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1 STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 2 SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE
 3
 4 September 3, 2015 - 6:04 p.m.
 5 Deerfield Fair Pavilion
 6 34 Stage Road
 7 Deerfield, 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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NOTED AS PRESENT:
 Counsel for the Applicant: Barry Needleman, Esq.
 (McLane Graf Raulerson & Middleton)
 Thomas B. Getz, Esq.
 (Devine Millimet & Branch)

*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

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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. And, I was on the bench for about 25 years before
 I recently fully retired. I want to thank you all for
 coming out tonight. I know we have a lot to celebrate
 with Judge Berman's order today and Tom Brady is free.
[Audience interruption/applause.]
 THE MODERATOR: I knew he was going to
 be there.
 I want to thank you very much for coming
 out. This is -- my function tonight 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. This project is
 being proposed jointly by Northern Pass Transmission, LLC,
 and Public Service Company of New Hampshire, doing
 business as Eversource Energy.
 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 particular size can be built, the Company
 proposing the project must receive a Certificate of Site

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1 and Facility from the New Hampshire Site Evaluation
2 Committee, or the SEC, which is an entity formed by the
3 Legislature for the purpose of reviewing proposed energy
4 facilities.

5 The statute was recently amended to
6 require that at least 30 days before submitting an
7 application to the SEC, the Company must hold a public
8 information session in each county in which the project is
9 to be built. The Northern Pass Project is proposed to be
10 built in five counties; Coos, Grafton, Belknap, Merrimack
11 and Rockingham.

12 This is the second meeting, the one,
13 obviously, for Rockingham County. The purpose of these
14 sessions is for Northern Pass to present information in
15 each county in which the project is to be built. It also
16 gives the public an opportunity to ask questions and to
17 make comments about the proposed project.

18 As part of the effort to provide
19 information, an open house began downstairs at 5:00, and
20 will continue throughout the evening. Project engineers
21 and experts are available there to talk to you all evening
22 about the project.

23 Tonight's meeting has three parts.
24 First, after I complete my introduction, Bill Quinlan,
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1 you will have the opportunity to comment on the project.
2 To do so, you'll need to fill out a form, again, you can
3 do so at that table in the corner. The form asks your
4 name and address. In making comments, preference will be
5 given to residents, landowners, and business owners of
6 Rockingham County. Non-residents will follow. I will
7 call out your name in the order that I receive the forms.
8 Our court reporters, Steve Patnaude and Sue Robidas, will
9 record your comments as they're recording all of the
10 sessions tonight. Later, your comments will be
11 transcribed and included in the application to the SEC.

12 You may also comment in writing about
13 the project at any time. Again, those forms are in the
14 corner. And, your written comments will also be provided
15 to the SEC at the time of the application.

16 These public information sessions are
17 the first step in a lengthy administrative process. The
18 next step will be for Northern Pass to file its
19 application with the SEC. Pursuant to RSA Chapter 162-H,
20 this may occur no sooner than 30 days after completing the
21 five public information sessions. The application,
22 including all public comments, will be available online at
23 the SEC website, and hard copies will be delivered to each
24 town affected by the project.

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1 President of Eversource New Hampshire, will make opening
2 remarks on behalf of Northern Pass and present a short
3 video that gives an overview of the project. After that,
4 he'll make a brief presentation specific to Rockingham
5 County.

6 Second, members of the Project Team will
7 address questions for about an hour. To make the most
8 efficient use of the limited time available, questions
9 will be taken in written form. Now, in that some of you
10 may have already written out your questions, we have those
11 here. But you can go to that table over there
12 [indicating], in that corner, to my left, and write a
13 question or make a comment at any time.

14 Because people tend to have questions
15 about more than one topic, we ask that you, for each index
16 card, to write a question about only one topic at a time.
17 After that, I may then consolidate or summarize some of
18 the questions, if they repeat each other. I hope that, by
19 minimizing repetition in this way, it will make the
20 evening more productive. In addition, if I don't think
21 that the panel has answered your question, I will -- or
22 that they didn't understand it or their answer wasn't
23 clear, I will ask follow-up questions of the panel.

24 During the third portion of the program,
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1 Once the application is filed, the SEC
2 has 60 days to determine whether to accept it. Within 45
3 days after acceptance, the SEC will conduct another set of
4 public information sessions in each county.

5 Additionally, within 90 days after
6 application is accepted, the SEC and other state agencies
7 are required to hold joint public hearings. In the past,
8 those hearings involve, similar to what we're doing
9 tonight, the applicant presenting information about the
10 proposed project, the public making comments, and the SEC
11 moderating a public question-and-answer session. The SEC
12 and state agencies also ask the applicant questions about
13 the project.

14 The last part of the administrative
15 process occurs when the SEC holds public adjudicative
16 hearings, at which it will consider evidence from Northern
17 Pass and other parties, and decides whether or not to
18 issue a certificate authorizing Northern Pass to proceed
19 with the proposed project. These hearings typically occur
20 eight months or more after an application is accepted.

21 So, I want to begin now the first part
22 of the program, and I want to introduce to you Bill
23 Quinlan, the President of Eversource, who, after --
24 FROM THE FLOOR: Madam Moderator, may I
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1 be recognized? I have a comment and concern about the
2 question-and-answer process.

3 THE MODERATOR: All right. Sir, if you
4 have a question or comment, go to the back please and
5 write your question or comment down. Okay?

6 FROM THE FLOOR: I would like to do that
7 now.

8 THE MODERATOR: Sir, I'm sorry. This is
9 not the procedure we're going to undergo tonight.

10 FROM THE FLOOR: It's about the process,
11 though.

12 THE MODERATOR: You have to be like
13 everybody else. If you would like to comment or question,
14 you may do so by going to the back, and your comment will
15 be received and your question answered.

16 Mr. Quinlan is the President of
17 Eversource. As I said, and after his presentation, he is
18 going to join the panel to answer your questions. Bill.

19 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. Thank you, Judge,
20 Judge McGuire. And, thank you, everyone, for being here
21 this evening. This is the start of a very important
22 process for our Company and for this project. And, I
23 appreciate you taking time out of your busy day and your
24 lives to spend a few hours with us here about our project
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1 stabilizing and lowering energy costs here in the State of
2 New Hampshire. That's one reason why this project is so
3 important to this state.

4 The other reason why this project is so
5 important for this state is the environmental benefit. As
6 many of you know, as a country and as a region, we are
7 keenly focused on "how do we reduce carbon emissions to
8 address global warming/climate change?" And, you know,
9 look at recent pronouncements from the Obama
10 Administration, the so-called "clean power plants", and
11 you'll see the sense of urgency in this country is
12 bringing to this issue.

13 This project is probably the single most
14 significant step in reaching this region and this state's
15 climate goals. So, the economic benefits associated with
16 lower and stable energy costs, and the environmental
17 benefits associated with reduced carbon emissions are why
18 we're here today, because we think we've got the best
19 project for addressing those two critical issues and
20 challenges for this region.

21 Now, I mentioned the importance of
22 public input. So, one of the things we've been doing over
23 the last year is meeting with stakeholders across the
24 State of New Hampshire, municipalities, landowners,
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1 and give us input. You know, your input is very important
2 to us. It's helping us shape this project, as I'll share
3 with you in a few minutes. And, we truly do value what
4 we're hearing from folks across New Hampshire, as we think
5 about "how do we make this the best project it can be for
6 the State of New Hampshire?"

7 So, as Judge McGuire indicated, this
8 project is really designed to import a large amount of
9 hydropower from Canada into New Hampshire. And, why is
10 that important? It's important for two principal reasons.
11 And, I'll come back to this later. But, first and
12 foremost, New Hampshire and New England are in a situation
13 where our energy prices are the highest in the United
14 States. And, why is that? It's because we have a
15 shortage of supply into this region. We've been retiring
16 power plants across New England, coal plants, nuclear
17 plants, and other facilities, and we haven't been
18 replacing those facilities.

19 So, many of you see this in your bill,
20 particularly in the winter months, prices are high and
21 volatile, higher than any of us would care to see. And,
22 that's having a very significant effect, not only here in
23 New Hampshire, but across New England. So, as I'll show
24 you in a minute, this project will go a long way to
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1 businesses, who are struggling with high energy costs,
2 environmental organizations, small contractors and small
3 businesses in the North Country who are looking for some
4 economic stimulation, labor, who is looking to ensure we
5 have stable job opportunities here in the State of New
6 Hampshire. And, we've been getting a wide variety of
7 input that's helped us shape what I'm going to share with
8 you this evening.

9 That's why that is so important. And,
10 what we've been hearing loud and clear from all of that
11 outreach over the last couple years really boils down to
12 two principal issues. The two principal issues we hear
13 about the Northern Pass Project is, at least the prior
14 proposal, is, you know, "You need to do something to
15 address the view impacts in the State of New Hampshire.
16 You need to take seriously the public input and come up
17 with a project that addresses the most important, most
18 impacted scenic views across this state." And, I'll share
19 with you what I mean by that.

20 Second, and we've heard this
21 consistently from many of the stakeholder groups, "if
22 we're going to host the project here in the State of New
23 Hampshire, there has got to be direct benefits to the
24 residents and the business owners here in the State of New
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1 Hampshire, both economic and environmental. It can't be
2 all about getting this power supply into southern New
3 England." Which is the perception that many have about
4 this project.

5 So, those are the two issues that we've
6 heard loud and clear from folks, just like the folks who
7 are here today. Those are the two issues that we, as a
8 company, with our partner Hydro-Quebec, are really focused
9 on addressing.

10 Two weeks ago, we made an announcement,
11 referred to as the "ForwardNH Plan", which, in essence,
12 reintroduced the Northern Pass Project in a way that we
13 think addresses those two primary issues of the prior
14 proposal, but continues to deliver the lower energy costs
15 and the environmental benefits that are so important for
16 this region and for this state. And, I'm going to share
17 with you in a moment the ForwardNH Plan at a high level.

18 In designing this plan, what we've been
19 striving for is really a balance. And, the balance that
20 we think is critical is to have a project that works, that
21 we have a high degree of confidence it's going to
22 successfully and reliably take power that's generated in
23 Canada, bring it across the border, and deliver it to
24 Deerfield, New Hampshire. It's got to work technically.
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1 Technical, siting, and cost or affordability, because they
2 drove much of the project design. Okay?

3 So, ForwardNH. What is "ForwardNH"?

4 The first thing we introduced two weeks ago is an improved
5 route. This is directly targeted at that first issue I
6 raised, which is it has to be a route that addresses the
7 most important scenic portions of the State of New
8 Hampshire. And, when we listened to stakeholders, what we
9 heard universally, from almost any group, is that "the
10 White Mountain National Forest and the areas north and
11 south of it, Franconia Notch, the Appalachian Trail,"
12 that's the first area that almost every stakeholder refers
13 to in talking about the view or the scenic impacts of this
14 project, that "you need to do something to address that
15 portion of the state."

16 For us to do that, and I'll come back to
17 it in a minute, if you look at that yellow portion of the
18 project route, the Northern Pass Project starts here
19 *[indicating]*, in Pittsburg, runs south, through the White
20 Mountain National Forest, and ends here in Deerfield.
21 This area in the middle, in the yellow, we announced last
22 week we're going to put it underground in state roadways.
23 So, there's going to be 52 miles of this project that are
24 going to be placed underground in state roads, to avoid
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1 So, we're not interested in projects that are using
2 unproven technology or that would be unreliable for any
3 reason. We have to have a high degree of confidence that,
4 if we're going to invest, let's say, a billion 500 billion
5 to a project, it's going to work. So, it's got to be
6 technologically feasible.

7 And, it's got to be sitable. Meaning,
8 here, in the State of New Hampshire, we have to have a
9 project that, through this Site Evaluation Committee
10 process that Judge McGuire referred to, is sitable. That
11 the Commission [Committee?] will say "this project is
12 important, and it has mitigated the impacts, and,
13 therefore, we give you the permission to move forward with
14 the construction."

15 And, the third key thing we're balancing
16 is the price of this project. This has to be a project
17 that's affordable to whoever is going to pay for it; in
18 this instance, customers in New England. So, we don't
19 want to do something that causes the price tag of this
20 project to go so high that, you know, it doesn't have the
21 effect of lowering energy costs in New England, which is
22 why we're pursuing the project.

23 So, when I walk you through the
24 ForwardNH Plan, I'll come back to those three factors:
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1 impacts on the area in green, which is the White Mountain
2 National Forest, and this purple line *[indicating]*, which
3 is the Appalachian Trail, and the Franconia Notch area.
4 That decision was made entirely based on the feedback from
5 folks like you, from across New Hampshire, who said "you
6 need to do something to address that area." So, that's
7 part of our announcement; a substantial increase in the
8 amount of underground construction associated with this
9 project.

10 To do that, we had to change this
11 project fundamentally. So, it was previously a
12 1,200-megawatt project. So, it delivered 1,200 megawatts
13 of energy into New England. We had to reduce the size of
14 the project. So, it's now a 1,000-megawatt project. What
15 does that do? That reduces, by 200 megawatts, the energy
16 cost benefits to customers. So, the savings you're all
17 going to enjoy are lower as a result of that decision, as
18 well as the environmental benefits to the project. Those
19 are lower, because the amount of clean, affordable energy
20 flowing into New Hampshire is going down. But that's part
21 of the balance that we're striking. Okay?

22 So, we reduced the size of the project.
23 We reduced -- we changed the cable technology. So, we
24 went from what's referred to as a "conventional cable" to
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1 a DC Light cable, which allows us to more cost-efficiently
2 and cost-effectively have that amount of underground
3 construction. Had we tried to do this with a
4 1,200-megawatt cable, either the cost was going to be
5 prohibitive, or we would have to use an unproven cable
6 technology, which, in our view, is not a technological
7 approach that we're comfortable with. So, we had to
8 change the cable technology. We had to change the
9 technology associated with or referred to as the
10 "conversion station", which converts the power coming in
11 from Canada from DC to AC, so that it can be used in
12 businesses and homes.

13 So, all of these changes were the result
14 of listening to folks in New Hampshire around view
15 impacts. And, we'll get to some of these other topics in
16 a minute. But, fundamentally, we announced last week a
17 very significant change to this project, due to feedback
18 that we have heard here. Okay?

