

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

January 21, 2016 - 6:05 p.m.
Mountain Club on Loon Resort & Spa
90 Loon Mountain Road
Lincoln, New Hampshire
(Grafton County)

IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06
Joint Application of Northern
Pass Transmission, LLC, and
Public Service Company of
New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource
Energy for a Certificate
of Site and Facility.
(Public Information Session
held pursuant to RSA 162-H:10,
I-a.)

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

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

Pamela G. Monroe, SEC Administrator

ALSO PRESENT: Iryna N. Dore, Esq. (Brennan...)

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

1 NOTED AS PRESENT:

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

4 Counsel for the Public: Peter C.L. Roth, Esq.
5 Sr. Asst. Atty. General
N.H. Dept. of Justice

6 Elijah Emerson, Esq.
7 (Primmer Piper...)

8 Also noted as present from the
9 Applicants who were available
10 to provide the presentation and
11 answers to questions:

12 William Quinlan

13 James Muntz

14 Samuel Johnson

15 Kevin Bowes

16 Robert Clarke

17 Lee Carbonneau

18 Bob Varney

19 Terry DeWan

20 Cherilyn Widell

21 Mark Hodgdon

22 Chris Soderman

23 Jessica Kimball

24 Lisa Shapiro

Beth Maldonado

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P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: If everybody could take their seats, please. Thank you all for coming out for our meeting. We are here for a public information session for the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee in Docket No. 2015-06, which is the Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire for a Certificate of Site and Facility for the transmission project that is commonly referred to as "the Northern Pass." My name is Michael Iacopino. I am a lawyer from Manchester, New Hampshire. I represent the Site Evaluation Committee and have been appointed by Martin Honigberg to chair the meeting tonight. Our meeting is a public information session. It is an opportunity for the public to obtain information about the Project and also about the Site Evaluation Committee. We go through a process here in order to help you do that.

On our agenda, I will make a short presentation regarding the Site Evaluation Committee, its make-up, how it operates and

1 what its criteria are. I will then turn the
2 floor over to Mr. Quinlan from the Applicants,
3 and he will make a presentation about the
4 Project itself. We will then take questions
5 from you, the audience. And those questions
6 can be directed either to me, if you have
7 questions about how the Site Evaluation
8 Committee operates, or they can be directed to
9 the Applicant. And the Applicant has a number
10 of subject-matter experts here today so that
11 they can answer questions. If you have a
12 question about a certain area of the Project,
13 they probably will have somebody here who can
14 answer it. Once we have asked questions, we
15 then open the floor to public statements. What
16 I'd like everybody to note is that we have a
17 number of different forms of different colors,
18 okay. If you have a question, you should write
19 your question on the green form. Please make
20 sure that your questions are actually
21 questions, okay. Long statements just sort of
22 drag the meeting out. We try to get through
23 all the questions because, since this is a
24 public information session, we want as much

1 information provided to you the public as
2 possible. We also have a blue form. If you
3 don't feel like making an oral statement at the
4 end of the night, you can write your statement
5 out on a blue form, and it will be included in
6 the record, and it will be reviewed by the Site
7 Evaluation Committee. So if you have a
8 question, use the green form. If you'd like to
9 make a written public statement, it's the blue
10 form. And we take written public statements
11 all the way through our proceedings, right up
12 to the final vote. And then, finally, if you
13 do wish to speak and make a public statement
14 here tonight, you fill out one of these yellow
15 slips. And we're going to do them in the order
16 in which they've come in, I believe. I haven't
17 had any requests for anybody that has to leave
18 or anything like that. Sometimes we have that.
19 But for the most part, we keep track of the
20 time that they've come in, and we will have the
21 people speak, who wish to speak, in the order
22 in which we receive their card. So that's the
23 process that we are going to use tonight.

24 Up on the -- the best way to find out

1 what's going on at the Site Evaluation
2 Committee with respect to Northern Pass or any
3 other application that has been filed with the
4 Committee is to go to our web site at
5 www.nhsec.nh.gov. And all of our "dockets" --
6 that's a fancy word us lawyers use for all the
7 cases we have -- are on the web site. And you
8 can look at all the pleadings, letters,
9 motions, the applications that have been filed.
10 They're all available there. We try to get the
11 material up there as quick as we can. This
12 case, as you all know, has generated lots of
13 interest and publicity, and we're receiving
14 things on a daily basis. We try to get those
15 comments up. We try to get motions to
16 intervene up and any other pleadings that come
17 in as quickly as we can. If you need to
18 contact the Site Evaluation Committee, the best
19 person to contact is to my left, Pamela Monroe.
20 She is the administrator of the Site Evaluation
21 Committee. Her e-mail is up on the screen
22 there, pamela.monroe@sec.nh.gov. And her
23 telephone number is 271-2435. With that, I
24 think that we'll start --

1 MS. MONROE: Mike? Yes, sir.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Do you
3 have a problem, sir?

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Would it be
5 possible for the Applicants, to have them
6 identify their name and area of expertise?

7 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: I think
8 we can do that. I just want everybody to --
9 one thing I forgot to tell everybody is that we
10 have two court reporters here. So it's very
11 important that if you're speaking, making a
12 public statement, that you come to the
13 microphone so that they can understand what
14 you're saying and get it down on the record.
15 There will be a transcript of everything that
16 anybody says here today made, and that will be
17 part of our record. That will eventually be up
18 on the web site as well. In addition, and it
19 hasn't been that bad, but if you yell out
20 something out of turn out of the audience, it's
21 not going to be recorded in the record. You're
22 not doing yourself any good, and I would ask
23 you to be courteous to the folks that are
24 making statements and the people who are making

1 presentations, because whatever you yell out is
2 not going to make it into the record, and it
3 won't be considered by the Committee in any
4 event. So if you want to be effective, the
5 best way to do that is either to give us your
6 question to be asked and get the answer or to
7 make the statement that you wish to make using
8 our procedure.

9 Why don't -- before we start, Bill,
10 do you mind just telling us who's here from the
11 Company before I start with --

12 MR. QUINLAN: Sure. I'm Bill
13 Quinlan. I'm the President of Eversource New
14 Hampshire. Why don't we just go down the line.

15 MR. BOWES: Ken Bowes, Vice-president
16 of Engineering for Eversource Energy.

17 MS. CARBONNEAU: Lee Carbonneau with
18 Normandeau Associates, the natural resources
19 expert.

20 MS. WIDELL: Cherilyn Widell with
21 Widell Preservation Services. I'm the historic
22 resources expert.

23 MR. JOHNSON: Sam Johnson, Burns &
24 McDonnell, engineering design and project

1 management.

2 MR. HODGDON: Mark Hodgdon, private
3 attorney in Concord. I've been working with
4 Northern Pass on highway permitting issues.

5 MR. SODERMAN: Christopher Soderman,
6 Eversource Energy, engineering.

7 MR. CLARKE: Bob Clarke, I'm
8 responsible for siting for this Project.

9 MR. MUNTZ: Jim Muntz, President of
10 Transmission for Eversource.

11 MS. KIMBALL: Jessica Kimball, DeWan
12 Associates, visual impact.

13 MR. DeWAN: Terry DeWan Associates.
14 My name is Terry DeWan.

15 MS. SHAPIRO: Lisa Shapiro,
16 Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell, property tax
17 payments.

18 MS. MALDONADO: Beth Maldonado,
19 assistant general counsel.

20 MR. VARNEY: Bob Varney, Normandeau
21 Associates, air quality and climate change,
22 land use and orderly development.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
24 you.

1 Okay. I've already explained to you
2 how to get to our web site and how to contact
3 the Committee.

4 We're going to start with what's the
5 purpose of the Site Evaluation Committee.

6 The purpose of the Site Evaluation
7 Committee is set forth in R.S.A. 162-H, which
8 is a state law. The purpose is to balance the
9 benefits and impacts of the siting,
10 construction, and operation of energy
11 facilities, which includes transmission lines,
12 and to balance those benefits and impacts on
13 the welfare of the population, private
14 property, location and growth of industry, the
15 economic growth of the state, the environment
16 of the state, historic sites, aesthetics, air
17 and water quality, the natural environment,
18 public health and safety. That's the overall
19 purpose, one of the overall purposes of our
20 statute that enables the Site Evaluation
21 Committee to make the determinations that they
22 make.

23 The second purpose is to avoid undue
24 delay in the construction of facilities. And

1 as you'll see in a moment, there are time
2 frames contained in R.S.A. 162-H that the
3 Committee must follow.

4 The third purpose is to make sure
5 that there is a full and timely consideration
6 of the environmental consequences of the siting
7 and construction of energy facilities or
8 transmission lines.

9 The fourth purpose is to provide full
10 and complete disclosure, both to the state and
11 to the public, about the siting and
12 construction of energy facilities and
13 transmission lines. And finally, to ensure
14 that the construction, siting and operation of
15 energy facilities are treated by the Site
16 Evaluation Committee as a significant aspect of
17 land-use planning in which the environmental,
18 economic and technical issues are all resolved
19 in one consolidated proceeding. And that is
20 what this meeting and the meetings that we will
21 have after today are, all part of that
22 integrated process.

23 In essence, the Site Evaluation
24 Committee is a statewide planning board for the

1 siting, construction and operation of energy
2 facilities. It's designed to integrate all the
3 various permits that go into building, siting
4 and building these types of facilities. The
5 authority of the Site Evaluation Committee does
6 preempt local authority. In other words, it
7 preempts the authority of your local planning
8 boards or zoning boards to consider and either
9 grant the permit or not permit. It's based
10 upon sort of the "one-stop shopping" theory, or
11 the "supermarket" theory. Makes it so that the
12 developer can go to one place and have
13 everything integrated. And the legislature has
14 determined that that's good for developers, but
15 that it's also good for the public, so that
16 things aren't being considered in a vacuum or
17 in a silo.

18 The Site Evaluation Committee
19 consists of certain statutory members. The
20 Chairman of the Site Evaluation Committee by
21 statute is the Chairman of the Public Utilities
22 Commission. That's relatively new with the
23 last change in the statute. Our current chair
24 is Martin Honigberg. The Vice-Chairman of the

1 Site Evaluation Committee is the Commissioner
2 of Environmental Services, and that's Thomas
3 Burack. Also sitting on the Site Evaluation
4 Committee are the remaining two Public
5 Utilities Commissioners; right now that's
6 Kathryn Bailey and Robert Scott. The
7 Commissioner of the Department of
8 Transportation sits on the Committee. That's
9 Victoria Sheehan. Our DRED Commissioner,
10 Department of Resources and Economic
11 Development, sits on the Committee; that's
12 Jeffrey Rose. And also, we have either the
13 Cultural Resources Commissioner or the Director
14 of the Historical Resources Division of the
15 Cultural Resources Department sit on our
16 Committee. And usually it's the Director of
17 the Historic Resources. That person is
18 Elizabeth Muzzey. The Commissioner of Cultural
19 Resources is Van McCloud. We are supposed to
20 have two public members that are appointed by
21 the Governor and approved by the Executive
22 Council. Right now we only have one public
23 member. We lost a public member a few weeks
24 ago. Roger Hawk passed away. And there's also

1 a statutory alternate public member who is also
2 appointed by the Site Evaluation Committee --
3 by the Governor and approved by the Executive
4 Council, and in this case it's Rachel Whitaker.

5 Mr. Mullen, I can't take questions
6 while I'm speaking.

7 MR. MULLEN: I was just going to say
8 I'll volunteer for that position.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Speak to
10 the Governor.

11 Each of the state agency members of
12 the Site Evaluation Committee have the
13 authority to designate somebody from their
14 agency to sit in their place. And on the
15 Northern Pass Subcommittee, we have had that
16 occur. Chairman Honigberg will sit, and he
17 will preside over this process.

18 Chairman Burack -- I'm sorry -- Commissioner
19 Burack has appointed Craig Wright to sit on
20 this Subcommittee; Mr. Wright is the Director
21 of the Air Resources Division at DES.

22 Commissioner Bailey will sit. Commissioner
23 Rose from DRED has appointed his Division of
24 Economic Development director, Christopher Way,

1 to sit. And again, that is a position that's
2 also -- Mr. Wright's position and Mr. Way's
3 position are also Governor-appointed and
4 approved by the Executive Council. William
5 Oldenburg, from the Department of
6 Transportation, is the Assistant Director of
7 Project Development, and has been designated to
8 sit by Commissioner Sheehan. And then our
9 public members will be Patricia Weathersby and
10 Rachel Whitaker. So that's the Subcommittee
11 that will read everything that goes on here
12 tonight and the transcripts, review the
13 Application, listen to the evidence as we get
14 deeper into this process. And ultimately,
15 these are the folks that will make the decision
16 as to whether or not to grant the certificate
17 that is sought by the Applicant.

18 In every case before the Site
19 Evaluation Committee where there is an
20 application to construct -- or site and
21 construct either an energy facility or a
22 transmission line, the Attorney General
23 appoints Counsel for the Public. The role of
24 Counsel for the Public is to represent the

1 public in general in seeking to protect the
2 quality of the environment and in seeking to
3 ensure that the state has an adequate supply of
4 energy. Counsel for the Public has all the
5 rights and obligations of any party in a formal
6 action. If you think of like a courtroom
7 proceeding, it's the same thing. He can make
8 objections. He can put on witnesses. He can
9 cross-examine witnesses. He has all of those
10 rights. In this case, the Attorney General has
11 appointed Senior Assistant Attorney General
12 Peter Roth to serve as Counsel for the Public.
13 He is very experienced, and he is here. I'm
14 going to give him the opportunity to introduce
15 himself to you and to tell you a little bit
16 about what he does and how he does it.

17 MR. ROTH: Thank you. Good evening
18 everybody. I'm Peter Roth. I'm Counsel for
19 the Public. I am a senior assistant attorney
20 general with the New Hampshire Department of
21 Justice. I was appointed in this case by
22 Attorney General Joe Foster. I have been
23 appointed by Attorney General Foster and other
24 attorneys general before him in a number of

1 energy cases since 2006. I have been
2 practicing law since 1990 in a variety of
3 different context, but I've been with the State
4 of New Hampshire since 1999.

5 I represent the broader interests of
6 the public in this case. I don't represent any
7 particular member of the public or any
8 particular organization specifically. So I
9 can't provide legal advice or counsel to people
10 who are in this room or elsewhere.

11 Nevertheless, I am very eager and interested to
12 hear from people about what they think about
13 the Project and the issues that they have with
14 it, and any concerns that they have about
15 specific aspects of it. I have the authority
16 under the statute to retain experts to study
17 the Project and to present expert testimony in
18 the case. And those experts actually -- the
19 statute provides that the fees of those experts
20 are approved by the Committee and paid for by
21 the Applicant. So I generally do hire experts
22 in these cases, and I am in the process now of
23 reviewing and retaining experts to provide
24 expert testimony on a number of different

1 issues in this case, probably issues that many
2 of you care about very much. My e-mail address
3 will show up and my phone number will show up
4 on another slide, unless you've taken it off.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: No, no,
6 there it is. Sorry. There we go.

7 MR. ROTH: That telephone number is
8 my direct dial to my desk, and that's my actual
9 e-mail address. And I do read my e-mail and I
10 do answer the phone and listen to people's
11 voice messages. So if you want to get in touch
12 with me, please do. In addition, if there's a
13 group of you that would -- or anyone of you
14 that would like to meet, you can come to
15 Concord and meet me. Or if there's a group of
16 you, I can come up and sit with you and talk
17 about what my role is and our approach to the
18 case.

19 In this case, I have also done
20 something somewhat unusual, and I've never done
21 it before. We've hired a law firm to assist
22 with the litigation of the matter. This is a
23 very large case and somewhat unprecedented in
24 New Hampshire. So I've hired, with the

1 authority of the Committee, the Primmer law
2 firm, which is headquartered in Burlington,
3 Vermont, but which has offices in Manchester
4 and Littleton. And tonight, with me is Eli
5 Emerson from the Primmer firm, who is an expert
6 on utilities law in Vermont. And he's out of
7 the Littleton office but lives in St.
8 Johnsbury. But we won't hold that against him.

9 So, again, if anybody has any
10 questions or anything they want to say to me,
11 I'll be around here this evening. I'll be at
12 the next round of meetings, or you can contact
13 me at the telephone number or the e-mail
14 address. Thank you.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And when
16 Peter mentions the "next round of meetings,"
17 the next round of meetings are what we call
18 "joint public hearings." At those meetings, I
19 will not be in charge of the meeting. It will
20 be Chairman Honigberg, and a quorum of the
21 Subcommittee will be required to be at each one
22 of those public hearings. Hopefully sometime
23 next week we'll have the schedule. We're
24 trying to firm up dates and places. And I'll

1 get into when that has to occur in a couple of
2 slides.

3 Next thing I'm going to talk to you
4 about is applications before the Site
5 Evaluation Committee. We're going to talk
6 about what's in an application, what has to be
7 in an application. But first, we just want to
8 address some of the things that go on before an
9 application is filed. Some of these things are
10 done by the Applicant, and obviously some of
11 them are done under the statute.

12 But before an application is filed,
13 anybody who wants to generate electricity or
14 generate power or have a linear project like a
15 transmission line has to obviously sync up with
16 ISO-New England, which is the Independent
17 System Operator that operates the electricity
18 grid in New England. There are obviously --
19 you know, if you want to sell your power, you
20 got to do that. In addition, you know, there
21 are environmental and resource studies done in
22 all of these cases. They're generally done
23 well in advance of filing an application with
24 the Committee. It is not unusual for the

1 Applicants to have pre-permitting meetings with
2 the various state agencies to find out what
3 rules are going to apply and how they're going
4 to be interpreted. Smart applicants will meet
5 with municipalities and regional planning
6 commissions to talk about the benefits and
7 impacts of their proposed project on the
8 development of the region and in your local
9 neighborhoods. In addition, if you are
10 building, say a wood-burning facility, you
11 might want to make sure that you have a deal
12 with somebody who is going to transmit that
13 power for you. You might want to make sure
14 that you have a Power Purchase Agreement.
15 You're going to want to make sure you have
16 sufficient financing. And then there's all
17 sorts of issues around eligibility for various
18 tax treatments.

19 And finally, the statute requires
20 that before an applicant can actually file an
21 application with the Site Evaluation Committee,
22 they must hold a public information session
23 very much like this one, except the Site
24 Evaluation Committee is not present at it, in

1 each county where the proposed project will be
2 located. And in this particular case, that was
3 done, and those transcripts are also part of
4 the record that is contained on our web site
5 and part of the record of the Site Evaluation
6 Committee.

7 Once they get around to filing an
8 application, that application has to contain
9 certain information. First, it must contain
10 sufficient information to satisfy the
11 individual application requirements of each
12 state agency that has permitting or other
13 regulatory authority. So that means that if
14 your project is going to impact wetlands, you
15 have to make sure you have a wetlands
16 application contained in your application with
17 the Site Evaluation Committee. You have to
18 make sure that you've satisfied all of the
19 requirements of the Wetlands Bureau of the
20 Department of Environmental Services in that
21 application. And in addition, an
22 application -- in addition to having the
23 individual requirements for each state agency,
24 an application must, at a minimum, contain all

1 of these types of information. It must
2 describe in reasonable detail the type and size
3 of each major part of the proposed project;
4 they must identify the preferred choice and any
5 other choices, alternatives for the siting of
6 each major part of the facility; they must
7 describe the impact of each major part of the
8 facility on the environment; it must describe
9 any proposals that the Applicant has for
10 dealing with environmental problems and solving
11 them; it must describe the Applicant's
12 financial, technical and managerial capability
13 to site, construct and operate the Project; it
14 must document that there's been written
15 notification given to each municipality in
16 which the Project is going to be located; it
17 must describe the elements of and any financial
18 assurances for a decommissioning plan, and it
19 must provide additional information as required
20 by the Site Evaluation Committee. And the Site
21 Evaluation Committee has issued new rules as of
22 December of last year, where there are a lot
23 more requirements for individual applications
24 than there had been in the past. All

1 applications that were filed before our new
2 rules came into effect will be subject to the
3 new rules. However, we have to give the
4 applicant ample time to amend their application
5 in order to comply with those new rules. There
6 are a lot of new requirements contained in the
7 rules. And in this particular case, we're
8 expecting, based upon a letter from the
9 Applicant, from Northern Pass, that that will
10 be done by March 15th.

11 The Site Evaluation Committee, as I
12 said, has a number of time frames that they're
13 required to abide by, by statute. Once there's
14 an application filed, as I indicated before,
15 the Applicant has to have prefiling information
16 sessions. They have to occur at least 30 days
17 before the application is filed. Once an
18 application is filed, what happens is the
19 chairman of the Committee is required to
20 "expeditiously" -- that's a word right out of
21 the statute -- expeditiously make sure that the
22 application is sent to each state agency that
23 has permitting or other regulatory authority.
24 And the Committee must review the application

1 expeditiously. In fact, the statute says that
2 the Committee must hear from each state agency
3 and also review the application within 60 days
4 of the filing and give a decision as to whether
5 or not the application is complete. Now, what
6 that means is that, from the Site Evaluation
7 Committee's standpoint, that the application
8 contains sufficient information for the process
9 to move forward. Because the Site Evaluation
10 Committee accepted this application as
11 complete, and they did that on December 18th,
12 that does not mean that the Site Evaluation
13 Committee has granted the application. All it
14 means is that there was sufficient information
15 contained in the application to proceed and, in
16 addition, we received correspondence from each
17 state agency that had permitting authority,
18 that the application satisfied their
19 requirements as well.

