,
7 basically, on their behalf, are fair and reasonable. Now,
8 we don't challenge taxes that are within some zone of
9 reasonableness around the accepted methodology. It's when
10 there's a wide divergence.

11 So, you know, as to the \$30 million
12 number, we feel very confident in that figure. You know,
13 obviously, it's going to be a function as to "how much
14 does this project ultimately cost and, therefore, what the
15 tax base is?" But that methodology has yielded the figure
16 we shared with you today. We're comfortable with it.
17 And, you know, we've had discussions with -- we're
18 beginning discussions with the municipalities as to "what
19 does that mean from a tax basis over time?" You know,
20 there's a misperception that these assets quickly
21 depreciate, and that 30 million goes to virtually zero
22 over a short period of time, five years or so. These are
23 long-lived assets of a 40-year depreciable life. So, it's
24 a very gradual change in the tax revenues that any town
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1 will receive.

2 So, we've shared all that information,
3 as to what that 40-year depreciation schedule looks like
4 on a town-by-town basis. And, you know, we're prepared to
5 stand by that methodology and to use it. Okay.

6 THE MODERATOR: On its website, Northern
7 Pass argues that "the additional 52 miles of
8 underground -- of underground eliminates potential
9 view-related impacts in the White Mountain National
10 Forest, the gateway area to the north and south, the
11 Appalachian Trail, and other critical viewsheds." Why are
12 the Weeks State Park viewshed in Lancaster, and along --
13 and many other spectacular viewsheds along the Northern
14 Pass route in Coos County less critical and less deserving
15 of protection from adverse view-related impacts?

16 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

17 MR. QUINLAN: So, back to my
18 introductory remarks, that 52 miles, that White Mountain
19 National Forest, and other areas north and south of it, we
20 didn't make that decision, you know, in isolation. That
21 was really based upon "what do you hear consistently when
22 you travel around New Hampshire and you talk to a wide
23 variety of stakeholders?"

24 *[Audience interruption.]*

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1 to listen and take input, like we're hearing tonight, and
2 address those local issues.

3 THE MODERATOR: Okay. We've got about
4 ten minutes left.

5 Is Northern Pass a project that is
6 needed to keep the lights on or is it a private for-profit
7 project? Should the people think about these two types of
8 projects in different ways?

9 MR. QUINLAN: So, you know, for those of
10 you who aren't that conversant in this, there is a class
11 of projects in the energy space referred to as
12 "reliability projects", okay? These are projects that,
13 when our system operator, so, the entity that operates New
14 England's grid, they determine these are critically
15 important to ensure that the grid remains reliable,
16 meaning it doesn't collapse, or, we don't have rolling
17 blackouts or rolling brownouts under certain conditions.
18 Those are true reliability-based projects, means that, if
19 you don't do this project, under certain scenarios, the
20 lights literally do go out. That's a reliability project.

21 This is not that type of project. This
22 is a project that, again, was originally envisioned as a
23 way to diversify our fuel supply, move us away from
24 carbon-emitting fuels, lower energy costs. As more and
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1 MR. QUINLAN: So, that's what led to
2 that decision -- that's what led to that decision.

3 *[Audience interruption.]*

4 THE MODERATOR: Excuse me, Bill.

5 *[Audience interruption.]*

6 THE MODERATOR: I am not going to ask
7 the court reporter to -- just stop, Steve.

8 *[Off the record.]*

9 MR. QUINLAN: So, that's what led to
10 that decision. It was not a decision the Company made
11 just arbitrarily. It was based upon what we've heard
12 consistently.

13 Now, I also said at the outset, our work
14 is not done on mitigating local view impacts. I shared
15 with you some of the other things that we're doing around
16 the design of this project to address specific areas.

17 Those decisions are being made literally
18 structure-by-structure, based upon the views of experts in
19 this field. You know, again, it's not the Company
20 determining what's important and where are those view
21 impacts that we need to address? These are experts who --
22 that's their living, that's what they do, and they have
23 expertise, not only in this state and elsewhere. So, we
24 look to them for guidance. And, we're going to continue
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1 more power plants retire across New England, you know,
2 you've heard of Vermont Yankee, you know, Salem Harbor,
3 which is a coal plant, Brayton Point, which is a coal
4 plant, we're getting to the point where New England is now
5 deficient in capacity, generate -- baseload generation
6 capacity. When you look out three years from today, we
7 have the first capacity deficiency in the region, meaning
8 across New England, that we've ever had, okay, ever.

9 So, we are getting to the point where,
10 unless we bring in new baseload power plants, and this
11 basically looks like a clean power plant, we have a
12 significant issue on our hands. And, it doesn't just lead
13 to high prices and volatile prices, that you're probably
14 all seeing in your electric bill, you get to the point
15 where you do have challenges keeping the lights on, okay?

16 So, two winters ago, much of the natural
17 gas generation fleet in New England was on the sidelines,
18 because all the gas was being used to heat homes here in
19 New England, okay? So, what did we have to do to keep the
20 lights on and keep prices somewhat in check? We ran every
21 power plant we had in New England. You know, we were
22 running every coal plant we had here in New Hampshire,
23 every oil plant, to the point where we were beginning to
24 run out of oil at many stations. Here, in New Hampshire,
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1 we were running jet fuel, okay, to keep the lights on in
2 New England. What does that do to the price of power on
3 some of those days, instead of being \$30 a megawatt-hour?
4 \$900 a megawatt-hour for every customer in New England.

5 You know, this is what happens when, if
6 you retire a big part of your fleet, for whatever reason,
7 whether it's nuclear, coal or otherwise, and you don't
8 replace it with new baseload capacity.

9 So, the short answer, it's technically
10 not a "reliability project". We don't need it today to
11 literally keep the lights on and the grid stable. We
12 certainly need it to meet our environmental goals. We
13 certainly need it to lower our energy costs. And, we're
14 now getting to the point where we need it literally to
15 keep the lights on.

16 You know, that winter, because I
17 participated in many conference calls, we were worried
18 about having to impose rolling blackouts to keep the
19 overall grid stable. Okay. It was that close. And, you
20 know, I lived this every day during the winter, when we
21 see plants that can't run, because they have no natural
22 gas supply, because the gas is being used elsewhere. And,
23 this gets to the fuel diversity issue Jim was referring
24 to. This is a non-gas-fired power plant that goes a long
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1 announced in the future. They look at the opportunities
2 to sell power and look at their supply and their own
3 situation. But, to our knowledge, they don't have a --
4 one on the "drawing board", so to speak. They have
5 several that are just completed or nearing completion.

6 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. And, just so we're
7 clear on this, Northern Pass, in the commitment I referred
8 to earlier to deliver 10 percent of this power to New
9 Hampshire, is not based upon any one generation station.
10 It's essentially fed from Hydro-Quebec's vast array of
11 power plants. They have roughly 40,000 megawatts of
12 hydroelectric generation that's already operational or
13 will soon be operational. You think about that, that's
14 more generation than New England's entire generation fleet
15 all told. So, nuclear, natural gas, coal, hydro, solar,
16 wind, add it all together, you know, their system is
17 larger than that. That's why the reliability is so high.
18 We're not relying on any one station, particularly these
19 new stations that are in final construction, for the
20 delivery of the power that they have committed to New
21 Hampshire.

22 *[Audience interruption.]*

23 THE MODERATOR: What are the economic
24 disadvantages of Northern Pass to New Hampshire?
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1 way in addressing that issue around, you know, a reliable
2 grid. So, --

3 THE MODERATOR: Can you explain the
4 legal process for you to be able to bury the line along
5 public rights-of-way -- rights-of-way? And, do you have
6 permission to bury it in the currently proposed areas?

7 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, as part of our
8 SEC and related processes, we basically have to seek and
9 receive the authorization to place our infrastructure in
10 the public way. It's no different than if you were
11 running a cable line underground or a gas line
12 underground, there's a process one goes through to seek
13 and receive that authorization. And, that's our intention
14 here in New Hampshire. We've already begun those
15 discussions with the responsible agencies about the
16 process for achieving that.

17 THE MODERATOR: Is Hydro-Quebec building
18 other 10-megawatt dams in Canada to provide power? Are
19 any of these being built on the Cree or Native Peoples'
20 lands?

21 MR. QUINLAN: Jim.

22 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. The dams that they
23 have under construction now are the last ones that they
24 told us they, you know, they intend. They don't have any
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1 MR. QUINLAN: So, what are the economic
2 disadvantages to New Hampshire? I honestly can't think of
3 any economic disadvantages to New Hampshire.

4 *[Audience interruption.]*

5 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Was the visual
6 impacts study done with or without foliage, summer versus
7 fall, winter, spring?

8 MR. QUINLAN: Bob. Bob is responsible
9 for our siting and permitting, and also the work of our
10 visual experts.

11 MR. CLARKE: Yes. So, thank you. The
12 visual simulations that were done were done primarily with
13 some foliage. And, you can access those simulations on
14 the website, if you'd like to look at them.

15 THE MODERATOR: What kind of
16 marketplace -- marketable career skills would be -- would
17 a new apprentice learn through your Apprenticeship
18 Training Program?

19 MR. QUINLAN: So, it's -- you know, if
20 you think about "what does a line worker do every day?"
21 You know, they learn the ability to construct electrical
22 infrastructure, and do it in a safe and expert way. They
23 learn the ability to work, you know, within a electric
24 grid, and all the safety requirements associated with
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1 doing that. They learn technical training associated with
2 electrical theory. So, it's really a broad-based training
3 curriculum. Everything from basic safety, all the way to,
4 you know, "how do you build a grid?"

5 It is a highly technical curriculum.

6 We're very proud in working with the IBEW, and using some
7 of their training resources in their materials. It's
8 really state-of-the-art. They happen to develop some of
9 the best electrical workers in the country.

10 So, it's a great program. It's a set of
11 skills that's in very high demand across this country.
12 You know, there's a lot of infrastructure being built
13 across the country to allow us to meet our energy and
14 environmental goals. So, it becomes a very highly
15 marketable and high demand set of skills.

16 But it is a multiyear progression that
17 one goes through. And, these folks are brought along very
18 gradually, in a safe way. But they're taught a trade
19 that's going to serve them a lifetime, and one that seems
20 to be in very high demand in this state, based upon the
21 reception we're getting to that program.

22 THE MODERATOR: Okay. We're out of
23 time. I'm going to ask a couple more questions. This is
24 from a state representative. I represent 108 towns and 4
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1 support from folks who see an economic opportunity around
2 the project, in the form of a job opportunity or an
3 ability to use their company to perform good project work.
4 You know, so, there's a lot of support building at that
5 level. You know, we're working really hard now to talk to
6 folks about this plan, to get feedback on it, and to make
7 adjustments that we need to to build further support.

8 Our intention is to bring this project
9 into the siting process and successfully site it, with
10 good support from multiple stakeholders across New
11 Hampshire. I think, you know, we're two weeks out from
12 the announcement. My high-level sense is that, you know,
13 it's been very well received. Even many --

14 *[Audience interruption.]*

15 MR. QUINLAN: And, I think those who see
16 -- are looking, are interested in pursuing a balance, and
17 thinking openly as to what's a balanced approach to moving
18 forward with this project, and realizing all the benefits
19 that I talked about here in New Hampshire? You know, I
20 think that's been well received by many. And, again, it's
21 not universal. Our work's not done. There are probably
22 some folks who will never be convinced, either they
23 dismiss what we're saying, because they don't see the job
24 opportunities, they don't see the energy costs, they, you
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1 cities. Eighty (80) percent of this project is in my
2 district. I'm not sure if that means within Coos County.
3 As such, what level of public support do you need in order
4 to go forward with this project?

5 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, you know, as I
6 said earlier, for this project to move forward, it has to
7 work technically, it has to be affordable, and it has to
8 be sitable. In my view, that issue around sitability is
9 really going to depend upon the level of support here in
10 the State of New Hampshire. I think, obviously, there's a
11 federal siting process that needs to proceed in parallel.
12 But, ultimately, New Hampshire and the New Hampshire SEC
13 will determine whether this project moves forward here in
14 the State of New Hampshire.

15 The changes that we announced, the
16 ForwardNH Plan, really was intended to build the level of
17 support around the project. And, I will say, in many
18 areas, it's done exactly what we intended. So, when I
19 talk to businesses across this state, about what they're
20 seeing in their electric rates and what this project can
21 do to lower their cost of doing business, and to provide
22 certainty and stability, we're receiving very widespread
23 support from the business community.

24 We are, you know, receiving widespread
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1 know, aren't that interested in the environmental benefits
2 of a project like this. So, there's a lot of --

3 *[Audience interruption.]*

4 MR. QUINLAN: There's a lot -- there's a
5 lot of different facets that you really need to think
6 through to determine your ultimate position. For many,
7 and I'm not saying it's universal, for many, who have
8 taken the time to study it, my view is that, you know, the
9 support is growing as a result of the announcement.

10 THE MODERATOR: Ninety-one structures in
11 Coos will be monopole. How many will be lattice?

12 MR. QUINLAN: Sam or Jerry.

13 MR. FORTIER: We have to look it up.

14 MR. JOHNSON: We have to look it up.

15 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. They're going to
16 have to get some statistics together.

17 *[Audience interruption.]*

18 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Who was going to
19 answer that?

20 *[Audience interruption.]*

21 THE MODERATOR: All right. So, who is
22 going to answer that question about the 91 structures in
23 Coos will be monopole, how many will be lattice?

24 *[Audience interruption.]*
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1 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Jerry.
 2 MR. FORTIER: There are 500 lattice
 3 structures, 500.
 4 *[Audience interruption.]*
 5 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Just a minute.
 6 We didn't hear the answer, sorry.
 7 MR. FORTIER: Again, 500 lattice
 8 structures, 90 monopoles.
 9 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you.
 10 *(End of the Question-and-Answer*
 11 *Session.)*
 12 *(Public comment session provided under separate cover)*
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1
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 24

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In Re:

*SEC 2015-06 Northern Pass Public Information Session
Whitefield, New Hampshire*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

September 9, 2015

PUBLIC COMMENTS - September 9, 2015
SEC 2015-06 Northern Pass Public Information Session Whitefield, New Hampshire

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1
2 STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
3 SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

4 September 9, 2015 - 6:00 p.m.
5 Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa
6 101 Mountain View Road
7 Whitefield, New Hampshire

8 IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06
9 JOINT APPLICATION OF NORTHERN
10 PASS LLC AND PUBLIC SERVICE
11 COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a
12 EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR A
13 CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY
14 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW
15 HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION
16 LINE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE:
17 Public Information Session held
18 pursuant to RSA 162-H:10.
19
20 (Public Comment Session)

21
22
23
24

16 PRESIDING: Hon. Kathleen McGuire (Retired)
(Presiding as the Moderator)

20 COURT REPORTERS: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52
Susan J. Robidas, LCR No. 44

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1 NOTED AS PRESENT:

2 Counsel for the Applicant: Barry Needleman, Esq.
3 (McLane Middleton)

4 Also noted as present for
5 Northern Pass Transmission LLC and
6 Eversource Energy Project Team:

7 Bill Quinlan
8 Jim Muntz
9 Sam Johnson
10 Bob Clarke
11 Lee Carbonneau
12 Jerry Fortier
13 Mark Hodgdon
14 Brian Bosse
15 Chris Soderman

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1 [Public Comment Session opened at 7:48 p.m.]
2 THE MODERATOR: We're going to
3 move right into the comment section now. I'm going
4 to call your names. Thank you, Mr. Quinlan.
5 We're now going to begin the
6 comment section. And, as I've said, I will call
7 your names, with residents and property and business
8 owners of Coos County being called first. When your
9 name is called, please approach the microphone and
10 state your name and town. The court reporter,
11 again, is going to take down everything that you
12 say, and your comments will be transcribed and made
13 part of the application to the SEC.
14 To ensure a good record, it is
15 very important that you speak slowly and clearly,
16 and that you address your comments to me and not to
17 each other. You know, when you turn around to
18 address everybody else, you're away from the
19 microphone and we're not getting it for the record.
20 If you're reading from a statement, please read
21 slowly, and give a copy of your statement to the
22 court reporter when you're through.
23 Also, to ensure that everyone
24 who wants to speak has that chance, and I know a lot

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1 of you do, I ask that you limit your comment to
2 three minutes. There will be a timer to hold up
3 cards indicating when you have one minute remaining,
4 30 seconds, and then the hook.
5 I'll now begin calling names.
6 I'm going to call four names at a time, and you can
7 sit in these seats here in the front, so we don't
8 have to wait for people to come up to the
9 microphone. It will be more efficient that way.
10 So, I'm going to call R.D.
11 Cargill, Harley Mason, Alan McLain, and Landon
12 Placey.
13 Mr. Cargill.
14 MR. CARGILL: Yes. My name is
15 Robert D. Cargill. And --
16 THE MODERATOR: I'm sorry. I
17 forgot to tell you that you need to spell your last
18 name for the record.
19 MR. CARGILL: Cargill,
20 C-A-R-G-I-L-L. I've been coming to the White
21 Mountains for 50 years. I own three properties on
22 the old Knot Hole Road, which is Route 116.
23 I would like to ask the people
24 here that are proposing this line, why can't we

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1 think outside the box and put some kind of structure
2 along the side of the road that doesn't have to be
3 buried and can be covered with earth. I feel that
4 they're going to add extra capacity to this
5 structure in the future, and it will be an
6 inexpensive way to go. Thank you.
7 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
8 Mr. Mason.
9 MR. MASON: My name is Harley
10 Mason. That's M-A-S-O-N. I'm a resident of the
11 Town of Milan. I'm the owner of Mason
12 Enterprises, which is a construction company. We
13 have been in business since 1983, and have worked
14 on many projects. I am not only a contractor, but
15 I'm also a landowner.
16 I fully support the Northern
17 Pass Project, because of the jobs it will create and
18 the investment it will bring to our state. While
19 many people downplay the positive economic impact of
20 these projects, I have experienced these projects
21 firsthand, as 15 years ago we worked for the natural
22 gas pipeline. My employees worked many hours
23 screening and delivering sand and materials for the
24 burial of the pipeline. Anyone that could operate