19 I get asked the question often "what
20 does that do to the project cost?" So, not surprisingly,
21 with all of these changes, there are a lot of moving
22 parts. It's clear that underground construction is more
23 costly than overhead construction. However, we've gone to
24 a smaller cable, we've gone to a different converter
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1 And, then, when you get back to the
2 question of "Is this project affordable? Is it going to
3 lower energy costs for customers?" Which is one of the
4 fundamental things we're trying to do, the answer is "no".
5 The project becomes cost-prohibitive. It's going to be
6 far more difficult for us to ask customers to pay for this
7 project for -- with an additional billion dollars of cost,
8 and no additional benefits. Meaning, it doesn't increase
9 the amount of power flowing, the environmental benefits
10 are no greater; it's just another billion in costs. Okay?
11 That's the simple answer as to why we're not
12 undergrounding the entire route. Okay?

13 So, this is one element that we've
14 announced. The other side of the equation is "what are
15 the New Hampshire benefits?" I said at the outset, the
16 second most important question we've heard from New
17 Hampshire is "What are the New Hampshire benefits? All
18 this project is about is to get power into southern New
19 England."

20 So, we've quantified the benefits to New
21 Hampshire in hosting this line. This is for New Hampshire
22 only, and it's over the next period of years. Now, I'll
23 just start with the bottom line, and these are
24 conservative numbers. Our estimate is this project
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1 technology. So, you have some cost savings. Net-net,
2 costs for this project will go up as a result of this
3 decision. So, our previous estimate of \$1.4 billion is
4 going to go up. We're in the process right now of firming
5 up each and every component, as to what the best cost
6 estimate is, so that, when we reannounce the cost estimate
7 later this fall, it's the best cost that we can announce.

8 Now, I'll just -- as to the issue of
9 "underground construction versus overhead construction",
10 for this cable technology that we've gone to, it's about
11 \$3 million a mile for each mile of the route, on average,
12 for areas where we're over head. So, those would be the
13 blue areas, roughly 132 miles of overhead construction,
14 3 million a mile. The yellow areas, which is where we're
15 undergrounding, is 8 miles up north, 52 miles in the
16 central area, so, 60 total miles, that \$3 million a mile
17 goes to 8 to 13 million a mile, okay?

18 So, why do I share that with you? One
19 of the questions I've gotten since this announcement is
20 "Why don't you just underground everything. Why don't
21 you, if you can underground 60 miles, underground 132
22 additional miles." So, if you do the math that I just
23 shared with you, that's a billion dollars of additional
24 costs, roughly a billion dollars of additional costs.
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1 delivers almost \$4 billion in direct economic benefits to
2 the State of New Hampshire. Okay?

3 It also delivers some environmental
4 benefits that I was referring to. So, when you look at
5 the bottom line of the "Clean Energy & Natural Resource"
6 line, that "\$50 million" isn't the value of the carbon
7 emissions. This project is going to reduce 6 million tons
8 of carbon dioxide emissions per year, 6 million tons of
9 carbon dioxide emissions per year -- I'm sorry, 3 million
10 tons, 600,000 cars, that's the equivalent of 600,000 cars.
11 Okay? So, 3 million tons, 600,000 cars off the road.
12 That's the environmental benefit. Okay?

13 So, \$3.8 billion in direct benefits to
14 New Hampshire. I'm not going to go through this slide,
15 but you could just read across. "Lower Energy Costs", and
16 we had an independent expert value that for the State of
17 New Hampshire, almost a billion dollars in lower energy
18 costs for the State of New Hampshire. That's residential
19 customers and business customers who are struggling with
20 the high cost of energy. And, we've spent -- I've met
21 with literally hundreds of businesses across this state,
22 and I hear the same thing. You know, "We'd love to
23 expand. We'd love to stay in the State of New Hampshire.
24 One of our biggest challenges is energy. It's
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1 unpredictable, it's high cost, and I can get it for half
2 the price in South Carolina or New York State." Okay? A
3 billion dollars.

4 We announced last week a "ForwardNH
5 Fund", a \$200 million commitment, solely for the benefits
6 here in the State of New Hampshire. So, what do I mean by
7 that? This Fund is going to be directed in four areas:
8 Tourism, economic development, community betterment, and
9 clean energy innovation; \$200 million. And, it's really
10 going to be directed at communities, like Deerfield, who
11 are hosting this line. That's where these funds are going
12 to be deployed.

13 Beyond that, "Jobs and Economic
14 Benefits". We had another expert look at the economic
15 impact of hosting this project. Again, it's roughly a
16 \$1.5 billion project. It's going to create 2,400 job
17 opportunities. We've committed to a "New Hampshire first"
18 approach to that. Which means, where possible, for every
19 aspect of this project, both union and non-union, we are
20 going to provide job opportunities for New Hampshire
21 residents. Okay?

22 So, 2,400 jobs. Almost a billion
23 dollars in taxes. So, \$30 million a year in taxes.
24 That's another \$2.7 billion in direct economic benefits to
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1 a project that works technically, it's got to be sitable,
2 meaning we have to address the issues associated with view
3 and other matters, which I think we've done, and it has to
4 be affordable and deliver direct benefits. So, that's the
5 balance we've been working on. We believe that our
6 announcement two weeks ago is a big step in the right
7 direction. We recognize we have some add additional work
8 to do, certainly at a local level, at a town-by-town level
9 and a landowner-by-landowner level. Right?

10 So, our work's not done. That's why
11 we're so happy to be here tonight, we're going to receive
12 further input that would be factored into our thinking.
13 But, you know, we're very committed to addressing those
14 local concerns at that level. Whether it's through design
15 or engineering or other steps that we can take to further
16 reduce impacts.

17 But, hopefully, you'll agree, after you
18 see the video that we're going to cue up in a minute,
19 that, you know, the balance that we've struck is a
20 reasonable one, and that we truly have been listening.
21 So, I do value your input. I look forward to the Q&A
22 session.

23 Andrea, maybe you could cue up the
24 video.
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1 the State of New Hampshire.

2 And, then, finally, I touched upon the
3 clean energy resources. But what we tried to do here is
4 capture "what are the benefits to New Hampshire in hosting
5 this line?" Because there has been a misperception that
6 all the benefits flow south, and it couldn't be further
7 from the truth. In fact, New Hampshire is going to
8 receive the lion share of the benefits, and New Hampshire
9 customers aren't going to pay for this line. Okay? So,
10 no investment; it's paid for elsewhere. Okay?

11 If this project were to end up in
12 another state, let's assume it went to Vermont or Maine.
13 I get this question very frequently, "What happens to this
14 benefit calculation, how many of these benefits will
15 reside in New Hampshire?" The short answer is "virtually,
16 all of them go with the project." So, the project goes to
17 Vermont, the associated benefits go to Vermont. The jobs,
18 the taxes, the funds, the lower energy costs, it basically
19 moves with the project.

20 So, our purpose for creating this slide
21 really is to have a dialogue on "what are the benefits to
22 New Hampshire in hosting this line?", so that you all, and
23 others in New Hampshire, can think about the balance that
24 I referred to at the outset. Which is, you know, we need
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1 (Whereupon a video presentation was
2 shown to the members of the public.)

3 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. Hopefully, that
4 gives you a little better perspective of the project, kind
5 of at a macro level, statewide level. We're going to
6 drill down just for a minute into Rockingham County, and I
7 will share with you the local perspective on this.

8 So, as the video indicated, the project
9 does enter Deerfield, Rockingham County, here at this
10 intersection [indicating], runs for about a little over
11 7 miles, and concludes at the existing substation on Cape
12 Street. Okay? That's the existing transmission corridor.
13 So, today, there is an existing right-of-way, with a
14 transmission line running through that corridor, and this
15 will, in essence, run parallel to the existing corridor.

16 This purple line [indicating] basically
17 exists today, and it connects that substation with our
18 substation down in Londonderry. So, this purple line
19 [indicating] is not new. And, I'll explain to you in a
20 minute what's happening there. But there's no new line,
21 no new cable, no new structures on the purple portion.
22 The only portion in Rockingham County is this 7 miles
23 going through Deerfield. Okay?

24 So, if you look at -- let's start with
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1 the purple area. Right now, as I said, there's an
 2 existing line there. Because of the increased capacity,
 3 we essentially have to raise a handful of structures,
 4 existing structures, in that existing transmission line.
 5 So, of the roughly 350 existing transmission structures,
 6 10 of them are going to have to be raised about 5 feet
 7 each. Okay? So, that's the only change on this purple
 8 portion of the route. So, 10 structures, increased by
 9 5 feet, out of 350, as a perspective.

10 So, this new -- this blue portion is the
 11 7 miles of new right-of-way -- I'm sorry, new transmission
 12 structure on an existing right-of-way. To do that, there
 13 will be 67 new structures, that's our current estimate.
 14 As a result of the kind of design changes we've been able
 15 to make in the recent weeks and months, we've been able to
 16 lower the average structure height by about 5 feet from
 17 what you may have heard previously. And, later you can
 18 talk to the engineers about what that means in your
 19 community.

20 But, again, we are working
 21 structure-by-structure, town-by-town, on getting those
 22 structure heights as low as they can be, because we do
 23 understand the important of that.

24 The other thing we're doing, in addition
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1 to placing structures where they're less visible as
 2 possible, is screen, where possible. If a tree can be
 3 planted to screen a structure, lowering structure heights
 4 to the maximum amount.

5 Where appropriate, we are also using a
 6 different structure design. It's referred to as a
 7 "monopole design". So, instead of having a lattice
 8 structure, which has four legs and looks like an erector
 9 set, you have a single pole, it's referred to as a
 10 "monopole". We've identified 10 of those 67 structures
 11 here in Deerfield for use of monopole. These are in areas
 12 that have been identified by our experts as having a
 13 particular impact. And, this town is in an area of
 14 historic significance, so that we don't want to impact the
 15 view as much, obviously.

16 So, that's a high-level view. This is
 17 just a sense of what I mean by "monopole" structure. The
 18 structure on the right is the monopole. It looks like a
 19 telephone pole. As compared to the structure on the left,
 20 which is a lattice structure. Okay?

21 Okay. So, what else does this project
 22 mean to Rockingham County and the Town of Deerfield? As
 23 the video indicated, there's a substantial tax impact of
 24 hosting this type of infrastructure project. For this
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1 town, you look at the bottom line, it's somewhere between
 2 \$1.6 and \$2.7 million a year incremental tax benefit to
 3 the Town of Deerfield. The reason for the ranges is
 4 really two-fold. We haven't finalized our design, as I
 5 said at the outset. And, so, we don't actually know the
 6 value of the property that is going to be added in the
 7 Town of Deerfield. And, also, there's -- we wanted to
 8 look at this under a range of assessment rates or mill
 9 rates. So, that's why you see a range. But that's the
 10 anticipated impact on the local taxes here in the Town of
 11 Deerfield. And, then, there are some county-level taxes
 12 as well. Okay?

13 So, we're going to turn in a moment to
 14 the Q&A. I do want to stress that sessions like this, and
 15 the ones that follow are very important to us. I hope you
 16 can appreciate that we take very seriously what we've been
 17 hearing from New Hampshire. It's played a direct role, as
 18 I said earlier, in the announcement we made two weeks ago.
 19 And, we continue to value the input that we receive.

20 So, this is the second of five public
 21 information sessions that lead us to a filing of the Site
 22 Evaluation Commission [Committee?]. There's going to be a
 23 whole nother round of those information sessions after the
 24 filing. And, then, there's a parallel federal process
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1 that is an opportunity for further public input.

2 So, you know, our listening hasn't
 3 stopped. And, you know, I appreciate you taking the time
 4 to be here tonight and sharing with you and sharing with
 5 us your thoughts.

6 So, with this, I think we're going to
 7 turn it over for question-and-answer. And, I'm going to
 8 join the panel. So, thank you.

9 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. As I said,
 10 we're going to move now to the second portion. And, I
 11 don't mean to turn my back on the people on that side.
 12 We're going to turn to the second portion, which is the
 13 question-and-answer. But I do want to remind you that, if
 14 you want to ask a question, go over to the table in the
 15 back, you may write your question down, they will bring it
 16 here and they will give it to me.

17 And, again, the third part, once we
 18 finish the question-and-answer, is the comment section.
 19 And, again, if you want to comment orally, you just go
 20 over and put your name and town, and you'll be called up
 21 in the order that you signed up, with preference given to
 22 residents of Rockingham County first. Okay?

23 So, I want to just introduce the panel
 24 who will be answering your questions. Am I in the way of
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1 you seeing the panel? You can see? Okay.

2 First, at the end, is Jerry Fortier.

3 Jerry is with Eversource, and is the Project Director for
4 Northern Pass. He's responsible for the construction of
5 the project.

6 Next is Robert Clarke. Bob is the
7 Director of Siting, Outreach and Interconnection for
8 Eversource Energy. He's responsible for guiding Northern
9 Pass through the New Hampshire siting process.

10 Third is Lee Carbonneau. Lee is a
11 Senior Principal Scientist in Wetland/Terrestrial Group of
12 Normandeau & Associates. She is the Assistant Project
13 Manager and Permitting Lead for the Northern Pass Project.

14 Next to Lee is Sam Johnson. Sam is a
15 Senior Project Manager for Burns & McDonnell Engineering
16 Company. And, he's involved in the construction of
17 Northern Pass.

18 Next to him is James Muntz. Jim is the
19 President of Transmission for Eversource. And, of course,
20 you know Mr. Quinlan.

21 So, we're going to begin reading
22 questions that I've been given so far. The first one is,
23 how is it that the proposal of your competition that would
24 be completely buried feels that they have a viable option,
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1 Hydro-Quebec, who has excess generation, hypothetical
2 generation that they're ready to export to the U.S.
3 They're also siting a project on the Canadian side of the
4 border to interconnect with Northern Pass. So, we have a
5 pathway from that generation, down to Deerfield.

6 I think, if you look at those other
7 projects, you're going to find that those are areas that
8 have not yet been addressed. And, I think, on the issue
9 of cost, I think there's a real question around the
10 affordability of the projects.

11 Jim, is there anything you would like to
12 add?

13 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. The only other thing,
14 that we're currently in the midst of negotiations with
15 contractors and equipment suppliers that would build this
16 project for us. And, we think it's real important to have
17 those partners lined up when you go into a venture like
18 this. You need contractors that are going to understand
19 what the dollars are that you're quoting and be able to
20 deliver a project for that cost.

21 I think, not to talk about any of the
22 other projects specifically, but, until you have a
23 contractor that's willing to take that risk of building
24 the project at the cost that you promised to whoever is
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1 yet you do not see total burial as feasible? And, I
2 imagine this is in Vermont.