20 That December 18th date is a very
21 important date because that's the date that
22 every other deadline in our process runs from.
23 There's already been a Subcommittee designated
24 in this particular case. I've gone over that

1 with you. Within 45 days after the acceptance
2 of the application, the Site Evaluation
3 Committee and the Applicant must have a public
4 information session, like we're doing tonight,
5 in each county in which the facility is
6 proposed to be located. Tonight is the last
7 one of what we call the "45-day sessions." We
8 have been in every county, and tonight is the
9 last one.

10 Within 90 days of December 18th, the
11 Committee has to have what we call a "joint
12 public hearing" in each county. And that's
13 different than tonight. In those proceedings,
14 the Committee members will actually be here.
15 And we'll go through a process somewhat similar
16 to what we do tonight, but they will actually
17 be here, as well as any of the state agencies
18 that want to send representatives that have a
19 hearing requirement.

20 Under our calendar for this case, we
21 must complete those joint public hearings by
22 St. Patrick's Day. And I think that at some
23 point next week we will have a final schedule
24 that will be published on our web site telling

1 you when those meetings will occur.

2 The next important date is 150 days
3 after acceptance of the application. State
4 agencies must provide the Site Evaluation
5 Committee with any draft conditions for
6 permitting that they have or any draft reports
7 that they're expecting to submit to the
8 Committee. And then they have a final
9 deadline, which is 240 days after the
10 acceptance of the application. So in this
11 case, the preliminary reports will be due
12 May 16th; final reports from state agencies are
13 going to be due August 15th. And it is between
14 August 15th and December 19th, 2016, that the
15 Site Evaluation Committee will have what we
16 call an "adjudicative proceeding," and that is
17 very much like I said before, like a trial.
18 We'll actually have witnesses that will be
19 cross-examined. There will be evidence
20 submitted. There will be objections and
21 motions, things like you see on TV when you
22 watch "Law & Order" and things like that. But
23 very much like a trial in a court.

24 Once all of the evidence is in the

1 record from that adjudicative proceeding, the
2 Site Evaluation Committee will deliberate, just
3 like a jury does. However, the difference is
4 that the Site Evaluation Committee is required
5 to deliberate in public, and everything that
6 they say during the course of those
7 deliberations will be recorded by a court
8 reporter, very similar to what we have here
9 tonight, so there will be a complete record.
10 The vote that is taken by the Site Evaluation
11 Committee on whether or not to grant or deny
12 the certificate that is sought will be taken on
13 the record in public and will be recorded. And
14 then there will be a written order, and that
15 written order has to issue within 365 days of
16 the date of acceptance. So, again, the process
17 under the statute has to be completed by
18 December 19th, 2016. Those are our time
19 frames.

20 For anybody who wishes to participate
21 in these proceedings, you should make note of
22 those because you'll know when to look for
23 information that may be coming through the
24 pipeline, and to see, for instance, what the

1 state agencies are saying what's needed, what
2 they agree with, what they don't agree with.

3 There are many ways for you, as
4 members of the public, to participate in our
5 process. One you've already heard about from
6 Counsel for the Public. That's not his direct
7 dial number there, that's the main number for
8 the Attorney General's Office. Either number
9 will get to him. So you should feel free to
10 contact Counsel for the Public and let him know
11 what you think, or if you have concerns.

12 In addition, there were the prefiling
13 public information sessions that were held by
14 the Applicant, required by law. There was
15 opportunities for public statements at those
16 proceedings. There are these proceedings that
17 you're all at here tonight participating in.
18 There will be the post-filing joint public
19 hearings that I just discussed, one in each
20 county, where the Subcommittee will actually be
21 present. And there will be public
22 participation in those meetings as well.

23 In addition, the Site Evaluation
24 Committee is required by law to accept written

1 comments from members of the public through the
2 pendency of its proceeding. So, right up until
3 the time they close the record and start
4 deliberating, they will accept written public
5 comments. And you can send that written public
6 comment through Pamela Monroe, and there will
7 be -- I'll have her e-mail up there again. And
8 by the way, we do prefer e-mail for your public
9 comments. It is much easier for us to
10 distribute those comments to the members of the
11 Committee when we have them electronically.
12 The Committee is required by law to consider
13 and weigh the information received in public
14 written comment and to consider reports that
15 are presented by the public.

16 And finally, the last way that I'm
17 going to discuss public participation is to
18 actually file a motion to intervene as a party
19 in the proceedings. In order to do that, it's
20 a little bit more strict. You have to
21 demonstrate that you have a right, a duty, a
22 public -- a substantial interest in the outcome
23 of the proceeding, and that if you participate,
24 your participation will not interfere with the

1 orderly and prompt disposition of the case, so
2 that if you can demonstrate those two factors
3 to the Site Evaluation Committee, you should be
4 permitted to intervene. If you are permitted
5 to intervene, you have all the rights and
6 responsibilities of a party to a proceeding.
7 Just like we discussed before about what
8 Counsel for the Public's role is, you would
9 have the right, if you are allowed to
10 intervene, to call witnesses to cross-examine
11 witnesses, to present evidence, to participate
12 in the adjudicative or trial-type proceedings
13 that we have. The deadline in this case for
14 filing motions to intervene is February 5th,
15 2016. So if anybody is interested and believes
16 that they satisfy these requirements and wish
17 to participate as an intervenor, they have to
18 file that motion by February 5.

19 Finally, I'm sure that everybody here
20 is wondering: Well, what exactly is the Site
21 Evaluation Committee supposed to consider? How
22 are they supposed to make this very important
23 determination? Well, that's laid out for us in
24 R.S.A. 162-H as well. First, the Committee is

1 required to give due consideration to all
2 relevant information regarding the potential
3 siting or routing of the proposed facility.
4 The Site Evaluation Committee is required to
5 give due consideration to all significant
6 impacts and benefits of the Project. And the
7 Site Evaluation Committee is required to
8 consider whether the issuance of a
9 certificate -- in other words, a permit -- will
10 serve the objectives or the purposes of R.S.A.
11 162-H, and those purposes are the purposes that
12 I went through in the very first slide.

13 In addition, in order to grant a
14 certificate, in order to allow a project to go
15 forward, the Site Evaluation Committee must
16 find, by a preponderance of the evidence, that
17 the Applicant has adequate financial, technical
18 and managerial experience to site, construct
19 and operate the facility as proposed in the
20 application, in compliance with any terms or
21 conditions that the Site Evaluation Committee
22 may impose.

23 Secondly, in order to grant a
24 certificate, the Site Evaluation Committee must

1 find, by a preponderance of the evidence, that
2 granting the certificate will not unduly
3 interfere with the orderly development of the
4 region, with due consideration having been
5 given to the views of municipal and regional
6 planning commissions and municipal governing
7 bodies. This is the area where your local laws
8 and the opinions of your local conservation
9 commissions, boards of selectmen, planning
10 boards come in. Those things must be
11 considered by the Site Evaluation Committee.

12 Third, in order to grant a
13 certificate, the Site Evaluation Committee must
14 find, by a preponderance of the evidence, that
15 the Project will not have an unreasonable
16 adverse effect on aesthetics, historic sites,
17 air and water quality, the natural environment,
18 or public health and safety. And finally, in
19 order to grant a certificate, the Committee
20 must be satisfied, by a preponderance of the
21 evidence, that the issuance of a certificate
22 will serve the public interest.

23 Those are the criteria that the Site
24 Evaluation Committee is required to apply by

1 statute. And the way that they do that is they
2 consider all the evidence that is presented in
3 every form through this entire process, from
4 the beginning at the prefiling public
5 information sessions all the way through the
6 sessions that we're at tonight, the public
7 hearings that we'll have next month -- or
8 actually, probably in early March -- the
9 adjudicative phase. They consider all of that
10 evidence and then deliberate on it as a body in
11 public and determine whether or not they can
12 find these -- find that the Applicant has
13 satisfied each of these criteria by a
14 preponderance of the evidence.

15 Again, most of the information that
16 you want to find out about the Site Evaluation
17 Committee can be found on our web site. If you
18 wish to submit written public comment at some
19 time other than tonight or at one of the
20 hearings, you should do so through Pamela
21 Monroe. Her e-mail is up there. She's our
22 administrator. Likewise, if you're going to
23 file a motion to intervene, those motions
24 should be directed to Ms. Monroe at her e-mail

1 address. And her phone number, 271-2435, is up
2 there as well if you need to ask any questions
3 about what to do or how to get yourself
4 involved.

5 With that, that's the end of our
6 presentation about the Committee. What I'm
7 going to do is turn the floor over to Mr.
8 Quinlan from the Applicant, and he is going to
9 make a presentation about the Project itself.

10 MR. QUINLAN: Yes, thank you. Again,
11 Bill Quinlan, President of Eversource New
12 Hampshire. I do want to thank you all for
13 being here tonight. These sessions have been
14 very helpful to help in shaping this Project,
15 first as we move into siting. And hopefully
16 they'll continue to be productive as we move
17 through the siting process.

18 We're going to show a short video
19 that's going to give you an overview of the
20 Northern Pass Project, and then we'll spend a
21 bit of time drilling down into what does the
22 Project mean for Grafton County, and probably,
23 most importantly, have an opportunity for
24 questions and answers.

1 So, with that, Andrea, a quick video.

2 [Video presentation by Northern Pass
3 shown to audience]

4 MR. QUINLAN: So, hopefully that was
5 a good overview.

6 What does it mean to Grafton County?
7 First, as to the route. If you look at the
8 route, as the video indicated, the line enters
9 Grafton County in the town of Bethlehem and
10 runs along this route, a little over 60 miles
11 of total construction in this county. Over
12 50 miles is underground, so that's the dashed
13 area. That was the result of a decision we
14 made in the middle of last year, to go
15 underground through public highways, to
16 essentially avoid the White Mountain National
17 Forest, Franconia Notch and Appalachian Trail.
18 This is an example of public input helping to
19 shape the Project. When we met with
20 stakeholders across the state of New Hampshire,
21 this is the area that we heard about
22 consistently, that you need to do something in
23 this area to reduce visual impacts. The other
24 effects of doing that not only is to reduce

1 visual impacts, but for this to technically
2 work, we had to scale the Project down from
3 1200 megawatts to 1,090 megawatts. We're
4 actually using a different cable technology,
5 different conversion technology, so that we had
6 a system that could be reliable with that
7 amount of underground construction. With that
8 52 miles plus the 8 miles referred to up in the
9 North Country of underground construction, this
10 will be the longest high-voltage, direct
11 current underground line in North America,
12 okay.

13 What else did that do? It resulted
14 in the overhead structure being reduced in
15 height by about 5 feet in average. Some more
16 so, but most at least 5 feet. And that's due
17 to the new cable technology, in essence.

18 A few other things that it did. You
19 know, with this amount of underground
20 construction through the public highway,
21 obviously we avoid of lot of overhead
22 structures. Over 400 structures are no longer
23 part of the design. For those overhead
24 structures that do remain, we are using a

1 variety of techniques -- I'll get into this in
2 a minute -- to reduce impact. So it's referred
3 to as a "monopole structure." It's a more
4 streamlined structure and is a lot -- a lower
5 visibility than your traditional lattice
6 structure. These areas where the red ovals
7 are, those are areas where we've made a
8 determination to go to a monopole structure,
9 okay.

10 We recognize this issue, however, of
11 view impact remains an area of concern and
12 interest, and we're continuing to work on that.
13 What are we doing? These are some of the
14 techniques that we are going to continue to use
15 as we finalize our design and engineering to
16 address local visual impacts. I mentioned
17 streamlined structures. We could also look at
18 the placement of structures, the heights of
19 structures, you know, what type of shielding
20 can we place around it so that they're less
21 visible. These are all techniques for reducing
22 the visual impact. When the Department of
23 Energy did their assessment -- this is prior to
24 our decision to have an additional 52 miles of

1 underground construction -- this was their
2 conclusion. That's in their draft
3 Environmental Impact Statement around the view
4 impact, the scenic impact. With that original
5 design, they found it to be moderate. We think
6 we've improved it dramatically since then by
7 placing an additional 52 miles underground.
8 But we are going to continue to work on this
9 issue, and we're going to apply all these
10 techniques as we move forward with our design.
11 I'll show an illustration as to what we mean.

12 These are view simulations. These
13 are illustrative one from Grafton County.
14 There are literally dozens of their view
15 simulations in our current application.
16 They're generally done from key vantage points
17 that have been identified for us as being of
18 particular interest or scenic importance. And
19 Terry DeWan introduced himself earlier. He's a
20 visual simulation expert. This is what he does
21 for a living. He's prepared all of these,
22 okay.

23 So, Grafton County, this is probably
24 a location many of you are familiar with,

1 Inspiration Point in Bristol. Okay. You'll
2 see an existing right-of-way in this region.
3 So, in those areas where there is overhead
4 construction in Grafton County, that 10 miles
5 of overhead construction, there is an existing
6 right-of-way with an existing transmission line
7 running through it, okay. So, in fact, for the
8 vast majority of this line, that's the case; we
9 are in an existing right-of-way with an
10 existing transmission line. And what we're
11 planning to do is run these lines parallel to
12 each other, okay. So this is from a
13 distance -- it varies between a mile and
14 2 miles, okay. You can see that right-of-way.
15 And what I'm going to do is show you a
16 progression of the visual impact with layering
17 in Northern Pass and then some of the
18 techniques we use to mitigate visual impacts,
19 okay.

20 So, lattice structures. These are --
21 they look like erector sets. They usually have
22 four legs, right, and a series of bracing. So
23 they're probably the most significant from a
24 visual perspective. You can now see Northern

1 Pass in that foreground, okay. This is an area
2 we've determined, based upon that impact, that
3 we're going to use monopole structures. So the
4 impact of a streamlined monopole structure is
5 that, okay. So if you look at that's where it
6 would be with lattice, you'll see these are
7 less visible from that distance. This is not a
8 terribly long distance. This is a mile or two,
9 okay. So it blends in more naturally. They're
10 less visible to the eye. You know, in
11 instances like this, where the backdrop is
12 basically the forest and the woods, there are
13 other things we can do by choosing different
14 materials that have different color. These
15 happen to be galvanized steel. So they don't
16 rust, they don't blend in, and they're visible.

17 We have another structure type, which
18 is called a "weathering steel" structure that
19 basically rusts naturally. And that's the
20 effect of using weathered-steel monopole
21 structures in this location, okay. So, just a
22 reminder. That's what it looks like today.
23 That's what it looks like with lattice
24 structures, conventional lattice structures.

1 Then galvanized-steel monopoles,
2 weathered-steel monopoles. You know, the
3 decisions around the material types are really
4 made on a case-by-case basis. And we
5 oftentimes work with municipalities and others
6 using all those techniques I referred to
7 earlier to mitigate view impacts. This, again,
8 is illustrative. There are literally dozens of
9 these that have been prepared and available for
10 your review, okay. So, we recognize this is an
11 area of continued concern and interest, and
12 we're going to continue to focus significantly
13 on it.

14 Beyond visual impacts in the route,
15 what are the other implications for Grafton
16 County associated with this project? The video
17 mentions a \$30-million-a-year estimated tax
18 benefit for the state of New Hampshire, county
19 state and local. This is the breakdown for
20 Grafton County: Somewhere between \$6 million a
21 year and \$10 million a year in combined county
22 and municipal property taxes, you know,
23 approaching a million dollars at a county
24 level, and between five and nine broken out

1 between the municipalities in this region.
2 You'll see likely your respective towns here.
3 These are estimates. They're a fairly wide
4 range currently because our final design hasn't
5 yet been determined. As we hone in on a final
6 design and we know exactly what we're building
7 in each town, that range will narrow. But
8 these are illustrative numbers, okay.

9 The video talked about our ForwardNH
10 Plan. I'm not going to recite this. But, you
11 know, clearly one significant benefit to New
12 Hampshire, and frankly to New England, is that
13 this is a large source of new power. It's
14 economically priced, and it will stabilize and
15 lower energy costs. Our view, and this is
16 again backed by expert report, is that in New
17 Hampshire our customers should save
18 approximately \$80 million a year from their
19 energy bill. There are a host of other
20 benefits that are really designed to
21 demonstrate what this could mean to the state
22 of New Hampshire. When we aggregate them in
23 response to, you know, questions that we've
24 gotten, it approaches a \$4 billion direct

1 economic benefit to the state of New Hampshire
2 and the communities in New Hampshire over this
3 period of time. Much of it will be targeted in
4 areas of the state that are hosting the line.
5 That's always been our intention, and that
6 remains our commitment.

7 Beyond economic benefits, this is a
8 large source of clean energy. It's probably
9 unparalleled in that regard. You know, as a
10 state and as a region and as a country, we're
11 going to have to increasingly rely on these
12 forms of power to meet our environmental goals.
13 This is a 3-million-ton-a-year offset to carbon
14 emissions. So that's what it means to the
15 region and to the state of New Hampshire
16 economically and environmentally. I think at
17 this point we're going to open it up for a
18 question-and-answer period. So, thank you.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
20 you.

21 Okay, ladies and gentlemen, this is
22 the portion of the meeting where we read your
23 questions. We have a whole bunch of them for
24 the SEC. I'm going to do those first. And,

1 then we have questions -- I've tried to
2 categorize them into different areas, so that
3 you can get some coherent information.

4 And, if I could get a little light,
5 that would be great because there's a lot of
6 people in the audience whose handwriting is as
7 bad as mine, and I don't think I can -- thank
8 you.

9 Okay. The first two questions are
10 directed to the SEC, and they involve,
11 basically, "what can the SEC do about the
12 route?" I'll read them both, and then I'll
13 answer them, okay?

14 "If and when the route for Northern
15 Pass is not approved, what is Hydro-Quebec's
16 Plan B, in terms of an alternate route? In
17 addition, what is the process that the Site
18 Evaluation Committee rules or considers on an
19 alternate route, if the route as proposed is
20 not approved?"

21 Then, there's a similar question that
22 says: "With respect to the SEC process, is the
23 Committee's decision a yea or nay on the
24 preferred route described in the Application,

1 or can modifications be made to the proposed
2 route in the course of the proceeding?"

3 The answer is that the Committee can
4 put conditions on any certificate that it
5 issues. Those conditions could be things --
6 could be, and I'm not saying that they will be,
7 something like "you must bury the line in a
8 particular place". Those conditions could be
9 "You can't run your line through a certain
10 area, so you have to find an alternate route."
11 Things do change during the course of Site
12 Evaluation Committee proceedings. And, it is
13 possible that alternates may be raised,
14 alternate routes or alternate conditions may be
15 raised during the course of the process. And,
16 the Site Evaluation Committee considers those
17 things all as part of their overall
18 consideration of all of the evidence in the
19 case.

20 So, the answer is that, to the extent
21 there is evidence from which the Site
22 Evaluation Committee can say "well, you need to
23 move this over here" or "you need to bury it
24 here", they're authorized to do that. Now,

1 that doesn't mean that the Committee has to
2 act -- that the Applicant has to act on its
3 certificate at that point, but the Committee is
4 authorized to make conditions.

5 Okay. There's a lot of them on this
6 one. "Two former members of the Site
7 Evaluation Committee, Tom Getz and Dana Bisbee,
8 are now representing Northern Pass before the
9 SEC. They both served on the SEC with present
10 member Kathryn Bailey, and Mr. Getz served also
11 with present member Martin Honigberg. How is
12 the public to maintain faith in the objectivity
13 of the SEC, given this situation?"

14 That's up to the public to determine
15 how they're going to maintain their faith. The
16 members of the Committee are designated by
17 statute. It's the Legislature that creates the
18 Committee, it's the Legislature that designates
19 who serves on the Committee.

20 I'm not sure that this question is
21 accurate with respect to who served with who.
22 But I can tell you that just because somebody
23 sat on a committee with somebody else doesn't
24 mean that they somehow can't make an objective

1 decision.

2 "How long are Site Evaluation
3 Committee members required to wait before they
4 go to work for corporations they formally
5 permitted?"

6 I'm not exactly sure. I know that
7 RSA 21-G applies to all executive branch
8 commissioners and folks like that, and it
9 requires a six-month wait before they can --
10 before they can lobby either an administrative
11 agency or a -- or the Legislature for somebody
12 who they formally came before them.

13 So, and I think the next question is
14 the same thing: "How long are PUC members
15 required to wait?" I believe that same statute
16 applies to PUC members as SEC members.

17 "How many Northern Pass
18 representatives participated in the recent Site
19 Evaluation Committee rules revision process?"