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1 heavy equipment and anyone that wanted to work had a
2 job. This project brought thousands of dollars into
3 Coos County.
4 More recently, during the
5 construction of the wind towers in Dixville Peaks,
6 Owls Head, and Kelsey Mountain, this project put
7 over 300 people to work. My crew grew from 8
8 employees to 16, working 12 hours a day, 7 days a
9 week, screening sand and supplying over 60,000 yards
10 of material for the wind towers. The wind tower
11 project left thousands of dollars into the local
12 businesses.
13 Northern Pass provides the same
14 opportunity. In fact, I believe Northern Pass has
15 done more to reach out to local contractors and
16 engage them early on in this project than any other
17 project in the county. Northern Pass is providing
18 many jobs, millions of dollars to be spent in New
19 Hampshire. And, most of all, it provides us with
20 clean hydro power, making this project a win-win
21 situation. Thank you.
22 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Alan
23 McLain. Mr. McLain.
24

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1 MR. MCLAIN: My name is Alan
2 McLain, spelled M-c-L-A-I-N. I'm a property owner
3 in Berlin, New Hampshire and business owner. On
4 the property owner side, I'd like to see my
5 electric rates drop and my property tax have some
6 relief. On the business side, we ended up working
7 at the [inaudible?] wind towers also, showcased
8 our small company, which grew a lot in size.
9 Every year since that project
10 has been, we've built a new switch station or a
11 control house or something for one of these utility
12 companies that needs our services.
13 You know, my guys are buying
14 homes, buying trucks. It's good employment, they're
15 getting better pay, and this project will do the
16 same for us. And, I welcome the project.
17 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. I'm
18 going to switch over the court reporters now, before
19 Steve passes out on me. So, we're going to -- Sue
20 is going to take over. Take just a minute or two.
21 Let me get the next people to be
22 coming up. Harry Brown -- did I call Landon Placey?
23 MR. PLACEY: No. That's me.
24 THE MODERATOR: No, no. Don't

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1 come up yet. I just was wondering where I left off.
2 Harry Brown, Larry Rappaport, and Charlie, okay,
3 begins with "D," looks like U-U-R-ZONA, something
4 like that.
5 (Changeover of court reporters.)
6 THE MODERATOR: So, Mr. Placey.
7 MR. PLACEY: Yes. Hello. Good
8 evening. My name is Landon Knapp{?} Placey. Starts
9 with P-L-A-C-E-Y. I don't have anything in writing
10 in front of me tonight, and an awful lot of the
11 things I had to say I think the Eversource folks
12 have said and explained out that real well. I think
13 there's some people here tonight that aren't
14 interested in hearing them out. But I think they
15 should realize that our area is a hardship area and
16 that we need jobs, we need affordable power, and the
17 only way I see to do it is through Northern Pass.
18 I've been heating for several years with hardwood.
19 Oil is down some, so I'll heat with oil for a while.
20 But oil and gas always edges up. Hydropower is the
21 only source of power that stands a chance of that
22 being affordable over that alone. It would -- that
23 be nice if we had our own hydropower. But with all
24 the rules and laws that we face here in New

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1 Hampshire, I don't think we're ever going to see
2 that happening. So if up in Canada has a surplus of
3 their power, I think we should be importing it and
4 having it used. I think everybody should, you know,
5 dream, and our goal should be able to heat with
6 electric heat instead of fossil fuels. That could
7 be a ways off.
8 But, anyway, I'm all in favor of
9 that plan, and I think that over 50 percent of the
10 people in New Hampshire now are in favor of that
11 plan. I really --
12 [Interruption by audience]
13 MR. PLACEY: And I have the
14 floor right now, if you don't mind.
15 THE MODERATOR: Just a second.
16 Excuse me, Mr. Placey.
17 A lot of people are going to
18 come up, and they're going to express views contrary
19 to what Mr. Placey is saying. He's not going to
20 make an uproar about what you say. He'll be
21 respectful of what you say. And just because he may
22 be in the minority tonight doesn't mean that we
23 shouldn't all be respectful of what he says.
24 All right. Mr. Placey, go

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1 ahead.
2 MR. PLACEY: Thank you very
3 much. I think I'll end on that note, anyway.
4 That's fine. I've said what I've got to say. I'm
5 all in favor of it, and I hope it goes through.
6 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, sir.
7 MR. PLACEY: Thank you.
8 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Brown.
9 MR. BROWN: Good evening. Harry
10 Brown, B-R-O-W-N. I live at Diamond Pond in
11 Stewartstown, New Hampshire, with my wife of 43
12 years, Susan, and I'll speaking for the both of us
13 tonight.
14 I'm the immediate past president
15 of the North Country OHRV Coalition --
16 (Court Reporter interrupts.)
17 THE MODERATOR: You're going to
18 have to slow down, sir.
19 MR. BROWN: Okay. I'll start
20 again.
21 I live at Diamond Pond in
22 Stewartstown, New Hampshire, with my wife of 43
23 years, Susan, and I'll be speaking for the both of
24 us tonight.

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1 I'm immediate past president of
2 the North Country OHRV Coalition, the organization
3 behind Ride the Wilds, 1,000-miles plus of OHRV
4 trails in Coos County, the largest, contiguous OHRV
5 riding area east of the Mississippi. And I'm the
6 current president of the New Hampshire Off-Highway
7 Vehicle Association. I want to be perfectly clear:
8 I am not representing either organization here
9 tonight, as neither has taken a position either for
10 or against Northern Pass.

11 I have noticed a lot of rhetoric
12 in the press indicating that the above-ground
13 transmission lines will have a negative impact on
14 tourism and recreation. In my opinion, OHRVing --
15 which is wheeled-vehicle, motorized recreation --
16 and snowmobiling are not and will not be affected by
17 Northern Pass's transmission lines. As a matter of
18 record, we're allowed presently, OHRV and snowmobile
19 recreationists, to utilize many miles of trails that
20 cross under or run under current power lines
21 throughout the northeast United States and all of
22 the Canadian provinces. This is without any
23 negative effects to the participants concerning this
24 type of recreational pursuit. Quite the opposite.

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1 It allows access to trails that would not otherwise
2 be available. Through acquiring rights-of-ways and
3 easements on existing and additional trails, the end
4 result may take systems like Ride the Wild in
5 perpetuity, like the Appalachian Trail. The state
6 of New Hampshire clearly recognizes that OHRVing and
7 snowmobiling is greater than a billion-dollar
8 industry in this state and its importance to Coos
9 County, as it has meant a new life for many current
10 and new business owners, an economic stimulus for
11 many who could not see any light through the tunnel.

12 We also want to recognize that
13 without landowners giving us permission to utilize
14 their properties for our trails, there would be no
15 Ride the Wilds nor snowmobiling in Coos County.

16 We also recognize that most of
17 the large landowners own the property as an
18 investment and are looking for an adequate return.
19 In our opinion, landowners, such as Beirut, have
20 every right to allow the Northern Pass transmission
21 line to pass through their property. A win-win for
22 all of us. A friendly investor gets a good return,
23 and we continue to have snowmobile and OHRV trail
24 access. No threat from a change in ownership. In

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1 addition, for your information, Northern Pass is one
2 of those large owners at this time that allows OHRV
3 and snowmobiling on 10 major trails, being the good
4 neighbor. This would virtually shut us down in Coos
5 County if they weren't a good neighbor.

6 We also look forward to tax
7 benefits that the transmission line will provide the
8 students of Stewartstown, nearly double our grant
9 list, without any buildings. We will not have to
10 provide fire, EMS and police. Another win-win.

11 Finally, neither Susan nor I are
12 OHRV enthusiasts. Through the OHRV initiative, we
13 just wanted to help our neighbors be able to raise
14 their standards of living. We are also concerned
15 that in the end result, all the conservation groups
16 that oppose Northern Pass will cash in, like they
17 seem to always do in projects like this, and that
18 will not help our economic initiative at all. Quite
19 the contrary. Thank you.

20 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
21 Larry Rappaport.
22 MR. RAPPAPORT: Thank you. My
23 name is Larry Rappaport. I am a New Hampshire state
24 representative, Coos District One.

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1 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Rappaport,
2 would you spell your last name, please.
3 MR. RAPPAPORT: Sure.
4 R-A-P-P-A-P-O-R-T.
5 Towns like Pittsburg have a
6 population of about 800 people, but on weekends it
7 goes to 8,000 -- or 5,000. Excuse me. And it goes
8 there because people come up here; they're tourists.
9 Tourists don't go to ugly places. And I think that
10 Northern Pass will render areas like Pittsburg into
11 an ugly scenario. These lattice towers are ugly.
12 There's no other way to describe them. And I'm
13 afraid that the last thing that we have going for us
14 is tourism, and this project is going to ruin it.
15 Thank you.

16 THE MODERATOR: Did I miss you?
17 Sorry. Come on up, sir.
18 MR. DUURSEMA: My name is
19 Charlie Duursema. I live in Lancaster.
20 D-U-U-R-S-E-M-A. We paid extra for the second U,
21 going to use it.
22 I'm an abutter of the existing
23 right-of-way, and I just have a few statements.
24 I'll be very brief.

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1 I'm concerned about how the
2 new towers, of course, are going to affect my
3 property. My land is right next to it. And will
4 landowners be compensated for any trees that are
5 removed? And I understand they may have to not
6 widen the right-of-way, but clear trees. I got a
7 lot of beautiful trees. And now that Northern
8 Pass has discussed -- has discovered the shovel,
9 why not bury the line for the entire length. This
10 has been discussed, so just reiterating. That's
11 all.

12 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, sir.
13 MR. GRENIER: My name is Paul
14 Grenier, G-R-E-N-I-E-R, and I serve dual-elected
15 roles here in Coos County. I hold the office of
16 Mayor of Berlin, and have done so for nearly six
17 years, as well as the office of Coos County
18 Commissioner for the time period of 13 years. For
19 the record, neither the county nor the city has
20 taken an official position on this project.

21 I rise today in full support
22 of the newly amended route, the significant and
23 costly proposal to bury over 50 miles of
24 additional lines, and the major new financial role

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1 the developers are proposing to play to redevelop
2 our badly devastated economy here in Coos County.
3 I was an early supporter of the concept of
4 bringing in cheap Canadian hydropower to the New
5 England market. Having said that, I watched in
6 amazement the early PR blunders of the developer.
7 There was little effort to reach out to folks, and
8 when they did, they seemed disengaged to the
9 issues being put forth to them. Their rigidity
10 and "damn the torpedoes" mentality would have
11 scuttled this project had this new proposal not
12 been introduced.

13 I worked quite closely with a
14 wonderful and skillfully focused lady co-writing a
15 series of statewide op eds to convince the
16 developer that there was a better way to build
17 this project than was initially rolled out. We
18 were able to put aside our differing opinions of
19 this project in an attempt to find common ground.
20 In my opinion, the developer has succeeded with
21 this amended effort. The City of Berlin will be a
22 direct beneficiary of this new proposal. Within
23 the confines of the city we have nearly
24 130 megawatts of boiler-plate generation capacity,

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1 as well as an additional 14 megawatts of wind
2 power under construction. Total that capacity, we
3 need the ability to send that power out of the
4 region. Upgrading the Coos Loop to handle an
5 additional 100 megawatts would allow Berlin, as
6 well as other communities within the county, to
7 attract additional power projects and the tax
8 revenues they bring, both to the host communities
9 as well as tax revenues to schools under R.S.A.
10 83-F.

11 Many new employment
12 opportunities for younger people will come from
13 the construction of this project. In an agreement
14 I helped to negotiate with the New Hampshire
15 Building Trades Council during Burgess Biopower
16 Construction, young Berlin-area men and women
17 started new careers as trade apprentices. Today,
18 the skills they learned and jobs they have was
19 born of committed people who worked to ensure many
20 would have a brighter future. With the New
21 Hampshire First commitment, in conjunction with
22 the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,
23 there's an already-made blueprint in place to
24 encourage young Coos County workers who qualify to

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1 learn skills on the job and begin a new vocation
2 for themselves.

3 You will undoubtedly hear this
4 evening that this project changes nothing here in
5 Coos County. That could not be further from the
6 truth. The ForwardNH Plan proposes to spend 7.5
7 million dollars county-wide to create employment
8 opportunities. There is a need for training
9 dollars and seed capital to attract the type of
10 business activities that will long sustain itself
11 after the big benefits of the project fades away.
12 Coos County is demographically quite challenged.
13 We are older, have fewer college-educated people,
14 and lack the human capital necessary to rebuild
15 our economy without an engaged and dedicated
16 partner like Eversource. In fact, in the last two
17 decades, our biggest export has been our best and
18 brightest young people because there are few
19 opportunities. That's a sure-fire recipe for
20 disaster and will continue if things are left as
21 they are. In 15 years, we won't have the working
22 people necessary to support our communities, our
23 hospitals and our moral obligation to care for our
24 elderly population. The additional 200 million

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1 dollars to be spent statewide on economic
2 development, community betterment and clean energy
3 initiatives with a laser focus on the North
4 Country will also help boost our area. I've got
5 --
6 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Grenier, are
7 you almost wrapping up here?
8 MR. GRENIER: Yes. Yeah.
9 The new Northern Pass Project is
10 finally well thought out and allows the commercial
11 forest lands the opportunity to earn non-timber
12 harvesting money so that these vast tracks of land
13 remain open as they have for a hundred years. It
14 will give communities badly needed tax revenues to
15 help lower burdens on those who can least afford to
16 pay. It will help lower electric costs to New
17 Hampshire businesses, making them more profitable
18 and vibrant. It will bury lines that are in very
19 sensitive areas and provide millions of dollars --
20 [Interruption by audience.]
21 THE MODERATOR: Just a minute.
22 Wait, wait. Wait a minute.
23 Go ahead. Finish it up.
24 MR. GRENIER: I've got another

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1 sentence.
2 THE MODERATOR: Are you done?
3 MR. GRENIER: That's fine.
4 Thank you, Judge.
5 THE MODERATOR: Steve Ellis.
6 MR. ELLIS: Good evening. My
7 name is Steve Ellis, E-L-L-I-S. I am the Chairman
8 of the Select Board in the Town of Pittsburg.
9 As you know, Northern Pass
10 plans to enter the U.S. over Halls Stream in
11 Pittsburg and erect over 20 towers before it is
12 buried under the Connecticut River.
13 Pittsburg is a community that
14 survives on tourism, where people can escape to
15 enjoy our abundant wildlife and beautiful vistas.
16 We have many unique things about our town. We are
17 the largest geographic township in New England.
18 We are considered the snowmobile capital of New
19 England, having over 200 miles of groomed trails
20 and hosting several vintage snowmobile races. We
21 are part of the Ride the Wild Trail, which covers
22 over 1,000 miles for ATVers. We have many fishing
23 habitats, including lakes, ponds, streams, rivers
24 and bogs. We have a trophy fishing area on the

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1 Connecticut River that attracts anglers from all
2 over the world, and we have miles of beautiful
3 hiking trails.
4 Without any consideration of
5 our natural resources, Northern Pass plans to ruin
6 our pristine vistas. In February of 1998, the
7 State recognized the importance of keeping
8 Pittsburg and the Great North Woods from being
9 developed and established an easement on
10 146,000 acres of the Connecticut Lakes headwaters
11 and established the Connecticut Lakes Headwater
12 Citizens Committee to monitor compliance with the
13 terms and conditions of that easement.
14 We wish that Northern Pass
15 also recognize this importance by leaving our
16 landscape untouched and simply burying the lines.
17 It is only two miles from the entrance into the
18 United States to the Connecticut River where a
19 directional bore will be buried underneath the
20 Connecticut River. If not buried, the towers
21 erected up to that point will be seen for miles as
22 you enter our town on Route 3.
23 The biggest insult to our
24 town, however, is disturbing our historic land

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1 where the towers will be erected -- namely, the
2 Indian Stream Republic Territory. In 1783, the
3 Treaty of Paris established a border between the
4 United States and Canada. It was not clear, and a
5 border dispute caused double taxation for our
6 inhabitants, of which is now a section of
7 Pittsburg. They had enough and revolted and
8 created a sovereign nation with their own
9 constitution and congress and named it the "Indian
10 Stream Republic." For over 175 years this land
11 has remained untouched, but now Northern Pass
12 wants to change that.
13 In conclusion, I ask you not
14 to let Northern Pass destroy our beautiful vistas,
15 which will have an adverse effect on our economy.
16 Do not let them disturb the Indian Stream Republic
17 territory which has been preserved for 175 years.
18 This is sacred territory and land to our town and
19 citizens. The solution is very simple: Bury the
20 lines, and both Northern Pass objectives and ours
21 will be achieved. Thank you.
22 THE MODERATOR: Before you
23 begin, sir... Jane Difley, Dr. Debra Warner, Jeff
24 Elliott and Julie Moran.

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1 Sir.
2 MR. SAMSON If I may, Ms.
3 Moderator, I hope you will afford the opportunity
4 to speak over the three minutes to all that come
5 after the mayor of Berlin. Thank you. For the
6 record, my name is --
7 THE MODERATOR: Just a second,
8 sir. Let me respond to that. I did allow the mayor
9 to speak over that time period, and I am giving some
10 leeway for elected officials such as yourself. But
11 I can't do it..
12 [Interruption by audience.]
13 THE MODERATOR: Go ahead, sir.
14 MR. SAMSON: Thank you, Ms.
15 Moderator. For the record, my name is Richard J.
16 Samson. S-A-M-S-O-N, as in Samson and Delilah. I
17 am a Coos County Commissioner for District 3.
18 At this time I would like to
19 thank everyone that has attended this meeting
20 tonight, especially the opponents that are here at
21 their own time and their own expense, as they have
22 been throughout this egregious affair.
23 Why has Eversource scheduled
24 this meeting here in the southernmost town of Coos

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1 County, causing some Pittsburg residents to travel
2 over 80 miles one way to attend this meeting, when
3 it will affect Pittsburg more than any other town in
4 the state?
5 Reference has been made here
6 this evening to Coos Wind Park. For the record, the
7 Coos Wind Park is owned 75 percent by Brookfield
8 Canada, from Toronto, Canada.
9 I represent 11 towns and 8
10 unincorporated places. Of the 11 towns, 6 will be
11 directly affected by Northern Pass, and 4 of the 8
12 unincorporated places will be affected. My district
13 begins in Groveton or Northumberland and extends to
14 Pittsburg at the Canadian border. It also extends
15 from Errol, bordering Maine, to the Connecticut
16 River, separating New Hampshire and Vermont. It is
17 the largest district in our county and in our state.
18 Northern Pass has shown complete
19 disregard and disrespect for upper northern Coos
20 County with their latest proposal and offer from the
21 Jobs Creation Fund. A lack of communication with
22 local officials is also a grave concern. Would the
23 Northern Pass officials care to identify who they
24 feel are the stakeholders in this proposed project?