3 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So, as the
4 questioner probably is aware, there are other proposals
5 that we discussed in New England, and I'll say in New York
6 as well, where burial is contemplated. One of the things
7 that I would ask that you think about is, you know, are
8 those projects truly viable? You know, have they struck
9 the balance that I mentioned at the outset that we've
10 attempted to strike here with Northern Pass? You know,
11 are they sitable? You probably would conclude that an
12 underground line is sitable, but does it work
13 technologically? You know, does it have a confirmed power
14 supply and an interconnection to bring power from Canada
15 into the United States? And, then, what's the cost of
16 those projects? Is it affordable? Is it something
17 customers are going to pay for?

18 I think if you objectively looked at
19 several of those projects, including the one in Vermont,
20 you'd find that, you know, there are several challenges in
21 those areas of affordability, technical feasibility. You
22 know, do they have a power supply?

23 One of the things that we're very
24 confident is we've got a very strong partner in
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1 paying for it, you don't really have a project. And,
2 that's where we feel we've almost completed a competitive
3 bid project -- process for all of the aspects of this
4 project, and we've very close to identifying our
5 contractors who will build this for us.

6 THE MODERATOR: Anybody else on that?
7 This might be a little redundant, but please give one good
8 reason why this cannot be buried through the entire route.

9 MR. QUINLAN: I believe I addressed this
10 at the outset. But, I would say, first and foremost, it's
11 the cost. It's the affordability. I walked you through
12 the math. But the bottom line is that, an all-underground
13 construction route for this project adds basically a
14 billion dollars to the project cost. And, we think that's
15 not a price tag that customers are going to be willing to
16 pay.

17 So, we have struck a balance. We
18 believe we've gone underground in the areas that are most
19 critical, and we have a project that is still affordable.

20 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Somebody asks,
21 how about an open Q&A, instead of a managed session?

22 MR. QUINLAN: So, a couple of things.
23 One of the reasons why we've selected the format of a
24 managed session is, it's very similar to the process that
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1 the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee will use
 2 during its public information sessions, and they use it
 3 quite effectively. We also think this approach allows a
 4 very expert moderator, in this case, Judge McGuire, to get
 5 through the questions as efficiently as possible, so we
 6 can answer the maximum number of questions as possible.
 7 So, what I mean is, if we get three or four or five
 8 questions that are identical, Judge McGuire will
 9 essentially get to the essence of the question.

10 So, really, it's efficiency, and hoping
 11 to be in a position to answer the maximum number of
 12 questions possible, and our interest in, you know,
 13 following the Site Evaluation Committee processes.

14 THE MODERATOR: And, let me just add to
 15 that. I've worked with court reporters for 25 years, and
 16 they have a very difficult job getting down everything
 17 that everybody says. And, in a group this large, spread
 18 out over such an area, it would be very difficult to be
 19 able to take down everything that everybody is saying.
 20 So, we really have to have an orderly process, and that's
 21 very important. Because, as I said, a transcript of all
 22 of this will be made. So, that's the reason. But -- and
 23 efficiency as well. Last night we didn't get through
 24 quite all of the questions that had been asked in the time
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1 mile cost of HVDC Light cable buried along an interstate
 2 highway? And, why does it -- what does it cost per mile
 3 to move, relocate the AC line?

4 MR. QUINLAN: So, I'll answer the first
 5 question, and then defer the second question to our panel.
 6 So, as to the cost per mile of underground construction
 7 for HVDC-Lite cable, 1,000 megawatt cable, it's 8 to
 8 \$13 million a mile. So, it's the 3 million for overhead,
 9 with a 5 to \$10 million per mile cost adder for going
 10 underground. So, 8 to 13 million a mile for underground
 11 construction.

12 And, as to the second question.

13 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. So, I'll just add
 14 quickly to the first. There are other considerations that
 15 need to be taken into account. The limited access
 16 highways, which I-93 has a high rate of speed of vehicles,
 17 and there is a considerable safety issue with construction
 18 aspects along there. Additionally, new access roads and
 19 areas for the construction to take place would have to be
 20 created, which would have a huge environmental impact
 21 along the entire underground route, if it was to be made
 22 in that type of corridor.

23 The answer to the second question is, a
 24 115 -- moving a 115 kV line, that's about a million, a
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1 allotted. So, this allows us to get -- hopefully,
 2 tonight, we'll get through, get to ask every single
 3 question that you write out.

4 Why did you decide to convert DC to AC
 5 power at Franklin, and not run the DC line down to
 6 Deerfield or some other location in southern New
 7 Hampshire?

8 MR. QUINLAN: I think, Jim.

9 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. When we conceived this
 10 project about eight years, we looked at numerous converter
 11 locations and routes. And, again, it was a matter of
 12 economics, as far as where the most cost-efficient
 13 converter location was, and turned out to be in Franklin.

14 THE MODERATOR: Jerry, did you want
 15 to --

16 MR. FORTIER: Yes. I'd just add to
 17 that, that one of the criteria that we looked at was along
 18 the right-of-way, and what are the environmental impacts
 19 of siting or locating that converter terminal on the site?
 20 And, Franklin offered the best solution. And, the town,
 21 as well, was very supportive of our development
 22 opportunity.

23 THE MODERATOR: Why -- oh, I just read
 24 that one. This is a two-part question. What is the per
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1 million and a half, again, depending on where you are and
 2 what kind of terrain you're in, per mile.

3 THE MODERATOR: Okay. During the
 4 Section 106 data-gathering NP reports, that details were
 5 collected on 190 properties, and 12 had adverse effects of
 6 the 190 properties, okay, are any of them located in
 7 Deerfield? And, if so, where are they?

8 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to ask Lee to
 9 answer that question.

10 MS. CARBONNEAU: Sure. The detailed
 11 information that was collected from the 190 plus
 12 properties was evaluated very carefully. And, the experts
 13 on the project for Northern Pass, the historical experts,
 14 identified about a dozen properties that had potential
 15 adverse impacts. The final decision on adverse impacts
 16 and what has to happen with that is made during the
 17 Section 106 process.

18 But historians on this project
 19 identified about a dozen. There is one of those parcels
 20 that is in Deerfield. I think I can tell you that it's
 21 the Hillcrest Farm, that is a location where the project
 22 will be visible.

23 MR. CLARKE: I would like to add to
 24 that. There is also our visual impact expert looked at
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1 impacts from public viewsheds in the area, and in the
2 Deerfield Village area, as Mr. Quinlan had earlier
3 identified, would change the type of structure to mitigate
4 the visual impact from the -- looking down towards the
5 Village School area.

6 MS. CARBONNEAU: I actually would also
7 like to add that there is, obviously, archeological
8 resources as well. These are below-ground resources. So,
9 that list of properties that were evaluated doesn't
10 include the archeological resources. And, some of those
11 are also located in Deerfield. Some of them have been
12 reviewed fairly carefully for other projects that have
13 occurred in the right-of-way and over the G146 and the
14 D118 projects, which have been recently completed in
15 Deerfield. And, some of those archeological resources
16 were reviewed at that time. Their locations and the
17 detailed information is confidential on those to protect
18 the resources.

19 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Historic
20 landscapes, like historic farms, village centers, and
21 views from old homes, are central to their identity,
22 economy, and environment of Deerfield and other towns
23 along the proposed route. Are resources, like the
24 Deerfield Heritage Commission, being contacted for
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1 to identify potentially sensitive locations along the
2 right-of-way. Areas that appear to need more review, then
3 get Phase IB surveys, which includes doing test pits in
4 locations.

5 The Section 106 process has done their
6 Phase IA surveys, Northern Pass has done their Phase IA
7 surveys, and also completed a number of Phase IB surveys
8 already. Eventually, that information all gets put
9 together, and goes to the Division of Historical Resources
10 and also the lead federal agency, and that -- and also the
11 consulting parties get to weigh in on this as well. And,
12 the process continues through the 106 process.

13 For the historical resources, our -- the
14 historians that are working for Northern Pass are not yet
15 following the Section 106 process. They're doing a
16 separate evaluation of the historical above-ground
17 resources. That information, however, will be provided to
18 the Department of Energy, and should inform the remainder
19 of the Section 106 process. So, it will be helpful. It's
20 not exactly the same, and it is a separate effort at this
21 point.

22 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. What is the
23 anticipated life of the infrastructure for this project?
24 That is, how long will the towers last and provide a
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1 available information as part of the SEC application?
2 And, a second question, how are the Section 106 federal
3 process and state level SEC process similar or different,
4 regarding identification and evaluation of historic
5 places?

6 MR. QUINLAN: Lee.

7 MS. CARBONNEAU: Okay. The experts that
8 are working on historical resources, they have done
9 outreach to the historical commissions that are located
10 along the project route. I can't tell you exactly which
11 ones they have done their outreach to. But they have
12 tried to be very comprehensive and talk to all of the
13 experts that might have information that would be of value
14 in evaluating this project.

15 The Section 106 process is a federal
16 process. The Department of Energy is the lead federal
17 agency. So, they have primary responsibility. They have
18 their own consultants, both historical and archeological
19 consultants, who have been doing work along the project
20 areas. The SEC process is sort of working in parallel.
21 We have -- the Northern Pass team has their own experts
22 who are doing a review as well.

23 From an archeological standpoint, the
24 two processes are very similar. Phase IA review is done
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1 revenue stream, that is a cost/benefit analysis?

2 MR. QUINLAN: Jim.

3 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. The life of a
4 transmission project is, typically, it's depreciated over
5 40 years, but we have transmission lines that have been in
6 service for up to 100 years. So, this will depend on the
7 market and the need to use the line, to, you know, serve
8 the load in the future. But the infrastructure of this
9 nature typically is good for up to 100 years.

10 MR. QUINLAN: And, I will say, you know,
11 bringing -- importing hypothetical from Canada, as I said
12 at the outset, is critically important for this region to
13 meet our clean energy goals. So, if you think about the
14 future, 10, 20, 30, 40 years out, where, as a country and
15 as a region, we have moved away from fossil fuels, it's
16 energy supplies like this one, and local renewable
17 generation sources, that are really going to fuel our
18 economy out in the future. So, you know, our expectation
19 is that we will continue to benefit from this
20 interconnection for many years to come.

21 MR. MUNTZ: And, regardless of how long
22 the line is used, there is a decommissioning fund that is
23 established early on. And, at the end, the towers are
24 taken down and it's basically returned to its natural
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1 state. Noting that much of the project is already built
2 on a right-of-way, and whether that line will still be in
3 use is not certain.

4 THE MODERATOR: What accommodations or
5 help is being offered to those with special needs,
6 particularly sensory issues, especially with noise?

7 MR. QUINLAN: I'll turn this to either
8 Jerry or Bob or Lee.

9 MR. FORTIER: I'll take it.

10 MR. QUINLAN: Okay.

11 MR. FORTIER: With regard to noise, the
12 project design is -- our specifications for all of our
13 equipment, our designs, basically limits the noise
14 impacts, as the result of the design of our line, the way
15 we designed it. And, we hired an expert, basically, to
16 take a look at stations, such as the one here in
17 Deerfield, where they have taken background readings as it
18 is today, and we are passing on the information from those
19 readings to our supplier -- equipment suppliers, to make
20 sure that the equipment will essentially have no adverse
21 effect, it won't increase the sounds that are currently
22 available today.

23 THE MODERATOR: Anybody else? Okay.
24 Please address your current understanding of the
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1 THE MODERATOR: How much physical
2 expansion of the current substation will Northern Pass
3 require?

4 MR. QUINLAN: So, this question is
5 physical expansion of the substation. Either Sam or
6 Jerry.

7 MR. FORTIER: Of the existing substation
8 right now, a lot of the work is going to be done within
9 the existing fence line. There is a small portion that
10 will be expanded outside of the station and adjacent to
11 the station that will house some of the upgrade equipment
12 that will be necessary; a static VAR compensator and a
13 capacitor bank will be installed in that location. So,
14 there's a small expansion.

15 THE MODERATOR: Of all the electricity
16 coming into the substation will need to leave it, will
17 this require additional lines, towers or other
18 infrastructure in Deerfield?

19 MR. QUINLAN: So, as I showed in the
20 Rockingham County map, the line that interconnects this
21 substation with the Londonderry substation will not
22 change. The cable will not change. The number of
23 structures will not change. Of the roughly 350 structures
24 that hold up that existing line, 10 of those will need to
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1 commitment Quebec-Hydro as made to First Nations'
2 communities impacted by currently potential development in
3 their ancestral lands?

4 MR. MUNTZ: They basically have worked
5 as a partner with the First Nations for their last, I'm
6 not sure exactly how many, but the last several projects
7 that they have done. And, this has, you know, eliminated
8 a lot of the controversy for the projects. They have been
9 able to get them sited fairly cleanly. And, you know,
10 they have an ongoing partnership with the few people that
11 live in the area.

12 THE MODERATOR: Will anything be buried
13 in Deerfield, near the historic district, where the line
14 will come near the town center?

15 MR. QUINLAN: As I said at the outset,
16 and as the video demonstrated, the Deerfield portion of
17 this project would be aboveground construction, in an
18 existing right-of-way, running basically adjacent to the
19 existing transmission line. So, there would be no
20 underground construction over those 7 miles.

21 MR. CLARKE: But, as I mentioned, near
22 the town center, we have changed from the lattice
23 structure design to a more streamlined monopole-type
24 design.
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1 be raised by about 5 feet each, on average. But, other
2 than that, there are no other changes to that line.

3 THE MODERATOR: I moved up to Deerfield
4 from New York City for the rural character. Burying the
5 lines is the only way to ensure that Deerfield's rural,
6 bucolic scenery remains. Why can't the lines be buried to
7 keep Deerfield's historic and scenic character?

8 MR. QUINLAN: And, again, I go back to
9 the point I made now twice around "balance". We believe
10 we've struck the appropriate balance. And, we have a
11 project that works technically, addresses the major view
12 impacts, and is affordable. And, as Jerry just mentioned
13 and Bob just mentioned, we are going to continue to work
14 locally to do what we can to reduce visual impacts.
15 Whether it's use of monopole structures, moving structures
16 where possible, lowering structures to the maximum extent
17 possible, using screening techniques or other ways to
18 mitigate view impacts. So, we are going to continue to
19 work on a case-by-case basis at a local level to address
20 view impacts. But, in the aggregate, we believe we struck
21 the right balance with this pronouncement.

22 THE MODERATOR: The property tax history
23 with Deerfield has been challenging. Eversource, as well
24 as PSNH, pays its property taxes with "under protest"
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1 written on each payment it makes. In 1989, the Town of
 2 Deerfield settled the property tax dispute with PSNH for
 3 \$925,000 to pay back for overtaxing the substation. This
 4 represents about 50 percent of the taxes collected during
 5 the period from 1981 to 1989. Therefore, should the Town
 6 plan its property taxing on the new capital investment on
 7 a decreasing scale?