20 And, the questioner has given me the
21 answer. The answer is "nine". They say: "Lee
22 Carbonneau, Adam Gravel, Barry Needleman, Tom
23 Getz, Lisa Shapiro, Dana Bisbee, Jacob Tinus,
24 Terry DeWan and Donald Pfundstein."

1 And, the next question I guess goes
2 along with that premise: "Since Northern Pass
3 has at least ten lawyers representing them
4 before the Site Evaluation Committee, why do
5 we, the public, not have ten lawyers
6 representing us?"

7 Well, you do have at least one lawyer
8 representing you, and that's Peter Roth. And,
9 in this particular case, Mr. Roth has the
10 benefit of the Primmer law firm backing him up
11 as well. So, there is -- the public is
12 represented.

13 Now, as Peter said, he doesn't
14 represent any individual person. Any
15 individual person, who wishes to participate in
16 the Site Evaluation Committee process, is free
17 to hire an attorney to represent them. If you
18 intend to intervene, I highly recommend that
19 you do that. And, there's nothing that stops
20 anybody from being represented by a lawyer
21 before the Committee.

22 Peter. If you could give him the
23 mike, please.

24 MR. ROTH: Just very quickly, I'm

1 told by Eli that Primmer has 50 lawyers. So,
2 maybe, you know, on the other hand, McLane has
3 a whole bunch, too.

4 But one point on intervention that I
5 wanted to make clear, because I thought perhaps
6 there was some ambiguity about how it was
7 presented. And, that is, while anybody who
8 intervenes is entitled to present witnesses,
9 either themselves, or anybody else that they
10 believe has competent evidence, and that could
11 be an expert, you will have to pay for the
12 witness and that expert testimony yourself.
13 The statute provides that the Counsel for the
14 Public can hire experts and have the Applicant
15 pay for them. It does not provide the same
16 thing for everybody else. So, your witnesses
17 will be on your dime.

18 And, I just wanted to, in terms of my
19 having witnesses and the Primmer firm paid for
20 by the Applicant, I just wanted to point out or
21 assure you that, while they may object to a
22 particular witness that I choose to hire, or
23 they may object to the amount of money that
24 they will be paid, they don't have any real say

1 in who I pick or how much I think that they
2 should be paid. Ultimately, that is a decision
3 made by the Committee.

4 So, if I file a motion that says "I
5 want to hire, you know, so-and-so as a visual
6 impacts expert, and it's going to cost, you
7 know, X thousand dollars", the Applicant may
8 very well object to that, and have reasons for
9 it, and I'll respond to that objection, but
10 then the Committee is going to make a decision
11 on it. And, so far, I've yet, in the years of
12 doing this, I've yet to see any of those
13 objections sustained. And, usually, I -- I get
14 the people that I want and I pay them what they
15 ask for. Thank you.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
17 you, Peter. "Were members" -- the next
18 question is: "Were members of the Subcommittee
19 assigned to assessing the completeness of
20 Northern Pass's Application required to read
21 the entire Application? If not, how could they
22 assess it without reading? If so, how could
23 they read it in the short time allowed them?"

24 Well, they take their job seriously

1 and they do their jobs. And, I didn't sit down
2 with each member of the Committee and watch
3 them read it. But I can assure you that the
4 members of our Committee are very -- they're
5 very diligent, they take their responsibility
6 seriously. And, I don't see any reason to
7 doubt that they read the Application, know
8 what's in it, know what the issues are, and are
9 ready to listen to the rest of the evidence
10 beyond the Application and make a determination
11 as required by the law.

12 "Are there members of the Site
13 Evaluation" -- next question is: "Are there
14 members of the Site Evaluation Committee
15 sitting on the Northern Pass Subcommittee who
16 are also on the PUC committee that is deciding
17 whether Northern Pass has the right to rent the
18 Eversource right-of-way acquired for the public
19 good to Hydro-Quebec?"

20 I don't know the answer to that
21 question. It's really a question about the
22 PUC. And, I'm sorry, but I just don't know the
23 answer to that. I assume the three PUC
24 Commissioners are ultimately responsible for

1 any docket that is before them. So, the answer
2 is "probably yes".

3 And, then, there's a number of
4 questions about the route, which we'll get to
5 later. The next question is to me: "Did you
6 (Mr. Iacopino) work with Northern Pass
7 representative Mr. Getz when he was a member of
8 the Site Evaluation Committee? Were you
9 counsel for the SEC when Mr. Getz was a
10 member?"

11 The answer to the question is "yes".
12 Let me explain to you how I am hired. I am
13 hired on a case-by-case basis. I am not an
14 employee of the state. I get hired when --
15 when and if the Site Evaluation Committee
16 determines that they're going to hire counsel
17 for any particular application. And, yes, Mr.
18 Getz was the Chairman of the Committee -- or,
19 Vice Chairman of the Committee, because the PUC
20 Chairman used to be Vice Chairman of the
21 Commission [Committee,] on several cases that I
22 was hired on to represent the Committee.

23 Understand, I don't make decisions.
24 I make sure that the process goes smoothly as

1 counsel. I give legal advice to the Committee.
2 But I don't make the ultimate decisions as to
3 whether or not a certificate should be granted
4 or denied.

5 The next question is: "Did you
6 (Mr. Iacopino) work with Northern Pass
7 representative Mr. Bisbee when he was a member
8 of the Site Evaluation Committee?"

9 I don't recall Mr. Bisbee ever
10 sitting on any -- any Site Evaluation Committee
11 dockets. Mr. Bisbee was the Interim
12 Commissioner at the Department of Environmental
13 Services for a period of time, but I'm not sure
14 that there was anything pending before the Site
15 Evaluation Committee when he was the Acting
16 Commissioner. I could be wrong, but I've tried
17 to think, I've never actually seen him sitting
18 in that middle seat. So, I'm not sure.

19 But, if there was a docket while
20 Mr. Bisbee was the Acting Commissioner, I was
21 most likely Counsel for the Committee during
22 that period of time, because I believe that
23 I've been Counsel to the Committee on every
24 application since the Con Edison Newington

1 power plant, which was first filed in 1998.

2 The next question is for Mr. Getz:
3 "In your bio for the Devine Millimet law firm,
4 you stated: Most recently, I played a key role
5 in efforts to revise the statutes and rulings
6 governing the siting of energy facilities in
7 New Hampshire." Were you referring to the
8 recent revision of the SEC rules in which you
9 represented Northern Pass? If not, what are
10 you referring to?"

11 And, I mean, Mr. Getz is not the
12 Applicant. He's under no obligation to answer
13 that question.

14 So, okay. The rest of the questions
15 on this sheet deal with the route and historic
16 resources. So, if we can put that there.

17 The next question for the Site
18 Evaluation Committee is: "Are there no Site
19 Evaluation Committee members here?"

20 I do not believe there are any Site
21 Evaluation Committee members here tonight.
22 But, as I explained to you earlier, the next
23 five hearings will be joint public hearings,
24 where there will be at least a quorum of our

1 Committee at each one of those meetings. The
2 difference is a little bit different. Those
3 meetings are public hearings. They are for the
4 Committee to get information. The hearings
5 that we're doing tonight, and that we've done
6 over the last four nights, are for public
7 information.

8 Next question is addressed to me:
9 "Please explain the rules regarding contact
10 with the members of the Site Evaluation
11 Committee on this docket, public servants
12 working in the regulatory agencies. What are
13 lobbyists allowed to do? Is contact a matter
14 of public record? Does the public have the
15 same access to the permitting agencies and
16 personnel that the Applicant and its promoters
17 have?"

18 I'm going to answer the first half of
19 that question first. Nobody should be having
20 what we call "ex parte contact" with members of
21 the Site Evaluation Committee. What "ex parte
22 contact" is contact about an application that
23 is before the Site Evaluation Committee that is
24 not in the presence of the full Committee and

1 any other parties, such as Public Counsel. Ex
2 parte communications with members of the Site
3 Evaluation Committee are prohibited.

4 Now, I will tell you that it is not
5 unusual, and it is understandable, that we
6 oftentimes get public comment that is directed
7 to the e-mail of a public official who sits on
8 the Site Evaluation Committee. What we do in
9 those cases is those members of the Site
10 Evaluation Committee will immediately forward
11 that information to Pam Monroe, and it will be
12 logged in our public comment section of the
13 docket.

14 All adjudicative officials are
15 subject to that ex parte rule. That they're
16 not permitted to discuss the case in public --
17 I'm sorry, in private with anybody else. Their
18 discussions must occur in the course of the
19 proceedings with all of the parties present.

20 So, lobbyists are not allowed to come
21 up to, say, Chairman Honigberg and start
22 lobbying him about how he should -- how he
23 should act in this particular thing. And, if
24 that were to occur, I am sure that he would

1 tell them to leave.

2 Same token, none of you should be
3 walking up to Chairman Honigberg and telling
4 him what you think or what he should do in this
5 particular case. We have a process for that.
6 And, when you do it through our process, all of
7 the Committee members hear it, and all of the
8 participants are aware of what your public
9 comment is.

10 So, and then the final part of that
11 first half of the question, "is contact a
12 matter of public record?" Yes. To the extent
13 that it's in writing, we make it part of the
14 public record.

15 And, then, the second part of this
16 question is: "Does the public have the same
17 access to the permitting agencies and personnel
18 that the Applicants and its promoters have?"

19 I assume the questioner is
20 discussing, like we said before, things like
21 pre-permitting meetings and things like that.
22 And, that's obviously subject to the resources
23 of each individual permitting agency. I know
24 that, for instance, at the Department of

1 Environmental Services, if you had a question,
2 say, about a wetlands application that's
3 contained within a Site Evaluation application,
4 if you called Tim Drew, who is their public
5 information officer there, I know that he makes
6 an effort to get information to folks.

7 So, I believe that you probably do
8 have some of the same access. I can't speak
9 for every state agency. We have large state
10 agencies, like DES, and we also have very small
11 state agencies, like the Division of Historical
12 Resources, which work on a very -- pretty much
13 a skeleton crew. So, I think it's somewhat
14 dependent upon the individual agency. But they
15 are your state agencies. And, you should feel
16 free to inquire of them to see if you can get
17 information that you need.

18 The next question -- oh, okay. "The
19 Site Evaluation Committee denied a wind farm in
20 Antrim, New Hampshire, because the enormous
21 turbines would appear "out of scale" and cause
22 "significant qualitative impacts". Does the
23 SEC consider tall steel-lattice towers above
24 the trees in the Ammonoosuc River Valley to be

1 "out of scale" and would such towers cause
2 "significant qualitative impact"?"

3 Well, that's one of the decisions
4 that the Site Evaluation Committee is required
5 to make. They're required to consider whether
6 there will be an unreasonable adverse impact on
7 aesthetics in this particular case. I can't
8 tell you what each individual member of the
9 Site Evaluation Committee will decide. That is
10 their obligation to decide that, and they will
11 do that after hearing all of the evidence in
12 the case.

13 Okay. This next question has a very
14 long premise, and I'm going to summarize it,
15 because, basically, this question is to the
16 SEC, but it's about property values. And, the
17 questioner has a very long premise indicating
18 that there will be an impact on property
19 values, which he calls "undeniable, and already
20 evident". He says that "sales have faltered",
21 "that losses in value for affected properties
22 will be in the range of 50 to 70 percent". He
23 says that "there cannot be" -- "it cannot be
24 said that there's little or no effect as

1 Northern Pass is want to say, for both logic
2 and experience, even with minor degrees of
3 degradation tell us otherwise." And, "it's
4 simply a fact of life that you cannot place an
5 ugly object on a beautiful landscape without
6 reducing its value in the marketplace."

7 The question that he has for the SEC
8 is: "How will Northern Pass compensate
9 property owners?" That's not really an SEC
10 question, but the next one is: "How does the
11 SEC view property values lowered and devalued
12 in their permitting process?"

13 If you recall, the very first slide
14 that I put up set forth the purposes of the
15 Site Evaluation Committee. And, part of that
16 purpose is to balance the benefits and impacts
17 of a project on the welfare of the population,
18 private property, and the economics of the
19 state.

20 So, the Site Evaluation Committee
21 will hear evidence about property values, will
22 hear evidence about orderly development of the
23 region, and what impacts and what benefits any
24 particular project before it might have. And,

1 they will make a determination after hearing
2 that evidence.

3 Once again, I can't tell you what
4 they will decide, because I'm not the person
5 who decides that. But they will hear the
6 evidence and make the decision based upon those
7 criteria that I had laid out in the slides.

8 Next question is: "How many people
9 on the Site Evaluation Committee live in the
10 North Country?"

11 I don't know, because I don't know
12 where each of them resides. I know that
13 there's at least one member of the Committee
14 who lives north of the notches anyway. But I'm
15 not sure where everybody else on the Committee
16 physically lives. I know that most of them
17 work in Concord.

18 Next question, this is for the SEC:
19 "The Northern Pass proposes to bury part of its
20 line on municipal roads in Stewartstown and
21 Clarksville. Northern Pass has not formally
22 petitioned either the board of selectmen" --
23 oh, "either board of selectmen to acquire a
24 license to use the right-of-way in the

1 municipal roads. Why did the Site Evaluation
2 Committee accept the Northern Pass Application
3 as complete without such documents? Does the
4 SEC believe that RSA 162-H trumps the statutory
5 authority of these municipalities to issue such
6 licenses?"

7 There's a case called "Public Service
8 versus Town of Hampton, which says that the
9 Site Evaluation Committee does, in fact,
10 have -- preempt the authority of local -- of
11 local towns and cities in the installation of,
12 in that particular case, it was an overhead
13 transmission line, that went from the Seabrook
14 power plant to somewhere, I'm not sure where it
15 went to. That case is old. It's in the early
16 '80s. But that is the statute, and the statute
17 envisions the preemptive authority of the
18 Committee, and the Supreme Court of the state
19 has also interpreted the statute that way.

20 And, I'm going to apologize to this
21 questioner, because I think they may have
22 misunderstood something that I said. But this
23 question is: "If a power purchase agreement is
24 required before an application is submitted,

1 why did the SEC accept the Application as
2 "complete", when there is no PPA as admitted by
3 Mr. Quinlan last week in Londonderry?"

4 I think I know, there's a slide I put
5 up that talked about the types of things that
6 applicants do before they come in to the Site
7 Evaluation Committee. We don't have a rule
8 that says "you have to have a PPA", but that is
9 one of the very common things that is done.
10 The purpose of that slide was to just discuss
11 all of the things that go on before we actually
12 get the application at the Site Evaluation
13 Committee.

14 So, if I led you to believe that a
15 power purchase agreement is required, it's not.
16 But, of course, an applicant that comes in
17 without a power purchase agreement still has to
18 satisfy those criteria that are there, and that
19 may be problematic.

20 This next question is for the Site
21 Evaluation Committee: "As stated last week,
22 the power lines cannot be placed under the
23 interstate highway, because the Department of
24 Transportation did not see it as a necessity.

1 New Hampshire outputs energy all read --
2 outputs energy already, why does New Hampshire
3 have to take the blow for this Project to feed
4 the energy needs for the city folks?"

5 And, I assume what the questioner is
6 asking about is the fact that there's been
7 suggestions that most of the power from this
8 line will go to other places and not New
9 Hampshire.

10 That's a question that the Site
11 Evaluation Committee will consider in its -- in
12 its deliberations. I can't answer this
13 question for you. That's one of the questions
14 that go to the very heart of the things that
15 the Committee will consider.

16 "Is Northern Pass employee,
17 Mr. Varney, a former SEC member?"

18 Yes, he is. Mr. Varney is the former
19 chair -- Commissioner of the Department of
20 Environmental Services, and, in that role, sat
21 as the Chairman of the Site Evaluation
22 Committee for a number of years.

23 And, just to expand, because I'm sure
24 I'll get the question, yes, I did represent the

1 Committee at times when Mr. Varney was
2 Commissioner of the Department of Environmental
3 Services and sat on the Site Evaluation
4 Committee.

5 So, those are the questions that we
6 had for the Committee, I believe. Of course,
7 there may be more that have come in since.

8 ADMINISTRATOR MONROE: No.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Let me
10 just get myself organized here, because I
11 picked up too many papers. Those are done.

12 Okay. The next -- the next group of
13 questions that we're going to ask deal with
14 burial, and these, obviously, are going to go
15 to the Applicant.

16 First one: "I intend to stand on my
17 part of the road if you come down Route 116
18 intending to bury the line and will stop you
19 from proceeding. I consider that I own the
20 land under the road surface abutting my
21 property up to the median. What are you going
22 to do about it?"

23 MR. QUINLAN: Haven't gotten that
24 question before. But, you know, our hope and

1 expectation is that, you know, when we move
2 into the construction phase, we have a project
3 that New Hampshire will support. And, we won't
4 have to deal with that type of situation.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: This
6 next question, and I'm trying to make sure
7 that, if there are similar questions, we can do
8 them together. But this next question is:
9 "Have you discussed an alternative burial route
10 with the Plymouth Board of Selectmen or any
11 other town official to avoid digging up and
12 disrupting businesses along Route 3, Main
13 Street, in Plymouth? And, if so, what did you
14 discuss?"

15 MR. QUINLAN: I can't speak
16 specifically to Plymouth. But, for
17 municipalities across the entire route, we've
18 been having ongoing conversations with
19 virtually all of them at some level, including
20 exploration of alternative routes that might be
21 preferable to a town.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: How
23 could somebody find out if you've actually
24 spoken to Plymouth?

1 MR. QUINLAN: So, I was going to turn
2 it over to the team as to Plymouth, in
3 particular.

4 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. There is a
5 representative of the Design Team that has
6 been -- had meetings or preliminary meetings
7 with the Town of Plymouth. Those meetings will
8 continue. And, we will work with the Town to
9 come up with a solution that works for
10 everyone.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Can you
12 give the questioner an idea of what was
13 discussed?

14 MR. JOHNSON: I honestly don't know.
15 I apologize.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
17 question is similar: "As a resident on DWH
18 (Route 3), proposed underground line will be
19 disruptive to residents and business" -- I
20 think it's "will the proposed line be
21 disruptive to residents and businesses along
22 this route? And, also, why can't all the lines
23 be buried underground?"

24 MR. QUINLAN: So, as to disruption,

1 you know, when you move beyond siting, into
2 construction and the planning around it, one of
3 the things we do routinely, and it certainly
4 would be the case here, is to work with the
5 municipalities and the local businesses to
6 minimize disruption. You know, and that, you
7 know, may look at, you know, which season would
8 be least disruptive? What time of day would be
9 least disruptive? Are there construction
10 methodologies that would minimize, in
11 particular, business impacts? That's something
12 we do in the ordinary course. And, we'd
13 certainly do it here.

14 I'd just turn it over to the Team, is
15 there anything you could add to that?

16 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Just from a
17 residential perspective there, while
18 construction will be happening in front of your
19 driveway, you will always have access to your
20 driveway. You know, we'll work with you
21 individually to get you in and out, either by
22 putting a steel plate over the trench, if it
23 happens to be open, so that you will always
24 have access to your property. Similar to, as

1 Bill mentioned, we will work with businesses to
2 try to provide access to driveways and to
3 maintain business operations at all times.

4 MR. QUINLAN: And, as to the second
5 question, you know, I think you asked a
6 question of an all-underground route. We have
7 certainly looked at that option. It adds
8 approximately a billion dollars to the total
9 Project cost. And, from our perspective, it
10 makes the Project uneconomic. And, we've been
11 trying --

12 [Audience interruption.]

13 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Please.
14 Please let him finish answering his question.
15 Please be courteous.

16 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, we've been
17 working towards a balance. A project that
18 addresses the principal view impacts, works
19 technically, and also is economically feasible.
20 We think we've got the right project. An
21 all-underground project is uneconomic.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
23 The next question is: "What percentage of the
24 infrastructure will be underground?"

1 MR. QUINLAN: It's approximately
2 one-third. So, it's 60 miles of a 192-mile
3 route. So, a little less than a third.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Why
5 can't the hydroelectric line that runs from
6 Quebec through the western part of New
7 Hampshire be shared with this project?"

8 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, that is an
9 existing supply. And, there's actually a
10 second interconnection with Hydro-Quebec that
11 runs through Vermont. Those projects have been
12 in service, similar to Northern Pass, for
13 decades. They're both all overhead
14 construction lines. They're, in essence, at
15 capacity. What Northern Pass does is it brings
16 in a new source, a new supply, to replace,
17 basically, power plants that have retired or
18 are retiring. Many of them right on our
19 doorstep, like Vermont Yankee. And, if you
20 look to Massachusetts, you know, Pilgrim
21 Nuclear Station, they're retiring. A lot of
22 the coal generation fleet has retired, as has
23 oil. So, we are -- we need a new supply. The
24 two existing lines simply don't have the

1 capacity to make a difference.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Right.

3 But I guess the question, though, asks "why you
4 can't share that, the route of that line?"

5 MR. QUINLAN: Oh, share the
6 right-of-way?

7 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Yes.

8 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. A different
9 question. Okay. I thought you were referring
10 to "just put more through the existing line".
11 Go ahead, Sam.