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1 Will this Northern Pass project remain owned by
2 Northern Pass, or will it be sold to Hydro Quebec,
3 if it is ever approved, as was the case with the
4 Coos Wind Park in Coos County? Will Eversource file
5 bankruptcy if Northern Pass does not pay the rental
6 fees associated with the proposed Northern Pass
7 Project?
8 Full burial on state-owned
9 right-of-ways is the only viable option for Northern
10 Pass to succeed in New Hampshire. The state is
11 not a -- the state, not a private-for-profit company
12 from out of our country, should be the beneficiary
13 of this project if it is ever to be built.
14 In our past, Public Service has
15 generated, transmitted, distributed and sold
16 electricity in New Hampshire. Why is it that we
17 have the highest rates in New England and some of
18 the highest in America? Eversource plus
19 politicians, some politicians, equals Northern Pass.
20 Our elected officials need to stop listening to the
21 paid lobbyists and start listening to the residents
22 of our state. If Northern Pass is to be built,
23 let's do what is right and honest for the residents
24 of our state, and benefit our state and not

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1 corporate greed. Enough false information has been
2 generated by proponents of this ill-conceived
3 project. The name itself is a misconception. And
4 this is not just a North Country issue. Our back
5 yard starts in Pittsburg and ends in Keene, Nashua,
6 Exeter, Portsmouth and Conway. The entire state is
7 our back yard. Northern Pass has never agreed to an
8 open and honest discussion with any elected
9 officials or opponents of this project. It is time
10 to be honest, open and sensible concerning the real
11 implications of this ill-conceived project on our
12 entire state and its representatives -- its
13 residents.
14 I am representing my
15 constituents, and this is not the opinion of the two
16 other Coos County Commissioners. Respectfully
17 submitted, Richard J. Samson. Thank you.
18 THE MODERATOR: Jane Diffley.
19 MS. DIFLEY: My name is Jane
20 Difley, D-I-F-L-E-Y. Good evening. As the
21 president of the Society for the Protection of New
22 Hampshire Forests, I represent one of the five
23 largest landowners in the state. Among our
24 holdings are conserved working forests in Coos

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1 County. The outline of the current proposed route
2 carves a giant question mark through Coos County.
3 In doing so, it crosses two of our forest
4 reservations: The Washburn Family Forest in
5 Clarksville and the Kauffman Forest in Stark.
6 That question mark across the Coos landscape
7 raises a number of questions; among them, who
8 really stands to benefit from that proposed route?
9 New Hampshire or Northern Pass? I would argue the
10 latter.

11 We believe that much of the
12 current proposed route in Coos County is a relic
13 of the Project's prior lines on old cable
14 technology and an overhead approach that is
15 unnecessary and unsightly. It is not the shortest
16 distance between two points. We encourage
17 Northern Pass, if it wants to build its private
18 project, to use more direct routes under roads in
19 Coos County. We encourage Northern Pass to take
20 full advantage of the new cable technology. If
21 it's technically feasible to bury along roads
22 around the White Mountains, then it is technically
23 feasible to bury along roads from the Canadian
24 border to Grafton County, assuming that Northern

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1 Pass can acquire the necessary landowner and other
2 permissions. This would spare some of the most
3 spectacular scenery in the northernmost part of
4 our state from unnecessary scars. Coos County
5 towns deserve to have their scenery protected no
6 less than the White Mountain National Forest.

7 Among the other compelling
8 arguments for rerouting the proposed line are
9 property rights issues that are important to every
10 New Hampshire landowner. We feel strongly that
11 the proposed question-mark route cannot be built
12 without eminent domain, a government power that
13 the Applicant has acknowledged it cannot access.

14 We engaged in the Northern
15 Pass issue five years ago to defend conserved
16 lands and our property rights, and we feel
17 extremely comfortable in our ability to do so.
18 The biggest question of all is: Why New Hampshire
19 should in any way subsidize a Canadian company by
20 allowing it to dictate how and where this private
21 transmission line would be built across our
22 landscape and our private lands?

23 To restate the Forest
24 Society's position: Northern Pass can use the new

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1 cable technology that their latest proposal
2 embraces to bury the line in its entirety rather
3 than limiting burial to one third of its lands.
4 The draft EIS for the project outlines the
5 feasibility of this approach and notes the
6 benefits of doing so. As a landowner and
7 stakeholder, we will be intervening in the SEC
8 process, and we look forward to seeing the final
9 proposal as submitted to the SEC in October.
10 Thank you.

11 THE MODERATOR: Debra Warner.
12 MS. WARNER: Yes, I'm
13 Dr. Debra Warner. My business serves Coos and
14 Grafton Counties. My office is in Littleton.
15 I've brought with me results
16 of a study that I did at the onset of this
17 project, where I asked people -- I'm a
18 psychologist, by the way. A lot of things we're
19 talking about involve feelings. That's my
20 expertise.

21 I did a study about the North
22 Country and our values, and I asked people, "What
23 do you like about the North Country?" And I wrote
24 down three things that they said. And as you can

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1 see on this graph, and perhaps you can read it
2 from this distance that you are, mountains and
3 forests was mentioned in the top three by two
4 thirds of the people who were surveyed. The next
5 item down was half of the people mentioned the
6 people of the North Country. We do like each
7 other, actually. And nature activities and
8 quality of life, local businesses and so on, it
9 goes down. But as you can see, two thirds of the
10 variance in this is captured by the mountains and
11 forests. Now, this is a quantitative approach to
12 the values that so many people are very, very
13 excited about here. And as I was listening to
14 people speak about their top items on their
15 "liking" of New Hampshire and northern New
16 Hampshire, the "North Country" as we said, they
17 didn't say they just "like" it. People said they
18 "love" it. And what I noticed as a psychologist
19 as people talked about these things was that they
20 were talking about a family member. They were not
21 talking about some place. They weren't talking
22 about a road. They weren't talking about, oh, I
23 like it here because it's close to the mall.
24 They're saying they "love" it here, and they would

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1 sacrifice to stay here and protect their family,
2 which includes the mountains and the forests. And
3 I think it's really important across the state
4 that people understand the dynamics of this "love"
5 that people have that includes the landscape as a
6 family member. It's not the way it is down below.
7 And so it's really important that you understand
8 that this is a different culture. When you talk
9 about coming in here and placing these things,
10 you're talking about harming a family member. It
11 would be like somebody taking a picture of your
12 child or your wife who's beautiful and say we're
13 just going to put these scars all over her. And
14 it's quite traumatic for the people here to
15 imagine these things. And so I just want to
16 understand this, and I want you to understand
17 this, that these are very important. We don't
18 want to do experiments on our children. It's not
19 good. We do tend these mountains, and we tend
20 these forests with our hearts. And I hope that
21 you understand that. As you might imagine, I am
22 against the Northern Pass being above ground. We
23 need to bury it in the North Country. Thank you.
24 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

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1 MS. MORAN: I'm Julie Moran,
2 M-O-R-A-N, from Colebrook. I wrote this last
3 night, so some of it doesn't apply. But I'm going
4 to read it anyways.
5 From day one -- and I was
6 there in Colebrook at that first public meeting --
7 the Northern Pass has treated residents and
8 citizens of New Hampshire as peasants, with the
9 Crown of Quebec as their king and PSNH as their
10 knights, vassals and lords. They have continually
11 and methodically indentured a few residents who
12 they employed for a brief time and previous
13 landowners who sold out to them. They've enslaved
14 all the other New Hampshire residents until we
15 acquiesced to their outrageous back-door deals and
16 the tromping of our fields, mountains, farms and
17 homes. They have, in effect, created a feudal
18 society on our land. But they have it wrong. Our
19 New Hampshire landowners are the lords, the
20 vassals and knights of this area, and we intend to
21 keep it ours. To do so, we made a couple of very
22 reasonable requests, none of which have been heard
23 or met.
24 The Northern Pass has

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1 continually stated they have "listened to the
2 people," but we have yet to see the evidence of
3 that in their latest proposal and public
4 statements. The people in New Hampshire have
5 clearly and repeatedly stated that it's either
6 full burial or it's no build in New Hampshire. I
7 hope the SEC will hear this loud and clear.
8 And if this merchant line is
9 to be built in New Hampshire, it must have these
10 requirements. I have this written for you. Full
11 burial. I put along public rights of way, but I'd
12 be willing to concede if you have other, more
13 acceptable places. Full and on-time usage
14 payments and tax payments for the complete life of
15 the line. We hear that that's a problem.
16 Employment of the most New Hampshire workers as
17 possible, which you said you would do for the
18 highly paying jobs for the life of the line. And
19 thank you for correcting that and changing that.
20 The bottom line is that, if
21 this line is fully buried and the Company is
22 willing to make its fair payments for the life of
23 the line, then the "Orange Opposition" will stop
24 living this feudal nightmare where we become the

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1 peasants and serfs of Northern Pass, and we're
2 going to go back to living our normal lives where
3 we're the lords of our own lands.
4 For clarify, my final comment
5 is: Bury it all or get out of New Hampshire.
6 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Jeff
7 Elliott, Bob Baker, Bill Schomburg -- sorry -- and
8 Samuel Bird, you'll be called in that order.
9 What is your name, sir?
10 MR. ELLIOTT: Jeff Elliott,
11 from Lancaster. E-L-L-I-O-T-T.
12 And the first statement -- I
13 have the biology and the politics. I'm a
14 biologist, but I'll go to the politics first.
15 This is a book by Charlie Barry, the New Hampshire
16 Fish and Game Department Chairman and a Site
17 Evaluation Committee member.
18 "While a member of the Site
19 Evaluation Committee, I can recall when New
20 Hampshire was considering connecting a power line
21 from the newly constructed Hydro Quebec generation
22 plant that was planned to run 500 miles from well
23 north of Montreal all the way south to
24 Massachusetts. Two or three of us, including the

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1 director of parks, were told that we had to fly
2 into Canada, stay overnight, tour the location
3 where the power was being generated, and then on
4 the following day fly back to southern New
5 Hampshire, along the proposed route for the power
6 line. It was our assignment to look at the
7 window -- look out the window once in a while to
8 be able to testify that we had been there, knew
9 the topography along the route and determine that
10 it was acceptable." How did that sound?
11 But Judge, I think they should
12 recall this whole process. The Site Evaluation
13 Committee needs to be legally reformed with an
14 unbiased, uncorrupt group of people. This is
15 horrible. It's a terrible insult politically.
16 Now it's my turn. I worked
17 for the Natives up there for a while on this
18 project, and they were insulted -- no, I've got
19 more time because of my disability. Thank you.
20 The people of northern Quebec
21 were divided on this, from the politicians in
22 Montreal to the Native Americans up on the Great
23 Bay -- I mean Hudson Bay region. The Inuit native
24 peoples met many times to discourage this flooding

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1 of their lands. They took it away, and they
2 didn't even tell them. I went to a funeral up
3 there, and the body was being carried through the
4 forests, and they came to a lake. And they all
5 stopped. They didn't know the lake was there.
6 Their villages were flooded. Their land is being
7 taken away from them, and it's in preparation for
8 further development. And this is part of the
9 many, many plans they have. All north-flowing
10 rivers in Canada is slated for this abuse. I've
11 got --
12 THE MODERATOR: Sir, I'll give
13 you an extra 30 seconds. Go ahead.
14 MR. ELLIOTT: Wildlife impact on
15 this is tremendous... [inaudible]... it's going to
16 fragment the habitat. A 50-percent reduction in
17 continuity leads to a 10-percent decrease in
18 biological diversity. So you can go from the
19 triangle and go from the top right to the bottom and
20 take 10 percent.
21 The CO2 that you keep bragging
22 about not being a problem with this, yes, it's not a
23 problem. It only lasts a short time. But the
24 methane is huge. This is not clean power, and we

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1 can't call it that, because EPA disqualifies that.
2 So it's not clean power. Rest of it's a lie. I'll
3 donate the rest of my time to someone else.
4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Bob
5 Baker.
6
7 MR. BAKER: My name is Alan Robert
8 Baker. I go by "Bob." I live in Columbia, New
9 Hampshire.
10 Six. That is the number of
11 scenic trails and byways in Coos County that
12 Northern Pass would adversely impact with
13 crossings or visual sitings of its above-ground
14 transmission cables and towers that it wants to
15 build in our county. These six wonderful scenic
16 trails and byways are as follows: The
17 740-mile-long Northern Forest Canoe Trail, it will
18 be crossed on the Upper Ammonoosuc River in Stark
19 by this transmission line. The National
20 Connecticut River scenic byways in Stewartstown,
21 Clarksville and Pittsburg, 20 towers will be built
22 within sight of these byways. The state's scenic
23 and cultural byway, Moose Path Trail in
24 Clarksville and Millsfield, it will be crossed in

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1 those two towns. The state scenic and cultural
2 byway, Woodland Heritage Trail in Stark and
3 Lancaster, it will be crossed twice in those
4 towns, and the Connecticut River Paddlers Trail in
5 Pittsburg and Clarksville.
6 Why isn't there one, single
7 visual simulation of the impact that the Northern
8 Pass transmission towers and clear cuts would have
9 on these six scenic and cultural treasures? I
10 think the answer is self-evident: Northern Pass
11 just doesn't want us to see what it will really
12 do. In the course of this proceeding, surely the
13 SEC will see its way clear to demanding that
14 visual simulations of the damage to the scenic and
15 cultural treasures in Coos County be provided by
16 independent, unbiased experts.
17 Twenty. That is the number of
18 transmission towers Northern Pass plans to erect
19 in a new 120-foot-wide, clear cut corridor in
20 Pittsburg, across the wetlands of beautiful Halls
21 Stream and then into the hills high above the
22 Connecticut River.
23 Twenty-three. That's the
24 number of transmission towers Northern Pass has in

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1 store for Clarksville, running from the
2 Connecticut River to just west of Route 145 on Ben
3 Young Hill. The view from that vantage point
4 would never be the same.
5 Twenty-eight. That's the
6 number of transmission towers to be spiked into
7 the Stewartstown landscape, running along the
8 border of Coleman State Park over Diamond Pond
9 Road and then up the ridge into Dixville. These
10 towers will be highly visible from many approaches
11 and unspeakably beautiful properties in Colebrook
12 and Stewartstown.
13 Over 600 in Dixville,
14 Millsfield, Dummer, Stark, Groveton and Lancaster.
15 Northern Pass plans to erect over 400 new
16 high-voltage, direct-current towers and over 200
17 AC replacement towers.
18 One thousand eight hundred and
19 thirty. That is the number of towers that
20 Northern Pass plans to erect in New Hampshire,
21 from top to bottom. This is wrong. If the
22 Canadians want to pay for this power to come
23 through New Hampshire, and Connecticut and
24 Massachusetts wants this to be qualified as

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1 renewable power for their own interests, let them
2 pay for the cost of burying this project.
3 [Applause]
4 MR. ELLIOTT: Thank you,
5 Judge. Just a last sentence or two. I think it's
6 two.
7 THE MODERATOR: Okay.
8 MR. ELLIOTT: If there isn't
9 enough money from these private enterprises and
10 consumer politicians outside this state, if they
11 can't provide the money, then there should be no
12 Northern Pass that takes away our cultural and
13 scenic assets and heritage. Thank you.
14 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Bird.
15 MR. BIRD: Samuel Bird,
16 B-I-R-D, from Colebrook.
17 We now know that what Northern
18 Pass stated was impossible and too expensive is
19 now economically possible and feasible. And we
20 now know that the final report from the Department
21 of Energy has stated that full burial is, quote,
22 practical and technically feasible, unquote. And
23 now a new question and issue has been created:
24 Who merits the 21st Century technology? Who gets

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1 insulted with Civil War technology? Who gets the
2 "step in the right direction" policy -- these are
3 all quotes, incidentally -- and who doesn't? Who
4 are the losers -- Donald Trump -- and who are the
5 winners?
6 Eversource, in their wisdom,
7 has answered these questions for us. The Great
8 North Woods gets 8 miles buried. That's out of
9 40 miles. The White Mountains gets 52 miles
10 buried. And the rest of the 130 miles in New
11 Hampshire, including 32 miles of the Great North
12 Woods, gets spiked with more than 1500 -- I think
13 Bob Baker said over 180 -- 100-foot towers. Bill
14 Quinlan, president of Eversource, calls this,
15 quote, the right balance, unquote. Well, I think
16 a lot of us would call this "the wrong insult
17 [sic]."
18 Here's just a couple points to
19 consider: The Great North Woods, we think, is the
20 most beautiful part of the state. How does it
21 make any sense to cover four fifths of this area
22 with 500 100-foot towers, especially when the
23 scenic beauty -- and this has already been
24 mentioned -- is the only economic resource left in

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1 the North Country? Will people coming to the new
2 Balsalms like to be greeted to the area with this
3 visual assault? Will that make them want to come
4 back?
5 The Department of Energy's own
6 final report stated -- and a couple people in the
7 construction business mentioned this -- stated
8 that full burial, full burial, would create 10,000
9 construction jobs, and 1500 of them permanent.
10 Overhead lines would create 5400 temporary jobs.
11 Remember when the construction unions were
12 opponents of Northern Pass? Somebody said it's a
13 "win-win situation." Well, it is for the
14 construction workers. It's a win for people who
15 don't want to see these things by burying it, and
16 it's a win for the construction workers who will
17 have twice as many jobs.
18 We are here right now at this
19 grand hotel because of the visual resources of
20 this North Country. It is why the Mountain View
21 was built here. It is why 200 million dollars
22 will be spent rebuilding The Balsalms, hopefully,
23 and rebuilding the economy of the North Country.
24 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Bird, could

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1 you wrap it up, please.
2 MR. BIRD: Yes. One sentence.
3 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
4 MR. BIRD: This has gone on long
5 enough, as the judge has mentioned.
6 THE MODERATOR: That's one, two,
7 three...
8 Mr. BIRD: Do what makes sense,
9 and do what is possible and feasible and fair.
10 Please bury this thing. Thank you.
11 MR. SCHOMBURG: My name is
12 Bill Schomburg, and I'm from Columbia.
13 S-C-H-O-M-B-U-R-G.
14 The comments that I was going
15 to make have already been addressed, but I do not
16 want to give up my time. So I'm going to say
17 something. I've got a whole packet of material
18 here. And going along with Bob Baker -- I didn't
19 know he was going to write about this, but it's
20 ironic. I'm sitting right next to him, and this
21 fits into what he's been saying. The U.S.
22 Department of Energy draft EIS under Recreation
23 states, quote, Construction and operation of an
24 overhead transmission line, including periodic

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1 vegetation management, would result in long-term
2 visual impacts. These impacts may be tracked from
3 the experience of users by affecting their sense
4 of primitiveness and remoteness. There would be
5 no long-term visual impacts resulting from
6 underground cable.
7 So, a rhetorical question, I
8 guess: Do you believe that the towers of the
9 Northern Pass transmission corridor would have a
10 negative, degrading impact on three of the North
11 Country's most important and pristine trails --
12 namely, the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, the
13 Connecticut River Paddlers Trail and the Cohos
14 Trail? And do you believe that underground cable
15 would avoid these negative, degrading effects?
16 I've also got something else.
17 Let's see. Oh, yeah. Okay. The Scenic Byways
18 Council voted unanimously on August 25th of this
19 year to oppose the Northern Pass towers in Coos
20 County along the scenic byways. Rhetorical
21 question again: Do you agree or disagree with
22 their condemnation of the Northern Pass Project's
23 negative effects on Coos scenic byways?
24 And lastly, many of us were

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1 involved in this struggle for years since it
2 started and since Ray Burton condemned this
3 project. And at one of our rallies in Colebrook,
4 the whole town turned out. We marched through the
5 town. The town fathers agreed with it, the police
6 department. We had many speeches from the
7 memorial park there. And Reverend Bud Holts stood
8 up -- he's a retired Episcopal priest -- and he
9 gave the invocation. So I would like to give his
10 invocation now, if I can find it. I think I can.
11 THE MODERATOR: Better hurry.
12 MR. SCHOMBURG: Heavenly Father,
13 the great architect of our universe, we ask thy
14 blessing on the purpose of our assembly. Give us
15 strength to resist the forces that would destroy
16 your beautiful creation for the sole purpose of
17 monetary greed. Keep your children steadfast in
18 their resistance to the planned destruction and
19 despoiling of this beautiful valley you have blessed
20 us with. And with your mighty power, protect us
21 from the self-serving intentions of those who value
22 money over the integrity of the land and care
23 nothing for those who live on it and are dependent
24 upon it. This we ask in thy name. Amen.