8 MR. QUINLAN: So, just a couple of
 9 things in the area of taxes. There is a fairly widely
 10 accepted practice for valuing utility property that's used
 11 in many locations across the country. And, it's basically
 12 based upon the net book value of those properties. So,
 13 you look at the level of investment, and then you
 14 depreciate it over a long period of time, in this case, 40
 15 years. So, there's a very gradual reduction in the annual
 16 assessed value over time of a 40-year period. So, it's
 17 very gradual and a relatively stable stream of tax
 18 payments.

19 Where we've had issues here in New
 20 Hampshire, in several communities, is when a different
 21 methodology is used to assess the value of the assets,
 22 something other than the net book value. And, it's based
 23 upon an appraised value, which at times can be arbitrary.
 24 If there's a very significant difference between what a
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1 concerns some have expressed is, "does that then squeeze
 2 out small renewable projects, whether it's solar or wind
 3 or biomass?"

4 So, to address that issue, we've taken a
 5 couple of steps. We announced that we're, as part of this
 6 project, we're going to pursue an upgrade to the so-called
 7 "Coos Transmission Loop" in the North Country, which will
 8 unlock at times up to 100 megawatts of small-scale
 9 renewable generation that can't run today and can't get to
 10 market. So, we are going to facilitate those plants
 11 running more, being more profitable, to further those
 12 clean energy goals.

13 Separate and apart from that, as part of
 14 our ForwardNH Fund, the \$200 million fund, one of the four
 15 focused areas are going to be on clean energy innovation.
 16 So, initiatives in the space that we're talking about, you
 17 know, potentially small renewable generation, we
 18 anticipate making further investments, with input from key
 19 stakeholders, to further advance that growing and
 20 important part of the clean energy story.

21 So, net/net, my view, our view is that
 22 we're actually going to be advancing the use of
 23 small-scale renewable domestic generation.

24 THE MODERATOR: And, a follow-up
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1 local tax authority is assessing, versus the kind of
 2 industry-accepted practice, it's our customers who bear
 3 that incremental tax cost. You know, these taxes are
 4 basically a flow-through to our customers, and we have a
 5 fiduciary obligation to our customers to question that,
 6 when there's a big disparity. So, there are instances
 7 where we've done that here in New Hampshire over the
 8 years. But it continues to be a bit of a challenge in
 9 certain jurisdictions.

10 But, you know, as to the tax payments
 11 associated with this project, the figures I put up at the
 12 outset are our current best estimate as to what those will
 13 look like. And, they will be relatively stable for the
 14 foreseeable future for this 40-year period of the
 15 depreciation. So, it will be a gradual depreciation
 16 schedule.

17 THE MODERATOR: Will this project impact
 18 net metering for solar generation?

19 MR. QUINLAN: No, not directly. So, a
 20 couple of -- and "not directly" in the negative way. So,
 21 let me say that. And, again, one of the things we're
 22 trying to do is to help our region meet its clean energy
 23 goals. We think that bringing this power in does, you
 24 know, takes us a big step in the right direction. The
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1 question on that. Would Eversource support increasing the
 2 percent, to two percent, currently required in New
 3 Hampshire? For example, Massachusetts is 4 percent.

4 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, this is a
 5 question directed at the net metering cap for these types
 6 of installations. And, I know there's an ongoing
 7 discussion in the State of New Hampshire about potentially
 8 increasing that cap. You know, we're certainly
 9 participating in the discussion. You know, our view is
 10 that there's probably room for additional solar
 11 installations in this state. So, a reasonable increase in
 12 the net metering cap is something that we wouldn't oppose.

13 THE MODERATOR: How do you reconcile the
 14 job numbers advertised? They have now more than doubled.
 15 Where is this information available?

16 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So, the job numbers
 17 that were on the chart were the result of the expert
 18 analysis that I referred to earlier, that was performed by
 19 the London Economic Institute. And, they have taken a
 20 very thorough review of what this project will mean from a
 21 jobs perspective, both during the construction period and
 22 after. They have looked at comparable projects in other
 23 states and other jurisdictions, to verify their results.
 24 And, we feel fairly confident that the numbers that we
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1 shared tonight are accurate.

2 MR. CLARKE: And, just to add to that, I
3 will note that the DOE estimates are significantly higher.

4 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, what's Bob's
5 referring to, in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
6 recently released by the Department of Energy, their job
7 impacts are, as he indicated, higher than we shared with
8 you this evening.

9 THE MODERATOR: This may be a little
10 repetitive. But what is the conversion station in
11 Franklin valued at? If an alternative route is chosen,
12 and the conversion station is moved to Deerfield, would it
13 be of similar value?

14 MR. FORTIER: Yes. The simple and
15 straightforward answer to that is "yes", it would be about
16 a similar value.

17 MR. MUNTZ: The converter station is
18 normally a \$200 million piece of equipment.

19 THE MODERATOR: What is the expected
20 return of investment for the entire project? What is the
21 number of years expected to pay back investors?

22 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. The contract that we
23 have with Hydro-Quebec, and that's been approved by the
24 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, basically has an
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1 MR. JOHNSON: So, that's a multitiered
2 question, and I'll answer the first part of that. So, the
3 underground cable is a specialty cable. There was a
4 sample of it downstairs. But it is approximately four and
5 a half inches in diameter. And, it's a very specific
6 cable that's manufactured for underground or under-marine
7 applications. The overhead portions of the project use a
8 conductor that you see outside today. It's actually about
9 an inch to an inch and a half in diameter. So, it's
10 something about that big. And, it carries the same
11 current and same loads, just one is -- one has to be
12 bigger because of the amount of energy that needs to be
13 put through and the heat of putting it underground.

14 THE MODERATOR: Okay. This is a
15 question, it says the SEC Draft Plan, although I think the
16 writer means the "DOE Draft Plan", has alternatives for
17 placing the converter station in Deerfield on North road.
18 I understand the plan is to place it in Franklin. But, on
19 the off chance it ends up in Deerfield, I want to know the
20 impact regarding something and noise pollution and scenic
21 defilement?

22 MR. QUINLAN: I think the short answer
23 to that is our current plan is not to move the converter
24 station to Deerfield. Our intention is to pursue siting
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1 11.74 ROE established. However, that is indexed and
2 linked to the New England return on investment that FERC
3 has also produced. So, if that goes down, and there's
4 some challenges to that right now, if that goes down, then
5 this will go down.

6 The idea is that this project will be
7 amortized over 40 years. At the end of 40 years,
8 typically a project like this is what is known as "rolled
9 into regional rates", that's what's happened with Phase 2,
10 the initial lines that are here. Basically, the whole
11 region pays for that line now. The remaining costs -- the
12 remaining annual costs are O&M, taxes, and those are
13 generally small. All the capital is returned, the capital
14 and the debt is returned in the first 40 years.

15 THE MODERATOR: Will the newer lower
16 voltage lines used in the buried sections be used for the
17 entire length? And, if so, would this allow lower towers?

18 MR. QUINLAN: Sam.

19 MR. JOHNSON: Sorry, could you repeat
20 the question.

21 THE MODERATOR: Yes. Will the newer
22 lower voltage lines or cables used in the buried sections
23 be used for the entire length? And, if so, will this
24 allow for lower towers?
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1 of our project with the converter station in Franklin.

2 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Will residents be
3 able to review the specific findings of the Section 106
4 prior to the beginning of the SEC process? In other
5 words, can you ensure that this information will be
6 presented in a timely manner?

7 MS. CARBONNEAU: Could you read the
8 question again please?

9 THE MODERATOR: Yes. Will residents be
10 able to review the specific findings at the Section 106 --
11 of the Section 106 prior to the beginning of the SEC
12 process? In other words, can you ensure this information
13 will be presented to the public in a timely manner?

14 MS. CARBONNEAU: The Section 106 process
15 is not likely to be as far along, and, you know, which is
16 why the project is actually doing some of the historical
17 and archeological resource surveys in a parallel track.

18 So, the historical information that's
19 being collected by the project, which we think is quite
20 adequate and will be very important in a Section 106
21 process at some point in the future, that information
22 should be available at the time that our SEC application
23 is filed.

24 The archeological information that has
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1 been collected so far, that has been and will still be
2 delivered to the Division of Historical Resources for
3 their review. And, to my -- my understanding is that is
4 not necessarily widely available to the public. You have
5 to make a special request to see that information, because
6 it is sensitive information. But the above-ground
7 information that is submitted with the SEC application
8 will be quite comprehensive.

9 THE MODERATOR: All right. And, will
10 that -- can people go to the SEC website at the time of
11 the application and view that information as well?

12 MS. CARBONNEAU: I believe so.

13 MR. CLARKE: Yes.

14 *(Court reporter interruption.)*

15 MR. CLARKE: The answer is "yes".

16 THE MODERATOR: Okay. What is your
17 projected income from the Northern Pass lines annually?

18 MR. QUINLAN: Jim.

19 MR. MUNTZ: Well, based on the return on
20 equity, I believe it's somewhere around \$90 million a year
21 initially, and actually decreases over 40 years.

22 THE MODERATOR: What environmental
23 groups have endorsed the Northern Pass in writing or any
24 form of record that can be verified?

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1 hired? And, will they be union jobs?

2 MR. QUINLAN: So, a lot of questions
3 there. I'll try to hit several of them, and others can
4 chime in. But, you know, the jobs we're referring to are
5 both union and non-union jobs. So, certainly, a lot of
6 the more technical electrical work will be performed
7 generally with the union workforce. But there are
8 hundreds of other jobs associated with the project. Think
9 of road clearings, provision of gravel, logging, provision
10 of services to the project itself, so, trucking. You
11 know, many non-union jobs. So, the job figures we shared
12 certainly have a union component and a non-union
13 component.

14 One of the things we announced several
15 months ago, associated with this and other projects, is a
16 state-of-the-art Apprentice Training Program. So, we are
17 using projects like Northern Pass to create permanent,
18 attractive job opportunities for workers here in New
19 Hampshire. So, we've -- and, it's referred to as our
20 "Apprentice Program". So, we're using these projects as
21 training opportunities to teach individuals a wonderful
22 trade. It's highly desirable. We started our first
23 Apprentice Training class already. And, we'll continue to
24 add those as this and other projects progress. Those are
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1 MR. QUINLAN: So, we've been doing
2 extensive outreach, as I said at the outset, with not only
3 environmental groups, but businesses and other key
4 stakeholders across this state. You know, in the
5 aftermath of our announcement two weeks ago, we've
6 received a lot of very specific and formal endorsements
7 and letters of support associated with this project.

8 Specifically, to the environmental
9 community, we continue our outreach with many different
10 environmental organizations. Thus far, several of them
11 have been very encouraged by the steps we've taken to try
12 to address New Hampshire's concerns, and continue to
13 deliver environmental benefits. And, we're going to
14 continue to work with that community right through the
15 siting process. So, that outreach, again, is not at an
16 end. I would say our discussions of late have been very
17 encouraging.

18 THE MODERATOR: This is a group of
19 questions that have to do with the jobs that will be
20 created by Northern Pass. And, I'll just read them all at
21 once. The people hired, is it for a specific portion or
22 will they move down as the line progresses? What's the
23 plan for their positions after the line is complete? How
24 many actual permanent positions and at what point are they

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1 careers. Those are not short-term jobs. These are jobs
2 that are very desirable, not only here in New Hampshire,
3 but across New England and this country. So, we're very
4 excited by the job creation opportunity for New Hampshire
5 residents associated with that program.

6 More broadly, as I said at the outset,
7 all of these jobs are going to be sourced with a "New
8 Hampshire first" approach. Whether it's an electrical
9 worker, a gravel supplier, a logging contractor or road
10 builder, in each and every instance we're going to source
11 these projects here with local labor. And, for many
12 contractors here in this state, this is very exciting.
13 So, you know, we talked to some of the electrical workers,
14 who haven't worked in this state for 10 years or for 20
15 years, and they're New Hampshire residents and looking
16 forward to the opportunity to come back home and work in
17 New Hampshire. Or, you talk to the contractors in the
18 North Country, who run logging operations or provide
19 gravel, they are very excited about the prospects this
20 project will produce.

21 And, you've got to remember, this is a
22 \$1.5 billion infrastructure project that's going to be
23 sourced locally. It's really unprecedented here in New
24 Hampshire. You know, there are not many projects of this
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1 size and this scale, with this level of commitment to
2 local sourcing, that exist, I think, in probably New
3 Hampshire's history. So, the job opportunities associated
4 with this project are a big deal, and are very important
5 to many in the state.

6 THE MODERATOR: Sam.

7 MR. JOHNSON: I'll just add briefly to
8 that. There are also companies that looking to relocate
9 some small manufacturing into the state, specifically to
10 serve the needs of the Project. So, I'm referencing
11 timber mats, which are environmental protection type of
12 device. We're aware of at least two companies that are
13 opening facilities here in New Hampshire to specifically
14 take some of the logging opportunities that are here and
15 convert those into environmental mats that will be used on
16 this project.

17 MR. QUINLAN: So, if you think about
18 that, the fact you have companies who are locating here in
19 New Hampshire, creating permanent major opportunities here
20 in New Hampshire, taking much of the timber that's
21 available from sawmills across this state, and not only
22 supplying this project, but supplying this product across
23 the country. So, these are second and third order effects
24 that, in many instances, aren't in the numbers that we
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1 The other challenge with, I guess, the
2 question is, if we were going to take that 200 million,
3 and redeploy it and underground it -- use it to
4 underground additional portions of line, where do you go
5 next? You know, that's a question we should ask
6 ourselves. Because, when we've listened to stakeholders
7 in New Hampshire, they have identified the area that we've
8 addressed.

9 And, it leads you to the question of,
10 you know, do you use that 200 million to deliver direct
11 New Hampshire benefits or do you, you know, pursue
12 underground construction for another 20 miles? That's
13 the -- we think we've struck the right balance, and that's
14 why we announced what we did.

15 THE MODERATOR: Okay. How does all the
16 work done east of the power substation, the purple line,
17 relate to Northern Pass?

18 MR. FORTIER: Those, again, are system
19 upgrades that are required as a result of the project
20 being connected, interconnected to the system. So, with
21 any project that ties to the system, there's a requirement
22 for the Independent System Operator in New England to
23 study the project, and any impacts that might occur as the
24 result of the project on the electric transmission system.
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1 shared earlier, but they are jobs, in an area of the state
2 that's very interested in job opportunities.

3 THE MODERATOR: Are you a for-profit
4 company?

5 MR. QUINLAN: Yes.

6 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Why not save the
7 200 million Fund for New Hampshire and bury another
8 25 miles, and then scrounge up another 800 million to bury
9 the rest of it? Isn't this also feasible?