12 MR. JOHNSON: So, we actually did
13 look at that corridor as a potential route for
14 this Project. The right-of-way that's existing
15 today is at its full capacity, meaning that
16 there is no more room to put other structures
17 in there, if we had done some designs. And, we
18 also looked at potentially expanding that
19 right-of-way. And, there are too many areas
20 where there are easements or conservation
21 easements that abut that right-of-way. So, it
22 is not fully expandable.

23 MR. QUINLAN: And, I will just remind
24 you, you know, the currently proposed Project,

1 not only is a third of it going to be
2 underground, but the vast majority of the
3 balance is in an existing right-of-way, running
4 parallel to an existing transmission line. So,
5 it's, in some respects, comparable to running
6 it in parallel to that existing interconnection
7 with Hydro-Quebec.

8 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. There's also -- Jim
9 Muntz, I'm President of Transmission. There's
10 also some basic design criteria that we need to
11 comply with to make sure that we all have, you
12 know, safe, reliable, and as secure as we can
13 make the power system in today's day and age.

14 If we were to find the room to
15 squeeze the lines in on that existing
16 right-of-way, you'd end up with one
17 right-of-way where, if you lost it, the
18 regional system, the regional electric system
19 could not support that without incredible
20 upgrades, that would make any project -- any
21 project along that right-of-way, you know,
22 infeasible.

23 So, you know, that's sort of a basic
24 design criteria that North American Electric

1 Reliability Council and FERC can promulgate and
2 require us to adhere to. And, ISO-New England,
3 you know, let's us know about that. And, you
4 know, that's a basic concern that kind of ruled
5 out that right away right at the start.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And, the
7 next -- the last question from this questioner,
8 it was actually they're first question, but,
9 because we were dealing with underground, I
10 didn't ask it, but I'll ask you now. "How much
11 of the power will actually come back to Grafton
12 County?"

13 MR. QUINLAN: So, all of the power
14 will be delivered to Deerfield, New Hampshire.
15 You know, there was mention earlier about a
16 power purchase agreement. We intend to, at
17 some point, have a power purchase agreement
18 with Hydro-Quebec, that will reserve 10 percent
19 of all of that power for New Hampshire
20 customers. You know, 10 percent is a little
21 bit greater than our percentage of the load of
22 all of New England. So, we're getting at least
23 our fair share. The balance of the power
24 flowing over the line has not been contracted

1 for. So, it could well be available to New
2 Hampshire, if there's a need. But we will at
3 least have 10 percent, and all of it will be
4 physically delivered to Deerfield, New
5 Hampshire.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
7 question -- well, the first question this
8 questioner asks is about Concord: "The Concord
9 City Council, its subcommittee, 20 e-mails and
10 664 Petition signatures oppose the Project and
11 is requesting its burial through Concord. If
12 Northern Pass is truly listening, will the line
13 be buried through Concord?"

14 MR. QUINLAN: And, we are listening.
15 You know, earlier, you know, I think I
16 mentioned some of the changes we've already
17 made to the Project design as originally
18 planned, a substantial commitment of additional
19 underground construction. That has added
20 several hundred million dollars to the Project
21 cost. Also required us to reduce the size of
22 the Project, so the benefits to New Hampshire
23 and New England and customers in these regions
24 has gone down as a result of it. But that was,

1 in essence, based upon feedback that we had
2 gotten from New Hampshire. We are certainly
3 aware of questions that Concord has about the
4 existing plan. We intend to continue to work
5 with Concord, as we are with every other
6 municipality, and ensuring that we address
7 their concerns.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Today,
9 do you plan to bury the line through Concord?

10 MR. QUINLAN: That's not our plan
11 today, no.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The
13 second question: "Why did Northern Pass choose
14 Route 116, Route 112, and Route 3 to bury 52
15 additional miles, instead of Route 93? Route
16 93 is eight to ten miles shorter, as well as
17 having no impact to homeowners and businesses."

18 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, we have
19 recently filed with the Department of Energy a
20 very detailed explanation as to why Interstate
21 93 is not a feasible alternative. In our view,
22 it simply doesn't work. So, when we made the
23 commitment to avoid the White Mountain National
24 Forest, Franconia Notch, and the Appalachian

1 Trail, we had to look at these secondary roads.
2 That's what led to the selection of the three
3 roads you mentioned.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "As
5 owners of property on both sides of 116, when
6 and if are we going to be contacted to address
7 our specific concerns as they relate to our
8 properties, as well as those of our neighbors
9 and" -- I can't read the word -- [Franconia?],
10 but, in general" -- "those of our neighbors",
11 and I guess it's "families in general. I would
12 like specific and exact information, not
13 generalized propaganda."

14 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to turn this
15 over to Sam Johnson in a moment. But one of
16 the things we have been doing for years now is
17 working with property owners up and down the
18 route. We've had, I believe, over 3,000
19 contacts at this point, generally to answer
20 questions and to provide information.

21 Sam Johnson, from Burns & McDonnell,
22 and his team is overseeing that. So, can you
23 talk specifically about this also?

24 MR. JOHNSON: Sure. So, a couple

1 steps have to happen. As we go forward, we're
2 going to refine our design to get a more
3 specific route, which side of the road it's
4 going to be on, which properties it will be
5 near. As we go through the construction
6 planning phases, we will then work out our
7 schedules on when we expect to be in towns. We
8 expect a trenching operation to be in front of
9 somebody's house for somewhere between one to
10 two weeks. That will depend on soil
11 conditions, the amount of rock that's
12 encountered underground. And, all of those
13 things still need to be determined and
14 finalized.

15 Once they are, we will basically
16 start a end-to-end outreach program, to meet
17 with every single abutter on the Project, and
18 to discuss in detail how the construction will
19 then be propagated. Also, we'll meet with
20 towns to do the same thing.

21 MR. QUINLAN: I will say, you don't
22 have to wait until that process. Okay? If
23 you're an abutting landowner and you have
24 questions today, either get in touch with Sam

1 tonight or any of the other Project Team
2 members, and they will be certain that you are
3 contacted immediately.

4 This is something that's been
5 ongoing, as I say, for many months. It has
6 been, you know, quite extensive in its reach.
7 This is the formal process. But we're willing
8 to meet with any adjoining landowner at any
9 time.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
11 question is: "Where else in the United States
12 are there any other HVDC lines buried under the
13 same winter conditions that northern New
14 Hampshire "enjoys"? Meaning, snow, ice storms,
15 spring flooding, et cetera.

16 MR. QUINLAN: Perhaps Sam or Jim.

17 MR. JOHNSON: There are none to my
18 knowledge. The fact that this is 60 miles of
19 underground is unprecedented in North America.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
21 question: Okay. "There is an existing
22 right-of-way in Stark, which has a buried gas
23 pipeline and wooden power poles which are
24 shorter than the trees and we cannot see them.

1 Question number (1) Are the "regulations"
2 within this right-of-way pertaining to the
3 heights of the power poles? And, number (2)
4 The gas line is buried without anywhere near
5 the Northern Pass towers' opposition. Do you
6 know why the gas company can afford to bury
7 their pipeline and Northern Pass claims that it
8 costs too much?" So, the first question is,
9 "Are there regulations within the right-of-way
10 pertaining to heights of power poles?"

11 MR. JOHNSON: So, there are design
12 regulations, which is the National Electric
13 Safety Code, that determine the minimum
14 clearance to ground that must happen. And,
15 that's for electrical safety, so, you know,
16 it's a standard design.

17 The other factor here is that the
18 height of the structures is determined
19 potentially by the width of the right-of-way.
20 Meaning that, if we are constrained in that
21 particular right-of-way, the towers would have
22 to be more taller, rather than shorter.

23 To further answer the question, there
24 are also codes that describe design that has to

1 be done in the neighborhood of high-volt -- or,
2 high-pressure gas pipes, and the way that
3 construction techniques are used in that area.
4 So, that is all very defined and very safe.

5 It is my understanding that, except
6 for in the Alaska area, where the pipeline is
7 aboveground due to tundra, and some of the
8 other places in northern Canada, that all gas
9 pipelines are buried underground in the U.S.
10 and Canada, for the most part, for safety
11 reasons as well, and security.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And, the
13 second part of the question was "Do you know
14 why the gas company can afford to bury their
15 pipeline and Northern Pass says it costs too
16 much?"

17 MR. JOHNSON: Unfortunately, I'm
18 not -- I don't know the -- understand fully the
19 economics of the gas pipelines. Obviously,
20 I -- go ahead, Jim.

21 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. The gas pipelines
22 don't have a choice except to be buried.

23 [Audience interruption.]

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.

1 The next question is: "Northern Pass, you say
2 that complete burial would cost \$1 billion more
3 than the cost of the Project as proposed. You
4 said that this is based on an average of
5 \$7.5 million per mile in addition to the cost
6 of overhead construction. Can you provide more
7 details about the assumptions that support this
8 estimate?" And, then, the questioner has three
9 specific assumptions that he's asking about.

10 "Did you assume burial of the line along
11 transportation corridors? If so, which
12 corridors? Did you assume that the additional
13 cost includes costs of cable? And, if so, does
14 buried cable cost more than aboveground cable?"
15 And, number "(3) If cable cost is higher, how
16 much and why?"

17 And, I'll get to number (4). I've
18 probably given you too much on your plate right
19 there. But the first question is "can you
20 provide details about the assumptions that
21 support the estimate of \$7.5 million per mile?"

22 MR. QUINLAN: And, let me just answer
23 that question at the outset. That number is
24 based upon our experience with underground

1 transmission construction and cost, as well as
2 the experience of several of the largest
3 contractors in the country who do this for a
4 living.

5 So, our kind of estimates and
6 expectations have been verified, now that we
7 are in deep discussions with, actually, the
8 construction groups who would build this. And,
9 we feel very comfortable with that range.

10 Now, as to the numbers, Sam, do you
11 want to shed some light on that?

12 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. And, I don't know
13 specifically, but I will tell you that overhead
14 conductor is in the neighborhood of tens of
15 dollars per foot, and underground, the cable
16 itself, is in the neighborhood of thousands of
17 dollars. So, it's a many orders of magnitude
18 difference. So, yes, underground is much more
19 expensive than overhead, from just the pure
20 cable perspective.

21 MR. BOWES: Just to add a little more
22 detail on that. And, it's really based upon
23 the design of the conductor. The insulation
24 has to be sufficient, in just an inch or inch

1 and a half, to have the same effect of several
2 feet in open air. So, again, it's a
3 constraint, and insulation has to be a much
4 higher quality than just open air.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: So,
6 that's answered the third question, "if cable
7 cost is higher, how much and why?" But the
8 first question was, in your estimate, "did you
9 assume that burial of the line would be along
10 transportation corridors? And, if so, which
11 ones?"

12 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, we have
13 assumed it's going to be along the public
14 highway. If we were talking about burying it
15 in a transmission corridor along a
16 right-of-way, that billion dollars in
17 incremental costs would be much, much higher.
18 Okay? And, I know there's been some confusion
19 about earlier statements years ago, that was
20 looking at the cost of burying it in the
21 right-of-way. As you would probably surmise,
22 blasting your way through an existing
23 right-of-way, including the White Mountain
24 National Forest, is going to be far more costly

1 than burying it along the public highway. So,
2 this estimate is based upon burial along the
3 public highway. It's approximately 130 miles
4 of additional undergrounding. We looked at
5 several different alternatives. But it's
6 pretty simple math. It's approximately 130
7 miles, it's on the order of 5 to \$10 million
8 per mile. The incremental cost of using the
9 public highway is approximately a billion
10 dollars.

11 [Audience interruption.]

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
13 question is: "Is it more expensive to bury the
14 AC lines between Franklin and Deerfield than DC
15 cables being used between Pittsburg and
16 Franklin? And, if so, what is the approximate
17 difference per mile?"

18 MR. JOHNSON: So, AC cable has three
19 conductors, where DC only has two conductors.
20 So, incrementally, it's about a third more
21 expensive, also the trench has to be wider and
22 deeper to get the AC in, because it has the
23 three full conductors.

24 It's my recollection that the project

1 in Connecticut that did install the AC
2 conductors was in the range of \$18 million per
3 mile.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next one
5 is, you would have to be -- you would have to
6 have been at the meeting last night to
7 understand this question, but I'll read it:
8 "Last night, two project engineers answered the
9 question about whether they would want their
10 grandchildren to live next to the overhead DC
11 line or the buried DC cable. They both said
12 "overhead line". Specifically, why is a buried
13 cable less desirable for that grandchild or for
14 other people?"

15 MR. BOWES: I was one of the
16 engineers that spoke to that last night. For
17 four reasons: Construction, operation, the
18 economics of it, and the environmental impacts
19 of it. I will go into each one in more detail.

20 The construction is much more
21 difficult along public roads, even versus a
22 right-of-way, and that increases the cost of
23 it, but it also increases the complications of
24 digging through the road. There will be

1 construction impacts to that, to residents and
2 to businesses, versus constructing on a
3 right-of-way. In addition, in this case, there
4 are a number of river crossings and large road
5 crossings as well. That complicates the
6 construction a great deal and the length of
7 time to do that.

8 The second area that I spoke of was
9 around the operation of it. While underground
10 systems are very reliable, in fact, in many
11 cases they experience less frequent
12 interruptions than overhead circuits do, when
13 they do occur, it takes a long time to make the
14 repair. Could be several weeks for an
15 underground cable versus hours or days for an
16 overhead system.

17 The third area is around the
18 environment. We maintain several tens of
19 thousands of acres today on transmission
20 rights-of-way. That creates a habitat for
21 certain species that otherwise would have a
22 very difficult time surviving and propagating
23 in the future. So, there is an environmental
24 impact, a positive one, for transmission

1 rights-of-way, and the clearing of those areas,
2 especially for birds.

3 And, the last item is economics. We
4 have to have an economic solution for the
5 energy needs we have in the future. And,
6 specifically, we have to have a greener source
7 of power in the future. So, there is a
8 long-term impact to delivering clean energy
9 into the region.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Last
11 night, your two project engineers indicated
12 that a project like this involving burying
13 miles of 1090 cable in residential and rural
14 neighborhoods has never been done before.
15 Therefore, how can you be sure that this will
16 be safe? For example, people whose houses sit
17 15 feet from the buried cable?"

18 And, actually, while you're talking
19 about that cable, the next question is: "What
20 is the maximum temperature that the cable
21 itself can reach once fully operational?"

22 MR. JOHNSON: The maximum temperature
23 is somewhere in the 45 to 55 degree Celsius
24 range. It is surrounded by insulating

1 material, not only in the cable itself, but
2 also with thermal sand that helps to dissipate
3 the heat underground.

4 What was the first part again?

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The
6 first part is "how can you be sure that it will
7 be safe, for example, for people who live
8 15 feet from the buried cable?"

9 MR. BOWES: A little less than
10 10 percent of our system today, our
11 transmission system, is underground, and has
12 operated for decades very safely. The only
13 places we have had issues with the underground
14 is when an external party has dug into that.
15 In that case, the protective systems on those
16 cables operate instantaneously and disconnect
17 the power at both ends, rendering it safe.

18 So, those are the only cases of
19 problems that I've ever seen on underground
20 transmission systems.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
22 question is: "What chemicals are in the
23 heat-dispersing under-the-road fill?"

24 MR. JOHNSON: It's sand. That's it.

1 Just sand.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Did you
3 say "sand"?

4 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
6 you. What -- I'm sorry. "Since this has not
7 been done before, how do you know that the
8 additional underground heat and chemicals will
9 not cause towns and people's older water pipes
10 in the rights-of-way to leach lead into our
11 water? The power" -- I'm sorry -- "will you
12 pay for lead testing before construction,
13 after, and once the power is running?" And,
14 then, the questioner also says "The water pipes
15 will be very close to the cable."

16 So, basically, the question is about
17 "how do you know it won't leach -- the
18 chemicals will not leach into towns and
19 people's older water pipes?"

20 MR. JOHNSON: Right. So, the answer
21 again is there are no chemicals that will
22 surround the cables themselves. The design of
23 the cables will take into account all
24 underground utilities. So, if you water pipes

1 that go back and forth across the roadway that
2 we may be impacting, we will go around them, or
3 we'll work with the landowners to move those
4 pipes, such that -- so that they can coexist
5 together.

6 As far as lead testing,
7 traditionally, we do not do lead testing.
8 However, we will work with people, individuals,
9 on a case-by-case basis, to ascertain whether
10 or not that's required.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
12 question is for the SEC. It's got two parts.
13 First one is: "What does the intervenor's
14 requirement of "orderly and prompt conduct not
15 being impaired"?" I think there's a word
16 missing, I think it means "what does that
17 mean?"

18 What it means is you have to
19 demonstrate, in order to get intervenor status,
20 that you will not impair the orderly and prompt
21 operation of the proceedings. In other words,
22 you won't delay it for unreasonable purposes,
23 you won't do frivolous things. You won't --
24 you know, you'll obey the rules and regulations

1 of how the adjudicative process is to run. You
2 won't interfere with other people when they're
3 asking their questions of witnesses, and things
4 like that. And, basically, that's half of what
5 the Chairman of the Committee will consider
6 when determining whether or not somebody is
7 entitled to be an intervenor in the case.

8 The other half is you have to
9 demonstrate that you have a substantial right
10 or interest in the outcome of the proceeding.

11 The second part of this question is:
12 "If RSA 162-H requires "full and complete
13 public disclosure", then why is the essential
14 business/financial benefits analysis being
15 allowed to be confidential?" And I forget the
16 specific name, it's an English company. I
17 don't think it's an English company. I think
18 what you're discussing is Appendix 43, which is
19 the London Economics report. I think "London"
20 is somebody's last name.

21 But that motion has not been ruled on
22 by the Site Evaluation Committee yet. The
23 Applicant has filed the Motion for Protective
24 Treatment of that particular exhibit. There is

1 other exhibits that deal with business and
2 financial benefits, and impacts and benefits,
3 contained in the testimony that has been
4 submitted so far, along with the Application,
5 there was written testimony from an expert.

6 But, just to be clear, that motion
7 has not been granted by the Committee yet. So,
8 ultimately, the Chairman will rule initially,
9 at least on that motion, and take into account
10 the criteria under RSA 91-A, and determine
11 whether or not the reasons put forth by the
12 Applicant are sufficient for that document to
13 be treated confidentially.

14 And, then, the next question is back
15 to the Applicant.

16 MR. ROTH: Mike, before you do that,
17 could I speak about the intervention, though,
18 for a second?

19 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Sure.

20 MR. ROTH: On the intervention
21 question, I think it's an interesting question,
22 and the standard, as elucidated by Mike, sounds
23 harder than it really is. And, for anybody
24 who's interested in intervening, I'd suggest

1 that you simply write a letter explaining your
2 issues and the reasons why you think you ought
3 to be intervening as clearly and as succinctly
4 as you can and submit that.

5 There's no particular format or
6 formality to it. Although, if you go to the
7 docket, you'll see that there are people who
8 have already filed intervention petitions in
9 sort of a formal way, and that looks like a
10 pleading, and you can copy that and put your
11 own information and facts in it.

12 I encourage people to do it, because
13 it's the way to give the most weight to your
14 views when they're presented to the Committee.
15 The Committee will see that you're very serious
16 about it, that you put in testimony, that you
17 participated on a regular basis, and that
18 counts a lot. So, I would recommend that you
19 do that.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And,
21 Peter is right. There's no magic to a motion
22 to intervene, and I didn't mean to make it
23 sound like it was particularly hard. But the
24 question asked about "what does it mean", so

1 I've tried to explain that.

2 You can write a letter or an e-mail,
3 as long as you put in it why you believe you
4 have a substantial interest in the outcome of
5 the proceeding, and that you will not impair
6 the orderly and prompt conduct of the
7 proceeding, and your motion will be considered
8 by the Chairman.

9 MR. ROTH: And, with respect to the
10 confidential documents, typically, in these
11 cases, I get access to confidential documents.
12 There is occasionally a document where it's
13 kept secret even from me. But, generally, I
14 get all of this stuff and I look at it fairly
15 carefully, and the experts that I retain, they
16 will also get it and look at it carefully.

17 We will be looking at them, the
18 present motion that's on file, to see if it
19 warrants our response to it in a more
20 considered way than we've done so far.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
22 question goes back to the Applicant:

23 "Eversource has hired Asplundh to de-limb trees
24 that might fall on the current electric lines

1 along public rights-of-way. Two weeks ago in
2 Franconia, on the planned route of Northern
3 Pass, Asplundh did an unprecedented thing,
4 actually cutting down large, full-grown trees
5 in town, where burial will be" -- "where burial
6 will be, not just lopping limbs. Why is
7 Northern Pass already proceeding as if they
8 have the permit?"