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1 THE MODERATOR: Martin Kaufman,
2 Paula Sweatt, Mike Stirling, Rod Beland.
3 So, Mr. Kaufman first.
4 MR. KAUFMAN: Thanks for the
5 opportunity to express two ideas: One very
6 personal and the other more conceptual.
7 THE MODERATOR: Could you state
8 your name, please.
9 Kaufman, K-A-U-F-M-A-N.
10 THE MODERATOR: And Martin's the
11 first name.
12 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes. I'm a
13 doctor. I moved up here with my wife some 40-plus
14 years ago, bought some land. That deeded land
15 includes an easement. The easement has to do with
16 my spring and water rights. It's a line about a
17 mile long. It happens to go pretty much the length
18 of Holden Hill, at least 75 percent of it. That's
19 the hill that the proposed line is going to
20 traverse. So Northern Pass is going to go across my
21 easement and place, according to what I looked at
22 today with the help of somebody from Northern Pass,
23 and have placed one of the towers pretty much right
24 on my water line. Now, I brought this issue up.

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1 Quinlan is your name; right? I brought this issue
2 up to one of your people in a previous meeting. He
3 called himself a project manager. And he said he
4 would get in touch with me. He never did. So I'm
5 trying again to protect my water rights, water
6 rights from a spring and a line that was laid at the
7 turn of the century -- that is, between 1905
8 somewhere -- 1890 to 1910, something like that.
9 That water line has been there. I upgraded it about
10 40 years ago, and I'm going to upgrade it again
11 because there are now three families who use the
12 water from that water line. I use it for my horses.
13 I use it for drinking. It's water that is
14 gravity-fed. It goes to many buildings. And I own
15 an easement on your land, land that you bought from
16 some folks who sold it to you for hundreds and
17 hundreds of thousands of dollars. It's not fair.
18 So that's the personal issue. Not only is it not
19 fair, but over these five years you've caused my
20 family a great deal of misery. I wonder if that
21 bothers you at all. It doesn't seem to, by the look
22 on your face. It really doesn't. It's a very
23 personal issue. I don't know that my son is going
24 to want to be on that land. I'm 80 years old. I

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1 don't know how long I'm going to be on that land.
2 My granddaughter would like to own the property.
3 She's 11 years old. I don't know that it's going to
4 be there for her. But --
5 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Kaufman --
6 MR. KAUFMAN: It's personal.
7 THE MODERATOR: Could you wrap
8 it up, please.
9 MR. KAUFMAN: I will.
10 The less personal aspect of this
11 is that the line then continues across Holden Hill,
12 and it goes along Paul Hill, up towards Diamond
13 Pond. It's an incredibly beautiful area that looks
14 out at the proposed Balsalms ski area development.
15 The proposed Balsalms ski area development looks at
16 it. It looks at the ski area. If you go up on Paul
17 Hill and Holden Hill and you look south, because
18 it's a south exposure, it is incredibly lovely. God
19 bless you. There's going to be a line there. There
20 were some families there, and there was the
21 possibility of development of that area of families
22 with kids that would go to local schools. Now it's
23 going to be a dead zone if the towers go through.
24 It's going to be an absolute dead zone. Yes, you'll

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1 have some four-wheelers coming through. Great --
2 THE MODERATOR: Dr. Kaufman,
3 we're really going to have to ask you to wrap it up.
4 We've got a lot of comments to go.
5 MR. KAUFMAN: Okay. I will.
6 It should be buried. Just bury
7 it. Bury it. It's the right thing to do.
8
9 MS. SWEATT: Good evening. My
10 name is Paula Sweatt, S-W-E-A-T-T. I am a
11 resident of Millsville, New Hampshire.
12 I support the Northern Pass
13 being located in our community. Most recently we
14 have faced a property tax change involving a PILOT
15 agreement with windmills. This transaction left
16 Millsfield with no surplus funds to assist with
17 basic needs, like tuition for education and other
18 expenses. The PILOT agreement then left a
19 difference of remaining taxes, to be funded by
20 local tax-paying residents with such large taxes.
21 This would have caused us to sell or foreclose on
22 our family farm. Our farm has been in our family
23 since 1836, and it's terrible to think that a tax
24 bill or PILOT agreement could have taken it away.

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1 With the help of our county and state government,
2 this did not occur. I share this story to
3 enlighten how the Northern Pass will bring a
4 positive tax security to our community, for there
5 are already regulations and standards in place to
6 assure this would not happen again.
7 Northern Pass was invited to
8 Millsfield to educate local residents and
9 surrounding towns, to learn more about the
10 Project. Computer-generated graphics and
11 topographical maps were used for us to visually
12 see the proposed route at the time. The engineers
13 and personnel were very friendly and answered all
14 questions, no matter how many times the same
15 question had been asked. Although my farm
16 property is an abutter, I do believe Northern Pass
17 to be a neighbor-friendly project. Thank you for
18 allowing my time.
19 THE MODERATOR: Mike Stirling.
20 MR. STIRLING: Thank you, Your
21 Honor. Mike Stirling, S-T-I-R-L-I-N-G. I am the
22 general manager and project manager for the
23 Groveton Mill site.
24 While I appreciate the passion

1 and the excitement that comes in a meeting like
2 this, and I love the comments that have been made,
3 I feel the same passion and love for the town of
4 Groveton. And right now, that town is slowly
5 fading away because of the severe economic
6 depression it is in. I look forward to, if this
7 project goes through, to the economic impact that
8 this project will have on a site like ours in
9 Groveton at the mill site.

10 When I came up here three
11 years ago, the two biggest issues that we faced in
12 bringing new companies to Groveton were, one, the
13 cost of power, and, two, the inability of the
14 state and other agencies to really entice
15 companies to come into the area. The economic
16 impact that this project will have will give us an
17 opportunity to bring new entities into the area to
18 create new jobs. We have two companies right now
19 who are ready to come on. They just need a little
20 bit of help to make that transition and bring
21 brand new jobs to the area, not transitional jobs,
22 but brand new jobs. I appreciate the opportunity
23 to address you and look forward to the benefit
24 that this could bring to not only the town

1 directly. You know, and the Northern Pass is saying
2 they're going to, you know, put 80 high-voltage
3 direct-current lines through the town of Stark.
4 Unfortunately, some of these towers are planned for
5 construction on property and on the property direct
6 across from the road. My retirement home, when they
7 get done, they're going to have towers all over the
8 place there. I mean, you know, it's going to stick
9 out like a sore thumb. I did talk to some of the
10 customers, you know, of Northern Pass, some of the
11 people of Northern Pass, to try to come up with some
12 kind of agreement. Their agreement is: We'll just
13 build towers up higher. So that's insulting, you
14 know.

15 And then, you know, you have a
16 24-inch main gas line that goes through my property,
17 okay. When they built the gas line, I was not for
18 that neither. I says, you know, why don't you guys
19 build it on the power line. They said, well, we
20 can't because we're too close to the power. Now,
21 since the power company wants to do it, they're
22 going to put the structures right along, right close
23 to the steel -- you know, the gas line. Right, you
24 know -- the footage is -- my house is 300 feet away

1 members, to the tax base, but to the future of
2 towns like Groveton and surrounding communities as
3 we try and bring back young family members back to
4 town to raise their families here as opposed to
5 elsewhere. Thank you.

6 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Rob
7 Beland. Rod. Sorry.

8
9 MR. BELAND: That's fine. My
10 name's Rod Beland. I'm not much of a speaker.
11 I'm a lineman.

12 THE MODERATOR: Sir, I'm sorry.
13 Would you spell your last name, please.

14 MR. BELAND: B-E-L-A-N-D. My
15 wife and I own home this home that's got 55 acres in
16 Stark, New Hampshire. We were planning on retiring
17 at the house, you know what I mean, about 30 years
18 ago. I lived in it for 15, and then I had to
19 transfer to another job.

20 But in the front of my house is
21 a scenic route named Woodland Heritage Trail. It's
22 Route 110. Right now you can't see the power line.
23 It's covered with woods. You know, it can't be seen
24 unless you stick your nose right out and look at it

1 from the gas line, you know. And I don't think it's
2 right. I don't think it's safe. I think it's a big
3 safety issue. And, you know, as far as, you know,
4 like, depreciation on your property, there's no
5 doubt. Because the first time I heard that Northern
6 Pass was coming up by my home, my house, I had never
7 had a problem renting it. It ain't been rented in
8 two years. It just sits there empty, you know.
9 It's not been rented, you know what I mean. And as
10 soon as I heard the Northern Pass was going through
11 there, nobody really cares about moving in there
12 anymore. And, you know, there's quite a bit -- you
13 know, like I said, I'm not much of a speaker.

14 Harley Mason a minute ago said
15 he was talking for Northern Pass. And he says, you
16 know, he worked for the gas company. All kinds of
17 work. They had employees, contractors all over the
18 place from the state of New Hampshire, stark,
19 Berlin, Groveton, you know, Lancaster, building that
20 gas line. But you know what? They buried that gas
21 line. That's why there was so much work. You know
22 what I mean? But now they want to go aerial. Like
23 I says, I'm a lineman. They're not going to send
24 somebody that don't know nothing on these jobs.

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1 They're going to have to hire outsource. You know
2 what I mean? They might get flag men. That be
3 about it, you know.
4 I think they should bury it.
5 And there shouldn't be a question asked about, you
6 know, where to bury it, you know, because it's so
7 close to the power line and --
8 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Beland, your
9 time is up. Wrap it up.
10 MR. BELAND: So I'm for burying
11 a hundred percent. You know, I don't think it
12 should be aerial. Don't even make sense.
13 THE MODERATOR: Eliot Wessler,
14 Mark McCulloch, Frank Lombardi, Katie Rose.
15 All right. Mr. Wessler.
16 MR. WESSLER: My last name is
17 W-E-S-S-L-E-R. I'm a resident of Whitefield, New
18 Hampshire.
19 THE MODERATOR: And your first
20 name, sir?
21 MR. WESSLER: Eliot, E-L-I-O-T.
22 Judge McGuire, I want to thank
23 you. You have a thankless, horrible job here, and
24 you've executed it with fairness an aplomb. And now

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1 that I've buttered you up, I'm going to ask you --
2 THE MODERATOR: Yeah, I didn't
3 hear a big round of applause, by the way, for that.
4 [Applause]
5 MR. WESSLER: I'm going to ask
6 you to do something which --
7 THE MODERATOR: I knew there was
8 a hitch to this.
9 MR. WESSLER: -- is to do
10 everything in your power to get the SEC to force
11 Northern Pass to get serious about estimating the
12 cost of burying the line.
13 THE MODERATOR: You understand I
14 have no power.
15 MR. WESSLER: Well, then I think
16 you should talk to your legal staff and find out if
17 perhaps, by chance, there's some little hook you
18 have.
19 Northern Pass has not been
20 serious about estimating the cost. I believe that
21 it was a year ago or two years ago that they
22 estimated the cost of total burial at 8 billion
23 dollars. Now they're back, and the estimate is
24 about 2-1/2 billion dollars. That's very

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1 disingenuous, at best. It was about a year ago for
2 the environment impact statement that I testified I
3 believe there was so much money sloshing around in
4 this deal, that there was -- even at a cost of 8
5 billion dollars, it was possible that there was
6 enough money that Hydro Quebec was willing to pay
7 for transmission service, they could bury the whole
8 line. I still believe that. And I think it's even
9 more true today, now that they think the estimate is
10 2-1/2 billion dollars.
11 I want to make note of two
12 questions that came up in the Q and A session. One
13 was if the line is completely buried, will Hydro
14 Quebec walk from the deal? And after a lot of
15 stonewalling and then a fair amount of hemming and
16 hawing, the answer was no. And I believe that's the
17 case. There's room to renegotiate any deal. And I
18 don't think Northern Pass knows how much Hydro
19 Quebec is willing to pay for the transmission
20 service. So there very well may be plenty of money
21 to underground the line.
22 The second question that I
23 thought was very interesting was, paraphrasing the
24 question, was if this can be done in Vermont, if

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1 it's technically feasible and economically feasible
2 to bury the whole line in Vermont, why is it not
3 feasible in New Hampshire? And I got to say that
4 the response that was given by Northern Pass, my BS
5 detector went to 11 on that.
6 I implore the SEC to do whatever
7 is appropriate to get them to get serious about
8 estimating the cost to bury the line.
9 THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr.
10 Wessler. Thank you. Mark McCulloch.
11 MARK MCCULLOCK: Mark
12 McCulloch, North Stratford, New Hampshire.
13 M-c-C-U-L-L-O-C-K. I'm going to speak as quickly
14 as I can.
15 THE MODERATOR: No, we want you
16 to speak slowly so she can take it down.
17 MR. MCCULLOCK: All right.
18 Going to do this as fast and as clearly as I can.
19 I wish to speak on behalf of a
20 friend who could not be here tonight. His name is
21 Chad Pepau, and he has been a volunteer for the
22 Cohos Trail since he was in high school. These are
23 his personal thoughts and are not on behalf of the
24 Cohos Trail Association.

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1 In order to fully understand the
2 total negative impact this 165-mile Cohos Trail will
3 have from the proposed NPT project, you first have
4 to understand what has already negatively impacted
5 the trail in the last five years. The Brookfield
6 Renewable Wind Turbine Project in Dixville Peak
7 Region has changed the overall hiking experience on
8 the Cohos Trail and it's not as great as it once
9 was. These wind towers can be seen from various
10 points, including, but not limited to: Percy Peaks,
11 Sugarloaf Mountain, Kelsey Notch, Panorama Lean-to
12 and more. Many hikers feel they're out of place and
13 an eyesore. You can't even hike to the summit of
14 Dixville Peak due to the wind tower there now. Now,
15 what will happen to the trail if Northern Pass is
16 permitted? One, even greater negative aesthetic
17 impacts will occur and will be seen the entire span
18 of the 165-mile Cohos Trail, from the White
19 Mountains north to the Canadian border.
20 Two, the overall hiking
21 experience along the Cohos Trail will decrease
22 further. Folks currently come to hike the trail for
23 its wilderness quality, to get away from much of the
24 things man-made and enjoy the solitude, tranquility

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1 and wonderful views that cannot be seen anywhere
2 else in the world. Hikers generally appreciate all
3 things nature and natural. A high-tension DC power
4 line with huge towers dotting the landscape
5 certainly is not anything natural a hiker would
6 appreciate.
7 Three, hikers do the Cohos Trail
8 to view wildlife, which will surely be impacted by
9 the NPT Project. Clearing a right-of-way will
10 remove vast amounts of vegetation, which would alter
11 forests, wetlands and wildlife habitat. Some of
12 these areas are vital to the procreation of an array
13 of wildlife.
14 Four, if the impacts to the
15 Cohos Trail do occur, a decrease in hiker interest
16 in the Cohos Trail will also result, which will
17 result in even more negative effects.
18 Five, there will be a decrease
19 in donations from individuals, area businesses and
20 the like, thereby having a negative effect on the
21 Cohos Trail Association's budget.
22 Six, decreased interest in the
23 trail results in decreased foot traffic on the
24 trail. This increases the amount of work required

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1 to keep the trail maintained and open to hikers.
2 Generally speaking, when people hike a trail, they
3 often will removal brush and small blow-downs found
4 on the trail. This is a huge help.
5 THE MODERATOR: Mr. McCullock,
6 your time is up. If you could wrap it up, please.
7 MR. McCULLOCK: I'm very close.
8 THE MODERATOR: Okay.
9 MR. McCULLOCK: This is a huge
10 help. The Cohos Trail Association relies primarily
11 on volunteers due to a small operating budget. With
12 less traffic on the trail, the increased burden is
13 going to fall on the shoulders of volunteers to keep
14 the Cohos Trail passable.
15 Mark, I feel exactly how you
16 feel. The Cohos Trail needs to be mentioned at the
17 SEC hearings. The Cohos Trail Association has
18 worked tirelessly at helping to get the trail to
19 where it is today. I wish it not be negatively
20 impacted for big profits for big corporations.
21 Corporate greed is the worst of evils, along with
22 money, of course. Yours truly, Chad E. Pepau.
23 And by the way, 4A all the way
24 or no way. Thank you.