10 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

11 MR. QUINLAN: So, as to the 200 million,
12 you know, as I said at the outset, you know, somewhere
13 between 20 and 40 additional miles of underground
14 construction, you know, probably closer to the 20, 20
15 miles, you know, as we've listened to the State of New
16 Hampshire, there's a very strong interest in balance here.
17 And, preserving those areas that have universally been
18 pointed to as being of scenic importance, I think we've
19 done that, but also delivering New Hampshire benefits.
20 That \$200 million is going to deliver direct New Hampshire
21 benefits that are terribly important to the state in the
22 communities hosting this line. We think that's an
23 appropriate balance. And, again, it's based on voices
24 we've heard from throughout New Hampshire.
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1 Those upgrades were identified. And, as Mr. Quinlan
2 pointed out, it's ten structures requiring about 5 feet in
3 height, an additional 5 feet in height.

4 THE MODERATOR: This might be a related
5 question. There are 67 new structures in the Deerfield
6 blue line, you mentioned that the structures are 5 feet
7 lower than originally estimated. In comparison to
8 existing structure heights, will the new structures be
9 higher and by how much? Also, are any of you residents of
10 any of the towns impacted by this project?

11 I'll go with the first one first. Will
12 the new structures be higher, and by how much?

13 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. I can answer that.
14 The existing structures --

15 THE MODERATOR: I think they're talking
16 about Deerfield.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. So, the existing
18 structures in Deerfield range from 43 to 93 feet, give or
19 take. The new structures, the most common structure that
20 will be installed will be 130 feet. So, there will be up
21 to a 45-foot difference in structure heights.

22 THE MODERATOR: Are any of you residents
23 of any of the towns impacted by this project?

24 MR. QUINLAN: No.
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1 MR. CLARKE: No.
 2 THE MODERATOR: I've been trying to find
 3 information on the proposed changes to the substations.
 4 How will they be modified? Are there any existing design
 5 plans? How much larger will they be? And, what new ones
 6 will there be and where?
 7 MR. FORTIER: Yes. Could you -- I
 8 didn't catch one part of that question.
 9 THE MODERATOR: All right. How will the
 10 substations be modified? Are there any existing design
 11 plans? How much larger will they be? And, maybe this is
 12 the one to start with, how many new ones will there be and
 13 where?
 14 MR. FORTIER: So, the substation will be
 15 modified to interconnect the new equipment, the new line
 16 that is being proposed, the AC line, as well as there's a
 17 line that passes currently by the station, we refer to it
 18 as the "391 line", that will require an interconnection
 19 into the station as well. And, those are going to happen
 20 within the existing substation fence.
 21 As I mentioned before, there is a small
 22 expansion just on -- adjacent to the station that will
 23 house some additional equipment, the static VAR
 24 compensator and also a capacitor bank. And, those will
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1 MR. MUNTZ: You know, we are actually in
 2 discussions with several contractors. In fact, the only
 3 contractors in the world that provide these converter
 4 stations are based in Europe. And, they bring their
 5 extensive experience from around the world with them to
 6 this design.
 7 THE MODERATOR: What assurance does
 8 Northern Pass have that Hydro-Quebec will always provide
 9 100 percent of power -- of the power expected? How will
 10 power outages in Quebec affect power delivery to Northern
 11 Pass?
 12 MR. MUNTZ: HQ has a long history of
 13 serving New England. And, there are -- there are times
 14 when they have weather situations or outages up there,
 15 they're very isolated. Their reliability and their track
 16 record is extraordinary over the years. They have also
 17 not committed to one station or two stations that they're
 18 going to provide this power from. They are basically
 19 taking from Hydro-Quebec's system, which is a
 20 40,000-megawatt capable system. So, you know, they've
 21 basically got a lot of redundancy and backup in their
 22 system to provide us the 1,000 megawatts.
 23 MR. QUINLAN: So, just to clarify or
 24 add, the flow of this power is not dependent on any one
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1 also interconnect into the station.
 2 THE MODERATOR: How far --
 3 MR. QUINLAN: And, as to the last
 4 question, there are no new substations.
 5 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
 6 MR. FORTIER: Thank you.
 7 THE MODERATOR: How far from lines does
 8 a home need to be in order to be completely safe from any
 9 effects of the power lines?
 10 MR. FORTIER: The existing right-of-way
 11 is designed for that purpose. The right-of-way is
 12 designed such that homes are far enough away from it so
 13 that we can construct and build and operate the line
 14 safely. And, our lines are designed in accordance with
 15 the National Electric Safety Code. So, you know, we
 16 always make sure that they are in compliance with that set
 17 of regulations.
 18 THE MODERATOR: I hear the concern about
 19 cost. What is your total expense for non -- let me see if
 20 somebody can help me with this one, and I'll get back to
 21 that one. Some of these are repetitive.
 22 Have you consulted with any European
 23 engineers for help with this, since they seem to use this
 24 method successfully for many years?
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1 generating station being in operation. So, they have a
 2 whole range of generating stations that feed into this
 3 line, basically. So, if any one of them is out of service
 4 for any reason, it doesn't impact the amount of power
 5 flowing to the U.S. over this line. And, then, the line
 6 itself, as Jim indicated, is very, very high reliability.
 7 There's rarely an outage on the transmission
 8 infrastructure.
 9 THE MODERATOR: How much specifically
 10 will there be a reduction in our energy bill? Ten?
 11 Twenty? Thirty? Forty percent? Or, is it 5 percent or
 12 less? Will these reductions be guaranteed by a certain
 13 timeframe.
 14 MR. QUINLAN: So, as to the second
 15 question first, we have -- we're not guaranteeing energy
 16 cost reductions. The numbers I shared with you, which are
 17 a \$900 million savings to businesses and residents across
 18 this state, are based on an expert analysis of future
 19 energy prices. So, it is their single best estimate as to
 20 what the savings will be. The savings may well be higher.
 21 In fact, in many instances, they have modeled this quite
 22 conservatively. So, however, we are not guaranteeing a
 23 number.
 24 Now, what does this mean to a business
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1 or a residential customer here in the State of New
2 Hampshire? It's going to vary. It's going to vary based
3 upon your customer. Are you a commercial customer, an
4 industrial customer, or a residential customer? Do you
5 take your service from Eversource or Unitil or Liberty?
6 So, there's a lot of variations on the estimated cost
7 savings.

8 On average, we estimate approximately a
9 5 percent reduction in energy costs for customers across
10 New Hampshire. But, again, that's an estimate at this
11 point. And, I will say, beyond --

12 THE MODERATOR: Sorry.

13 MR. QUINLAN: -- just pure cost savings,
14 the other thing that's been terribly important, and
15 highlighted for us by business and residential customers,
16 is price volatility. So, many of you have probably seen
17 swings in your energy prices, particularly in the winter.
18 And, one of the things that this project will do, in
19 addition to lowering energy costs, it will stabilize
20 energy costs for customers across New England and here in
21 New Hampshire.

22 THE MODERATOR: Okay. They helped me
23 with this question. I'm still not sure if I have it, but
24 I hear the concern about cost. What is your total
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1 construction of this project, whether you're an Eversource
2 customer or a Unitil customer or a Liberty customer, will
3 be borne by Eversource ratepayers. We intend to continue
4 to honor that commitment. And, we're not going to pursue
5 an approach where we ask our customers to pay a billion
6 dollars for this project.

7 THE MODERATOR: And, here's a softball.

8 MR. QUINLAN: Thank you.

9 THE MODERATOR: And, this is our last
10 one. The lines that will be buried, how deep will they
11 be?

12 MR. FORTIER: Go ahead.

13 MR. JOHNSON: Can I? Go ahead.

14 MR. FORTIER: The minimum depth of the
15 trench that we'll be digging is now four to four and a
16 half feet.

17 THE MODERATOR: Okay. So, that's all
18 the questions that I have. Some I didn't answer -- I
19 didn't ask, because they were repetitive. A couple were
20 really in the form of comments that I think people want to
21 make, and you're going to have that opportunity now. So,
22 we're going to turn to the third part of the program now,
23 the comment section.

24 *(End of the Question-and-Answer*
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1 expenses for non-design and construction consultants to
2 this process? And, I think, also for design and
3 construction consultants, I think for both?

4 MR. MUNTZ: Well, engineering costs and
5 project management costs are typically 10 percent of a
6 project of this nature.

7 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

8 MR. QUINLAN: And, the current project
9 cost estimate is \$1.4 billion. And, as I said at the
10 outset, we're in the midst of a reevaluation of that
11 figure.

12 THE MODERATOR: If the cost to bury the
13 remaining aboveground portion of the project is about
14 1 billion, and the reasonably expected life of the towers
15 and lines is perhaps 100 years, please explain why the
16 annual \$10 million cost over 100 years is too expensive
17 for Eversource ratepayers to absorb for the essentially
18 permanent taking of New Hampshire's critical visual
19 resource?

20 MR. QUINLAN: As I said at the outset,
21 one of things that we are -- we've committed to from the
22 beginning with this project is that customers here in New
23 Hampshire are not going to pay for the cost of this
24 project. So, none of the costs associated with
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1 *Session.)*

2 THE MODERATOR: Again, if you haven't
3 written your comment -- not the comment itself, you don't
4 have to write the comment, but you just need to write your
5 names down that you want to comment. I'm going to call
6 four or five names at a time. You can sit over there
7 while you wait your turn, so that it will be -- we don't
8 have to wait in between speakers.

9 So, we're going to start that
10 momentarily. We just need to switch out our court
11 reporters. We've worn Steve out. Thank you.

12 *(Public comment session provided under separate cover)*
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, *Steven. E. Patnaude*, a Licensed Court Reporter, 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.

Steven E. Patnaude, LCR
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N.H. LCR No. 00052
(RSA 310-A:173)

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

September 3, 2015 - 7:50 p.m.
Deerfield Fair Pavilion
34 Stage Road
Deerfield, New Hampshire

IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06
JOINT APPLICATION OF NORTHERN
PASS LLC AND PUBLIC SERVICE
COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a
EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW
HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION
LINE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE:
Public Information Session held
pursuant to RSA 162-H:10.

(Public Comment Session)

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

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

{SEC 2015-06} [Deerfield Public Comment Session] {09-03-15}

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1 **NOTED AS PRESENT:**

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

4 Thomas B. Getz, Esq.
5 (Devine Millimet)

6 **Also noted as present for**
7 **Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and**
8 **Eversource Energy Project Team:**

8 Bill Quinlan
9 Jim Muntz
10 Sam Johnson
11 Bob Clarke
12 Lee Carbonneau
13 Jerry Fortier

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1 [Public Comment Session opened at 7:50 p.m.]

2 THE MODERATOR: Okay. People
3 want to retake their seats? We're going to
4 start the third portion, the comments
5 section. If we can get people back now so we
6 can begin the comments section. Okay. Could
7 we quiet down so we can begin the comments
8 section, please.

9 Okay. The court reporter is
10 ready to go. Okay. Again, I'm going to call
11 four names at a time. You can come up and
12 take seats here. I've got my instructions
13 right here from the court reporter, who wrote
14 them down so I wouldn't forget to tell you
15 to, when you come up, please tell your names,
16 speak slowly if you're reading from a
17 statement, and if you have a statement
18 written out, would you just give a copy if
19 you can to the court reporter, and she will
20 make it part of the record as well. Okay.

21 So, as I told you, we're going
22 to begin with county residents. We have --
23 this is -- it's a three-minute limit. So we
24 have a timer here who will tell you when you

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1 completely invisible. The trees have grown
2 up, and it's actually a very pretty area, not
3 just where we live, but all the way up the
4 road.

5 When this line is put in, if
6 it is put in with towers, what I object to is
7 what we keep hearing tonight, what we heard
8 many times, is the reason it's done this way
9 is to save a billion dollars. But on the
10 other side of the equation is there's a
11 billion dollars, my guess, or more being
12 ripped from the state, from the people, from
13 the scenery, from property values, wetlands,
14 sensitive natural resources. And so that's
15 not a balance. That's not the kind of
16 balance I want to see. And I keep hearing
17 the word "balance." But frankly, I think
18 it's the wrong balance.

19 So I'm very strongly in favor
20 of full burial, and I hope that Northern Pass
21 and Eversource will take a good, hard look at
22 that and do it. Thank you.

23 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr.
24 Burglund. Meredith Brigg [sic].

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1 have 60 seconds left, 30 seconds left, and
2 then the hook comes at the end of three
3 minutes. So we're going to begin, as I said,
4 with county people.

5 So, Erick Burkland, Meredith
6 Brigg [sic], Diane Hull, Kathy Sheido [sic].
7 Yes. Okay. So would you all come on up.
8 Erick's going to go first. Come up and sit
9 in these seats here so we can transition
10 right to the next speaker.

11 MR. BURGLUND: Thank you.
12 Everybody hear me? I've been a resident
13 of -- my wife and I have been --

14 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Burglund,
15 would you state your name and spell your last
16 name.

17 MR. BURGLUND: Oh, okay. The
18 name is Erick Burglund, B-U-R-G-L-U-N-D,
19 Deerfield, New Hampshire.

20 Our family has been here for
21 45 years. We live on Nottingham Road, which,
22 if you look to the right, to the south, the
23 Northern Pass line right-of-way goes right
24 over there. And it really today is almost

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1 MS. BRIGG: My name is
2 Meredith Briggs, B-R-I-G-G-S. I just live up
3 the road apiece.

4 I just want to -- I am in
5 favor of the Northern Pass, and I believe
6 that if we all work together and work with
7 the idea that we're going to cooperate with
8 each other, that we can bring this to
9 fruition. Maybe not everybody will be
10 100 percent happy, but we will come to a
11 consensus where we can all live with it.

12 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
13 Diane Hull.