9 MR. QUINLAN: So, Asplundh is one of
10 the contractors we use to execute our
11 Vegetation Management Program. As you probably
12 are aware, you know, trees cause a majority of
13 our outages today. So, it's really important
14 that we have appropriate clearances. You know,
15 Asplundh -- we have a, essentially, a program
16 that trims every circuit on a four-year cycle.
17 And, that's the -- we call it "maintenance
18 trimming", that's the -- where we may take off
19 a limb or a portion of a limb. If a tree is
20 considered a "hazard tree", it's dying or it's
21 dead or it's an imminent threat to our circuit,
22 those are identified for possible removal. We
23 generally consult with the property owner, the
24 municipality, about removing hazard trees. I

1 don't know the specifics around this particular
2 tree but it may well have been a hazard tree
3 identified for removal. I think we removed
4 approximately 15,000 hazard trees in 2015
5 across the State of New Hampshire. None of it
6 related to Northern Pass.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: So, is
8 your answer that you don't know why this
9 particular -- these ones in Franconia?

10 MR. QUINLAN: I don't know why. It
11 sounded like it was a single tree.

12 [Audience interruption.]

13 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
14 question is: "For the proposed Coos Loop
15 upgrade: What sections of the loop do you plan
16 to upgrade? How tall will the towers be? What
17 types of towers will be used? What capacity
18 will the line have? How many towers will be
19 there? And, given the comments on aesthetic
20 impacts, why have no visual impact studies been
21 done for the Coos Loop upgrade?"

22 MR. QUINLAN: So, we are early in the
23 design phase around the Coos Loop upgrade. You
24 know, the scope of that upgrade is going to be

1 determined by a couple of things. One, ISO-New
2 England, the Independent System Operator, we
3 hope to learn from them where the actual
4 constraints that are limiting the capacity of
5 that loop. For those of you who are not
6 familiar with the Coos Loop upgrade, it's the
7 existing transmission circuits that feed the
8 North Country. And, one of the things we
9 intend to do is upgrade at least a portion of
10 that loop where it will run parallel to
11 Northern Pass.

12 So, it's an existing transmission
13 infrastructure, existing right-of-way, Northern
14 Pass will share that corridor with the existing
15 loop. And, we're going to take the opportunity
16 to increase the capacity in that loop, really
17 to unlock small-scale renewable generation in
18 the North Country.

19 You know, we certainly know that,
20 where those lines are running parallel, we'll
21 be replacing the conductor, which means
22 essentially putting in new cable that has
23 greater carrying capacity. There may well be
24 some other upgrades in that loop to fully

1 unlock it. And, that's where we need the input
2 from the system operator to assist.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: I guess
4 the question is, are you able to answer that
5 question about "how tall will the towers be?"
6 and things like that?

7 MR. QUINLAN: We've got some
8 preliminary thoughts, some preliminary designs,
9 but it subject to the final scope. And, Sam,
10 maybe you can provide some of the details.

11 MR. JOHNSON: Right. So, the loop
12 itself starts in Whitefield, and goes --
13 whichever way you go, if you go north, it goes
14 up to Lost Nations, across to Paris, into
15 Berlin, and then south, in a giant circle,
16 basically, back to Whitefield.

17 MR. QUINLAN: Those all being
18 substations, okay.

19 MR. JOHNSON: Oh, sorry. Yes. We
20 will be upgrading the section of the line that
21 starts just to the west of the Paris
22 Substation, down through Lost Nation, down to
23 the Whitefield Substation. So, approximately
24 half of the circle will be upgraded. Structure

1 heights will be somewhere between 70 and
2 120 feet in that region.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Have you
4 done any visual impact studies yet for that
5 upgrade? That was the last part of that
6 question.

7 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. My expert here is
8 telling me "no", we did not.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
10 Thank you. Next question is: "Mr. Iacopino
11 has stated in previous meanings that those of
12 who believe the SEC should not have the right
13 to preempt local zoning should work through the
14 Legislature, which has given the SEC this right
15 of preemption. Representative Susan Emerson is
16 sponsoring a Constitutional Amendment
17 Supporting Community Rights to Local
18 Self-Government. It's been designated as
19 "CACR-14". And, that would deny state and
20 federal preemption of local zoning. What is
21 the position of Northern Pass on this
22 Constitutional Amendment?"

23 MR. QUINLAN: I'm not familiar with
24 the amendment. So, I'm not in a position to

1 state our position.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Mr.
3 Quinlan" -- next question: "Mr. Quinlan has
4 stated that there were several reasons why
5 Northern Pass decided to bury the line through
6 the White Mountain National Forest and
7 surrounding towns. Sugar Hill, Easton, and
8 Plymouth adopted rights-based ordinances which
9 deny federal and state preemption of local
10 zoning. Were these ordinances, and the
11 litigation they would have necessitated,
12 factors in Northern Pass's decision to bury the
13 line through those towns?"

14 MR. QUINLAN: No. The decision to
15 bury the line in those regions was really based
16 upon feedback we had gotten across the state
17 from a wide variety of stakeholders, about the
18 importance of those scenic impacts and views.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Mr.
20 Quinlan, you have mentioned the environmental
21 impacts of burying along the existing
22 right-of-way. Why would you speak of this when
23 you know the deeds for the existing
24 right-of-way do not permit burial?"

1 MR. QUINLAN: I think I spoke about
2 it in response to a question around cost. And,
3 I know there had been some confusion
4 historically about the incremental cost of
5 burial. Those incremental costs that were
6 shared several years ago were based upon burial
7 in the existing right-of-way. In contrast to
8 the incremental costs that we're talking about
9 today, which are along the public highway.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
11 question is about the route and burial as well:
12 Given Northern Pass's concern for the scenic
13 and environmental integrity of the White
14 Mountain National Forest in Easton, Lincoln,
15 and North Woodstock, are you considering
16 burying the existing 115 kV line from the Sugar
17 Hill Substation to North Woodstock, and
18 returning that right-of-way to the White
19 Mountain National Forest and other landowners?
20 Burial as proposed protects White Mountain
21 National Forest from this Eversource project
22 while leaving it open for future abuse by
23 another, perhaps similar, project. This would
24 be an appropriate mitigation to offer for the

1 damages of burial."

2 The question in there is "are you
3 considering burying the existing 115 kV line
4 from Sugar Hill Substation to North Woodstock,
5 and returning the right-of-way to the White
6 Mountain National Forest and other landowners?"

7 MR. QUINLAN: No. That's not our
8 current plan.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
10 question goes to historic resources. Do we
11 have other questions regarding historic
12 resources?

13 ADMINISTRATOR MONROE: Yes.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Just
15 one? Okay. I'm just going to ask this one
16 then, because that will take care of this set
17 of questions.

18 "When did Northern Pass begin working
19 with the Department of Energy and New Hampshire
20 Department of Historic Resources on the
21 Programmatic Agreement?"

22 MR. QUINLAN: Could you introduce
23 yourself.

24 MS. WIDELL: Good evening. I'm

1 Cherilyn Widell, with Widell Preservation
2 Services. The Department of Energy first began
3 working with Northern Pass on the Programmatic
4 Agreement within the last two years. Normally,
5 you would include it in a Draft Environmental
6 Impact Statement. And, the Programmatic
7 Agreement now has been drafted, and it has been
8 shared with the Department of Heritage --
9 Historical Resources and Northern Pass, and is
10 about to be presented to the consulting parties
11 next week in a meeting, I believe which is on
12 Tuesday.

13 So, it has taken the Department of
14 Energy considerable time to move forward on
15 that Programmatic Agreement. But I believe it
16 is on track, and we are looking forward to its
17 prompt and complete completion. Thank you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And, you
19 should stay up here, --

20 MS. WIDELL: Sure.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: --
22 because I've got several more historical
23 resource questions.

24 MS. WIDELL: Great.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "At a
2 December 1, 2014 meeting between DHR and
3 Northern Pass, Edna Feighner, from DHR, stated
4 that "ongoing PSNH work along the right-of-way
5 that is to be shared by the Northern Pass
6 Transmission Project appears to be impacting
7 potential Phase II archeological sites
8 identified by Northern Pass subcontractors. In
9 particular, she said that cellar holes and
10 potential Native American sites appear to be
11 compromised by ongoing PSNH activities." Dick
12 Boisvert of NHDHR stated that "Northern Pass
13 was not demonstrating stewardship of the
14 potential resources", and that "because of this
15 potential disturbance, NHDHR could find it
16 challenging to assess the value of the sites
17 and potential impacts to these sites by the
18 Northern Pass Project." Where is this
19 right-of-way located and have the landowners
20 and towns been notified of this potential
21 violation?" That's the first question based on
22 that premise.

23 And, the second question is: "Was
24 the New Hampshire Commission on Native American

1 Affairs, which is a Section 106 Consulting
2 Party, notified of this potential violation?

3 MS. WIDELL: The location of
4 archeological resources is always protected by
5 federal law. So, wherever the location was
6 would not be disclosed to the public or even
7 the adjacent property owners during those
8 consultations.

9 And, the second question?

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Is "Was
11 the New Hampshire Commission on Native American
12 Affairs, which is a Section 106 Consulting
13 Party, notified of this potential violation?"

14 MS. WIDELL: The Department of Energy
15 is responsible for any consultation with Native
16 American groups as nation-to-nation
17 consultation occurs. So, I am not familiar
18 with whether the Department of Energy has
19 intervened in this particular situation. The
20 Division of Historical Resources may well know
21 that.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
23 question regarding historic resources is: "At
24 an October 14th, 2014 meeting between Northern

1 Pass and NHDR [sic] Resources staff, Victoria
2 Bunker, working as an archeological consultant
3 for Northern Pass, stated "Northern Pass
4 requires consultants stay only on the
5 right-of-way. Property owner permission is not
6 attempted." Why was property owner permission
7 not attempted, especially given early -- given
8 that earlier consultants had been turned off of
9 private properties when they were found digging
10 test pits on the right-of-way? Since
11 right-of-way easements allow only "the right to
12 erect, repair, maintain, rebuild, operate and
13 patrol electric transmission lines", how does
14 the Northern Pass plan to justify submitting to
15 the SEC data collected by contractors who
16 entered and dug test pits on private property
17 without landowner permission?"

18 MS. WIDELL: I'm going to refer this
19 question to my colleague.

20 MS. CARBONNEAU: Lee Carbonneau, with
21 nor Normandeau Associates. Yes. We work with
22 the archeologists for Northern Pass. And,
23 insomuch as archeological research is required
24 for the permitting process, and Eversource has

1 the right-of-way, then that kind of activity is
2 part of the permitting process. It's a
3 required portion of the Project, access to the
4 right-of-way for contractors is part of the
5 Project.

6 So, in some cases, private property
7 owners came out and requested that the
8 archeologists not enter their property at this
9 point. The archeologists packed up their stuff
10 and left those properties when asked, as we all
11 have done throughout this Project. So, at some
12 point, it's possible that we may have to go
13 back and try and complete that Phase IB work,
14 which is the test pitting work, in those
15 locations. And, the Project will direct us at
16 that time.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
18 The other part of that question was "How does
19 Northern Pass plan to justify submitting the
20 data collected by those contractors who dug the
21 pits on private property without permission?"
22 I just read that, because the next question
23 goes into that, too. So, if you want to
24 finish?

1 MS. CARBONNEAU: Yes. I'm sorry. I
2 guess that may be a legal question I can't
3 answer. It's part and parcel of the required
4 permit application process. So, we have to --
5 any information that is collected needs to be
6 submitted to the Division of Historical
7 Resources.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
9 So, the next question is actually for the SEC.
10 It says: "Does the SEC assess whether data
11 submitted by Northern Pass was collected
12 legally, or do they accept it on faith?"

13 The SEC will examine all of the
14 evidence in the case, and determine what weight
15 to give to it. I can't speak for any
16 individual Committee member, but it is possible
17 that, if a Committee member is convinced that
18 something was done work, a Committee member
19 might not place any weight on particular
20 evidence. That's the way that evidence is
21 considered in courts of law, it's the same way
22 that the Site Evaluation Committee would. It
23 depends upon the circumstances and the evidence
24 that is presented to them.

1 MS. CARBONNEAU: Could I just add
2 that the area of potential effect where the
3 work is done is something that was determined
4 through consultations with the Division of
5 Historical Resources, which is a state agency.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
7 I'm going to come -- there's a question here
8 that's not really about historic resources.
9 So, while we have the historic resources, I'm
10 going to ask these other two questions, and
11 then get to that one.

12 "According to NHDHR standards
13 "Although artifacts recovered in Phase IA are
14 generally anticipated to be relatively limited,
15 they are to undergo proper cleaning,
16 cataloging, and identification (see Section
17 VI.A and Appendices B and C). Characterize
18 surface artifact scatters deposits through a
19 preliminary analysis that includes material,
20 method of manufacture, decorative elaboration,
21 identifying marks, and type and age if
22 possible. Place the artifact catalogue in the
23 appendix." And, I assume that's a quote from
24 the standards at DHR.

1 And, the question is: "Were any
2 artifacts recovered during the survey of the
3 proposed routes? If so, where did they end up?
4 Were any recovered artifacts returned to the
5 landowners of the property where they were
6 found?"

7 MS. CARBONNEAU: Yes. Definitely.
8 Artifacts were recovered, and they were
9 processed in accordance with those rules. All
10 of that information was submitted to the
11 Division of Historical Resources. My
12 understanding is, at this point, and I'm not
13 positive, but I think that those artifacts are
14 turned over to the Division of Historical
15 Resources, but I'm not sure. I think it's
16 possible that landowners may be able to get
17 those. But, at the moment, I believe that
18 those are with the Division of Historical
19 Resources or will be.

20 MS. WIDELL: And, normally, the
21 curation standards for all archeological
22 material are determined in that Programmatic
23 Agreement that we were just talking about.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And,

1 then, the last question on historic resources
2 on this page is: "Section 106 of the National
3 Historic Preservation Act requires federal
4 agencies and their agents to take into account
5 the impacts of their undertakings on properties
6 eligible for or listed on the National Register
7 of Historic Places." Does this mean that
8 Northern Pass does not need to take into
9 account the impact of their undertaking on
10 properties not eligible for listing on the
11 National Register of Historic Places, which
12 comprise the vast majority of archeological
13 resources in the state?"

14 MS. WIDELL: Could you repeat that
15 again?

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: I'm
17 going to have you look -- I'm going to have
18 you --

19 MS. WIDELL: I know the Section 106
20 part of it, but --

21 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Why
22 don't you read the question, because you're
23 probably much more familiar with the written
24 standards than I am.

1 [Presiding Officer Iacopino handing
2 document to Ms. Widell.]

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: It's the
4 bottom question.

5 MS. WIDELL: The Section 106 of the
6 National Historic Preservation Act requires
7 federal agencies who are giving money,
8 permitting or licensing, in this case, for a
9 Presidential Permit, to take into consideration
10 historic properties that are likely to be
11 affected by the project, and are on or eligible
12 for the National Register of Historic Places.
13 So, if there is a property within that area of
14 potential effect that is determined not
15 eligible for the National Register, then it
16 does not need to be considered under Section
17 106.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
19 And, then, there was another question. Here we
20 go: "National Grid and Public Service Company
21 of New Hampshire, doing business as Eversource
22 Energy, filed a Joint Application for a
23 Certificate of Site and Facility with the Site
24 Evaluation Committee. The Application seeks

1 the issuance of a Certificate of Site and
2 Facility approving the siting, construction,
3 and operation of a 345 kilovolt (CH) electric
4 transmission line. The proposed transmission
5 line will be constructed in an existing
6 developed transmission line corridor between
7 New England Power's Tewksbury 22A Substation,
8 in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, and PSNH's Scobie
9 Pond 345 kV Substation, in Londonderry, New
10 Hampshire. Since Northern Pass has been
11 extended to Londonderry, and would presumably
12 connect with this project, why is this project
13 not considered part of Northern Pass?"

14 Incidentally, that project is the
15 subject of a pending Application before the
16 Site Evaluation Committee, commonly referred to
17 as the "Merrimack Valley Reliability Project".

18 But you can answer the question as to
19 "why it's not considered part of Northern
20 Pass?"

21 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, that project,
22 Merrimack Valley Reliability Project, has been
23 determined by the Independent System Operator
24 to be needed for system reliability, hence, a

1 reliability project. It's completely
2 independent of Northern Pass. That's why it's
3 the subject of a separate application.

4 Jim, you want to add?

5 MR. MUNTZ: No, just it is entirely
6 separate. It's need date to maintain the New
7 England grid's reliability is I believe it's
8 2017 or so. So, we're saying, basically, with
9 all the changes in generation and the evolution
10 of the system, if we don't have that project in
11 by the end of 2017, 2018, I'm not exactly --

12 MR. QUINLAN: '18.

13 MR. MUNTZ: -- '18 is the need date,
14 we would expect to have reliability problems on
15 the grid. And, that's regardless of Northern
16 Pass coming in or not.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
18 Next question is: "What is the scenic impact
19 in Franconia Notch if the line is buried?"

20 MR. QUINLAN: I'll turn this over to
21 our visual simulation expert. But one of the
22 things we were intending to do, by committing
23 to underground construction in the region, is
24 to eliminate additional visual impacts in that

1 region. Terry, you want to add?

2 MR. DeWAN: I'll try to add. My name
3 is Terry DeWan. We did the visual impact
4 assessment. We specifically did not do a
5 visual impact assessment of the option that
6 you're proposing. So, I really would only be
7 speculating at this point, not knowing what it
8 would look like, where it would be located,
9 what other facilities would have to be done to
10 accommodate an underground transmission line in
11 that area.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
13 question is: "Changes in the route so far have
14 shifted it from towers east of the Pemi in
15 Holderness to underground through downtown
16 Plymouth. Is it possible that at some point
17 the route might shift again to involve further
18 burial in Bridgewater? If so, is it possible
19 that it might stay on the west side of the
20 Pemi? We are landowners along the Pemi and are
21 concerned."

22 MR. QUINLAN: So, the plan that we
23 have now formally proposed to the Site
24 Evaluation Committee is our current plan.

1 We're not anticipating additional underground
2 construction at this point.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
4 According to this questioner: At last night's
5 session in Whitefield you carefully evaded the
6 question as to whether you ever directly talked
7 with the New Hampshire Department of
8 Transportation about the possibility of full
9 burial using the I-93 or other interstate
10 corridor and with the parties to the Franconia
11 Notch Interstate settlement. So, we will try
12 again tonight. Number (1) Have you ever
13 requested a conversation with all of the
14 principals to that settlement?"

15 MR. QUINLAN: No. And, I think
16 Mr. Hodgdon would have answered these questions
17 last night. But, I think, on that point, it's
18 very clear.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Have
20 you ever made a similar official request with
21 the Department of Transportation to use the
22 I-93 and other interstate corridors for a
23 burial option?"

24 MR. QUINLAN: Turn this over to

1 Mr. Hodgdon.

2 MR. HODGDON: The question, can you
3 just read that again? Just want to make sure
4 I'm answering it.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Have
6 you made a similar official request with the
7 New Hampshire Department of Transportation to
8 use the I-93 and other interstate corridors for
9 a burial option?"

10 I think what the questioner is trying
11 to find out is did you make an official request
12 to use I-93, to bury under I-93, or any other
13 interstate corridor?

14 MR. HODGDON: Not to parse things,
15 but the only official request we've made for
16 DOT is the application we filed, for the routes
17 that are proposed. We have had consultations
18 for years with DOT that led up to that. And,
19 we were well aware of their policies and rules,
20 which they told us any application would have
21 to comply with.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And, the
23 third part of that question is, if you have had
24 such conversations, "if so, when, with whom,

1 and what were their responses?"

2 MR. HODGDON: They go back years, I
3 couldn't give you the dates. And, I can only
4 tell you that they were with those parties at
5 the DOT who are -- who were designated by DOT
6 to be responsible for reviewing any future
7 application.

8 MR. QUINLAN: And, I will just add on
9 this point. I think the Company's view about
10 the feasibility of using Interstate 93 is now
11 formal. It's been filed with the Department of
12 Energy, and it's available to the public for
13 review.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
15 This next thing goes back to a question you
16 were asked earlier, Mr. Quinlan. Some of it
17 you've already answered, but there are portions
18 that are new. So, I'm going to read the whole
19 question: "At earlier public hearings,
20 Northern Pass has stated that the cost of fully
21 burying the Project would be an additional
22 \$1 billion. Your answer on how you came to
23 that conclusion was", according to the
24 questioner, "an admittedly simplistic

1 back-of-the-envelope calculation. Can you or
2 will you provide more detailed engineering
3 plans and cost estimates that would justify
4 that your numbers on full burial are even close
5 to reasonable? And, can you explain why your
6 cost estimates appear much higher than the
7 terrestrial burial cost estimates derived for
8 similar projects in New York and Vermont?"

9 MR. QUINLAN: I can't speak to other
10 projects in New York and Vermont. Every
11 project is different. We feel very comfortable
12 with the estimate that we've come up with.
13 I've explained its derivation, it is fairly
14 straightforward and simple. It is, however,
15 based upon many projects that we have built as
16 a company, or that have been built by the
17 contractors with whom we are working. So, it's
18 straightforward, but it's grounded in
19 experience.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Is it
21 your intention to provide more detailed
22 engineering plans or cost estimates?