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1 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Lombardi.
2 MR. LOMBARDI: My name is
3 Frank Lombardi, L-O-M-B-A-R-D-I. The first part
4 of my speech will be on behalf of the Planning
5 Board for the Town of Whitefield. I'm a planning
6 board member. The following is a letter drafted
7 and signed by the Whitefield Planning Board
8 regarding the Northern Pass. The original letter
9 is being submitted to New Hampshire Site
10 Evaluation Committee, and this copy we present to
11 Northern Pass tonight.
12 The letter reads: The
13 Whitefield Planning Board has great concern
14 regarding the effect that the proposed Northern
15 Pass Transmission Project would have on our town.
16 We respectfully request that if Northern Pass is
17 to move forward, the Site Evaluation Committee
18 require the transmission lines to be buried in
19 Whitefield, where Whitefield would be adversely
20 affected, just as they are proposed to be buried
21 in other towns in our region. Whitefield has the
22 most overhead mileage of any town on Northern
23 Pass's proposed route, crossing 10.4 miles of the
24 town's views and village. The transmission towers

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1 as proposed would range up to 100 feet high, well
2 above both the tree canopy and the wooden poles on
3 the existing transmission right-of-way. The major
4 power line would cross directly over three main
5 roadways and cut across scenic views from Routes 3
6 and 116. The visual impact would be severe, as
7 one will not be able to enter Whitefield without
8 seeing the lines. As such, the project would
9 adversely affect large swaths of the town's visual
10 landscape, the central historic and business
11 district, and significant natural and preserved
12 areas. The transmission project does not fit with
13 Whitefield's master plan, and there is no doubt
14 that new transmission lines of this scope and
15 scale would negatively affect the orderly
16 development of Whitefield and the region, private
17 property values, business prospects and economic
18 development. The Whitefield Planning Board
19 believes the adverse impacts of Northern Pass can
20 be largely avoided if the transmission lines are
21 buried in Whitefield. We respectfully request
22 equal treatment -- that is, line burial with other
23 towns where burial has been proposed. Sincerely,
24 the Whitefield Planning Board.

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1 I'd also like to add, not
2 speaking on the planning board's behalf, that
3 there is -- the latest report of the ISO of New
4 England, on Page 2, 1.3 Results, it states the
5 following: The EE forecast shows that the energy
6 savings resulting from state-sponsored EE programs
7 can be expected to cause electric energy usage to
8 remain flat in New England as a whole, with energy
9 use in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and
10 Vermont declining by 2024 to levels below those
11 that have been expected in the 2014 EE forecast.
12 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Lombardi,
13 your time is up.
14 MR.LOMBARDI: Okay. Basically
15 what they're saying here is the forecast of energy
16 usage is declining in our region. And I think
17 that's important to look at when they're talking
18 about need. Thank you.
19 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
20 Just to give you an idea, I'm
21 just kind of measuring the pile of those who have
22 spoken and those who have not, just going in order
23 of when you signed up. I'd say we're not halfway
24 through yet. So I'm really going to ask that you

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1 really respect the time. Everybody's been going
2 over. And I'm going to let you know when it's 30
3 seconds to go, to give you a warning, okay.
4 Yes.
5 MS. ROSE: My name's Katie
6 Rose. The people of Whitefield --
7 THE MODERATOR: R-O-S-E; right?
8 MS. ROSE: A rose as in the
9 flower.
10 THE MODERATOR: Yeah.
11 MS. ROSE: The people of
12 Whitefield and surrounding towns are up in arms over
13 Northern Pass's recent announcement that they will
14 not be burying their transmission lines through our
15 towns. In light of this new information, 535
16 registered voters and concerned residents of
17 Whitefield and surrounding towns have signed the
18 following petition requesting full burial of the
19 Northern Pass transmission lines through Whitefield
20 and neighboring towns. We are sorry that we did not
21 get to everyone because we know there are countless
22 more who feel as we do. This petition speaks for
23 all those who stand against the proposed Northern
24 Pass Transmission Project and the many harmful

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1 effects it would have on our communities.
2 The petition reads: As
3 residents of Whitefield, we are very upset that
4 Northern Pass now proposes to bury the transmission
5 line 52 miles starting just south of our town, but
6 isn't willing to do the same here. With 10.4 miles
7 of proposed lines, Whitefield has the second most
8 total mileage of any town on the route and the most
9 overhead mileage of any town. Whitefield is a
10 destination for tourists and the gateway to the
11 Great North Woods, the engine of Coos County's
12 tourism economy. The proposed overhead lines would
13 be visible from all points of access to or through
14 our village and would damage our town's beauty and
15 appeal. These above-ground lines do not respect
16 Whitefield citizens, our community and businesses,
17 our historic village and heritage, our landscapes
18 and vistas, our conservation land or our sense of
19 place. This is our town and our future. We will
20 not stand by and watch as Whitefield is destroyed by
21 monstrous above-ground lines. Whitefield's
22 historic town slogan identifies us as a "friendly
23 town with a beautiful point of view." And we intend
24 to keep it that way. If Northern Pass is to go

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1 forward, we insist that the lines be buried.
2 The original petition is being
3 submitted to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation
4 Committee. Copies are being presented to the
5 following people and political boards, with the
6 expectation that they will properly represent their
7 citizens on this matter: Governor Maggie Hassan,
8 Senator Jeff Woodburn, Representative John --
9 THE MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.
10 MS. ROSE: Thank you.
11 Representative Leon Rideout, the Whitefield Select
12 Board, the Whitefield Planning Board and the
13 Whitefield Economic Development Economic
14 Corporation. Finally, we present this copy to you,
15 Northern Pass, in solidarity, opposed to your latest
16 proposal for New Hampshire. Thank you.
17 [Applause]
18 MS. ROSE: Will the following
19 people please come forward if you are present?
20 Otherwise, these will be mailed to you, registered
21 mail --
22 THE MODERATOR: No.
23 I'm sorry.
24 MS. ROSE: Am I all done?

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1 THE MODERATOR: No. Yes, you
2 are. Sorry.
3 MS. ROSE: All those people I
4 mentioned, if you're here, and if you're not, you
5 should have stayed because we need to be
6 represented. Thank you.
7 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Suzanna
8 Whittum, Jon Wilkinson, Paul Haslanger, Peter
9 Powell.
10 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: In
11 fairness to... (inaudible)
12 MS. ROSE: Are you ready to
13 sing?
14 THE MODERATOR: All right. Wait
15 a minute. Are you Suzanna Whittum?
16 MS. WHITTUM: I am Suzanna
17 Whittum, S-U-Z-A-N-N-A, Whittum, W-H-I-T-T-U-M.
18 And I am a resident of Whitefield. And I am a
19 registered voter, by the way. I had to point it
20 out.
21 THE MODERATOR: You don't need
22 to take this down.
23 [Presentation sung.]
24 THE MODERATOR: Well, I feel

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1 compelled to one up that performance. Did you hear
2 about the horse that went into the bar in Coos
3 County, and the bartender said, "Why the long face?"
4 It's better the second time; right?
5 All right. Jon Wilkinson, Paul
6 Haslanger, Peter Powell. And what's -- and Peter
7 Gair and Joe Keenan together? Well, we'll see when
8 we get there.
9 Okay. Jon Wilkinson.
10 MR. WILKINSON: Thank you,
11 Your Honor. My name is Jon Wilkinson. When they
12 were offering that this was going to be the last
13 one, I said here I go again. Wilkinson, W, always
14 going to be last. But I guess that's not going to
15 be case.
16 THE MODERATOR: No.
17 MR. WILKINSON: That said, my
18 first name is actually spelled J-O-N. It was
19 supposed to be Jan 56 years ago. Didn't happen.
20 Not my fault. Wilkinson is W-I-L-K-I-N-S-O-N.
21 Experts. We've heard tonight
22 from Eversource's experts. Now I'd like to remind
23 all those behind me that still are opposed to this
24 new Northern Pass Project and are here again

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1 tonight, you are New Hampshire's experts, every
2 single one of you, and continue to be those experts
3 for New Hampshire's future.
4 Quickly, without talking
5 quickly, I have a very important thing I want you to
6 do. I think you need to look in great detail at
7 some very concerning maps published by the Northern
8 Pass. My first map of concern that I want you to
9 look at is Mile No. 2 of Pittsburg with its
10 incredible twists and turns, and then finally even
11 burial along Route 3, where we've been told tonight
12 it couldn't be buried. Also look at maps Mile 5
13 through Mile 10 in Clarksville and Stewartstown, and
14 please ask yourself: Why did the Northern Pass
15 propose burial along these old roads? I believe
16 Northern Pass is only offering any burial because it
17 can't get through these areas above ground. And I
18 also feel that's why they're now offering burial
19 around the White Mountain National Forest. It has
20 nothing to do with aesthetics. They can't get
21 through. Thank you.
22 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Paul
23 Haslanger? Mr. Haslanger? Maybe I didn't -- okay.
24 He's from Lancaster, Garland Road, in case I'm not

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1 pronouncing his last name right. Okay.
2 Peter Powell. Are you Peter
3 Powell?
4 MR. POWELL: I am.
5 THE MODERATOR: Okay.
6 MR. POWELL: I am Peter
7 Powell, P-O-W-E-L-L, of Lancaster. Been a realtor
8 here for the past 42 years.
9 The local charter school asked
10 students to define "poverty" and suggest what
11 might be done about it. Some expressed their
12 thoughts in a mural. It depicts a farmer plowing
13 with a team of horses, a mother reading to her
14 children, and other expressions of community,
15 family and work. It speaks eloquently of things
16 important to them, including ties to land and
17 place. Our communities here are no less important
18 than any in New Hampshire, north or south.
19 Balance is not achieved by saving one place and
20 sacrificing another. Balance is achieved when you
21 can pursue your self-interest without harming our
22 region in the process, not by doing less harm here
23 and more harm there. Fundamentally, this project
24 is in conflict with too many elements of our

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1 economy, putting sectors at risk. It should not
2 be in conflict with, but should instead enhance
3 local economies and not just be tolerated as
4 benefits accrue elsewhere. Balance has not yet
5 been achieved. We and other areas of New
6 Hampshire have lost huge segments of our tradeable
7 economy, the ability to produce goods that can be
8 exported so that dollars can be imported. Tourism
9 and other natural resource-based industries are
10 important remaining elements bringing in capital
11 to circulate locally; yet, they are placed at risk
12 by a project that would detract from the
13 fundamental strength of our landscape. It would
14 export more capital to a foreign supplier and
15 serve private interests at the risk of local
16 advantage. But if it is to happen, it must happen
17 under the ground, without harming our source of
18 greatest appeal and productivity: Our landscape.
19 Forty years have shown me that
20 the only way to sell something ugly is to sell it
21 for a lot less. If you put ugly objects in a
22 beautiful landscape, you will reduce the value of
23 all those properties which gaze upon it, and the
24 loss will be of high proportion. Hired

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1 statisticians will submit studies done elsewhere
2 to address the degree of impact, but they are
3 largely irrelevant here. Like politics, all real
4 estate is local, and I do not want the sad job of
5 quantifying the impact after it has happened.
6 Please understand that the degree of difference in
7 impact is a function of the baseline, ours being
8 pure and pristine, while others have already been
9 degraded when additional impacts are measured. Be
10 assured that when people leave areas that are
11 already marred to visit or live in a place like
12 this, they will not accept, they will not
13 tolerate, and they will not pay for more of what
14 they left behind.
15 Finally, we all know that
16 technology is advancing. Other states are
17 bringing power underground to enhance supply,
18 while investors are bringing it under the ocean
19 from the south. Our homes may soon use advanced
20 concepts of the heat pump to become powerhouses in
21 their own right, producing more than they need.
22 Tesla batteries give feasibility to solar, which a
23 Connecticut company has installed a municipal
24 solar system to store not power but heat in salt

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1 beds to run turbines when the sun is not shining.
2 No one --
3 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Powell, your
4 time is up.
5 MR. POWELL: No one is standing
6 still, but Northern Pass persists this pursuit of an
7 old and harmful means of distribution without
8 assurance it will remain viable in cost demand or
9 benefit. We should not sacrifice so much to enable
10 something that will not serve our public interests
11 in a way equal to our losses, and we should not
12 suffer the lasting impact it will have on our
13 landscape. As Sinatra may have sung, "If they can
14 dig it there, they can dig it anywhere." And we
15 have got to get it right with more jobs, higher tax
16 revenues and less sacrifice.
17 THE MODERATOR: I take it you're
18 Gair and Keenan?
19 MR. KEENAN: Keenan and Gair.
20 THE MODERATOR: Keenan and Gair.
21 All right. Joe Keenan, K-E-E-N-A-N, Peter Gair,
22 G-A-I-R. I didn't know we were having dueling
23 banjos.
24

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1 MR. KEENAN: My name is Joe
2 Keenan, and I live in Northumberland. I have a
3 beautiful property with a western view. And
4 there's a power line that goes through it right
5 now that I can't see because it's below the tree
6 line.
7 MR. GAIR: My name is Peter
8 Gair. I live in Lancaster, and I kind of like the
9 area the way it is.
10 [Presentation sung.]
11 THE MODERATOR: Well, I vote for
12 the young women. [Laughter]
13 Okay. Bruce Winthrop, Lynn
14 Placey, Bruce Brekke, Alan Bouthillier. Right.
15 Okay. Mr. Winthrop. The rest of you want to come
16 on up? Is Bruce Winthrop still here?
17 (No verbal response)
18 THE MODERATOR: Okay. So Mr.
19 Winthrop I think is gone. Lynn Placey? Is she
20 here?
21 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: No.
22 THE MODERATOR: Bruce Brekke.
23 Mr. Brekke.
24

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1 MR. BREKKE: My name is Bruce
2 Brekke. That's B-R-E-K-K-E. And my wife and I
3 are property owners in Whitefield.
4 Our concern is the effects
5 that the proposed overhead towers will have on
6 property values and the tourist industry in the
7 state of New Hampshire, the North Country, and
8 particularly the town of Whitefield. The threat
9 of the 182 or so miles of giant metal towers
10 scarring our state has been hanging over our heads
11 for over four years now. During that period, the
12 Northern Pass has promised to deliver jobs, lower
13 electric rates, and promised money, money for your
14 land, money for your right for your land, and
15 money for your community project. More money than
16 can be imagined. The truth is the jobs, the lower
17 rates and the money, as time passes, will not
18 always be there. The towers, though, will always
19 be there. As announced recently, the Northern
20 Pass plans to bury an additional 52 miles of line,
21 a plan that has been hailed as a compromise. A
22 compromise. Imagine a stranger arrives at your
23 house, pushes his way in, wants to take all of
24 what is yours, you resist, and then the invader

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1 offers to take only half as a compromise. But the
2 Northern Pass, now also known as ForwardNH Plan,
3 cannot be held at fault because this is the way
4 corporations operate, by keeping costs to a
5 minimum, profits to a maximum, no shame, no guilt,
6 no consequences, just a bigger bottom line.
7 Also released recently is the
8 Department of Energy's draft EIS, which includes
9 several alternatives for the Northern Pass, one of
10 which, Alternative No. 1, called for no action.
11 Many of us would choose this option and have the
12 Northern Pass just go away and disappear. But
13 that's an unlikely outcome in this current
14 political environment. Alternative 4A calls for
15 complete burial, an option that the Northern Pass
16 has claimed from the beginning is
17 cost-prohibitive. If someone you knew with simple
18 means told you they wanted a \$400,000 Ferrari,
19 you'd probably laugh it off. Something too
20 expensive is just that. The high cost makes it
21 unobtainable. Now, the Northern Pass has released
22 its latest plan, ForwardNH Plan --
23 THE MODERATOR: Thirty seconds,
24 Mr. Brekke.

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1 MR. BREKKE: Oh, okay. I'll
2 speed it up. Using a new technological approach of
3 burial --
4 THE MODERATOR: No, Mr. Brekke,
5 you can't -- maybe summarize --
6 MR. BREKKE: Please, we had two
7 people you called that weren't here. If I could
8 just take into their time and be fair with --
9 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Brekke, we
10 still have all these people --
11 MR. BREKKE: All right. Look,
12 I'm not going to argue. I'm appealing --
13 THE MODERATOR: All right. Go
14 ahead.
15 MR. BREKKE: Also, a report
16 called "Northern Pass Visual Impact Assessment,"
17 written September 25th, 2012, by the AMC, shows that
18 Whitefield ranks third in the state behind
19 Jefferson, No. 2, and Concord, No. 1, in the number
20 of acres exposed to towers, with over 5,000 acres,
21 and nearly half of these exposed to 20-plus towers.
22 The Northern Pass through Whitefield will have 10.4
23 miles -- excuse me -- 69 towers. A town like
24 Whitefield cannot afford to lose the beauty and

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1 charm of a small New England village that brings
2 tourists from faraway places, some to the area and
3 others on further to the North Country to spend
4 their time and their tourist dollars. We in the
5 North Country rely on tourism to survive. And
6 building tall metal towers will not help to attract
7 those who travel here to get away from such
8 surroundings. If anything, the towers would have
9 the opposite effect. Why would they drive long
10 distances to see what they're able to see at home?
11 The existing power line abuts
12 our property. And looking north, a few of the 40
13 wooden tower structures are visible when the trees
14 are bare. Beyond that, from my back porch is the
15 Mountain View Grand Hotel, and beyond that the
16 Kilkenney Range, and far to the north the Percy
17 Peaks. If the towers are built as proposed,
18 according to the information provided by the DOE --
19 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Brekke, your
20 time is way up. Mr. Brekke --
21 MR. BREKKE: This much. Please.
22 THE MODERATOR: Okay.
23 MR. BREKKE: I would see 25 of
24 them, and I would see the value of our property

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1 permanently diminished, never to recover until the
2 trees grow to heights that I will never see. When I
3 look past my property at the mountains and the sky,
4 I do not think of the value of my house and land. I
5 take in the natural beauty of what is there. That
6 is why many people have stayed here, settled here,
7 and more importantly, visit here. We cannot ruin
8 what we have in this magnificent country for any
9 reason, especially a reason that is not necessary.
10 THE MODERATOR: Al Bouthillier,
11 Frank Eaton, Jane Brickett, Susan --
12 MS. PERCY: Percy.
13 MR. BOUTHILLIER: My name is
14 Allen Bouthillier, B-O-U-T-H-I-L-L-I-E-R.
15 THE MODERATOR: And would you
16 spell your first name as well, sir.
17 MR. BOUTHILLIER: A-L-L-E-N.
18 I'm a resident of Lancaster, New Hampshire, and I'm
19 here tonight to offer my support for the Project.
20 I was initially not supportive
21 of this project. In fact, I was opposed to this
22 project because I was led to believe that it would
23 cause harm to the wood-fired power plants in our
24 area, and, in turn, loggers in our area. Over time

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1 I learned the facts about this project and what the
2 real impacts would be, and I became a strong
3 supporter of this project. Not only will this
4 project not harm our local power plants or the
5 logging industry that depend on them, Northern Pass
6 helps this important part of our economy. The
7 Burgess Biomass Plant will be able to run at full
8 capacity, as it will be able to get power into the
9 Coos Loop into New England market. Also, landowners
10 will be able to develop and expand renewable energy
11 to meet the ever-increasing demands for this power,
12 at the same time keeping private land ownership
13 viable and open for public use and enjoyment for
14 generations to come. Upgrade to the Coos County's
15 electric transmission infrastructure, referred to as
16 the "Loop," will ensure that our existing power
17 plants have more opportunity to sell their renewable
18 energy into the New England Power Pool Market. When
19 our local biomass plants run more, they will need
20 more wood chips. This creates more opportunity for
21 the local logging industry. I would like to point
22 out that this project will open the door for other
23 industry expansion with the availability to move
24 power in and out of the county.