14 MS. HULL: Hi, I'm Diane Hull,
15 Deerfield resident. I came here tonight -- I
16 apologize. H-U-L-L.

17 I came here tonight with an
18 open mind. I didn't know a lot about the
19 Northern Pass. I did a little bit of
20 reading, not enough to say I'm an informed
21 citizen. But that's the reason for being
22 here. The problem that -- I'm leaving here
23 tonight, though, now being opposed to
24 Northern Pass. And I know that wasn't your

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1 objective for being here. Couple of the
 2 reasons is I keep hearing that it's a
 3 cost-benefit analysis for not burying the
 4 lines and that we haven't been specific
 5 enough about identifying what lines, what
 6 miles we believe should be buried, and if we
 7 would just tell you which lines we want to be
 8 buried, then maybe you'd consider it. The
 9 problem that I'm having is you're saying this
 10 isn't going to be a cost born by New
 11 Hampshire people paying for the utilities,
 12 that you as a company are bearing it. Well,
 13 if that's the case, as somebody pointed out
 14 in one of the questions, it's basically
 15 \$10 million a year over the projected life of
 16 this project that it would cost you to
 17 actually bury all the lines without us having
 18 to identify it. You're better equipped for
 19 doing that. But basically, it's just a
 20 cost-benefit thing. We'll never get back the
 21 view that's taken away. We'll never get back
 22 some of this impact. You're talking about
 23 towers that are going to be there for a
 24 hundred years. Is that really not worth

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1 putting a little bit more money behind it to
 2 protect what we all came here to live for?
 3 And the second point, or maybe
 4 it's the third point that I have at this
 5 point, is that you explained that this is an
 6 environmental project. Well, the question
 7 that I have is: What environmental groups
 8 have endorsed the Project? From what I've
 9 read and what I've been able to glean in the
 10 past few days, there's absolutely no
 11 environmental organization that is in support
 12 of this project. If it's such good deal,
 13 then why isn't the Sierra Club, why isn't the
 14 Appalachian Club, why aren't the multitude of
 15 environmental groups that are out there
 16 behind you? I don't think we're getting the
 17 entire story. I appreciate the jobs. I
 18 appreciate the taxes. But one of the reasons
 19 we moved up here a few years ago is because
 20 this state is beautiful. And to save you, a
 21 for-profit corporation, a few million dollars
 22 over the course of a project that's going to
 23 exist for a hundred years, it doesn't seem
 24 like a good benefit to us, when basically a

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1 5-percent savings on my utility bill equates
 2 to about \$3 a month. That's not a good deal
 3 for me. Thank you.
 4 THE MODERATOR: Before Ms.
 5 Sheido begins to speak, we have -- is it
 6 Claude Levesque, North Road?
 7 MR. LEVESQUE: Yeah.
 8 THE MODERATOR: Okay. And
 9 Andrew Robertson, Tyler Eaton and Harriet
 10 Cady, would you come on up.
 11 Okay. Go ahead.
 12 MS. SHIGO: My name is Kathy
 13 Shigo, S-H-I-G-O, and I live at 16 Cate Road
 14 in Deerfield. And I live right across from
 15 the trans substation, and so I know what's
 16 going on. And I'm really concerned. I have
 17 to say that in all honesty. And there's a --
 18 I shouldn't say this. You don't have to
 19 write it down. But there's a famous bible
 20 verse that says --
 21 (Court Reporter interrupts.)
 22 THE MODERATOR: Slow down.
 23 Wait.
 24 MS. SHIGO: "What does it

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1 profit a man if he gains the whole world and
 2 loses his soul?" But my point is what does
 3 it -- with Deerfield, what does it profit if
 4 it has gained a small amount of benefits and
 5 not get what we want out of Deerfield? After
 6 43 years of the beauty and the -- you know,
 7 with the high towers, you're going to lose
 8 it. You're going to lose that view impact,
 9 the historic end of it. You're going to lose
 10 the -- even our house system, with the
 11 increased megawatts going through there and
 12 everything like that, we can have increased
 13 cancers. And right now, nobody's even talked
 14 about it, but, you know, Cate Road -- and
 15 it's not street, it's road -- is a scenic
 16 road, which means you got all this traffic
 17 that you're going to be putting in there with
 18 the new building. And you're going to say
 19 it's a small building. It's going to be
 20 pretty big to compact everything. Plus,
 21 those purple things going down. There's
 22 going to be a lot of impact on Nottingham
 23 Road, which is a beautiful road that goes
 24 right up into Nottingham and then on Cate

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1 Road. It's scenic. Lots of traffic. And
 2 these are things that I think aren't what we
 3 want in Deerfield. I mean, this is going to
 4 change drastically. And we've got to
 5 remember this is our town, and we have a
 6 right to say we don't want it changed so
 7 drastically over a few, not guaranteed
 8 benefits. Two hundred million dollars worth
 9 of benefits you're talking about, Mr.
 10 Quinlan. However, that's on the whole 182-
 11 road -- you know, mile road of towers. And
 12 Deerfield may just get a little miniscule of
 13 that. You know what I'm saying? We don't
 14 know what we're going to get guaranteed here.

15 I know right now that there's
 16 helicopters flying over my property. And I
 17 mean this seriously. Today they --

18 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

19 THE MODERATOR: All right, all
 20 right. Ma'am, just a second.

21 MS. SHIGO: Slow down. Okay.

22 THE MODERATOR: Yeah, just
 23 slow down.

24 MS. SHIGO: But I don't want

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1 Levesque.

2 MR. LEVESQUE: My name's
 3 Claude Levesque, L-E-V-E-S-Q-U-E. Been a
 4 Deerfield resident for 12 years, Rockingham
 5 for 45 years. My first job was working on
 6 the 345s. The first 345,000-volt lines that
 7 were built in New Hampshire is where I
 8 started in this line of business. Now, since
 9 started working all that stuff, I've always
 10 been in favor of hydro. As a kid, I was
 11 brought up in northern Maine. There was a
 12 project that they were talking about; it was
 13 hydro flooding the Allagash. That was turned
 14 down. It was always in the back of my mind.
 15 It's a clean energy. Now, with the way
 16 things are right now with shutting down of
 17 the nuclear plants, the fossil fuel plants,
 18 and even the ones, the fossil fuel plants
 19 that they're operating, it's still not a
 20 hundred percent clean. And myself, with the
 21 hydro being that clean, I'm all for it.

22 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

23 THE MODERATOR: Excuse me,
 24 sir.

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1 to forget what I have to say.

2 THE MODERATOR: I know, but
 3 the court reporter, she's got to take down
 4 everything you say.

5 MS. SHIGO: Okay. But I
 6 really want to say there were people cutting
 7 more trees that were just cleared not even a
 8 month ago. And these things are really
 9 happening now, not to mention all the going
 10 and coming with truck traffic. These are
 11 just the small things. But, you know, this
 12 is going to get bigger and bigger, and we are
 13 not going to have any control of that.

14 So we just want to say, please
 15 think about burying these lines, No. 1. And
 16 No. 2, I think it's really important that you
 17 really do contact our historic, our heritage,
 18 anything that might change our beautiful
 19 rural area. And, you know, I know what's
 20 going to happen. We're going to have a lot
 21 of traffic, too. And I think that's another
 22 problem. So, thank you very much. Thank you
 23 for listening.

24 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Mr.

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1 MR. LEVESQUE: As far as going
 2 above ground versus underground, above-ground
 3 lines can be repaired a lot quicker.
 4 Underground, it takes a lot longer; so now
 5 there would be a bigger interruption in the
 6 electricity.

7 And as far as this being
 8 guaranteed 10 percent of the power, probably
 9 you say, well, who cares, you know, the rest
 10 is going to go out of the state in New
 11 England. If there's a big blackout in New
 12 York City, probably we will be guaranteed not
 13 to keep our 10 percent, because if there is a
 14 big blackout in New York City or Boston, it's
 15 going to affect us. So I'm in favor of
 16 keeping it overhead for cheaper and quicker
 17 and cheaper maintenance. Thank you.

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
 19 Andrew Robertson.

20 MR. ROBERTSON: Andrew
 21 Robertson, R-O-B-E-R-T-S-O-N. And I'm
 22 speaking tonight as a Deerfield selectman.

23 In March of 2013, Warrant
 24 Article 18 on the Deerfield warrant that year

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1 was passed by the town, and it was in direct
2 opposition to overhead transmission lines for
3 this project in Deerfield. The Deerfield
4 Selectmen have adopted the language of that
5 warrant article as the official position of
6 the town with regard to that, and I would
7 like to read for the record the language of
8 the warrant article. I forgot my glasses, so
9 I'm going to do my best here.

10 Be it known that the Town of
11 Deerfield, on March 12th of 2013, did vote to
12 state its opposition to the Northern Pass
13 Transmission Project as currently proposed,
14 which, as currently proposed, will cause the
15 significant expansion of existing power line
16 right-of-ways, the installation of steel
17 towers with heights up to 135 feet, well
18 above the tree height, resulting in a further
19 impairment of Deerfield's rural, small-town
20 character and the further degradation of
21 Deerfield's scenic vistas and natural scenic
22 beauty; the development of the town in a
23 manner inconsistent with the Deerfield Master
24 Plan; the diminishment of value of private

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1 good-paying jobs to the community, the
2 communities it runs through, but it will also
3 support many businesses in the community.
4 And we've had actual data on that in the
5 different states that we've worked in, that
6 the owners of businesses, anywhere from, you
7 know, people that sell tools, people that
8 sell gravel, people that have laundry mats,
9 benefit deeply from projects like this. And
10 this is a good, clean energy project. And
11 me, as an electrical lineman and a member of
12 the IBEW, there have been many projects that
13 people have approached us with and we did not
14 believe in them and we stayed away from. We
15 believe in this project. We have from day
16 one. The changes that have been made by
17 Eversource and Hydro-Quebec I believe will
18 benefit the state of New Hampshire. And we
19 need to get this thing going and not be
20 another 10, 20 years, before we miss the
21 boat. Thank you.

22 THE MODERATOR: Let me just --
23 Susan Seitz, James Page, Kevin Longchamps
24 [sic] and Mike Collins.

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1 property and assets for residents in
2 proximity to the towers, and corresponding
3 loss of property tax revenue for the town;
4 and a strong possibility of negative health
5 impacts. This, as I mentioned, was Petition
6 Warrant Article 18 and voted on March 12th,
7 2013. The vote results were in favor, 796;
8 against, 443.

9 THE MODERATOR: Tyler Eaton.

10 MR. EATON: Hi, my name's
11 Tyler Eaton, E-A-T-O-N. I'm a lifelong
12 resident of New Hampshire. I grew up in
13 Raymond and live in Nottingham now. I'm
14 100 percent in favor of this project, not
15 only due to the people I work with, this is
16 what we do for a living, but also because
17 it's clean energy. We need it, as Claude
18 said earlier, you know, with everybody
19 wanting, you know, any type of plant closed
20 down, any type of alternative energy being
21 turned away in the state of New Hampshire,
22 such as wind power. We need this. Not only
23 New Hampshire, but the region needs it. We
24 believe that this project will not only bring

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1 MS. CADY: My name is Harriet
2 Cady, C-A-D-Y. I have lived in New Hampshire
3 since 1958. I've lived in Deerfield since
4 1984, and I've been very involved in
5 politics.

6 So I'd like to tell you that
7 the petition just presented by Selectman
8 Robertson was basically overturned at last
9 year's meeting when they were asking for
10 money to support Northern Pass, and over 1100
11 voters voted against giving any money to
12 fight Northern Pass. So if they really were
13 against it, wouldn't they have funded the
14 money to fight it?

15 I would like to also state
16 that the town's total value, Deerfield,
17 around \$550 million, divided by a 1,000,
18 leaves us with \$550,000. One dollar spent at
19 the town meeting or the school meeting, that
20 \$550,000 figures into what your tax rate
21 becomes. So the tax rate in Deerfield
22 averages around \$24 a thousand. If in fact
23 we get Northern Pass, it's a projection that
24 Deerfield will gain anywheres from \$750,000

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1 to \$100 million. So, divide 550 in that, and
 2 you're taking quite a bit off the tax rate.
 3 If you in fact have a house for \$200,000, you
 4 probably will lose about \$400 of your tax
 5 bill.

6 The thing just kills me. My
 7 grandfather came from Ireland in 1848. He
 8 opened a mill on a river in Vermont. The New
 9 England states were the pride of the United
 10 States in their ability to manufacture. And
 11 their ability to manufacture depended upon
 12 the hydro power. That is an important thing
 13 to think about, clean hydro power. I grew up
 14 with a dam built by the CCC. Made a lake.
 15 We enjoyed it. I don't know how to say it
 16 all in three minutes, but I can tell you
 17 Northern Pass will not only benefit
 18 Deerfield, but will benefit the other towns.

19 And then I want to give you
 20 one more thought. I worked for the State of
 21 New Hampshire as an appraiser of
 22 right-of-way. If you bury anything along the
 23 roadway, it gets dug up when they expand that
 24 road. And guess who pays for it? We, the

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1 MR. PAGE: Yes, I'm a resident
 2 of Deerfield.

3 THE MODERATOR: Sir, what is
 4 your -- would you say your name and spell
 5 your last name.

6 MR. PAGE: P-A-G-E. I'm a
 7 resident of Deerfield.

8 Basically, you'll affect my
 9 property here. You'll also be crossing the
 10 driveway on property that I have in eastern
 11 New Hampshire.

12 I go into things with an open
 13 mind. I like to look at the panel that's
 14 here tonight and like to think that there's a
 15 tone of voracity in what they presented to
 16 us. A person who expects to hear the good,
 17 the bad, the ugly, as they say, I'm open to
 18 most things. But I look over here, and
 19 there's a large group of gentlemen here that
 20 all want to be employed on the Project.

21 I came to Deerfield here to a
 22 meeting a year ago, and I questioned how many
 23 people are going to get construction jobs. I
 24 notice this year, all of a sudden it's gone

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1 ratepayers. Thank you.

2 MS. SEITZ: My name's Susan
 3 Seitz, S-E-I-T-Z. Before coming here
 4 tonight, I spent some time online reading an
 5 article about this project. The thing that
 6 stands out the most in my mind -- I read the
 7 recent articles, not the old stuff; I've
 8 already read that -- is the statement from
 9 Eversource that the lines in Deerfield do not
 10 need to be buried because we're not opposed
 11 to this project. As a town, we voted against
 12 it. Our selectmen have voted against it.
 13 Tonight we've been told that you'll bury the
 14 project to protect most important scenic
 15 views in New Hampshire. As a resident of
 16 Deerfield, I'm very disappointed that you've
 17 come to my town tonight and told me that my
 18 town does not matter to you. It matters to
 19 us. We live here. We care. None of you
 20 live along this project. None of you have
 21 the impact that we have of this project. And
 22 I'm very disappointed in your opinions
 23 tonight.

24 THE MODERATOR: James Page.

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1 from 1250 to 2400. Where are the numbers?
 2 Where are the numbers, very detailed, that
 3 support that? I'd like to look at everybody
 4 in this room and say, how many have built at
 5 least a 345 kV line in their lifetime,
 6 including the board members? Raise your
 7 hand.

8 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Page, you
 9 just need to keep talking into the
 10 microphone, okay.