23 MR. QUINLAN: No.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next

1 question: "The I-93 right-of-way (including
2 Franconia Notch) has not been explained as to
3 why it cannot be utilized. Will the Applicant
4 be more specific" -- well, actually, they're
5 two separate questions, I think. The first
6 question is about "I-93 right-of-way (including
7 Franconia Notch)", and the questioner is asking
8 "as to why it cannot be utilized?" I guess the
9 Franconia Notch highway.

10 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, Franconia
11 Notch is a particularly, obviously, sensitive
12 portion of the Interstate 93. The reasons why
13 that is not feasible are spelled out in great
14 detail in this filing that we just made with
15 the Department of Energy. And, again, that's
16 available to the public.

17 FROM THE FLOOR: Where?

18 MR. QUINLAN: I believe it may be
19 posted to our website at this point. But it's
20 certainly available in the Department of
21 Energy's public record. And, we'd be happy to
22 make it available upon request.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
24 The next question is, and I don't know if it

1 refers to the first one or not, because it
2 could mean more than just the I-93
3 right-of-way. But "will the Applicant be more
4 specific regarding "best practices" as the
5 process moves along?"

6 MR. QUINLAN: And, just for clarity,
7 "best practices" in the context of the use of
8 the public highway or "utility best practices"
9 or --

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Why
11 don't you address both, because I am not sure
12 what the questioner asked. You know, if it's
13 "best practices with respect to burial under
14 the highways" and then "best practices for
15 utilities".

16 MR. HODGDON: As you might imagine,
17 with regard to the public roads, first, for
18 those that are local roads, we are applying DOT
19 standards. The municipalities involved don't
20 have a set of standards. So, we are applying
21 DOT standards, because they're more rigorous.

22 With regard to the DOT process, DOT,
23 as you might imagine, has a very rigorous and
24 set practice with regard to use of its highways

1 and roads. And, we will be complying fully
2 with that, and that will include both
3 transportation -- traffic control plan and
4 what's called a "traffic management plan",
5 they're slightly different.

6 We will also be applying all of their
7 construction standards, including depth and
8 offsets that are detailed in their manual, and
9 we will be complying fully with those.

10 With regard to the traffic control
11 plan, those will be well in accordance with
12 accepted practices, and will be governed by
13 DOT.

14 MR. BOWES: There are a variety of
15 other "best practices" that would apply to the
16 overhead and underground portions of this line
17 as well. Some would include the vegetation
18 management on the rights-of-way, the operations
19 and maintenance of the overhead transmission
20 line, the operation and maintenance of the
21 underground transmission line, various soil and
22 erosion control measures taking place in and
23 around wetlands, to name a few. There are
24 probably many more that can be provided. And,

1 I think some of them have been provided in the
2 prefiled testimony for the Application under
3 Jerry Fortier's name.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
5 is kind of a long question. It references a
6 story that was entitled "Sugar Hill, Franconia:
7 Northern Pass Tax Pitch Met With Skepticism",
8 and it states that this story was published in
9 "The Orleans Record on October 20, 2015". And,
10 it quotes from the story to say: "North
11 Country community outreach specialist Scott
12 Mason", and the questioner indicates that he
13 was a "Northern Pass spokesman", "said if the
14 towns sign on to a 20-year tax agreement that
15 would assess Northern Pass property the way the
16 Company wants it will agree" -- "the way that
17 the Company wants it to it will agree not to
18 sue the towns during that time period to reduce
19 its taxes." The questioner goes on to quote
20 "That agreement uses the net book method of
21 assessment minus an annual 2.5 percent in
22 depreciation, a straight-line depreciation
23 formula that would run the value of Northern
24 Pass property to half in 20 years and to zero

1 in 40 years. My question is, are Mr. Mason's
2 statements about lawsuits still true?"

3 MR. QUINLAN: So, I believe what
4 Mr. Mason was referring to is discussions we've
5 been having with many municipalities around
6 certainty around tax revenues in the future
7 from the Project. And, I shared with you
8 earlier some ranges, which are illustrative for
9 these communities.

10 You know, the straight-line
11 depreciation method referred to in that story,
12 along with the net book value concept, is one
13 that's widely accepted in the utility industry
14 across the country. It's one that we feel very
15 comfortable with. And, we are making
16 representations to communities hosting this
17 line that, assuming we're taxed using that
18 methodology, we will provide certainty around
19 the taxes in the form of a pledge, meaning we
20 would not seek to abate taxes, if they were
21 derived using that methodology.

22 And, it's really intended to get
23 municipalities comfortable with what that
24 revenue stream might look like, and it uses an

1 industry-accepted practice.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
3 part of the question: "Is it true that the net
4 book method of assessment results in halving
5 the value in 20 years, and zeros it in 40?"

6 MR. QUINLAN: There are other
7 variables, such as, you know, that assumes that
8 there are no additions or additional
9 investments in the capital infrastructure. So,
10 if it's installed and it's never touched for 40
11 years, that's a long-lived asset. So, its
12 depreciation schedule is, in fact, 40 years.
13 That would be the effect, absent capital
14 upgrades or improvements to the line.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
16 part of the question: "What is the currently
17 published approximate total of Northern Pass's
18 tax revenues to all affected New Hampshire
19 towns over the 40 year life of this power line
20 project?"

21 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, we've
22 evaluated it over the first 20 years. It's
23 approximately \$30 million a year. So, in
24 essence, \$600 million over the first 20 years.

1 We did not run it out for the full 40-year
2 period.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Using
4 the net book method of assessment, what will be
5 the approximate total of Northern Pass's tax
6 revenues to all affected New Hampshire towns
7 over the same 40-year life of this power line
8 project?"

9 MR. QUINLAN: I think I just answered
10 that. We have not run it out for the full
11 40-year life. We've done a 20-year
12 depreciation schedule, which is what we've been
13 sharing with municipalities.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
15 question has to do with economics: "Will
16 Hydro-Quebec give Eversource money if this
17 project does not go through?"

18 MR. QUINLAN: Jim.

19 MR. MUNTZ: I guess, you know, we
20 have contractual arrangements between us. And,
21 there's, you know, obviously, in any contract,
22 there's going to be break-up and termination
23 fees under different circumstances. Short
24 answer "yes", but, you know, we're not really

1 at liberty to discuss that.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Is it
3 true that New Hampshire makes more electricity
4 than it uses?"

5 MR. QUINLAN: So, New Hampshire is
6 part of the regional grid. It's almost
7 irrelevant where a physical generation plant is
8 sited. There's one market for this region.
9 There's one grid. All of these plants feed
10 that grid and that market. So, you know, the
11 physical location of the plant really is
12 largely irrelevant for purposes of this.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: It may
14 be irrelevant, but do they produce more
15 electricity in New Hampshire than we actually
16 consume?

17 MR. QUINLAN: It varies dramatically
18 on a day-to-day basis. If you --

19 [Audience interruption.]

20 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Please.
21 Please let him finish his answer.

22 MR. QUINLAN: So, it does vary
23 dramatically day-to-day, --

24 [Audience interruption.]

1 MR. QUINLAN: -- depending on which
2 plants have been dispatched for that particular
3 day. And, given that's an hourly decision made
4 by the grid operator.

5 Now, if you added all the generation
6 capacity that exists in New Hampshire, and you
7 assumed it was all running, more power is
8 generated in New Hampshire than customers
9 consume.

10 [Audience interruption.]

11 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "What
12 will be the one-year profit to Northern Pass if
13 the project is built?"

14 MR. QUINLAN: It's approximately 80
15 to \$90 million in the first year, and that
16 declines over time, as the asset is
17 depreciated.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: This
19 question is about the "2.5 percent depreciation
20 of power lines according to Eversource for tax
21 payments to the town. Why does my 30 year-old
22 house appraised value go up every five
23 years" -- "five years per fair market value,
24 and why don't the towers go up similarly?"

1 MR. QUINLAN: Again, it's a
2 industry-accepted practice for depreciating any
3 asset. And, it's based upon an assumption
4 around the useful life of the asset. That's
5 the way it's done commonly in the industry.

6 MR. MUNTZ: Just to follow up on
7 that. If your house were an investment
8 property, which all utility property it's an
9 investment that we make, it would also
10 depreciate.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
12 question is back to the Coos Loop: Is there an
13 estimate of the cost of upgrading the Coos
14 Loop? And, are those costs included in the
15 \$200 million ForwardNH funds?"

16 MR. QUINLAN: So, there is not a
17 detailed cost estimate at this point. As I
18 said earlier, the final requirements are going
19 to be determined by consultation with the
20 Independent System Operator.

21 Can you repeat the second half of
22 that question?

23 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Are
24 those costs included in the \$200 million

1 ForwardNH funds?"

2 MR. QUINLAN: The current scope that
3 we're envisioning is anticipated to be paid for
4 through the Project, not through the ForwardNH
5 Fund. There may be some additional funding
6 requirements, and we may look to the ForwardNH
7 Fund to support that. I'll give you a sense.
8 These upgrades are tens of millions of dollars.
9 They're not -- these are not inexpensive
10 upgrades. That's why it hasn't been done
11 previously, because the generators would have
12 to pay for it and found it to be
13 cost-prohibitive. This is an opportunity to
14 make that investment through this Project.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Are you
16 including that \$200 million in the \$1.6 billion
17 project cost?"

18 MR. QUINLAN: No. No. The \$200
19 million is not part of the capital investment
20 in the infrastructure. It's, in essence, an
21 ongoing expense of the Project.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay. I
23 think we have some questions regarding
24 ForwardNH, and some other miscellaneous

1 questions it looks like.

2 "I have been told that New Hampshire
3 would not receive any of the electricity from
4 the Northern Pass Project. Is this true? If
5 it is true, how can Northern Pass make the
6 claim that Northern Pass will save New
7 Hampshire residents \$80 million per year?"

8 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So, really, two
9 questions there. The first question is, you
10 know, how does Northern Pass drive down energy
11 costs? And, there are really two effects. The
12 first is, Northern Pass, which is an economic
13 and significant new supply, pushes down the
14 wholesale price of electricity for customers
15 across New England. New Hampshire's share of
16 that is approximately \$80 million a year.

17 How does it do that? Bear with me
18 for one minute. But, in essence, customers
19 across New England demand a certain amount of
20 electricity every hour. The Independent System
21 Operator dispatches generation units across the
22 region until the supply meets the demand. By
23 putting Northern Pass into that bid stack, and
24 it's a very cost-effective way of doing it,

1 you're pushing off less economic, generally
2 fossil fuel fired plants.

3 Now, the interesting thing about that
4 bid stack is that last unit to supply
5 customers' needs sets the price for all of the
6 generation. So, if you're pushing off less
7 economic units, the price for all customers and
8 all units goes down. Okay?

9 So, that effect is \$80 million a year
10 for New Hampshire, approximately \$800 million a
11 year in energy cost savings for all of New
12 England. That's effect number one.

13 Separate and apart from that, we do
14 anticipate having a power purchase agreement
15 with Hydro-Quebec for 10 percent of the power
16 flowing over this line. And, we do anticipate,
17 through that, to have additional savings for
18 New Hampshire customers. So, not only will we
19 be entitled to 10 percent of the power, but
20 we'll get the associated energy cost savings
21 and environmental attributes for that portion
22 of the power flowing over the line.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
24 The next question is similar. It makes

1 reference to the \$80 million of annual savings
2 mentioned in the "overview" video. And, the
3 question is: "How exactly will that come
4 about? Define in detail how the project will
5 provide such energy savings for New Hampshire?"

6 Do you have anything to add to the
7 last answer?

8 MR. QUINLAN: No. It's essentially
9 the effect on the wholesale market price. It
10 drives it down in its entirety. Those benefits
11 flow throughout New England.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
13 Next question deals with Route 116 through
14 Easton: "Is your justification for using Route
15 116 through Easton RSA Section 231, Subsection
16 160? If so, that section only applies to power
17 lines installed in a city, a town or a village
18 district."

19 I guess they're asking if that's the
20 justification for using underground, for using
21 Route 116 through Easton.

22 MR. HODGDON: What was the statute
23 cite, just to make sure?

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: 231:160.

1 MR. HODGDON: That is correct.
2 That's the statutory cite that is being relied
3 on for our Application.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Do you
5 understand that to "apply only to power lines
6 installed in a city, a town or a village
7 district"?

8 MR. HODGDON: I don't have the
9 statute right in front of me. But I would take
10 the statute to apply on its face.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "Is the
12 Northern Pass transmission line a public
13 utility? Section VIII", I think it's "2",
14 "02", "says private utilities are not permitted
15 in state right-of-ways."

16 So, I guess the first question is,
17 "Is Northern Pass transmission line a public
18 utility?"

19 MR. MUNTZ: Part of the process of
20 the siting process associated with that, we
21 will be applying to become a public utility.

22 MR. QUINLAN: And, that's for
23 purposes of operating this facility.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.

1 "Section X, A(7)", it says "manholes are only
2 allowed in an urban setting. How will they be
3 allowed on Route 116?"

4 MR. JOHNSON: So, as part of the
5 design of the line, we are considering using
6 splice pits and splice vaults. They are two
7 different types of things. Splice pits do not
8 have manholes, and will not have access from
9 the street level. Those, for the most part,
10 will be used in the areas that that person is
11 discussing.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
13 question: "Last week the Canadian company
14 trying to build the XL Pipeline announced that
15 they would sue the United States for \$15
16 billion, which includes potential profits,
17 which are terms including in the North American
18 Free Trade Agreement. Are we similarly liable
19 should the Northern Pass Project be rejected?"

20 MR. QUINLAN: I'm not in a position
21 to answer that for Hydro-Quebec.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
23 deals with "How is Hydro-Quebec electricity
24 generated and distributed?"

1 MR. QUINLAN: So, the power flowing
2 over Northern Pass will come from their
3 hydroelectric fleet. Hydro-Quebec is a large
4 generator. They generate approximately
5 40,000 megawatts, which is actually more
6 generating capacity than all of New England put
7 together. The vast majority of that is
8 large-scale hydropower. The power flowing over
9 this line will have -- will be certified to
10 have come from that source. They do operate a
11 handful of other plants. But the power flowing
12 over Northern Pass will be fully certified to
13 have come from their hydro fleet.

14 Their distribution, in essence, their
15 transmission to Northern Pass will be through a
16 line that they are in the process of siting on
17 the Canadian side of the border. The hydro
18 fleet is in northern Quebec. And, they,
19 similar to Northern Pass, will be building a
20 interconnecting line to get it to the
21 U.S./Canadian border. That will be of
22 all-overhead construction, and it will
23 intersect with Northern Pass.

24 MR. BOWES: So, Mr. Quinlan has

1 described the interconnection between
2 Hydro-Quebec and the United States. The
3 typical customer in Hydro-Quebec receives their
4 power delivery the same way we do here in New
5 Hampshire. There's generators, there's
6 transmission lines, and there's distribution
7 lines to follow the public way. And, they
8 receive electric service, the same type and
9 quality that we do here.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
11 question is: "Why are you advertising clean
12 hydropower on TV and radio in New Hampshire and
13 Massachusetts, if you have not yet gotten a
14 certificate to build the project?"

15 MR. QUINLAN: So, that is one of the
16 key objectives of this Project. When you look
17 at New Hampshire and New England and the United
18 States' clean energy goals, and this is
19 reflected now in the recently released Clean
20 Power Plan that came out from the Environmental
21 Protection Agency, you know, importing
22 large-scale hydropower from Canada is a key to
23 achieving those clean energy goals. We think
24 this is the project that is best suited to do

1 that for New Hampshire and New England, and
2 that's why we are proposing the Project and
3 advertising about it.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
5 This question appears to deal with things like
6 terrorism. It's a rather long question:
7 "Mr. Quinlan, once the 250 foot right-of-way in
8 Concord becomes crowded with Hydro-Quebec 345
9 kV lines, sandwiched between two existing 115
10 kV lines, which will undoubtedly be complaint
11 with all line separation safety specifications,
12 what happens when a team of highly motivated
13 radical Islamist terrorists apply a few ribbon
14 cutting charges to turn your monopole grove
15 into an abatis, a-b-a-t-i-s."

16 MR. QUINLAN: So, you know, physical
17 security is always a challenge in our business.
18 You know, it's a distributed system. The
19 transmission grid across the entire United
20 States is largely overhead. You know, you have
21 many substations in New England that exist
22 today that have equal or greater potential
23 impacts on the grid. It's an issue that the
24 industry is kind of keenly focused on, and how

1 do we, in a cost-effective way, protect a
2 distributed grid, that essentially goes for
3 thousands and thousands of miles? It's a big
4 challenge. It's an industry concern that's
5 getting a lot of attention.

6 Jim?

7 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. I will just add to
8 that. So, once we finished our evaluation with
9 ISO-New England, they will have evaluated that
10 right-of-way and every right-of-way that
11 Northern Pass is involved with, such that they
12 would be able to tell us that we can proceed
13 with the Project, because they know the loss of
14 that right-of-way will not impact the reliable
15 operation of the grid. The grid will be able
16 to, and with certain lines tripping off, the
17 grid will be able to sustain itself and not
18 collapse and cause a widespread blackout.

19 That's, you know, kind of a standard
20 criteria that they're always looking at and
21 evaluating as they evaluate any project that
22 applies to connect to the grid, be it a
23 generator or a transmission upgrade or a new
24 renewable, you know, power station.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Funny
2 you should mention that, because the next part
3 of this question asks: "Please compare and
4 contrast the August blackout of 2003, which
5 took three hours to avalanche 345 kV services
6 into an international blackout, with the above
7 scenario," which means the terrorist scenario,
8 "which will create "through faults" among three
9 transmission line services within 10 to 15
10 seconds. Please comment on the outcome of such
11 an event." And, the questioner asks that you
12 "include your best guess on the duration and
13 spread of such an outage; the resulting
14 domestic and global economic impact; and how
15 many deaths would results in one week or one
16 month."

17 MR. QUINLAN: I'll turn this over to
18 Mr. Bowes.

19 MR. BOWES: I'll try to answer at
20 least the first part of that. I probably will
21 defer on the last part.

22 I was the -- well, now the
23 terminology used is "Incident Commander", but I
24 was in charge of the restoration for the

1 portion of New England that was impacted by the
2 blackout in 2004. The compare and contrast, at
3 that point in time, it happened to spread
4 across to, you know, central United States
5 through New York and into New England, and it
6 was actually isolated through a portion of
7 Connecticut. So, a portion of western Mass.
8 and a portion of Connecticut were impacted by
9 that blackout.

10 Some of the actions that the
11 operators in New England took were actually
12 credited with preventing the widespread
13 blackout throughout the rest of New England.
14 So, there was some very positive things that
15 happened that day.

16 Having another interconnection of
17 approximately a thousand megawatts to a
18 different area would strengthen the system we
19 have today, is in comparison to what we had in
20 2004.

21 Unfortunately, we're also losing many
22 of the stable sources of generation in New
23 England. Mr. Quinlan detailed many of those
24 baseload power plants, although some are not as

1 clean as others, they did offer diversity of
2 supply and diversity of location. So, that is
3 probably less so going forward, and would be,
4 you know, further exacerbated if we did not
5 have another interconnection with Hydro-Quebec.

6 Maybe you can give the last part.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Ken,
8 yes. I was going to say, the questioner asked
9 that, given the scenarios that he's posited
10 here, can you comment on the "duration and
11 spread of the outage"? How far -- how long
12 would it last and how far would it reach?

13 MR. BOWES: So, it's probably
14 difficult to predict. I can tell you about
15 history, and if that's an indicator of the
16 future.

17 On August of 2004, we restored about
18 80 substations, about half of Connecticut and
19 half of western Mass, and about eight hours in
20 duration. There were still three or four
21 interconnections that were not made. In fact,
22 one of them was a permitted DC transmission
23 line between Connecticut and Long Island. It
24 was actually energized that morning. And, it's

1 the same technology that we're proposing for
2 Northern Pass. And, it was used to restart a
3 system on Long Island. So, a very positive
4 impact.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Given
6 the same scenarios, what would the "resulting
7 Domestic and Global Economic Impact be"?

8 MR. BOWES: So, a large-scale power
9 interruption has widespread economic impacts,
10 clearly beyond just the hours of outage. The
11 lost productivity across commercial and
12 industry is very significant. There are a
13 variety of studies out there and models that
14 describe how that is done. But it clearly
15 could be hundreds of millions of dollars per
16 day of outage.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And,
18 then, the third question was "what would the
19 resulting deaths in a week or a month be"?

20 MR. BOWES: I would say very
21 difficult to predict. Most, I'll say, critical
22 care facilities do have backup supplies of
23 power, and are required, for example, hospitals
24 are required to have backup generation that

1 kicks on and provides at least a limited life
2 support systems.

3 Beyond that, I would say it's very
4 difficult to predict.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Going to
6 test you further, hold onto the mike. "Revise
7 the above estimates and tell us what would
8 happen if this event occurred on the coldest
9 evening in February."