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1 I have also learned that this
2 project will bring tremendous opportunity to the
3 many local construction companies in our region.
4 Eversource has listened to the needs of area
5 contractors, has worked hard to include us in their
6 project planning, and has made a solid commitment to
7 ensure this project provides opportunities for these
8 local companies and the people that work for them.
9 The argument that these construction jobs are
10 short-term doesn't matter, as all construction jobs
11 are short-term. The only difference is these are
12 very high-paying and will be ongoing for three years
13 or more; in construction, this is considered
14 long-term.
15 As a resident taxpayer of Coos
16 County, I also want to speak to the importance of
17 this project and the investment it will make in our
18 communities. The harsh reality is that many of our
19 towns are dying and jobs are gone, opportunities are
20 gone, our local people are leaving, with the burden
21 of paying for our schools and our local services
22 falling on a smaller and smaller group of taxpayers.
23 Northern Pass will not solve all of our problems,
24 but it will begin to right the ship by providing a

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1 tremendous boost to our economy and provide --
2 THE MODERATOR: Thirty seconds,
3 sir.
4 MR. BOUTHILLIER -- a long-term
5 investment in our region. We have all heard a few
6 say they want the line all buried. How about the
7 landowners that don't want it buried on their
8 property? What people don't understand is if this
9 was buried, you'd have to get permission every time
10 you want to cross the line for logging or other
11 purposes. This would create an added cost every
12 time you want to do a timber harvest, water lines,
13 sewer lines, or any development on your own
14 property. I encourage the New Hampshire Site
15 Evaluation Committee to approve this project. In
16 Coos County, 30 percent of it is on private
17 landowners that do not want this project buried on
18 their property. And I hear a lot of people here
19 that aren't landowners preaching about how they want
20 it buried. How about the 30 percent of this
21 distance [sic] that the landowner doesn't want it
22 buried on their property?
23 [Interruption by audience.]
24 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

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1 Frank Eaton. Is he still here? Okay. Jane
2 Brickett, is she still here?
3 MS. BRICKETT: She sure is.
4 THE MODERATOR: All right.
5 MS. BRICKETT: I'm short. Hi,
6 I'm Jane Brickett, B-R-I-C-K-E-T-T, and I live out
7 east in Lancaster.
8 I actually want to address
9 something other people brought up, but I want to
10 address it from a very personal standpoint. Given
11 the color of the hair of lots of folks in this
12 room, it's the same as mine. I have a funny
13 feeling that a lot of people share the same issues
14 that I do. I know that many of us have fought for
15 years to keep our land and stay here in a very
16 poor economic climate with fairly low wages, or
17 very low wages. My parents died. I used the
18 inheritance -- all right, not all of it. But I
19 used a substantial amount to build, to bring my
20 home up to snuff because I know that my home is a
21 huge part of my retirement. When I went to
22 Groveton to the open house a couple years ago,
23 Northern Pass folks told me they thought the
24 value because -- oh, I should say that my land

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1 abuts property that the right-of-way is on. I
2 will be able -- I can't see the towers now because
3 they're obviously covered by trees. I will be
4 able to see towers once they're high.
5 Northern Pass folks told me
6 that the value of my house they thought would
7 decrease by 10 percent. I got to tell you,
8 10 percent's an awful lot of money for me. But we
9 just listened to Peter Powell and other realtors,
10 and they're saying it's going to be a whole lot
11 more than that. This is my retirement money.
12 This is what I'm counting on to carry me through
13 till I die. There's no compensation because of
14 the value of my house going down. There's
15 nothing. No one's come to me and talked to me
16 about it, like Mr. Quinlan said they would for
17 folks that were abutters and near the power line.
18 But I'm losing money, and I'm going to lose a lot
19 of it, and there's nothing -- and I just don't
20 think that that's fair. And I suspect there are a
21 lot of people in this room that are in the same
22 position that I am, that through no fault of their
23 own, because someone wants to make -- some
24 corporation wants to make a lot of money, that

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1 they're going to lose a lot of money, with no
2 compensation. Thank you.
3 THE MODERATOR: Susan Percy.
4 Then we have Marcia Hammon, Jim Ramsdell, Rebecca
5 More.
6 MS. PERCY: My name's Susan
7 Percy. I'm from Stark, New Hampshire.
8 In Stark, the power lines will
9 virtually bisect the entire town. It will -- we
10 will see it from Route 110 when people are
11 crossing through. We will see it when we're
12 hiking through the Kauffman Forest on the Cohos
13 Trails. We will simply see those power lines. It
14 is generally accepted that electric transmission
15 towers and lines are aesthetically unattractive,
16 no matter if they're monorail [sic] or if they are
17 the other one. They are unattractive. It is
18 known that buried, underground lines create less
19 electrical line loss. We understand it costs more
20 to install. I expect the lower line loss will
21 mitigate that cost to bury over the line's life.
22 The recreational and tourist
23 use at scenic northern parts of New Hampshire is
24 becoming increasingly important to this region.

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1 It strikes me that you are asking us, who enjoy
2 the undeveloped and natural landscapes, to
3 compromise our experience and tourism and
4 recreation growth in order to save people pennies
5 on our electric bills by refusing to bury the
6 lines. We will notice every day the towers and
7 the lines. The long-term impact here is not
8 easily quantified, but it is real and it is
9 cumulative over the years as the Northern Pass
10 experience is diminished with towers and lines. I
11 urge you to bury all the lines. Peer projects in
12 other states can afford to respect the areas they
13 traverse by burying their lines. Respect us who
14 live in and appreciate the North Country in New
15 Hampshire. Thank you.

16 MS. HAMMON: Thank you. I am
17 former Representative Marcia Hammon of District 5.

18 THE MODERATOR: Would you spell
19 both your first name and your last name.

20 MS. HAMMON: M-A-R-C-I-A,
21 Hammon, H-A-M-M-O-N, representing Whitefield,
22 Jefferson, Randolph and Carroll.

23 On behalf of those persons, and
24 especially those who live above the notches, I wish

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1 to make a statement. We, the rural New Hampshire
2 citizens, are not to be taken lightly or taken for
3 granted in the plans for transmission of energy from
4 the Hudson Bay and the rivers of their sources via
5 Hydro Quebec. I am still apprehensive as I was when
6 I spoke a year to two ago about how taller towers
7 will impact our North Country. As a lifelong
8 resident of scenic New Hampshire, I have observed
9 for decades plates from not only New England states
10 parked in front of businesses in Jefferson,
11 Lancaster, Whitefield, Carroll, or the Randolph AMC
12 hiking parking lot. Many cars travel to our fair
13 state to partake of her wildness, her wilderness,
14 miles of mountain views, her special historic
15 attractions, this Mountain View Grand which was
16 built for the mountains that she viewed, her
17 wildlife and her unique biomes. The state supports
18 not only a unique geology compared with our
19 neighbors to the east and the west. Our ski
20 industry invites international tourists, and
21 Tuckerman's Ravine thrills spring skiers, even since
22 the years my mother, Carrie Haley, photographed them
23 with her Kodak movie camera during the '30s and
24 '40s. Now the attractions are for the motorized

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1 Ski-Dos and the ORHVs for year-round leisure
2 recreation. Many waters have flowed under the
3 bridges and down the Connecticut River. Many moons
4 have passed since the first whispers of the plan for
5 Northern Pass were made public outside the corporate
6 headquarters.

7 I have observed during the last
8 four years that there has been little divergent or
9 chaired -- changed thinking. Northern Pass has made
10 no effort to change the international crossing map
11 in the environmentally sensitive Connecticut River
12 headwaters. However, the public has remained awake
13 and aware, and we began our protest to the Northern
14 Pass incursion and its international corporate
15 interests through our state by raising old-fashioned
16 hand-lettered, orange signs. Our signs and our
17 clothing throughout the five-year-long protest
18 demonstrate not only a deep, heartwarming orange
19 color served up by nature that our Coos County has
20 with natural splashes of color on the
21 mountainside --

22 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Hammon, your
23 time is up. If you could wrap up.

24 MS. HAMMON: I am a

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1 representative. I'd like to get a little more time.

2 THE MODERATOR: Oh, okay.

3 MS. HAMMON: Thank you.

4 Our world-renowned foliage
5 season delivers airplanes, SUVs, and busloads of
6 retirees and leaf peepers to clog our interstate and
7 back roads and scenic byways annually. And
8 historically, Coos families have received phone
9 calls from town leaders on behalf of stranded
10 travelers. Hoteliers and motels had no more rooms
11 to let. Our North Country homes were opened to
12 strangers. In other words, Coos citizens got the
13 picture: Hospitality generates dollars.

14 We've attended public meetings,
15 written letters to the editors, spoken out in
16 multiple social media outlets and added more quips,
17 "Live free or fry," or "Nope, not over New
18 Hampshire," to express our outrage at the defiling
19 of our state of New Hampshire with overhead towers.

20 Thanks to a CD called "The
21 Northern Trespass," this planned energy source will
22 remove waters from the indigents' or the Natives'
23 land in Quebec. What an outrage. The energy
24 generated by these waters will not even serve the

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1 conservation-conscious citizens of New Hampshire.
2 Rather, it is a plan for saving the corporate monies
3 by blotting out natural beauty for us for
4 generations to come --
5 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Hammon, even
6 for a state representative, I think we're getting to
7 the end.
8 MS. HAMMON: The Northern Pass
9 will serve the south, the downstream consumers, the
10 bigger corporations along the east coast and New
11 England's large cities, and then, oh, it returns
12 north across the international border to make even
13 more dollars, more money for the Hydro Quebec
14 Corporation. We, the rural consumer, will have to
15 give up the familiar, mind-numbing, beautiful views,
16 the riches of our county, our land beyond the
17 notches, but we will receive no economic benefit.
18 That is, in historic terms, "colonialism."
19 To conclude, the numerous jobs
20 that have been alluded to will be short-lived. The
21 project will require heavy equipment and
22 helicopters, but manned by a few steel workers
23 jobbed out by out-of-state contracted workers.
24 Billions of dollars will be accrued by stockholders,

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1 with little to no savings by New Hampshire
2 consumers.
3 To conclude, the present
4 technology and the lower-cost transmission cables
5 and the public will to use renewables without the
6 cost of damming another Quebec river to achieve
7 energy reliable [sic] allows us to direct our gaze
8 at other sources: Solar, nuclear, wind. Keep the
9 Northern Pass out of New Hampshire or bury it.
10 Thank you very much.
11 THE MODERATOR: Jim Ramsdell, is
12 he still here? Yes, Mr. Ramsdell.
13 MR. RAMSDELL: Jim Ramsdell,
14 R-A-M-S-D-E-L-L. I live at 1049 Whitefield Road,
15 Dalton, New Hampshire, which is directly adjacent
16 to the existing right-of-way where the power line
17 crosses 142.
18 I came last year, and it
19 seemed like the majority of the people here were
20 opposed to this project, and if they weren't, then
21 we wouldn't be here tonight. We're back again as
22 if we never voiced our opposition last year.
23 I tried to sell my house for
24 four years, and I had to put a disclosure

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1 statement in the real estate listing that the
2 preferred route for Northern Pass was next to my
3 house, and any potential people that liked it,
4 that scared them off. I never got one offer. And
5 the realtor said they showed our house more than
6 any others they had. We contacted one of the
7 representatives from Northern Pass, Jim Wagner,
8 who came out and showed us what the plan would
9 look like. And there was a tower directly
10 adjacent to my house. I do have a tree line
11 there. And his position was that I wouldn't see
12 the tower because the trees would block it. But I
13 don't see the power line there now, but my trees
14 are about 60 feet high, and the tower at the time
15 was 120-foot that was next to my house. So who
16 wants a tower next to their house? I don't think
17 anyone wants towers next to their house. And it's
18 definitely devalued my property.
19 It sounds like tonight the
20 consensus here -- a lot of people have left. It
21 seems like the consensus is people are still
22 opposed to the project, and it sounds like
23 consensus is that everyone wants the line buried.
24 That would be my preference. It's nice that

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1 they're doing it in certain places for certain
2 folks who maybe spoke louder. But as the petition
3 came in tonight from the folks at Whitefield and
4 Dalton, we want the line buried in our town as
5 well. No one wants a tower next to them. Thank
6 you.
7 MS. MORE: I'll be brief. My
8 name is Rebecca Weeks Sherrill More, Lancaster,
9 New Hampshire.
10 THE MODERATOR: M-O-R-E?
11 MS. MORE: M-O-R-E. One O.
12 Thank you.
13 I am going to restrict my
14 remarks to the negative impact of the proposed
15 Northern Pass Project on Weeks State Park. The 86
16 proposed 70-foot Northern Pass towers will
17 negatively impact the visitor experience at Weeks
18 State Park. I have a particular interest in Weeks
19 State Park because the lands were entrusted to the
20 State of New Hampshire in 1941 by my grandfather,
21 Sinclair Weeks, and his sister Katherine Weeks
22 Davidge, in honor of their father, Lancaster native
23 John Wingate Weeks. You may be familiar, Senator
24 Weeks was a U.S. congressman, a senator and

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1 secretary of war, and he sponsored the Weeks Act of
2 1911, which established federal guidelines for
3 conserving our national forest reserves and the
4 quality of our national water supply. The White
5 Mountain National Forest, both the north and the
6 southern sections -- the northern part seems to be
7 ignored in the new proposal -- owe its existence to
8 the Weeks Act. In the 1913 National Register of
9 Historic Places Lodge on top of Mount Prospect in
10 Weeks State Park, thousands of visitors from around
11 the globe enjoy a 360-degree view of the entire
12 region, from the northern White Mountain National
13 Forest, from the Presidential Range, to Camel's Hump
14 Mountain in Vermont, while learning about the
15 reclamation and conservation of lands which were
16 damaged by another industry, the 19th Century timber
17 industry. The 86 Northern Pass transmission towers
18 will degrade the visitor experience at Weeks State
19 Park and, therefore, local tourism. Please note
20 that the Department of Energy selected Weeks State
21 Park as one of its 15 key observation points, KOPLA
22 2A, for the assessment of environmental impact. The
23 report notes Weeks State Park, under the current NPT
24 proposal, would be subject to at least 34 visible

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1 structures. However, at the present time, the State
2 of New Hampshire's Division of Parks is presently
3 clearing the top of Mount Prospect to its 1913
4 appearance. As a result, the view from Weeks State
5 Park will include approximately 86, 70-foot towers
6 from Cape Horn State Park in Northumberland all the
7 way to Whitefield.

8 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Your time
9 is up, Ms. More.

10 MS. MORE: Thank you very much.

11 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

12 Linda Upham-Bornstein, Marshall Bloom, Allison
13 Dorsey, Carl Martland.

14 MS. UPHAM-BORNSTEIN: Madam,
15 my name is Linda Upham, U-P-H-A-M, hyphen,
16 Bornstein, B-O-R-N-S-T-E-I-N. I live in
17 Lancaster, New Hampshire.

18 My husband and I own a home on
19 Mount Prospect Road, one of the Weeks' family
20 homes, owned originally by Sinclair Weeks. We
21 have a 180 view of our background, which will be,
22 once these towers are built, marred and scarred by
23 the towers that Dr. More just spoke about.

24 Although burial of the

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1 additional 52 miles is certainly a step in the
2 right direction, the construction of the
3 above-ground transmission line on the other
4 130 miles of the proposed route will have an
5 unreasonable adverse impact on private property
6 and historic sites within the Northern Pass view
7 shed and on aesthetics, the natural environment,
8 the welfare of the population and the state's
9 economy. If these very large metal transmission
10 towers are installed, they will be a terrible
11 eyesore and ruin the many beautiful views that
12 property owners like myself and others, and other
13 visitors in the Northern Pass view shed, presently
14 have of the White Mountains and other scenic
15 landscapes further south. These significant and
16 adverse view-related effects will damage the
17 tourism and recreation industries that are Coos
18 County's best hope for future economic growth...
19 let's see... and on which the North Country relies
20 heavily. In contrast, a full burial of the
21 transmission line will, as the draft EIS statement
22 notes, create nearly twice as many annual
23 construction jobs over the years. This baffles
24 me. I have a Ph.D. in legal history and am a

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1 labor historian. I am a member of a union. I am
2 the daughter of a union worker. I do not
3 understand why labor chooses to support the
4 Northern Pass.

5 Also, the Scenic Byway asked
6 that the New Hampshire Supreme Court observe in
7 2011 the purpose of these statutes is to encourage
8 the tourism, the attractiveness of our scenic
9 roads, and to protect and enhance the scenic
10 beauty of our state's scenic roads and scenic
11 byways that traverse the North Country. And I
12 believe you need to take these into serious
13 consideration moving forward. Thank you.