11 MR. PAGE: But I don't see the
 12 numbers there. I've put some big power lines
 13 in numerous corners of the United States, and
 14 I'd be hard pressed to say there's 350 jobs.
 15 You're right on target, probably 8 miles a
 16 month over the life of the job. Most of the
 17 jobs are short duration. You're not going to
 18 go in there, you're not going to be employed
 19 from day one to day end. So where are the
 20 real benefits? Where is the employment? I
 21 understand all the background things. But in
 22 my lifetime I've pushed power lines through a
 23 lot more hostile places than where you're
 24 going, and I'd be hard pressed to say on a

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1 similar 345 job that more than 200 people
2 were employed. I leave it to you people. I
3 have other issues with environmental and
4 that. But I've been here many times. I keep
5 an open mind. But I look to these guys over
6 here. I'm not a union member, not now. And
7 I just say there's something wrong with the
8 picture. I want people to come to me and say
9 the straight story. You can have all the
10 experts you want.

11 THE MODERATOR: Kevin
12 Longchamps [sic].

13 MR. LONGCHAMPS: Kevin
14 Deslongchamps, D-E-S-L-O-N-G-C-H-A-M-P-S.

15 I'd like to start out by
16 saying I am a Candia resident. I've been
17 living there for 54 years. I have family
18 roots in Deerfield. I have family roots in
19 Raymond. I was employed by the Candia Fire
20 Department for 15 years, and I have a huge
21 passion on life safety and well-being of
22 humans. And also, I am a contractor for
23 Eversource. We take care of their
24 transmission system. We have a crew of 15

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1 you.

2 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
3 Jason Bentley, Diana Young, Jeanne Menard and
4 Kate Hartnett come on up.

5 Mr. Collins.

6 MR. COLLINS: Good evening.
7 My name is Mike Collins. I grew up in
8 Deerfield.

9 THE MODERATOR: That's
10 C-O-L-L-I-N-S; right?

11 MR. COLLINS: That's right.
12 Sorry.

13 I grew up in Deerfield my
14 whole life. My parents still live in
15 Deerfield. I'm a member of Local 104 IBEW.
16 I'm a lineman. I work on power lines, work
17 away from home a lot. This is a good
18 opportunity for everybody in this industry
19 and younger generations to get into this
20 industry. This is a very good career. And
21 it can start here. This is a big job. It's
22 going to last a while. And I mean, my kids
23 are young. They probably won't benefit from
24 a job here. But maybe a lot of your kids

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1 people. We are at your need night or day to
2 take care of your transmission systems. I've
3 been working on them for 34 years. I know
4 what your systems look like. Some of the
5 systems were built in the '40s and they're
6 still operating and they're in good shape.

7 I am in favor of this Northern
8 Pass because, people, we need this
9 electricity. Some of us might not see it
10 right now, but we need this. But a few years
11 from now, our kids, our grandchildren are
12 going to need this power. We have a great
13 opportunity here right now to get this from
14 Canada and at a reasonable price. If we
15 wait, it's going to cost more, and we're not
16 going to have the opportunity to get it where
17 we're getting it. If we have to build
18 something later, it's going to cost us a lot
19 more money to build our own hydro somewhere.
20 I can't stress the point enough. I wish
21 people would just look outside the box and
22 think about our future. Maybe not right now,
23 but think about our future. We don't want to
24 be in New York City with blackouts. Thank

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1 might. I don't know how to stress enough of
2 the way I look at things. It's a clean
3 energy. That's what we're all looking for.
4 I know you guys heard it all night. I'm not
5 going to beat a dead horse. But this is what
6 the whole country is going towards, clean
7 energy. That's what we talk about. It's all
8 over the place. I just think it's a good
9 thing for everyone, and on top of the
10 benefits that Deerfield will have, as far as
11 taxes and the stuff that they've already
12 talked about. I know my parents would like
13 lower taxes. Maybe you guys would like lower
14 taxes. I would like lower taxes, you know.
15 And I think if we work together, you can
16 achieve -- everyone can achieve their goals I
17 guess. So, thank you.

18 MR. BENTLEY: Jason Bentley,
19 Newmarket, B-E-N-T-L-E-Y.

20 I support clean energy, local
21 jobs, lower electrical rates, lower taxes,
22 and that's why I support the Northern Pass.
23 Thank you.

24 MS. MENARD: Good evening. I

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1 think we should --

2 THE MODERATOR: What is your
3 name, please?

4 MS. MENARD: Excuse me.
5 Jeannie M-E-N-A-R-D.

6 I'm going to put my prepared
7 comments aside because I want to correct what
8 I feel to be a very gross misrepresentation
9 of voter action taken in Deerfield.

10 As Select Member Robertson did
11 state and present to you voter language that
12 was approved with regards to overhead
13 transmission line projects in Deerfield, last
14 year's warrant article was on a totally
15 separate topic. It was an effort for the
16 residents of Deerfield to consider to raise
17 money to be represented legally in the SEC
18 process. Eversource has thousands of dollars
19 available, as evidenced here in this room of
20 experts that are coming forward and making a
21 great presentation of their project. I
22 respect that. A town like Deerfield, we felt
23 that it was important for us to consider also
24 having the ability to make sure, to ensure

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1 that our voices were heard. The Deerfield
2 residents did not approve the raising of
3 monies for an SEC process. That is a
4 different concept and does not in any way
5 negate or change or alter the vote that was
6 taken, as read to you by Selectman Robertson.

7 What I had hoped to convey
8 this evening, and I'll shorten it, is that,
9 as a local real estate broker in Deerfield, a
10 common view of historic resources would be an
11 old building with a historic placard on the
12 front. My feeling is that Deerfield has
13 several historic resources that are going to
14 be threatened by the current Northern Pass
15 Project. That encompasses not just a
16 building, but an area. Church Street in
17 Deerfield. Thank you, Eversource. Thank
18 you, Northern Pass, for streamlining from a
19 lattice tower to a monopole. Thank you for
20 considering reducing the height of the poles
21 in our center so that we look down our very
22 modest Deerfield historic center. It's
23 beautiful because it's simple. It has a
24 couple churches. It has a historic town

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1 hall. It's flanked by antique residences.
2 This is a modest scale of what Deerfield
3 offers us.

4 Nottingham Road was mentioned
5 earlier. Deerfield Parade, my mother's real
6 estate company was named after this area,
7 Parade Properties. Deerfield Parade is a
8 drive that is --

9 THE MODERATOR: No, no, no,
10 Officer. It's okay. I was kidding about the
11 hook, Officer.

12 [Audience laughter]

13 THE MODERATOR: I didn't mean
14 it literally.

15 MS. MENARD: He just wants to
16 sell advance tickets to the Deerfield Fair.
17 Is that why you're here?

18 So we thank you for allowing
19 me to continue. I appreciate that.

20 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Well,
21 we do have to wrap it up.

22 MS. MENARD: Yes, yes, yes.
23 The drive to Nottingham Road,
24 to Deerfield Parade, an area that I consider

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1 a very significant historic resource in town,
2 is serene and common for people that drive it
3 every day to and from work. Towers along
4 this route completely negate that. The
5 height of the towers above our vegetated tree
6 line is changing and threatens our historic
7 resources. There are other examples. Please
8 keep up the work to reduce the tower height.
9 Please consider burial. Consider burial.
10 You said at last night's meeting you weren't
11 hearing that. We're saying that. Make it
12 work. Thank you.

13 THE MODERATOR: Could we have
14 Kate Hartnett --

15 MS. HARTNETT: Yes, you can.

16 THE MODERATOR: Just one
17 second. Kate Hartnett, Sean Matthews, Daniel
18 Glidden and Suzanne Steele. Ms. Young.

19 MS. HARTNETT: Hi, my name's
20 Kate Hartnett, H-A-R-T-N-E-T --

21 THE MODERATOR: Oh, wait. I'm
22 sorry. Oh, here it is. Okay. Go ahead.
23 Sorry.

24 MS. HARTNETT: No problem.

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1 I'm not going to comment on
 2 the merits of the Project. I would like to
 3 comment on the process, which is what I'm
 4 going to read now. The topic is "Reaching
 5 Out and Listening." I write as a long-term
 6 Deerfield resident, planning board and
 7 conservation commission member. I've
 8 attended previous Northern Pass-related
 9 meetings, including: January 2011, a meeting
 10 with the Deerfield Select Board, no other
 11 boards or commission or public were invited;
 12 the 5th of April 2011, the Deerfield
 13 Neighbors meeting at DCS; October 8, 2013, an
 14 open house at the American Legion Hall; and
 15 June 5th, 2015, a local informational meeting
 16 by Preservation people to explain the
 17 Section 106 process.

18 "Reaching Out and Listening,"
 19 I have heard that comment a lot. As Vice
 20 Chair of the Deerfield Planning Board, what
 21 happens to the town, regardless of the route,
 22 at a minimum the terminus of this proposed
 23 line would be, I cannot recall any contact
 24 from any Northern Pass representative

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1 Member Rebecca Hutchinson requested the
 2 option for more open forum meetings with
 3 communities. She was assured there would be
 4 many more opportunities for such meetings in
 5 the future. To date, two years later, none
 6 have happened.

7 Reaching out and listening. I
 8 happen to live on a Class VI road bisected by
 9 an existing Eversource transmission line,
 10 which is the route for the proposed project.
 11 I share the expense of road maintenance with
 12 Jo Anne Bradbury, who owns the land the line
 13 crosses. She once has received a written
 14 explanation of field research by DOE
 15 contractors working on the EIS. But that was
 16 given to us by hand when we questioned what
 17 they were doing on her land at 8:00 in the
 18 morning. That was on May 20th, 2013.

19 Another occasion, she
 20 encountered a group of people who had already
 21 dug test pits on her land without notice or
 22 her permission. It wasn't until last year,
 23 in October, she received a generic letter
 24 identifying any contact person at Northern

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1 regarding the Northern Pass process or what
 2 it might mean to the planning board process
 3 for site plan review or any other local
 4 regulatory consideration.

5 Reaching Out and Listening.
 6 I've been an active member of the
 7 conservation commission for almost 30 years,
 8 and I'm very familiar with the nature of land
 9 preservation, including a five-year,
 10 \$50 million LCIP program which ran from '87
 11 to '92. Out of the blue, in the spring of
 12 2015, DCC received a one-page environmental
 13 mitigation/community opportunities memo with
 14 no selection criteria. Given the mostly
 15 volunteer nature of the government here, a
 16 three-week turnaround to provide a list of
 17 projects with a firm scope of work beginning
 18 the 1st of June this year was laughable at
 19 best and insulting at worst. A copy of the
 20 memo that was the volunteers' reply to the
 21 BOS is on the back on the memo.

22 Reaching Out and Listening. I
 23 was present almost two years ago, in the
 24 October 2013 meeting, when Select Board

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1 Pass.

2 I first learned about Northern
 3 Pass in 2010. I did not know any details.
 4 In February of 2011, after a select board
 5 meeting, I wrote in the local online forum,
 6 quote, I do not yet know enough to have
 7 formed an opinion about this project. I am
 8 very interested in learning more and as yet
 9 have not found the opportunity to do so in
 10 any detail, close quote. Over the last four
 11 and a half years, almost all of what I've
 12 learned has come from sources other than
 13 Northern Pass, which has excelled at
 14 marketing, maybe excelled at PR, but
 15 certainly not excelled in "reaching out and
 16 listening." Thank you for your time and your
 17 consideration of my experience.

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
 19 MR. MATTHEWS: Sean Matthews,
 20 M-A-T-T-H-E-W-S.
 21 THE MODERATOR: Sean, your
 22 first name also?
 23 MR. MATTHEWS: S-E-A-N. I am
 24 a member of IBEW Local 104.

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1 I moved up here four years ago
 2 from Massachusetts. I'm what they call a
 3 "carpet bagger." I am in favor of the
 4 Northern Pass. I have been educated in this
 5 trade through an apprenticeship, and I
 6 believe in the system. I believe in jobs for
 7 this area. I believe in educating future
 8 generations for this type of work. I have
 9 worked in different power generations, from
 10 wind to coal to biomass. I would like to
 11 work with the hydroelectric generation. This
 12 is education for me and all the future
 13 tradesmen for this country. The trades are
 14 dying. We need all the education we can get.
 15 We need more men and women to learn these
 16 trades, to keep the infrastructure of America
 17 thriving because our children have to live
 18 here. And I have children, and I want them
 19 to live in a great place. And I support
 20 clean energy and I support jobs. And that's
 21 it. Thank you.

22 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

23 MR. GLIDDEN: Hi, my name's
 24 Daniel Glidden, G-L-I-D-D-E-N. I'm a

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1 the overall higher voltage throughout our
 2 state. In Europe, the standards are much
 3 stricter, and I really think we need to take
 4 a closer look at this.

5 The visual impact. Most of
 6 the focus has been in the North Country and
 7 the negative impact on this project. In
 8 fact, when the governor was running, I wrote
 9 a question in to her, and I mentioned
 10 Deerfield, and it was totally ignored.
 11 You've made changes for the underground up
 12 there. But as it's been said, the cost
 13 associated with underground and burying the
 14 lines is the driving force, and our area does
 15 not seem to have the importance to do that in
 16 this part of this project. And the increase
 17 of the towers of 45 feet is significant, as
 18 Jeannie mentioned earlier. I live off of
 19 Nottingham Road. I drive that road every
 20 day, at least twice a day. So it would
 21 definitely impact the visual experience that
 22 I have in this town.

23 The jobs. While there may be
 24 jobs created during this project, I really

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1 lifelong resident of Raymond, New Hampshire.
 2 My son's a fourth generation, growing up on
 3 the farm here. So I understand how a lot of
 4 you are concerned about your properties.

5 I think the big thing here is
 6 moving forward to go "green and clean" for
 7 the environment, for our children. I think
 8 it's a big step towards that. I think it's a
 9 great opportunity. I think it would be a
 10 shame if we missed that. I think that pretty
 11 much overrules any other concerns that we
 12 have. I support the Northern Pass for that
 13 reason. Thank you.

14 MS. STEELE: Suzanne Steele,
 15 S-T-E-E-L-E. I've lived in Deerfield for 22
 16 years and in New Hampshire for 40.

17 I realize that you all believe
 18 that this is a beneficial project for New
 19 Hampshire and New England; however, I'm not
 20 in favor of this project for a number of
 21 reasons. The first is health concerns. It
 22 seems like that is not something that a lot
 23 of people are focused on. I am concerned
 24 with the AC power going through our town and

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1 question the true, specific number of jobs
 2 that will be created long-term from this
 3 project. The percentage of benefit of
 4 reduction of energy costs, while it's said
 5 there will be a reduction, as you mentioned,
 6 I am concerned there will be really not a
 7 huge benefit. As you specified up there, Mr.
 8 Quinlan, the estimate of a potential
 9 5 percent, for me, that's not worth it.
 10 While we may not be paying for this project
 11 by our wallets, we will be paying for the
 12 rest of our lives with the overall impact for
 13 the things that I discussed. Thank you for
 14 your time.