10 MR. BOWES: So, again, that would
11 probably have a wider spread impact, as, you
12 know, life safety would be impacted within a
13 few hours for customers that rely on
14 electricity for either direct heat and comfort
15 or indirect, through the circulating pumps and
16 fans they have on fossil fuel fired heating
17 systems. So, it would be much more dramatic.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: "If we
19 assume that these events are inevitable, what
20 are prudent countermeasures?"

21 MR. BOWES: So, I think making --
22 making the grid more resilient, a more diverse
23 supply of power, hardening the infrastructure
24 that we have, both the distribution and

1 transmission systems, providing automation in
2 those systems that will provide a redundant
3 supply. And, obviously, there are physical and
4 cyber security issues that go beyond the
5 physical infrastructure aspects that also have
6 to be considered.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
8 Mr. Kucman?

9 MR. KUCMAN: Yes.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: You have
11 a statement written on the back. You didn't
12 expect that to be asked as a question, did you?

13 MR. KUCMAN: No.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.

15 MR. KUCMAN: That would have been my
16 comment when I come up to speak.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
18 Thank you. Okay. Visual impacts and tower
19 heights: "As far as mitigating visual impact:
20 You have the techniques, is there a guarantee
21 you will use them? Is it written for each
22 tower along the route which techniques will be
23 used?"

24 MR. QUINLAN: It is our intention to

1 use the techniques that I outlined earlier.
2 And, it's going to be on a case-by-case basis.
3 We have already begun to apply some of them.
4 But we're going to continue to refine our
5 design and engineering as we move towards
6 construction.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Do you
8 have something written for each tower, as to
9 what techniques will be used with respect to
10 each tower?

11 MR. QUINLAN: In instances where
12 we've made a determination to use a monopole
13 structure, as opposed to the conventional
14 lattice, I believe that's now documented in our
15 SEC Application. But there are other
16 techniques that I outlined with material type,
17 color, structure location, in some cases,
18 structure height. You know, we're going to
19 continue to refine that estimate as we move
20 forward. So, we are beginning to document it,
21 it's in our Application. But we're going to
22 continue to apply those techniques. And, you
23 know, that's, obviously, an area where we
24 welcome local input.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Next
2 part of this question: "Most of the towers are
3 80 feet tall. What is the highest? And, how
4 much higher is that than the existing
5 right-of-way towers now in place?"

6 MR. JOHNSON: So, the highest
7 structure on the Project is on the AC portion
8 of the lines. And, it is 155 feet tall. In
9 that region, the existing 115 lines that are
10 there are approximately -- the highest ones are
11 approximately 100 feet tall.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Can you
13 tell everybody where that is on the AC line?

14 MR. JOHNSON: That's in the Deerfield
15 area.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
17 "Question toward generation and distribution at
18 Hydro-Quebec. At my job in the switching
19 station, we use fuel, demineralized water, and
20 air to generate electricity. How will
21 Hydro-Quebec generate its power?"

22 MR. QUINLAN: So, the power flowing
23 over this line will be generated by their
24 existing hydro fleet, which, essentially, is a

1 large dam and a turbine system to generate
2 electricity.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay. I
4 think we've exhausted all of the questions that
5 we've received. We're going to move to the
6 next portion of our meeting, which is
7 statements. But I'm going to give everybody a
8 five-minute break to stretch. Nine o'clock
9 we'll start with statements.

10 (Recess taken at 8:54 p.m. and the public
11 information session resumed at 9:04 p.m.)

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
13 you all. Just so you know, we have
14 approximately 30 folks who have indicated that
15 they would like to speak tonight. So if we
16 could all take our seats, please, and keep the
17 talking to a minimum. If you look around,
18 these are all your friends and neighbors that
19 are here. Many of you wish to speak. I ask
20 that you all please be courteous to each other.
21 We're going to ask that you abide by a
22 three-minute regulation on whatever you want to
23 say and that you keep your statements succinct
24 and to the point, the reason being that you

1 have folks behind you who also want to speak.
2 So, with that -- oh, the other thing I meant to
3 say is this a time when we get to hear from
4 you. The questioning time is over, so please
5 don't try to ask questions during your time to
6 make a statement, okay, unless you expect them
7 to be purely rhetorical, because there won't be
8 answers given to oral questions during this
9 part of the meeting.

10 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

11 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Oh, yes.
12 I'm sorry. Thank you.

13 You all know the court reporters are
14 here. So when you speak, please spell your
15 name for them so that they can get it correct
16 in the record. Also, if you're reading from a
17 prepared statement, if possible, please provide
18 a copy of it to the court reporters, to ensure
19 that they get your words down accurately.
20 Sorry about that. Yes, and that will be part
21 of the record as well.

22 Our first speaker is Executive
23 Councilor Jack Kenney.

24 MS. MONROE: Joe.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Joe.

2 I'm sorry.

3 EXEC. COUNCILOR KENNEY: Hi, Mr.
4 Chairman. It's Joe. I'll spell it so we get
5 it right.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
7 you.

8 EXEC. COUNCILOR KENNEY: Joseph
9 Kenney, K-E-N-N-E-Y. I represent 108 towns and
10 4 cities, and this particular project, called
11 "Northern Pass," will be going through
12 80 percent of my district of the people that I
13 represent.

14 Just for the record, I've attended
15 many public hearings over the last several
16 months, but I haven't really been vocal. I've
17 been taking it all in and seeing some of the
18 issues that are being discussed, both from the
19 technical side and from the management side, as
20 well as the public's input. As I look here
21 today at this point of where we're at in the
22 process, where I believe the Site Evaluation
23 Committee has to look at the Certificate of
24 Site and Facility to see if that will be issued

1 at one point, my personal position is from day
2 one I've been against Northern Pass as a
3 personal viewpoint. There are people who
4 believe it should be totally buried; there are
5 people who believe it should be partially
6 buried; there are people who believe that it
7 should be fully built. But I am of the vein
8 that we all have a responsibility, both as the
9 public and as the SEC and as elected officials,
10 and the Company, the developer, to do what's
11 best in the interest of New Hampshire.

12 So, while I'm here today personally
13 to speak in opposition to Northern Pass, I'm
14 also here to represent the full breadth of the
15 constituency that I represent, to make sure
16 that it's a fair, honest and open process, and
17 that at the end of the day and all the voices
18 have been heard and that the people who are
19 part of this most important process make some
20 good, sound decisions in the best interest of
21 the people of New Hampshire. And I can tell
22 you, as someone who's grown up in this state, I
23 love this state. I admire this state. I
24 admire its people. I admire the people who sit

1 on these volunteer boards, who sit in state
2 government and who really represent the state
3 that I have known to be the greatest state in
4 the country. And as I'm mindful of the primary
5 process that we go through -- that we're going
6 through, and we share all these opportunities
7 for our candidates to look at our state and see
8 how we conduct ourselves, they also are asked
9 the question, "What's your opinion about
10 Northern Pass?" And a lot of them kind of --
11 they run. But one thing is, Joe Kenney never
12 runs from anything. I'll tell you what I
13 believe and what I think, and at the end of the
14 day you can either disagree with me or agree
15 with me. But we'll go home after the meeting
16 and we'll sit down and we'll have a beer, or
17 we'll have some coffee, and we'll still be
18 friends. And I hope when this process is said
19 and done, that we in New Hampshire work
20 together, whatever the decision is. And I'm of
21 a personal belief that Northern Pass shouldn't
22 be built. But whatever the decision that our
23 elected leaders and our Commission leaders
24 make, that we all remember that we're here as

1 one to make this state a great state and to
2 live together. So, with that, I just wanted to
3 open it up and to say a few words. And I won't
4 get into the technical aspect of this project,
5 because, quite frankly, there's a lot more
6 people that are more capable and competent to
7 ask the questions and to give answers. But I
8 just wanted to let the public know, while I've
9 been silent publicly, I've been very vocal
10 privately. So I am against Northern Pass.
11 Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
13 you.

14 Representative Suzanne Smith. She's
15 coming.

16 REP. SMITH: I would have been ready.
17 I thought I was third.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Oh, I'm
19 sorry.

20 REP. SMITH: No, that's okay. I'll
21 take it.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: You and
23 Representative Ford are tied, neck and neck.

24 REP. SMITH: Good evening. And I am

1 Suzanne Smith. I am a state representative for
2 the Grafton County District 8, the towns of
3 Plymouth, Hebron and Holderness.

4 The people of New Hampshire have
5 spoken in Franklin, Londonderry, Laconia and
6 Whitefield. And we will continue to speak up
7 here in Grafton County. Bury the Project.
8 Burying the line protects the scenic beauty
9 throughout the state far beyond the White
10 Mountains. Burying the line along interstate
11 corridors means no drop in property values.
12 With the ForwardNH Plan, we'll see a drop
13 property values by over \$7 million.
14 Municipalities with towers will lose, too. We
15 can expect to see a \$200,000 drop in
16 residential property tax payments. As you must
17 know, I'm not making up these numbers. They
18 are in the DOE's Environmental Impact
19 Statement. Burying lines along our interstates
20 and the state right-of-way is possible, and the
21 state will benefit from leasehold payments.
22 Policies and rules can change. We've all seen
23 the damage which can be done to high-voltage
24 power lines during heavy winds and ice storms.

1 How much will it cost to repair these high
2 towers if another ice storm like 1998 happens,
3 and who will pay for these expensive rebuilds?
4 Burying lines will cost more upfront but be far
5 less susceptible to ice storms, high winds, and
6 yes, even terrorism. It's been said from the
7 podium tonight that gas lines are buried for
8 safety and security. Why not transmission
9 lines? This is not new information. You've
10 heard it before. Look at our neighboring
11 states. The Maine Power Express is proposing
12 burial in an energy corridor and underwater,
13 and that energy corridor is in northern Maine.
14 The Northeast Energy Link has proposed we use
15 the energy infrastructure corridor down Maine's
16 interstate and turnpike. The New England Clean
17 Power Link in Vermont, underwater and
18 underground, and the siting approved by the
19 state. Burying transmission lines is the right
20 thing to do. If Northern Pass had listened
21 when the citizens of New Hampshire first voiced
22 their opposition to 100 to 140-foot towers
23 running down the length of the state, the
24 Project might already be built.

1 Earlier this evening, Mr. Quinlan
2 stated that public input led Northern Pass to
3 alter the Project. Well, the people are here
4 tonight, and those who have spoken up for
5 burying the lines -- people in Concord, New
6 Hampton, Canterbury, Bridgewater -- are not
7 folding up their tents and going home. They're
8 here to stay, and I'm here to say, "Listen to
9 the people and bury Northern Pass, all of it."
10 Thank you.

11 REP. FORD: Thank you very much. For
12 the record, my name is Susan Ford. And it's
13 just F-O-R-D. I am also a representative, and
14 I represent Grafton District 3. And I won't
15 give you the seven towns because tonight I'd
16 like to talk about Easton, which is my
17 hometown.

18 I'd like to take you back to
19 November 9, 2015, when the Northern Pass group
20 came and met with our board of selectmen. I
21 happened to attend that meeting, and one of the
22 things that I was particularly interested in
23 was the I-93 corridor. And I asked
24 specifically who -- we were told that they had

1 met with New Hampshire Department of
2 Transportation and that those meetings had
3 taken place, and they now knew that they could
4 not follow through and could not go down 93. I
5 asked specifically who they met with. First it
6 was the commissioner. And I said, "Which
7 commissioner? We haven't had a commissioner
8 this past year." And then I was told that it
9 was one of the directors. And I said, "Of
10 which division?" And nobody could remember.
11 Finally -- and I didn't have a name tag on.
12 Finally, somebody said to me, "Well, you'll
13 just have to ask your representative." It
14 really didn't go over well with me.

15 I think it's time that Northern Pass
16 stop looking at the regulations. We now know
17 that the feds are saying it's a state decision.
18 It is time to sit down, meet with them on I-93,
19 and let's have a real discussion. And I am
20 suspicious enough, so I'd like to be invited to
21 that meeting. I think there should be
22 legislators at the meeting. I'll be waiting
23 for an invitation.

24 I have a second issue. I used to

1 live in Berlin, Connecticut. Now, Berlin,
2 Connecticut, for those of you who don't know,
3 is the national headquarters of Eversource. I
4 read The Hartford Current quite often, for a
5 long time. I know how much people in
6 Connecticut complain about transmission lines
7 and how they insist that transmission lines be
8 buried because of the scenic views. I'd like
9 to invite Mr. May up to see what a scenic view
10 really looks like. I am quite sure I could
11 find him a place to stay in the North Country.
12 I am quite -- I'll buy lunch. I'll buy dinner.
13 Give him the invitation. We would love to show
14 him what a scenic view is really all about.
15 Just because a tower is located in a
16 right-of-way does not make the tower invisible.
17 Thank you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
19 you.

20 Okay. Next is Nancy Martland from
21 Sugar Hill.

22 MS. MARTLAND: For the record, my
23 name is Nancy Martland, and I live in Sugar
24 Hill. I've been engaged in the unfolding drama

1 of Northern Pass for over five years. I've
2 observed the evolution of the Project over
3 time, and I'd like to share my reflections on
4 that and maybe have a little fun thinking about
5 what might have gone on down at the Eversource
6 motor pool each time a new plan was rolled out.

7 On October 12th, 2010, the Northern
8 Pass original route was announced. It was
9 entirely overhead and ran from the Canadian
10 border to Deerfield, using technology that was
11 perfected in the middle of the 20th Century.
12 The guy down at the motor pool said he could
13 get you into just the right vehicle for the
14 job, and that day you pulled out in a nice
15 Model T. You drove around in that beater for
16 over two years, claiming that objections to the
17 Project were "groundless," so to speak, that
18 Northern Pass was a bonanza for New Hampshire,
19 the silver bullet that would address climate
20 change, tax shortfalls, jobs, high energy costs
21 and so forth. Your efforts did not go well.
22 There was concern up and down the route, that
23 around 1,000 high lattice towers would damage
24 individual property, whole towns, and unspoiled

1 landscape of entire regions of our state. You
2 failed to secure a route in Coos because
3 courageous landowners refused to sell you their
4 birthright and our heritage. Over 30 towns on
5 the route overwhelmingly voted to object to
6 your presence in their town.

7 On June 27th, 2013, you announced the
8 improved route. It included about 8 miles of
9 underground line. The rest of the route kept
10 the original overhead design. The motor pool
11 guy had just the right vehicle for you once
12 again. That day, you pulled out in another
13 Model T, but with a new chrome bumper on the
14 front. You drove that thing around for another
15 two years, insisting that you had listened to
16 concerns and taken steps to diminish impacts.
17 Despite continuing efforts to address this
18 change-up as a response to public criticism,
19 the plain truth is that you were unable to
20 secure a route any other way. And in fact,
21 your right to bury that 7.5 miles is under
22 legal challenge right now. You even drove that
23 chrome bumper Model T right up to the New
24 Hampshire State House and claimed repeatedly

1 that it was impossible to bury any significant
2 length of the Northern Pass route here in New
3 Hampshire. I know this because I was there at
4 the same time testifying in favor of modern
5 HVDC Lite technology, which your representative
6 said was not feasible. One actually plunked
7 down a cross-section slice of the very cable
8 that you are now planning to use and said it
9 wouldn't work here. And now we all know that
10 those statements were not factually correct.

11 On August 18th, 2015, you announced
12 the present route. You switched to HVDC Lite
13 technology and buried 60 miles in and around
14 the White Mountains, for which I commend you.
15 Once again, the motor pool guy had the perfect
16 vehicle for you, a nice, shiny, two-tone,
17 black-and-cream 1958 Edsel with push-button
18 transmission. I think you thought you really
19 had a winner there. But so did Ford Motor
20 Company back in 1958. I think I saw the Edsel
21 out in the garage, actually. Your problem now
22 is that the Edsel route favors one region of
23 our state over others, and you're not getting
24 the credit you deserve for the change you made.

1 That's because the Edsel route divides us into
2 the saved and the damned. Many of us,
3 including those like me, who live in burial
4 towns, are unwilling to abandon our friends and
5 neighbors who still face the incursion of
6 industrial-strength infrastructure into their
7 landscapes. What is right for some of us is
8 right for all of us.

9 Just a few more lines. So here's
10 what I think you should do: Bury the entire
11 line. You've taken the hit on the lowered
12 load. You've re-engineered to use a cable and
13 converter system designed for underground
14 application. You're halfway there. Just do
15 it. Put it all underground. Put this puppy to
16 bed and move forward. Then you can go down to
17 the motor pool one more time and pull out in a
18 nice, shiny, red 2016 Ford Mustang, maybe with
19 a racing stripe. You'll enjoy it.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Give
21 your statement to the court reporter. Thank
22 you.

23 Our next speaker is Elizabeth Terp,
24 followed by Tom Mullen, followed by Brian

1 Tilton.

2 One thing I forgot to tell everybody
3 about is my little red light here. When you
4 hit three minutes, or a little bit after three
5 minutes, I'm going to turn that light on. That
6 means you should please wrap up your statement
7 because there are people who are behind you who
8 wish to speak as well.

9 So Ms. Terp, thank you.

10 MS. TERP: Elizabeth Terp. My last
11 name is T-E-R-P.

12 The current plan for the Northern
13 Pass Project calls for construction of
14 500 miles of access roads to the Northern Pass
15 power line and widening the present
16 right-of-way to allow for high-voltage lines.

17 My concern with the Northern Pass
18 Application is the absence of reliable data on
19 the Project's carbon footprint. The
20 Hydro-Quebec web site states, and I quote,
21 "Almost all the electricity Hydro-Quebec
22 distributes to its customers is generated from
23 renewable resources, which means there are few
24 or no greenhouse gas emissions. The CO2

1 emission rates are for generation of
2 electricity only and thus not based on a
3 life-cycle assessment."

4 These are preposterous statements,
5 given that Hydro-Quebec has created 571 dams to
6 form their reservoirs. To do so, Hydro-Quebec
7 destroyed trees, natural habitat, native
8 cultures, fishing industry, wildlife, tourism
9 industry. Only two of Quebec's main rivers
10 remain free of dams. Greenhouse gas emissions
11 generated by creating reservoirs used to
12 produce electricity are not considered when
13 calculating emissions on Hydro-Quebec's carbon
14 footprint.

15 And again I quote from their web
16 site, "As indicated in the National Inventory
17 Report, greenhouse gas sources and sinks in
18 Canada, Environment Canada considers such
19 emissions to be related to a land-use change."
20 So, a reservoir is simply a land-use change.

21 The SEC would be wise to check out
22 this ruling. Hydro-Quebec has a history of
23 shady deals. For example: Locking
24 Newfoundland into a 40-year plan to sell them

1 power for 2 mils per kilowatt hour, which
2 Hydro-Quebec then sells to Quebec customers for
3 7 cents a kilowatt hour.

4 And regarding the Northern Pass plan
5 to build 500 miles of access roads to the
6 proposed high-voltage power lines, holes for
7 35-foot-deep pilings will need to be dug,
8 blasted, and the pilings formed with cement.
9 One ton of cement emits one ton of CO2. A cost
10 estimate of offsetting that carbon footprint
11 would need to include blasting expenses, cement
12 mixer trucks, other vehicles used in the
13 building process, plus trucks needed in
14 preparation for the routine maintenance of the
15 line following ice, snow, wind and electrical
16 storms. Hydro-Quebec does not appear to be in
17 the habit of rigorously measuring and
18 offsetting its carbon footprint.

19 What plans are in place to replace
20 the carbon footprint caused by the above
21 extensive tree removal and piling construction?
22 Northern Pass would need to add this provision
23 and cost to their bottom line to impose the
24 above-ground line on the state of New

1 Hampshire. Undergrounding the line through New
2 Hampshire's established right-of-way would not
3 only avoid much of this cost, it would
4 recognize our resolve to save our
5 carbon-sequestering trees for the benefit of
6 all life on the planet. Maine and New
7 Hampshire lead the nation in forested land. We
8 need to care for these remaining lungs of the
9 earth.

10 If the line is not undergrounded,
11 Northern Pass needs to offset its more
12 extensive carbon footprint. The Carbon
13 Disclosure Project, CDP, is a global,
14 not-for-profit based in London that provides
15 the formula to increase corporate transparency
16 of its impact and performance. The CDP logs
17 the records of 4,000-plus companies worldwide
18 for their -- to mitigate their carbon
19 footprints. Hydro-Quebec has already
20 demonstrated its disregard for the forest by
21 ravishing its own province. Quebec's damage
22 has been well documented.

23 I hope that the SEC will take care to
24 see that New Hampshire does not suffer similar

1 onslaught to our forest by sanctioning such an
2 ecologically tragic plan for New Hampshire.
3 Thank you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
5 you.

6 Mr. Mullen.

7 MR. MULLEN: Mr. Moderator, if you
8 don't mind, my good friend George Wright's
9 going to assist me here.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: You guys
11 aren't going you sing, are you?

12 MR. MULLEN: No, no. Although, we'd
13 do a pretty good job.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: You have
15 three minutes.

16 MR. MULLEN: So, first of all, we'd
17 like to --

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Please
19 identify yourselves.