14 THE MODERATOR: Marshall Bloom.
15 Allison Dorsey. She still here?

16 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: ^{she}
17 left.

18 THE MODERATOR: Carl Martland.

19 MR. MARTLAND: My name is
20 Carl, with a C, Martland, M-A-R-T-L-A-N-D. I am
21 speaking as the Chair of the North Country scenic
22 byways Council, which has members from all of the
23 towns along the route of Northern Pass in Coos
24 County.

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1 The council recently voted
2 unanimously to have me document for their review all
3 of the impacts of the proposed route on the scenic
4 byways, and the attractions that are nearby the
5 scenic byways. And I will be working with this
6 group to present comments to the SEC hearing on
7 October 7th. And I'm very pleased to hear so many
8 people mention the byways. And I'm taking notes on
9 all the places that have been mentioned: The Weeks
10 Estate, Coleman State Park, all the many other
11 places that I won't bother to go through my remarks
12 in any more detail. I have submitted comments
13 already on these routes.

14 I will just note that the Scenic
15 Byways group, we do not consider our role just to
16 look at the roads, but also to look at -- the roads
17 are an access to the North Country. So the other
18 trails, the museums, the historic places are all
19 part of what we are trying to attract people to.
20 Thank you.

21 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
22 Henrietta Howard, Janice Hewitt, Bill Joyce and
23 Carol Coulombe, Colombo. Okay.
24

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1 MS. HOWARD: My name is
2 Henrietta Howard, and I'm from Lancaster. Can you
3 hear me in the back?

4 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: yes
5 loud and clear.

6 MS. HOWARD: Okay. Northern
7 Pass, I'm surprised you didn't first consider
8 running your electric cable from Fourth Connecticut
9 Lake, which is right at the international border,
10 all the way down the Connecticut River to Long
11 Island Sound. If you had done that, I doubt you
12 would have stirred up this five-year hornet's nest.

13 Second, you speak of running
14 your electric cable through the White Mountain
15 National Forest. If you do, you are breaking United
16 States law. That national park was set aside to
17 protect it for perpetuity. Anyone who gives you a
18 permit to run your electric cable through the park
19 would also be breaking U.S. federal law. For five
20 years you've been saying Massachusetts, Connecticut
21 and Rhode Island need more electricity. That is not
22 true. And New Hampshire doesn't need it either. We
23 export electricity. Rhode Island is laying an
24 electric cable from Block Island to Quonset Point.

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1 Rhode Island is solving its own potential electric
2 needs. Connecticut's peak demand in 2014 was
3 6,711 megawatts. In Massachusetts, in 2014, the
4 peak demand was 12,338 megawatts. Peak demand for
5 all New England in 2015 is forecast to be
6 28,395 megawatts. That's 2,255 megawatts higher
7 than actual use in 2014. I don't know see that
8 there is a need for Northern Pass. Towers and
9 trenches are a moot point. Neither is needed.
10 Neither is needed. The only purpose for Northern
11 Pass is to fill its bank account. We all know who
12 will pay for this example of pure greed: The
13 utility customers, us. In fact, Eversource's
14 competition has said our electric rates are going
15 up, probably to pay for Northern Pass. Don't
16 construct your 135-foot towers or bury your electric
17 lines. Bury your whole idea.

18 MS. BLODGETT HEWITT: I'm
19 Janice Blodgett Hewitt, from 20 Gore Road,
20 Lancaster, New Hampshire. I was asked did the
21 Northern Pass affect me? Yes, it affects all of
22 us. My great-grandmother, Eunice Barlow, was the
23 first white woman in northern New Hampshire. This
24 is a Native American hunting ground. My Native

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1 American ancestry goes back to Quebec City. I
2 have pictures of Leah Pollett, who married
3 Francois Nolette. Their daughter Xerine married
4 Napoleon Paul Gagne. They moved to Berlin to work
5 in the paper mills. These mills are gone. The
6 Native Americans have blended into society, but
7 we're not gone. I'm also a descendant of the
8 Ingerson family who came from Portsmouth, New
9 Hampshire, to settle Jefferson, New Hampshire, a
10 jewel of the North Country. They came here in
11 1776. They lived together in Danny Gates'
12 historic home on the North Road in Jefferson, New
13 Hampshire. Danny showed me his home. The front
14 is a cottage. The back of the building was on
15 skids, and many Ingersons lived there together in
16 that building that was on skids. The Ingersons
17 logged and built in Jefferson, but they never
18 destroyed the view.

19 I can follow my family line to
20 from William to Jessie to Hiram, who was the wife
21 of Luella -- husband of Luella Briggs Clough, who
22 was also Native American.

23 The Blodgetts came from
24 Connecticut and settled in the town of Stratford.

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1 Archipuis had two sons. They were twins, 20 years
2 of age, who were kidnapped by the Native Americans
3 and taken to St. Francis on the St. Lawrence
4 River. Newcomb and Josiah were held captive for
5 two years. Most people didn't know that there
6 were white people who were held as slaves.
7 There's a book called Metalak, written by Alice
8 Dailey Noyes. It was started by her father, and
9 she finished it in his memory. I called Alice
10 Dailey Noyes, and I asked her what information was
11 fact and what was assumed information.
12 THE MODERATOR: You have 30
13 seconds, ma'am.
14 MS. BLODGETT-HEWITT: I guess I
15 just want to say that the beauty here cannot be
16 reproduced. Our routes are deep, much deeper than
17 most people know. Could we survive this project?
18 The answer is yes. But we don't want to.
19 THE MODERATOR: Bill Joyce.
20 MR. JOYCE: My name is Bill
21 Joyce. That's J, John, O, ocean, Y, young, C,
22 Charlie, E, Edward. My wife and son, Travis and
23 Debbie, live in Stark, New Hampshire. We have
24 125 acres. The town line runs right through the

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1 property, so we have the pleasure of paying two
2 tax bills.
3 Rod Beland, who spoke earlier
4 and said he wasn't a good public speaker, was a
5 student of mine. He spoke about his property in
6 Stark. What he failed to mention is, as you pitch
7 over the hill by his house, just over the hill
8 there's a sign that says "scenic byway." I
9 mentioned this at an earlier meeting a few years
10 ago. What were they going to do with it?
11 Nothing, because the sign is down the road.
12 If you don't know where Stark
13 is, they tell us that since the Old Man fell off
14 the mountain, it's the most photographed place in
15 New Hampshire. We're about 30 miles north as the
16 crow flies. I believe these towers are going to
17 be seen from the church and the covered bridge.
18 As you pitch over the mountain, you see Devil's
19 Slide and a great vista, then you're going to see
20 a scenic byway. Makes no sense.
21 The question I've got is --
22 and I'm a god-fearing man, and I don't say this
23 lightly -- when did he make you people or give you
24 people the right to decide that the view at Sugar

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1 Hill is more important than everybody else's?
2 You're out of your order. I'm
3 the moderator in Stark, and I'm going to tell you
4 I support your cause. You've made the meeting
5 longer. People have left. You've done a
6 disservice. And whoever was doing the crow calls
7 back there should have been thrown out of here.
8 I am sorry. The meeting
9 started great. I think they wore you down, ma'am.
10 You should have declared them out of order. And I
11 have done that at meetings. And unfortunately,
12 I'm also the town chief --
13 THE MODERATOR: I'm sorry. I
14 said, "Is his time up?" and I thought she said yes.
15 But go. Go ahead.
16 MR. JOYCE: I think you people
17 are missing a little bit. And whoever was on the
18 opposite side of the fence wrote a letter to the
19 editor of The Democrat last week. And I talked with
20 him out there. I said, "Allen, I read your letter."
21 "Oh, great. You understand it."
22 I said, "Absolutely. But I
23 don't agree with you."
24 He says, "Why?"

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1 I said, "You're going to make a
2 ton of money."
3 And he said, "Yes, I'll make
4 more money if it's buried than if it's overhead."
5 And I said, "So why don't you
6 want to bury the thing?"
7 He said, "Because it's going to
8 go through my property. I won't be able to drill a
9 hole across it without all sorts of red tape."
10 I think all of us need to look
11 at, as he said, nobody's going to win. More people
12 are going to get hurt if it's above ground. People
13 are going to get hurt if they bury it. But we have
14 to be open-minded. I think the whole project needs
15 to be buried or go away. I don't think there is a
16 happy medium. I think --
17 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Mr.
18 Joyce, your time is up now. Don't wear me down.
19 MR. JOYCE: You can throw me
20 out. I think you should have recessed the meeting
21 and give everybody a chance to be here. At 10:30 at
22 night, it's not a good time.
23 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Carol
24 Colombe, Coulombe. Then we'll have Donald Bilodeau,

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1 Stefan Saal, S-A-A-L.
2 MS. COULOMBE: You've already
3 got my name.
4 THE MODERATOR: All right. Just
5 a second, ma'am. Tom Mullen and Robert Clegg.
6 Okay. Would you state your
7 name, please.
8 MS. COULOMBE: Carol Coulombe,
9 and I'm from Clarksville, the lovely, tiny town of
10 Clarksville, New Hampshire.
11 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Would you
12 spell your last name.
13 MS. COULOMBE: C-O-U-L-O-M-B-E.
14 E was added for many family reasons.
15 All right. To make this short
16 and sweet, I think I have the solution to
17 everybody's problems, because God told me to come
18 about in a friendly manner, even though Eversource
19 has tortured me for the past year. And you know
20 what I'm talking about. I no longer have
21 electricity. But we won't even go there.
22 But anyway, to make a long story
23 short, I have a booklet sent to me by the Forest
24 Society of New Hampshire --

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1 THE MODERATOR: You're going to
2 have to speak into the mic. Maybe move it down a
3 little so people can hear.
4 MS. COULOMBE: Okay. The
5 Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.
6 By the way, I'm a tree hugger. I don't know like
7 what you're doing on the lines there. You're
8 already clearing too many trees up north in
9 anticipation of having this line, which hasn't even
10 been approved yet. And we love our trees. Leave
11 the trees alone and you'll have peace from me. But
12 if you bother the trees, I'm going to go for the
13 gusto. I'll be right at your throat like a vampire.
14 Okay. I'm going to read a short
15 excerpt which should solve the problem for
16 everybody, and it's about burying this nasty line,
17 if it goes through. And it says here on Page 24 of
18 their booklet, the most recent one, it talks about
19 Northern Pass officials have claimed -- they have
20 claimed burying the lines would cost from 5 to 10
21 times the cost of erecting overhead lines. Instead,
22 the DEIS [sic] estimates that Northern Pass's
23 preferred alternative would cost 1.6 billion, while
24 the fully buried option, called Alternative 4B,

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1 would cost 2.11 billion.
2 Another issue is technical
3 feasibility. Northern Pass is proposing an overhead
4 line with 1,200 megawatts of capacity. In looking
5 at burial options, the DOE determined that
6 underground cable with 1,200-megawatt capacity was
7 not reasonable due to both engineering feasibility
8 and cost. DEIS Page 2 and 34. So the burial
9 alternatives of DEIS analyzed our base on cable with
10 1,000-megawatt capacity. A new cable technology,
11 called "HVDC light," currently tops --
12 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Coulombe --
13 MS. COULOMBE: No, you don't
14 want to hear about this, do you, because it's the
15 lighter side of things.
16 THE MODERATOR: I think we can
17 read about it. You may want to preface, you know,
18 tell what article you're reading about.
19 MS. COULOMBE: The article is
20 "Underground Advantages: A Brief Look At Draft
21 Northern Pass Environmental Statement."
22 THE MODERATOR: Okay.
23 MS. COULOMBE: Okay. We got
24 that. Currently tops out at a 1,000 megawatts --

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1 THE MODERATOR: Okay. But
2 you're not going to be able to read the whole thing,
3 so --
4 MS. COULOMBE: No, I'm just
5 reading this one small paragraph --
6 THE MODERATOR: All right.
7 MS. COULOMBE -- and I'll be done
8 in about two minutes.
9 THE MODERATOR: No, no.
10 MS. COULOMBE: All right. It's
11 less expensive to install underground and is more
12 efficient to operate than conventional buried cable
13 systems with higher capacities. Now, you're just
14 going to have to knock it down a few megawatts --
15 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Your time
16 is up, please.
17 MS. COULOMBE: Well, okay. This
18 is almost up, too. You better let me speak, because
19 I don't think you want to see the bad side of me,
20 because God told me that I had to be nice to my
21 enemies. So I'm trying to be nice.
22 This new HVDC Lite technology is
23 being proposed for underground use with the New
24 England Clean Power Link, a competitive project in

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1 Vermont that has scooted ahead of Northern Pass in
2 the permitting chase. It has also been successfully
3 permitted for a completely buried system, bringing
4 Hydro Quebec power to New York City on the
5 Champlain-Hudson Express Project through eastern New
6 York. Given the Northern Pass DEIS consideration of
7 either alternatives using the HVDC Lite cable
8 technology and only one using the conventional
9 higher capacity, the more expensive buried cable
10 system --
11 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Coulombe --
12 MS. COULOMBE: -- and given the
13 permitting speed with which other --
14 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: ...
15 Carol.
16 THE MODERATOR: Carol.
17 MS. COULOMBE: -- HVDC Lite
18 projects have been publicly accepted and approved by
19 regulators. It appears that Northern Pass would be
20 well advised to consider the multiple benefits of
21 HVDC Lite for its entire extension throughout New
22 Hampshire.
23 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank
24 you. Thank you.

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1 MS. COULOMBE: This was
2 published by the Forest Society.
3 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank
4 you.
5 MS. COULOMBE: I think you
6 should work with them. And please respect our
7 trees.
8 THE MODERATOR: Yes.
9 Donald Bilodeau. Oh, there you
10 are.
11 MR. BILODEAU: I'm Donald
12 Bilodeau from Clarksville. B-I-L-O-D-E-A-U.
13 Northern Pass says the view
14 impacts and balanced options are important.
15 Twenty-three towers for a distance of two and a
16 quarter miles in between the two burials in
17 Clarksville will not be a very attractive view
18 from our scenic byway, Route 145. It only makes
19 common sense to bury this short distance of two
20 and one-quarter miles. One of my neighbors' house
21 is only 500 feet from one of the these large
22 lattice towers. At one of the Clarksville annual
23 town meetings, 100 percent of the people at that
24 meeting voted that if the project must go through

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1 Clarksville, it must be buried. Northern Pass
2 should not just bury in New Hampshire [sic]. This
3 should be buried in the entire state. Thank you.
4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
5 Stefan Saal? Is that how you say that?
6 MR. SAAL: My name is Stefan
7 Saal. S-T-E-F-A-N, S-A-A-L. I live on Grange
8 Road in Lancaster. I'm about a mile and a third
9 from the right-of-way that passes through Forbes
10 Farm and over the North Road.
11 As you've heard tonight, I'm
12 opposed -- well, first of all, I'm opposed to the
13 design that you're proposing today. I think we've
14 gotten an earful of the problems with it that we
15 feel up here. And we're very proud of the views
16 we have. We're very proud of the nature which
17 we're preserving here. And it seems to -- what
18 you're proposing is a detriment for us. For
19 instance, when you drive down North Road today,
20 you do cross underneath the right-of-way. It's
21 not that big a problem. And on a good day you can
22 see Mount Washington. For instance, throughout
23 Lancaster, Jefferson, Whitefield, on to Bethlehem,
24 we have fantastic mountain views which would all

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1 be lessened by the plan as you've proposed it so
2 far. So I think everybody's -- many people have
3 spoken about that.
4 Now, burying it is not a bad
5 idea. You say it'll cost a billion dollars extra.
6 I know that's a rough estimate. That's just a
7 guesstimate. But that's a billion dollars spent
8 on workers in New Hampshire who pay taxes, who
9 have children who go to school, the whole schmear.
10 So that's not -- that doesn't sound bad for us,
11 that extra billing. Now, I know also that the
12 billion's just a guesstimate because you said you
13 don't actually know what it will cost to do the
14 52 miles through the White Mountain Forest. So
15 there's a little disingenuity there. We're not
16 quite sure that you've got your numbers right yet.
17 As you say, you haven't actually bid the job and
18 that's why the 52 you're not sure about. But the
19 billion is a sort of a guess that's out there.
20 Now, you also said, another
21 discrepancy, that the annual benefit to the state
22 would be 80 million dollars in the first year,
23 which represents a tenth of the benefit to New
24 England. So that's 800 million dollars of benefit

1 in the first year. Now, a million dollars is
2 just -- or a billion dollars is just 200 million
3 dollars more than that first-year benefit. So,
4 basically we're talking about the cost of -- it's
5 a 40-year life cycle. So we're talking about 1/40
6 of the value of the project is at play here in the
7 burial. Thanks. And actually, we're only talking
8 about Coos County here. I think your billion
9 probably refers to the whole -- what is it? Is it
10 a hundred and -- how many miles is it?

11 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: mm
12 three.

13 MR. SAAL: Hundred and fifty?
14 One ninety-two? So I think it's really worth it for
15 you to go back, take a look at your numbers, get
16 some more accurate numbers so that the state's
17 authorities can estimate what you're about and then
18 come back to us. So I think I made my point. Thank
19 you.

20 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
21 Okay. We're going to -- the court reporters are
22 going to switch off again, and we're going to go
23 into non-county comments.

24 (Changeover of court reporters)

1 project is scheduled to employ 300 people, 300
2 people for a project that's going to be 330 miles
3 long. Either they're telling the truth or Northern
4 Pass isn't telling the truth when they talk about
5 "2,400 jobs". Maybe it's somewhere in between and
6 Northern Pass is just exaggerating.

7 They talk about the fact that
8 they think that the Champlain Hudson Express is way
9 behind the eightball in terms of timing. Well,
10 here's how far behind the eightball it is: The Army
11 Corps of Engineers has issued a permit for this
12 project in all of the waters of the United States.
13 That's a permit that's in existence now. Doesn't
14 sound like they are very far behind. They're
15 scheduled to start -- this is as of this afternoon,
16 talking with their Company headquarters -- they're
17 scheduled to start this project in late 2015 or
18 early '16. By the time the Northern Pass is done
19 cleaning up its various trials that are coming its
20 way, this project won't get started until 2019, if
21 then.