15 THE MODERATOR: Cathy Laforge,
 16 Laurie Gillian [sic], Rebecca Hutchinson.
 17 Did Diana Young speak already? I think I
 18 called her name, but I don't think she spoke.

19 (No verbal response)

20 THE MODERATOR: All right.
 21 Cathy Laforge.

22 MS. LAFORGE: Cathy Laforge.
 23 I live in Deerfield. L-A-F-O-R-G-E.
 24 First thing I want to say is I

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1 was disappointed with the question-and-answer
 2 session here. I felt like, without having
 3 interaction, us being able to ask questions
 4 and get answers, that we weren't able to get
 5 our answers thoroughly -- or our questions
 6 thoroughly answered. So that was
 7 disappointing to me as a resident.

8 I also want to say I'm a
 9 Deerfield resident, and I'm saying loud and
 10 clear: Bury the lines.

11 [Audience applause]

12 Five-percent savings for
 13 ratepayers, I feel like that's laughable in
 14 the face of the profit that Eversource and
 15 Northern Pass will make. That's a few
 16 dollars a month. It's -- I find that
 17 laughable.

18 The other question I had is
 19 all the union workers are coming up and
 20 speaking tonight. I respect them. Does
 21 burying the lines exclude union workers?
 22 Thank you.

23 MS. GULLION: My name is
 24 Laurie Gullion, G-U-L-L-I-O-N, and I'm a

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1 traveled extensively in northern Canada.
 2 I've seen reservoirs that Hydro-Quebec has
 3 built that are larger than all the New
 4 England states. I've been to their power
 5 projects, seen the way that they've rerouted
 6 rivers. I completely object to the statement
 7 that one gentleman made about the fact that
 8 there are very few people living in the area.
 9 We're talking about First Nation's
 10 communities who have thousands of years of
 11 family history on this land, and we're
 12 talking about environmental consequences
 13 there, particularly with large-scale
 14 forest -- large-scale deforestation that goes
 15 along with the creation of those reservoirs
 16 that raises big questions about province(?)
 17 sequestration. So I think that calling this
 18 a "clean" project is a very dangerous thing
 19 to do, and I would appreciate it if the
 20 Company would not use that terminology in
 21 their public relations campaigns, and really
 22 get to some of the heart of the issues more
 23 strongly than you currently are.

24 Ultimately, I think that

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1 resident of Deerfield. One of the things
 2 that I want to say at the start is that I am
 3 a proponent of hydro power for select
 4 projects that have been well done. But in
 5 this case, at this particular time, I am not
 6 in favor of the Northern Pass Project. The
 7 process bothers me on several levels. I
 8 agree that I think it would have been more
 9 effective to have an opportunity to answer --
 10 to ask more penetrating questions to get
 11 follow-up to some of the answers that the
 12 group delivered this evening.

13 But the other part of the
 14 process that concerns me is that I really
 15 don't think that there's any such thing as
 16 "clean and green power." It's a fallacy. I
 17 think that every power generation project has
 18 benefits and it has costs. Some projects are
 19 better than others and some projects are
 20 cleaner than others.

21 In this particular situation,
 22 I particularly object to the fact that we
 23 don't think about the nature of the contract
 24 relationship with Hydro-Quebec. I've

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1 there's some benefits to this project.
 2 Certainly if the line were buried in
 3 Greenfield, that would be a really good thing
 4 for the reasons that have already been stated
 5 here this evening. But I think that there
 6 needs to be much more thought given to the
 7 process and to the way you characterize the
 8 Project, or it will continue to completely
 9 irritate me.

10 THE MODERATOR: Rebecca
 11 Hutchinson. And could we have Fred Gary
 12 Susan Arnold and Eric Stevens.

13 MS. HUTCHINSON: Rebecca
 14 Hutchinson, H-U-T-C-H-I-N-S-O-N. I just
 15 arrived about 15 minutes ago, so I can't
 16 respond to anything that's happened before.
 17 I am a selectwoman, and I'm also an abutter
 18 to the Project. And I believe Selectman
 19 Robertson did report earlier, or he was going
 20 to, the results of the warrant article which
 21 overwhelmingly opposed Northern Pass in
 22 Deerfield. And my simple request is: Bury
 23 the lines. I know you can afford it. If you
 24 didn't bring so many people to these things,

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1 you'd have a lot more money to spend on
2 burying the lines.

3 THE MODERATOR: Mr. McGarry.

4 MR. MCGARRY: Fred McGarry,
5 M-C-G-A-R-R-Y, and I've been a resident of
6 Deerfield for 42 years.

7 I've heard -- well, first off,
8 I share the same concern with regard to the
9 question-and-answer period that occurred
10 previously. Many of the questions that you
11 read had multi facets to it, and seemingly
12 many of those subquestions were never
13 answered. One or two of them may have been,
14 but the rest of them were not. So,
15 unfortunately, preferably it would have been
16 more better to take and read each one of
17 those subquestions individually so that we
18 could get answers and hear the answers
19 following.

20 I remember 10 or 15 years ago we had a
21 substantial ice storm in Canada. We were
22 somewhat affected here, but mostly in Quebec.
23 And I can remember seeing the power lines,
24 the elevated power lines, all basically

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1 people love: Open spaces without the
2 permanent scars of industrial-scale
3 development are diminishing, and scarce
4 resource of high public value that AMC will
5 fight to protect.

6 Our opposition to the Northern
7 Pass Transmission Project as originally
8 proposed has been based not only on the
9 serious negative impacts of overhead lines,
10 but also the fact that today's HVDC cable
11 technologies make 100-percent burial a viable
12 and economically realistic option. We're
13 encouraged with Northern Pass's recently
14 proposed burying an additional 52 miles of
15 line, but much more remains to be done. Two
16 thirds of the Northern Pass route remain
17 above ground, and tens of thousands of New
18 Hampshire residents and visitors will
19 continue to be impacted by the proposed
20 above-ground route. The preponderance of
21 evidence shows that full burial is doable.
22 For years, the Company's claim that burial of
23 the lines was technically impossible and
24 prohibitively costly, but other projects in

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1 looked like they were made out of rubber.
2 They all had nearly collapsed, like this
3 (indicating). And I've heard many, many
4 people here speak tonight about clean energy,
5 local jobs and lower taxes, all of which, all
6 of which, would be achievable through burying
7 the lines, and we would not be faced with a
8 potential situation like this (indicating) in
9 the future where a major ice storm occurred
10 here. Thank you.

11 THE MODERATOR: Yes.

12 MS. ARNOLD: My name is Susan
13 Arnold, A-R-N-O-L-D. I live up the road in
14 Strafford, New Hampshire, for the last 20
15 years and spend a lot of time driving in and
16 around Deerfield.

17 But I'm here on behalf of the
18 Appalachian Mountain Club, which is the
19 oldest conservation and recreation
20 organization in the country, with more than
21 100,000 members, supporters from Maine to
22 D.C., including more than 12,000 here in New
23 Hampshire. AMC's 139-year history is
24 punctuated by battles to protect the places

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1 New England and New York have determined full
2 burial is practical and economically
3 feasible. Other northeastern states have
4 demanded full burial and got it. New
5 Hampshire deserves the same.

6 [Audience applause]

7 The DEIS provides clear
8 evidence that full burial of the line would
9 provide almost twice as many jobs, have a
10 much smaller impact on property values, and
11 create much more longstanding economic
12 benefits to the region than overhead
13 transmission or partial burial. There is no
14 question that burying the full project is
15 clearly the most balanced and appropriate
16 alternative. At stake here is the future of
17 New Hampshire's forests, scenic vistas,
18 property values and cohesive communities.
19 Make no mistake, this project's not about
20 providing needed power for New Hampshire.
21 New Hampshire is and has always been for many
22 years a net exporter of electric power. The
23 Independent Systems Operator that maintains
24 the overall New England grid has not deemed

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1 this project essential. In conclusion, it's
 2 not about the need for essential electricity.
 3 The Project is about money, about private
 4 profit through the sacrifice of precious
 5 resources that belong to all New Hampshire
 6 citizens. Our state deserves better. And if
 7 this project is to go forward, every mile of
 8 it should be buried. Thank you.

9 MR. STEVENS: Eric Stevens
 10 S-T-E-V-E-N-S. I want to speak just on
 11 behalf of the IBEW and personally. Unlike
 12 some people who have said they just moved
 13 here a couple years ago, I've lived here for
 14 41 years. I was born and raised in Deerfield
 15 Parade. My grandparents lived up the street,
 16 on Nottingham Road. And wouldn't you know
 17 it, they had two power lines going through
 18 their back yard through a swamp. I don't
 19 know. I turned out all right. Seems okay to
 20 me.

21 Personally, I need a job,
 22 coming from somebody who hasn't worked since
 23 March. I have a family to take care of.
 24 They depend on me. That's my selfishness

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1 brothers and sisters that aren't working
 2 right now, too. Thank you.

3 THE MODERATOR: I got two
 4 left. Joshua Plourde and Brian Murphy.
 5 Anybody want to go over and sign up before we
 6 end?

7 MR. PLOURDE: Josh Plourde,
 8 P-L-O-U-R-D-E. I support Northern Pass. I
 9 think we --

10 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

11 THE MODERATOR: Joshua, just a
 12 minute. When you read, you're taking your
 13 mouth away from the microphone and so then we
 14 lose that. And you're still going too fast.

15 MR. PLOURDE: Got it. Is that
 16 better?

17 THE MODERATOR: That is great.

18 MR. PLOURDE: With electric
 19 rates going up, climate change, coal and
 20 nuclear power plants closing up left and
 21 right, we should be happy to get 100
 22 megawatts of clean hydropower to help with
 23 our homes and businesses. Thank you.

24 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

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1 with it. I'm sorry if that's how -- you
 2 know, if it looks bad to you people. I can't
 3 help that. We all have a job to do.

4 I support the Northern Pass.
 5 What people don't seem to understand is that
 6 this isn't the first power line that was ever
 7 built. There's power lines all over the
 8 world. You know, for them to at least look
 9 at everybody's point of view and put some of
 10 it underground is great. I have a camp in
 11 Stark. Guess what? Where the proposed route
 12 is, I'm going to see the towers. But I'm not
 13 going to cry about it. We need the energy.
 14 Where are you people who are against this
 15 going to be in 10, 15 years, when we need the
 16 power and now we can't get it? Because
 17 somebody said it earlier, you're not going to
 18 afford it then. Take advantage of it now.
 19 Maybe I misunderstood the whole conversation
 20 earlier. But from what I understand, the
 21 state benefits from it, every town benefits
 22 from it, which means taxpayers benefit from
 23 it. I don't know where the issue is. I just
 24 want to go to work, and so don't a lot of my

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1 Mr. Murphy.

2 MR. MURPHY: Good evening. My
 3 name's Brian Murphy. It's B-R-I-A-N,
 4 M-U-R-P-H-Y. I'm the business manager for
 5 Local 104. I represent over 1200 members
 6 throughout New England. I was at that ice
 7 storm up in Canada. I was at -- my first one
 8 was probably Hurricane Bob down in Rhode
 9 Island. I've traveled to Hurricane Katrina.
 10 Damage is always there. Like the gentleman
 11 said, these are not the first power lines.
 12 We need to be proactive, not reactive. This
 13 is the time to do it. And I think Eversource
 14 has presented a fair case of trying to get
 15 some sort of balance, listening to everybody.
 16 And I can understand some people's point of
 17 view: Not in my back yard.

18 I'll tell you, my father, he's
 19 78 years old. He has plenty of money. But
 20 when he found out they were changing to
 21 incandescent bulbs, he filled his shed up.
 22 He has so many incandescent bulbs in his
 23 shed, he'll never use them. He thinks he's
 24 doing something right. He thinks he's

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1 planning ahead. He's going to lose in the
 2 long run. He grew up with no electricity at
 3 all. My mother grew up with no electricity.
 4 That electricity has been getting bigger and
 5 bigger and generating through the years. You
 6 can't just look and deny it.

7 Your kids are going to get
 8 older. You need the factories here. You
 9 need some sort of business. That is what is
 10 going to support your schools, your police,
 11 your fire, your hospitals. That is a major
 12 impact for everybody. And again, this is not
 13 about just our jobs. I've heard 1,000 jobs,
 14 I've heard 2400 jobs. I personally don't
 15 know how to put a number to that. But I will
 16 say I've worked on many big jobs, and the
 17 trickle-down effect that everyone talks about
 18 is there. You just have to get out there and
 19 ask some of the people. They are there.
 20 Thank you.

21 THE MODERATOR: Jim Cannon.
 22 MR. CANNON: Jim Cannon,
 23 C-A-N-N-O-N, South Road, Deerfield.
 24 I'm like the people on the

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1 (Whereupon the Public Comment Session
 2 was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.)
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1 panel and the people in the black shirts; I
 2 cannot see the towers from where I live, and
 3 I've lived in town for 40 years. I came here
 4 for information. What I got is a sales
 5 pitch, where you've only got one side
 6 providing numbers. And my question to the
 7 Panel is: You have a vested interest in
 8 those numbers. Why should we believe your
 9 numbers? And what I've heard is, Well, this
 10 is, you know, a squishy estimate, this is
 11 moving, all of that. Quite frankly,
 12 listening to your pitch, I don't believe you.
 13 I don't believe your numbers. And I
 14 sympathize with the people looking for jobs,
 15 sympathize with the people looking to lower
 16 their tax rate. What I would like to have
 17 gotten is a balanced people thing, with
 18 talking from both sides, not just one side.
 19 Thank you.

20 THE MODERATOR: All right. I
 21 think everybody who has signed up to comment
 22 has done so. So I'm going to close this
 23 meeting. Thank you again very much, all of
 24 you, for coming out tonight.

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E
 2
 3 I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed
 4 Shorthand Court Reporter and Notary Public
 5 of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby
 6 certify that the foregoing is a true and
 7 accurate transcript of my stenographic
 8 notes of these proceedings taken at the
 9 place and on the date hereinbefore set
 10 forth, to the best of my skill and ability
 11 under the conditions present at the time.

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

19
 20 Susan J. Robidas, LCR/RPR
 21 Licensed Shorthand Court Reporter
 22 Registered Professional Reporter
 23 N.H. LCR No. 44 (RSA 310-A:173)
 24

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