22 The Champlain Hudson Express, by
23 the way, is going underground or underwater all the
24 way, all the way. Not just 60 miles, with 132

1 THE MODERATOR: Steve, are you
2 ready? Yes. Okay.

3 MR. MULLEN: Yes. Thomas
4 Mullen, M-U-L-L-E-N. And, I live in Campton, New
5 Hampshire. I want to make sure all of you folks
6 that are up here in Coos County know that I am
7 deeply humbled by the level of respect and
8 affection you have shown for your properties, for
9 your land, and for your way of life. I find it
10 extraordinary. I wish I could see it more often.
11 I'm a little bit too far away to get here on a
12 daily basis. But I just might move up here, if
13 this line doesn't go overhead. We'll see.

14 I want to point out a few
15 inconsistencies that I've noticed, that I want to
16 set the record straight. With respect to how much
17 power we produce in New Hampshire, existing
18 generation sources in New Hampshire produce more
19 than 200 percent of the power we use in New
20 Hampshire on an everyday basis. There is a big rush
21 to push this power line forward, before it can be
22 realized that it really isn't needed.

23 Secondly, I want to clear the
24 record up on the Champlain Hudson Express. That

1 overhead. They're going 333 miles, either
2 underwater or under railroad tracks or under
3 roadways.

4 THE MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.

5 MR. MULLEN: Okay. And, lastly,
6 Hydro-Quebec has already attained a right-of-way in
7 Canada for this particular project, which makes it
8 quite far ahead of where this project is, because I
9 don't think you have your Hydro-Quebec people
10 permitted for what's on the other side of the
11 border.

12 Very, very quickly, your Honor.
13 This is a comment. I am a devotee of that section
14 of the North Country, Coos County, where you have
15 indicated that you won't be burying your project
16 because you didn't hear clearly enough from the
17 people who live up here that they wanted it buried.

18 Please allow me to make it clear
19 in the most polite, unambiguous fashion I possibly
20 can, without being in peril of getting anyone
21 nauseous. These are descriptions that I took off
22 the internet of this project. "Please take your
23 ugly, out-of-place, visibly scarring, unappreciated,
24 ill-conceived, value-damaging, unhealthy, repugnant,

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1 monstrously unsightly, and grotesquely hideous
2 towers and cables, and put them underground where
3 the sun doesn't shine."
4 Have I succeeded in making my
5 feelings on this project clear?
6 [Applause]
7 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
8 MR. MULLEN: I will see you all
9 in court again, by the way. It's coming shortly,
10 Mr. Muntz.
11 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Robert
12 Clegg.
13 MR. CLEGG: My name is Robert
14 Clegg, C-L-E-G-G. I'm a resident of Hudson. So,
15 I come from the southernmost part of the state.
16 I'm right on the border. And, I came all the way
17 up here to tell you that this project doesn't just
18 affect the North Country. It affects all of us
19 all the way down. I'm the founder of the New
20 Hampshire Small Business and Small Industry
21 Association. And, in that capacity, I see the
22 challenges facing small businesses in our state
23 every day.
24 The biggest one we find is the

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1 cost of energy. The lack of supply in the New
2 England region, and the resulting winter spikes in
3 energy costs, make it extremely difficult for a
4 small business to adequately manage their costs.
5 Many small businesses are seeing winter rate hikes
6 of 50 to 100 percent. And, unfortunately, many cost
7 drivers, such as massive jumps in capacity payments,
8 haven't even been built into those rates yet.
9 The key, in our opinion, to
10 solving the problem is bringing a new supply into
11 the New England market, and we see that as the
12 hydroelectric from Quebec as the best option for our
13 region. Hydropower is clean, it's reliable, and
14 it's the lowest cost power available. Importing
15 more hydroelectric power will also help to diversify
16 our power mix, which is currently over-reliant on
17 natural gas today. And, this situation is likely to
18 get worse, not better.
19 While natural gas is cheap and
20 plentiful today, just not in New England, the fuel
21 has a history of being extremely price-volatile.
22 Pushing New England's power mix towards nearly
23 70 percent reliant on natural gas could prove to be
24 very expensive, if natural gas costs spike again, as

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1 they have in the past.
2 The ability to export natural
3 gas and challenges to fracking could be serious cost
4 drivers of natural gas in the coming years. We
5 should not assume that a new gas pipeline will
6 successfully be built in our region. While
7 opposition to Northern Pass has declined somewhat,
8 the Kinder Morgan project has increased
9 dramatically, especially in light of the farmers in
10 Pennsylvania who have told us how much they have
11 been cheated by the gas company Kinder Morgan runs.
12 I encourage the New Hampshire
13 Site Evaluation Committee to approve the Northern
14 Pass Project and bring the needed relief to our
15 state and to our small business community. And,
16 like Mr. Powell said, "Balance is not achieved when
17 you sacrifice one area for another." Please don't
18 sacrifice the southern tier. Thank you.
19 THE MODERATOR: Dolly McPhail --
20 McPhaul.
21 MS. MCPHAUL: Dolly McPhaul,
22 M-c-P-H-A-U-L. I'm from Sugar Hill, but I decided
23 to come tonight to show my support for the Coos
24 residents. I know this meeting has been arranged

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1 by the SEC. You're required to do it by the SEC.
2 So, I don't expect you to listen to us.
3 However, I've decided to help
4 your executives out. Their Quarterly Investment
5 Calls don't quite depict how your grassroots
6 movement is reaching out to the people of New
7 Hampshire. So, I am going to tell you it's failing.
8 And, you can tell your executives, they can tell
9 their stockholders, and they'll get it right.
10 Not only am I tired of you
11 meddling in our lives, property values, and
12 lifestyles, I am also tired of you meddling in our
13 government. I want to know how you and your army of
14 lobbyists and attorneys have managed to exert your
15 control over every segment of the governmental
16 process. You have swayed various legislators, you
17 have killed bills. You got the Governor to appoint
18 appointees to the SEC Committee with clear conflicts
19 of interest, and the Executive Council has approved
20 them. How have you managed to convince government
21 officials that energy companies should carry more
22 power, forgive the pun, than the people, when the
23 New Hampshire Constitution clearly states the
24 opposite, and even gives us the right to revolt, if

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1 they are not taking care of us; Article 10? How
2 have you managed for Eversource to take over our
3 constitutional rights?
4 Somehow you managed to get your
5 lobbyists and attorneys onto the public working
6 groups for new SEC rules. Somehow you managed to
7 get your lobbyist, Tom Getz, to be a chairman of one
8 of those working groups and have the conference
9 calls placed through his office.
10 How did you get the SEC to
11 include the phrase "or the ability to get control of
12 the route", in the SEC rules regarding site
13 application? They are clearly attempts to open the
14 door for the Northern Pass, since you obviously,
15 despite your profession -- your protestations to the
16 contrary, you do not have control of your route.
17 How have you managed to get the
18 SEC to not require any setbacks for transmission
19 lines to date, against the public's objections? How
20 have you managed to convince the SEC they should be
21 the master planner and zoning board for our towns?
22 And, why do they have that right?
23 How come the SEC, when the
24 public's representative mentioned health and safety,

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1 with regards to transmission line setbacks, was
2 ignored totally by the SEC? And, the discussion was
3 ended.
4 The residents of New Hampshire
5 are fed up with Eversource's lies, bribes, influence
6 pedaling, and arrogance. A prime example is the
7 recent return of your \$10,000 gift to the Rec Center
8 in Colebrook. Your money is tainted and dirty. We
9 don't want it. Forget the Northern Pass, even with
10 total burial. Take your corrupt team, get out of
11 our government, and get out of our backyards and go
12 home.
13 [Applause]
14 THE MODERATOR: Jason Louss, Ken
15 Kimball. Mr. Louss? Are you --
16 MR. KIMBALL: I'm Ken Kimball.
17 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Is Jason
18 Louss here?
19 (No verbal response)
20 THE MODERATOR: Okay. I guess
21 not. Okay, Mr. Kimball.
22 MR. KIMBALL: Thank you. Ken
23 Kimball. And, I'm representing the Appalachian
24 Mountain Club. The AMC is one of the oldest

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1 conservation groups in the United States. Has
2 more than 12,000 members here in New Hampshire.
3 And, many of our other, over 90,000 members, come
4 here to recreate.
5 AMC has played a critical role
6 in maintaining the character of New Hampshire,
7 including the creation of the White Mountain
8 National Forest and preserving the Great North
9 Woods, and ensuring that our natural and
10 recreational resources will be available for the
11 enjoyment of generations to come. Open spaces,
12 without the permanent scars of industrial-scale
13 development, are a rapidly diminishing and scarce
14 resource of high public value. The cable
15 technologies of today, if applied, like modern
16 surgical techniques, make such scars unnecessary.
17 AMC's opposition to the Northern
18 Pass transmission has been based not only on the
19 serious negative impacts of overhead lines, but also
20 the fact that today's HVDC cable technologies make
21 100 percent burial a viable and economically
22 realistic option. While encouraged that Northern
23 Pass has recently proposed burying an additional
24 52 miles in the vicinity of the White Mountain

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1 National Forest, two-thirds of the Northern Pass
2 route remain above ground, and tens of thousands of
3 New Hampshire residents and visitors will continue
4 to be impacted.
5 The North Country's Great North
6 Woods is among New Hampshire's most remote and least
7 developed landscapes. If Eversource can bury the
8 line from Bridgewater to Bethlehem, the evidence
9 shows here in Coos County that burying the line from
10 Bethlehem to the Canadian border along the
11 right-of-ways would reduce the route by about 15
12 miles, would require two instead of six
13 above-to-below-ground transition stations, would
14 create more jobs, and would significantly reduce
15 major environmental impacts to the North Country,
16 including eliminating the need to cut a new
17 transmission line with tall steel towers from above
18 the iconic Dixville Notch, through the Notch, and
19 then paralleling the Androscoggin River's 13 Mile
20 Woods section. Incongruous steel towers should not
21 replace trees in Coos County's tourist brochures.
22 For years Northern Pass has
23 claimed that burial of the line was technically
24 impossible and prohibitively costly. Other

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1 northeastern states have demanded full burial, and
2 got it. In New York, almost 170 miles of the
3 335-mile Champlain Hudson HVDC transmission project
4 will be buried in roads and right-of-ways alone, the
5 remainder underwater.

6 THE MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.

7 MR. KIMBALL: New Hampshire
8 deserves full burial, the same as New York and
9 Vermont. The DEIS provides clear evidence that you
10 get almost twice as many jobs from burial.

11 In summary, this isn't about the
12 need for essential electricity. This project is
13 about the least cost, most profit for Northern Pass,
14 at the sacrifice of precious resources that belong
15 to all New Hampshire citizens. New Hampshire
16 deserves better. If this project is to go forward,
17 every mile of it must be buried. Thank you.

18 THE MODERATOR: Virginia
19 Jeffryes, I think it's Brian Lovell, Raymond Lovell,
20 Mark Brown, Nancy Martland.

21 MS. JEFFRYES: So, my name is
22 Virginia Jeffryes, J-E-F-F-R-Y-E-S. I don't have
23 anything really especially different to say. I
24 want to say that everybody has been very eloquent.

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1 And, I agree, absolutely, that this project should
2 not go forward as proposed. I'm on the fence
3 about whether it should go forward at all.

4 And, I'll tell you, I live in
5 Franconia, I work in Colebrook. When I got the news
6 about your new project that had been -- your new
7 plans, that was totally not possible two years ago,
8 my immediate thought was two-fold. First, I
9 thought, "Oh, thank goodness, for my neighbors whose
10 property values in Sugar Hill and Easton and so on
11 have been devastated. And, thank goodness, that the
12 local high school in Bethlehem no longer had a huge
13 power line going over their soccer field." But,
14 simultaneously, I felt like you slapped Coos County
15 in the face. And, it felt to me like an economic
16 thing. You made a decision that, "well, you know,
17 down here there's a lot of money in Sugar Hill, and,
18 you know, there's a lot of money further south, and
19 all those people down south get to Franconia Notch.
20 But -- so, you know, we'll make -- we'll throw in
21 this sort of PR ploy and bury it through there."

22 But the people in Coos County,
23 they matter. And, to me, if one person's life is
24 going to be terribly stressed by towers going

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1 through their property or their visibility and they
2 get up every morning and look at it, you guys are
3 for profit, you're making your profit off of the
4 backs of those people's sweat and tears. And, I am
5 not for that. I think that, if it were an essential
6 thing for the survival of our country, then those
7 people might have a different view of it. But it's
8 not. It's for you guys's profit. And, your PR
9 machine, if you'd spent all that money teaching
10 people how to save energy, use less of it, my, where
11 would we be now?

12 So, you know, it either has to
13 be all buried, or maybe you should just, like Dolly
14 said, pack up and go away. But, thank you.

15 THE MODERATOR: Brian Lovell?
16 Brian Lovell or Lowell?
17 (No verbal response)
18 THE MODERATOR: No. Raymond
19 Lovell?
20 (No verbal response)
21 THE MODERATOR: They left
22 together. Mark Brown?
23 MR. BROWN: Thank you. My
24 name is Mark Brown. I'm the Executive Director of

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1 the New England Ratepayers Association, a
2 nonprofit social welfare organization, which
3 advocates for ratepayers in New Hampshire and New
4 England.

5 The high cost of electricity to
6 New Hampshire's businesses and families has been
7 well-documented. We have the fifth highest
8 electricity rates in the nation. The recent and
9 potential retirement of 8,000 megawatts of coal,
10 nuclear, and oil-fired generation has left New
11 England short of baseload power options and
12 overreliance on natural gas-fired generation, with
13 half of our electricity produced by natural gas
14 plants.

15 This overreliance is exacerbated
16 by the fact that New England has insufficient
17 pipeline capacity to meet the demand of natural gas
18 generation, especially during the winter. With an
19 electricity market that hasn't induced any natural
20 gas generators to subscribe to firm capacity from
21 any of the proposed pipeline projects, and the fact
22 that natural gas generation sets the wholesale
23 market price for electricity 80 percent of the time,
24 extreme price volatility follows. This leaves New

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1 England electricity ratepayers held hostage to the
2 volatility -- volatility of natural gas markets,
3 which are largely responsible for the 55 and
4 13 percent increases in wholesale electricity prices
5 the past two years.
6 These high and volatile energy
7 prices are crimping our economy and putting future
8 job growth at significant risk. Public policy in
9 the region has made it a veritable certainty that
10 New England will not be building nuclear, coal and
11 oil-fired generating plants, which have historically
12 provided the region with the bulk of its baseload
13 generation. The recently announced safety downgrade
14 at Pilgrim Nuclear Plant in Massachusetts will
15 certainly embolden environmental groups, whose
16 relentless lobbying contributed to the premature
17 shutdown of Vermont Yankee, to pursue the same
18 result at Pilgrim, before ultimately setting their
19 sights on the more than 3,000 megawatts of
20 generating capacity at Seabrook and Millstone
21 plants.
22 With one quarter of the region's
23 capacity retiring or expected to retire by the end
24 of the decade, new, reliable baseload power will be

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1 vital to provide stability to the New England power
2 grid. Natural gas and large-scale hydroelectricity
3 are the only remaining options.
4 It's extremely difficult to
5 accurately calculate the savings that a project like
6 Northern Pass will provide the ratepayers. However,
7 Northern Pass will no doubt compensate for some of
8 the scheduled retirements, and provide ratepayers
9 some relief, especially in the capacity markets.
10 The current capacity market will see New England's
11 ratepayers pay an additional 1.5 billion in payments
12 to electricity generators in 2016-2017; a total
13 that's expected to rise to \$3.5 billion by
14 2019-2020. That represents a \$200 million annual
15 increase to New Hampshire's ratepayers. Another
16 1,000 megawatts will help reduce these costs.
17 The Northern Pass Project is far
18 from perfect, and its merits and flaws are certainly
19 open to debate. What isn't debatable is the fact
20 that New England's electricity grid is seeing its
21 baseload power options decrease, while its
22 electricity rates increase. A perfect solution to
23 our region's energy woes that will please everyone
24 does not exist. Can a state that has seen 35

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1 percent of its manufacturing jobs, and a region
2 which has lost half a million manufacturing jobs in
3 the past 25 years, really afford to make the perfect
4 project the enemy of this very good project. It is
5 time to make some decisions that benefit the region
6 before it is too late.
7 As an organization, we certainly
8 don't support a \$200 million fund promised by
9 Eversource to a variety of competing special
10 interests, whose costs will be borne by ratepayers,
11 but, as stated earlier, nothing is perfect. Thank
12 you.
13 THE MODERATOR: Nancy Martland?
14 (No verbal response)
15 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Peter
16 Revere?
17 (No verbal response)
18 THE MODERATOR: Greg Cloutier?
19 FROM THE FLOOR: Greg left.
20 THE MODERATOR: And, Pamela Gray
21 Ferzell?
22 (No verbal response)
23 THE MODERATOR: Okay. That's
24 all. Those are the only comments, the last of them,

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1 I should say.
2 So, seeing that we have no more
3 comments, I want to thank you all. I'm going to
4 close this session. Thank you all for coming.
5 (Whereupon the public
6 information session was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed
Shorthand Court Reporter and Notary Public
of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby
certify that the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of my stenographic
notes of these proceedings taken at the
place and on the date hereinbefore set
forth, to the best of my skill and
ability under the conditions present at
the time.

I further certify that I am neither
attorney or counsel for, nor related to or
employed by any of the parties to the
action; and further, that I am not a
relative or employee of any attorney or
counsel employed in this case, nor am I
financially interested in this action.

_____/s/_____
Susan J. Robidas, LCR/RPR
Licensed Shorthand Court Reporter
Registered Professional Reporter
N.H. LCR No. 44 (RSA 310-A:173)

PUBLIC COMMENTS - September 9, 2015
SEC 2015-06 Northern Pass Public Information Session Whitefield, New Hampshire

	abutters (1) 87:17	14:3;17:24;19:1,5,7; 20:24;75:9;78:20;99:1; 127:23;134:11	again (12) 5:11;12:20;46:21; 49:5,10;52:6;71:13,24; 94:21;117:22;121:9; 122:24	along (18) 7:2;29:21,23;35:11; 37:5,9;41:7;45:18; 46:20;50:12;55:22; 61:21;63:21;72:11,15; 93:10;100:23;128:10
\$	AC (1) 41:17	address (6) 5:16,18;53:23;75:2; 86:8,10	against (4) 13:10;33:22;67:23; 125:19	already-made (1) 19:23
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