20 MR. MULLEN: Oh, I'm sorry. Thomas
21 Mullen, M-U-L-L-E-N. I'm from Campton, New
22 Hampshire.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: And?

24 MR. MULLEN: And George --

1 MR. WRIGHT: George Wright, from
2 Campton, New Hampshire.

3 MR. MULLEN: George is my partner in
4 crime.

5 The first thing, since gifts are
6 being given out, is that we would like to give
7 Mr. Quinlan a token of our appreciation for
8 being here tonight. So, George if you would
9 take this up to Mr. Quinlan.

10 [Shirt given to Mr. Quinlan.]

11 MR. MULLEN: And we'd also like to
12 give a token of our appreciation to Mr. Muntz
13 over here, who I thought had left, but I'm glad
14 to see he's still here.

15 [Shirt given to Mr. Muntz]

16 MR. MULLEN: So, Mr. Muntz, likewise,
17 I'm quite sure they'll fit. And so we just
18 want you to know that you guys are part of the
19 team.

20 One thing I wanted to point out, that
21 I still don't quite understand why the head of
22 this company is still working for the company
23 on an active basis. Thomas May, when he
24 retires, which I understand is imminent, will

1 be collecting his monthly fee or monthly
2 retirement fund, which the monthly amount is
3 over \$490,000 a month, every month. That's
4 coming out of all of us here in this room, the
5 ratepayers of this company.

6 I want to make a couple of points.
7 Northern Pass says that New Hampshire needs
8 your power, but it's not true. New Hampshire
9 companies do generate far more power than our
10 state uses, and that was mentioned earlier.
11 Northern Pass wants to bring power through New
12 Hampshire to other states that do need it. So,
13 guess what? If you want us to stop fighting
14 you in this effort, bury the power lines.
15 Right? Everybody? Right?

16 Second of all, Hydro-Quebec has lots
17 of surplus power, and they want to get it to
18 market, to the places that need it. If you
19 want us to stop fighting you, Hydro-Quebec, and
20 Northern Pass, just bury the lines. That's
21 all. Pretty simple, isn't it? Everybody?

22 I'd also like to point out that
23 because you knew the feds were going to stop
24 you from going overhead through the White

1 Mountain National Forest, that you've now
2 agreed, through the "goodness of your hearts,"
3 to bury the lines. So if you want to us to
4 cooperate with you, just bury the lines. Just
5 bury the lines. That's all.

6 And lastly, Northern Pass calls this
7 power "low-cost energy." I think that's --
8 isn't that a Donald Trump term, "low energy"?
9 I think it is. This power may not cost
10 Eversource a lot of money, but Eversource will
11 make sure it charges its customers as much as
12 the market will bear. If you want us to stop
13 opposing your project, it's very simple: Bury
14 the Northern Pass. Thank you.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
16 you.

17 Brian Tilton.

18 MR. TILTON: Hello, I'm Brian Tilton.
19 B-R-I-A-N, Tilton, as in Exit 20, and I live in
20 Hooksett.

21 I'm a former radio talk show host,
22 broadcasted from 2008 to 2014 in Concord. My
23 nearly 20-year broadcast career came to an
24 abrupt end two weeks after Northern Pass

1 started advertising on my station.

2 During the public comment portion of
3 this round of sessions, not one disinterested
4 person spoke in favor of the Project. Everyone
5 who has spoken in favor has either already
6 received a huge payout from Northern Pass or
7 are expecting to directly benefit, or in the
8 case of public officials, the anticipated tax
9 windfalls. But let's look at the people in
10 this room and over the past week who oppose
11 this project. What financial benefit do they
12 stand to gain? Nothing. These people bear the
13 burden of the mere prospects, not even the
14 approval, just the mere proposal of the line.
15 I have seen the trail of destruction across
16 this state, from Pittsburg to Deerfield, the
17 lives up-ended, people who have seen their
18 livelihoods not only threatened, but actually
19 diminished. Some even lost it all. These
20 people will be darn lucky if they can ever
21 regain a portion of what they once had if this
22 project is rejected. These are real people who
23 get their hands dirty, those who do the jobs
24 that corporate executive millionaires can't

1 relate to.

2 We, the people, have spoken. The SEC
3 should now see that it is abundantly clear that
4 the only acceptable answer is to bury all of
5 the line, every inch of it.

6 Oh, we hear the Project developers
7 say, "We've listened to the people. We
8 continue to work with the landowners. We
9 continue, blah, blah, blah, blah." It's a lie.
10 They're tone deaf. We keep hearing the term
11 "orderly development." But what about the
12 disorderly destruction we have seen already?
13 The disorderly destruction of livelihoods, the
14 disorderly destruction of property values, the
15 disorderly destruction of property rights
16 through theft of property value and attempted
17 threat by threatening eminent domain as this
18 project already did in the very beginning.

19 I studied this issue objectively for
20 several months before I opposed it in 2011. I
21 have never taken any money from either side of
22 the this issue and never will. But I did take
23 something from the opposition: I took their
24 stories of heartaches, I took their struggles,

1 I took their dreams, I took their passion, I
2 took their humor and put it in my head and in
3 my heart and went around and told all the
4 people of this state their stories. And when
5 this is all over, I wouldn't mind one more
6 thing from them: Their friendship.

7 Mr. Quinlan, look these people deep
8 in the eyes and you will see what I see. These
9 people are the heartbeat of our state. We
10 can't function as a society without their
11 talents, wisdom and work ethic. Mr. Quinlan, I
12 would like you to be able to take one thing
13 from these people. All you have to do is bury
14 the line, all of it, and you can take their
15 thanks.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
17 you, sir.

18 Okay. The next three speakers will
19 be Barbara Meyer from Easton, Martha Richards
20 from Holderness, and Judith Weisenberger from
21 Sugar Hill.

22 So, Ms. Meyer.

23 MS. MEYER: Thanks. I'm Barbara
24 Meyer, and I'm from Easton. Meyer is

1 M-E-Y-E-R.

2 I'm presenting a group letter from
3 residents of Easton and Franconia, many of whom
4 live along the proposed route. The signers of
5 this letter strongly object to the burial of
6 the Northern Pass down Routes 116 and 112, our
7 hometown roads. We object because in this area
8 our homes are particularly close to the road --
9 we estimate maybe a third are within 50 feet --
10 making us highly susceptible to damage from
11 excavation, which includes blasting and
12 drilling. Eversource has even said they'll be
13 taking photos and videos of wells and of our
14 foundations in anticipation of having to defend
15 themselves from damage claims.

16 We object because Eversource has said
17 that, while they will try to bury the lines
18 under the road, they will sometimes need to use
19 land adjacent to it. And that means that in
20 some of our front yards vegetation will need to
21 be removed permanently so that roots don't
22 infiltrate the power lines.

23 We object because this route crosses
24 so many residential properties, and these are

1 the kind of rural properties where using a
2 backhoe or other excavation equipment is not
3 unusual. A buried power line through
4 neighborhoods like ours bears an outside risk
5 of accidental dig-ins, a risk that lives on in
6 perpetuity.

7 We object because of the way property
8 tax payments are being used to entice local
9 governments to approve this route. In the
10 absence of these payments, this project would
11 be rejected out of hand. Once the payments get
12 large enough, though, the local governments can
13 be enticed to ignore the objections of the
14 residents affected. This is most egregious
15 because it's the homeowner on the route that
16 suffers the impact of the Project, the risk of
17 excavation and blasting damage, airborne dust
18 and debris through two or three seasons of
19 construction, the perpetual risk of accidental
20 dig-ins, and loss of property value in going
21 from a parcel without to a parcel with a
22 billion-watt transmission line in your front
23 yard.

24 If this project goes forth at all, we

1 urge the use of the 93 alternative. I-93 is a
2 shorter route. The danger of dig-ins there is
3 almost non-existent. Concerns about EMF
4 exposure are significantly reduced. Also a
5 plus on 93, a lack of pedestrians, which keeps
6 people safe from the line and the line safe
7 from people who might intentionally want to
8 disrupt the grid. And using I-93 would
9 preserve local property values.

10 I-93 already forms a de facto
11 industrial corridor. The current Northern Pass
12 proposal keeps in place the high power lines on
13 the poles through the White Mountain Forest.
14 And now we're tearing a whole new transmission
15 project through two mountain valleys where no
16 transmission lines currently exist. We
17 strongly object to sacrificing more of our
18 hometown and creating yet another industrial
19 corridor across the North Country. Thank you.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
21 you.

22 Martha Richards.

23 MS. RICHARDS: If I had orange
24 underwear, I'd wear that. But I'm doing my

1 best.

2 Good evening, everyone, and thank you
3 for attending this important meeting. I'm
4 Martha Richards from Holderness and live on the
5 right-of-way. I'm one of the three Grafton
6 County Commissioners, and we three stand in
7 solidarity with our extreme opposition to this
8 project as currently proposed, with only some
9 60 miles buried.

10 So, after tonight I will wonder: Did
11 you listen to us? But also, do you hear us
12 after some 72 percent of the comments are in
13 opposition to the project as it stands, after
14 your first four meetings?

15 The patronage continues. The lies
16 continue. An expensive and useless PR campaign
17 continues. And dodging of our questions
18 continues without the moderator's challenge or
19 enforcement requiring answers. After facing a
20 sea of orange for the past five years, do you
21 think we're really still that stupid and
22 unknowing about how you're continuing to screw
23 us all? Many of my colleagues could probably
24 get an honorary degree in either electrical

1 transmission or alternative energies. The
2 state of New Hampshire could derive some income
3 from your using their rights-of-way, but you
4 continue to also say that I-93 cannot be used.
5 You have not even asked DOT about using I-93.
6 Your continued stonewalling on this topic
7 simply infuriates us. For your information,
8 the Federal Highway Authority finds it in the
9 public interest to use interstates and federal
10 highways for utility projects and leaves it up
11 to state DOTs to decide whether and how these
12 roads may be used for longitudinal utility
13 projects like Northern Pass.

14 Speaking of undergrounding, your
15 application does not describe how the
16 construction will be performed and how it will
17 impact specific areas, especially in my area of
18 Plymouth. Talk of ripping up our Main Street,
19 also known as Route 3, already has the
20 street-front businesses in an uproar. The
21 probable impacts to business and daily life,
22 especially in our university town, will be huge
23 and damaging. By the way, in Plymouth, I-93 is
24 less than one-half-mile away from our Main

1 Street.

2 As one of my orange colleagues said,
3 "Just bury it all, and the orange will go
4 away." Hear us loud and clear, we are tired of
5 contrived hearings without proper oversight.
6 We are tired of being fed lies. We are tired
7 of being ignored and disrespected as we state
8 the facts. But we are not tired of wearing our
9 orange proudly. We will go on for as long as
10 it takes to make Northern Pass bury the whole
11 bloody project. Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
13 you. Judith Weisenberger.

14 MS. WEISENBERGER: I have two
15 statements here --

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: I'm
17 going to ask you to spell your name first,
18 okay.

19 MS. WEISENBERGER: Oh,
20 W-E-I-S-E-N-B-E-R-G-E-R.

21 My first statement I've been asked to
22 read from Linda Lauer, the Grafton County
23 Commissioner from Grafton District 2. And I
24 have her whole text here. I'm going to -- I've

1 edited it a little bit.

2 To the Site Evaluation Committee,
3 Northern Pass employees, and the members of the
4 public who have taken the time to be here
5 tonight: First, please accept my apologies for
6 not appearing in person. Prior personal
7 commitments prevent me from being here tonight.
8 However, I've asked that this statement be read
9 because I wish to express my very strong
10 opposition to the Northern Pass Project as
11 currently filed with the SEC due to the high
12 probability of uncompensated economic damage to
13 the businesses and citizens of Grafton County,
14 both from the 11 miles of overhead transmission
15 lines and from the 70 or so miles of proposed
16 underground lines.

17 The proposed line has the potential
18 to cause serious economic damage to Grafton
19 County because of the route that has been
20 selected. To people unfamiliar with this part
21 of New Hampshire, underground lines sound like
22 no problem. The reality is, the proposed route
23 is a problem. We're not like Southern New
24 Hampshire. We don't have a lot of road choices

1 to get from Point A to Point B in the North
2 Country. We don't have many businesses up
3 here. We have [sic] big businesses up here --
4 we have small businesses. Small businesses,
5 like Chef Joe's Catering in Franconia can't
6 afford to lose customers while construction
7 goes on in front of their facility. Lost River
8 Gorge in Woodstock can't afford to lose
9 tourists who decide that, rather than travel
10 Route 112 and put up with road closures and
11 delays from construction, they'll go somewhere
12 else for the day. Campers will stay away from
13 Lost River Valley Campgrounds, because who
14 comes to the White Mountains to see and hear
15 construction.

16 I've always felt that if I complained
17 about something, I should provide a reasonable
18 solution. The easiest solution, and the best
19 solution for my constituents is simple: Don't
20 build Northern Pass. With that said, I
21 understand that power's needed in southern New
22 England, and I understand that private
23 companies need to make a profit. I strongly
24 encourage a second look at a compromise

1 solution: Burial along the I-93 corridor.
2 Legislation is once again active to designate
3 I-93 as an energy infrastructure corridor.
4 Closure of one lane of I-93 wouldn't have a
5 tremendous impact. We all go through it every
6 summer.

7 In conclusion, I ask the Site
8 Evaluation Committee to look at alternative
9 solutions for Northern Pass. The current
10 route, whether above or below ground, will
11 cause irreparable and uncompensated economic
12 damage to the citizens and small businesses of
13 Grafton County. Linda Lauer, Grafton County
14 Commissioner, Grafton District 2.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
16 you, Ms. Weisenberger.

17 MS. WEISENBERGER: And this is my
18 statement, Judith Weisenberger, Sugar Hill.

19 To the SEC members: You hold a
20 sacred trust to get this right for the people
21 of New Hampshire. If Northern Pass must be
22 built, in your view, then you owe it to all
23 those who love what makes New Hampshire unique
24 in this country, to favor its citizens over

1 Quebec, private companies, investors, and
2 Massachusetts and Connecticut consumers. You
3 must investigate burying all of this down 93.
4 Economic feasibility is in the eye of the
5 investor. Denying 93 as a possible solution
6 shouldn't be made by Northern Pass, but by
7 truly independent experts. Maybe they could
8 consider charging Massachusetts and Connecticut
9 consumers a surcharge to mitigate their burying
10 costs. We are counting on you to do the right
11 thing for all New Hampshire. What's right for
12 Sugar Hill and the National Forest is right for
13 Weeks Park, Forest Lake, Coleman State Park,
14 Indian Stream, Lost Nation, et cetera, et
15 cetera, et cetera. We are counting on you to
16 do the right thing, as other states have done
17 for their citizens. Thank you for your work.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: The next
19 four speakers that I'm going to call are Peter
20 Grote from Franconia, William Arguello from
21 Plymouth, Bob Tuverson from Holderness, and Tom
22 Irwin from Concord.

23 Mr. Grote.

24 MR. GROTE: Yes. G-R-O-T-E for the

1 record. I live in Franconia, on Route 116. I
2 attended the session yesterday in Whitefield,
3 and I appreciate the Committee having these
4 meetings. For me, they've been very
5 productive.

6 What I learned yesterday was that a
7 representative of Northern Pass actually said
8 that Interstate 93 was technically possible. I
9 think others who were at that meeting also
10 heard that statement. I also learned a
11 representative from Northern Pass indicate that
12 the useful life, the economic life of the line
13 was not 40 years. I heard the term "60 to 70
14 years." I've heard other experts take a much
15 longer view, particularly at some of the towers
16 that were built over a hundred years ago and
17 are still being used today. I heard a
18 representative indicate that the extra cost of
19 burying the line would be a billion dollars.
20 We've heard that today several times. I also
21 heard a representative yesterday many times, as
22 well as earlier today, indicate that there was
23 a visual impact on going through the notch. I
24 asked the question, the written question, "What

1 is the visual impact?" And the answer was
2 total blank, no impact whatsoever.

3 Information not disclosed during the
4 presentation and the Q&A sessions is also
5 important. I think, Counselor, you answered
6 one of my questions yesterday about Appendix 43
7 in Volume 34, where a very important analysis
8 of economic impacts, cost and benefits on the
9 local communities had a title. It consisted of
10 a single page which read, "Cost Benefit and
11 Local Economic Impact Analysis of the Proposed
12 Northern Pass Transmission Proposal," and in
13 red was marked "Report withheld due to
14 confidential information." Now, my question to
15 the Committee is: What is the purpose of
16 having these open meetings if there is
17 important information that is being withheld?
18 I think it's very unfair to the 93,000 New
19 Hampshire residents and voters who live along
20 the line and work along the line in 31 towns
21 and are impacted by the proposed route if
22 they're not entitled access to read, to study,
23 to raise questions at a public hearing about
24 the economic impact.

1 Another thing that has not -- another
2 item that has not been disclosed is the
3 reported profitability of Hydro-Quebec.
4 Several times yesterday I heard the comment,
5 "Hydro-Quebec is funding this. Ratepayers in
6 New Hampshire are not." If you look at the web
7 site, Hydro-Quebec reported profits for the
8 first six months of last year, in Canadian
9 dollars, \$2.1 billion. That translates into
10 about one and a half billion U.S. dollars. If
11 in fact the line is in place for 70 years, you
12 can multiply that rate of profitability, and
13 you can come up with a figure of \$250 billion
14 Canadian dollars that will be earned over the
15 span of 60 years, or a \$180 billion U.S.
16 dollars. Now, a \$1 billion investment in going
17 through and burying the program and going
18 through the notch is peanuts. It's less than
19 1 percent of the total economic impact that
20 Hydro-Quebec will gain from this. Thank you
21 very much.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
23 you.

24 William Arguello.

1 (No verbal response)

2 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.

3 Move on to Mr. Tuverson.

4 MR. TUVERSON: Bob Tuverson,
5 T-U-V-E-S-O-N, from Holderness. And Holderness
6 is the only Holderness in the United States.

7 Northern Pass should be the champion
8 of best technology rather than the least
9 expensive. Underground cables are affordable
10 compared to overhead lines. There's a higher
11 initial capital cost, but this difference is
12 cancelled out by the much higher and costly
13 electricity losses from overhead lines over the
14 life of the line, about 7 percent on overhead
15 lines, less than 1 percent if the lines are
16 buried. When this is taken into account, plus
17 the lengthy planning delays, property
18 devaluation, impacts on tourism and higher
19 maintenance costs associated with overhead
20 lines, cost of underground and overhead lines
21 are almost equal. You have heard this time and
22 time again, but you still haven't listened:
23 Bury all of it. Thank you, sir.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank

1 you, sir.

2 Tom Irwin.

3 MR. IRWIN: Thank you. My name is
4 Tom, I-R-W-I-N. I represent Conservation Law
5 Foundation. CLF will be petitioning to
6 intervene in this docket, so my comments will
7 be brief.

8 First, for the record, CLF is opposed
9 to this project proposal, this proposal pending
10 before the Site Evaluation Committee. We
11 believe it's wrong for New Hampshire, and we
12 are also concerned about the energy
13 implications of the proposal, including its
14 potential to undermine the development of
15 clean, local, renewable energy.

16 Second, with respect to the
17 Committee's review of the application, we
18 believe context matters. And by that I mean we
19 hope and assume the Committee will engage in a
20 broad review of the issues, not limited to the
21 Project as proposed, but looking at the broader
22 context within the region. Representative
23 Smith spoke eloquently to the other projects
24 coming into New England that will import

1 Canadian power, including the proposed TDI
2 project in Vermont, which has already obtained
3 state permits, will be fully buried underground
4 or beneath Lake Champlain, and would import
5 1,000 megawatts capacity of Canadian power.

6 Ms. Terp spoke eloquently to the
7 impacts in Canada from the source of this
8 power. As long as this project is sold as a
9 "clean, renewable energy project," the impacts
10 in Canada have to be assessed, the impacts from
11 massive impoundments, the climate impacts and
12 other damage done. Those are just two areas
13 where we hope and assume the Site Evaluation
14 Committee will take a broader view of this
15 project. And we're confident that, if the
16 Committee does in fact take a broader view,
17 that it will show, again, that this project, as
18 proposed, is not right for New Hampshire, and
19 we're confident that better solutions and
20 alternatives will emerge. Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
22 you, sir.

23 Okay. The next four speakers will be
24 Andrew Hancock, Steve Sabu [sic] of Easton,

1 Bruce Ahern of Plymouth, and Chris Thayer of
2 Sugar Hill.

3 So, Andrew Hancock from Ashland.

4 MS. RICHARDS: I'm speaking on behalf
5 of Mr. Hancock.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
7 you.

8 MS. RICHARDS: He had to leave. He
9 has difficulty speaking. I'm Martha Richards,
10 again, from Holderness.

11 "Need for intruding on existing
12 right-of-ways: The vast majority of existing
13 right-of-ways were acquired to handle the
14 spacing needs of lines carrying 115kV voltages.
15 The proposed line will require additional ROW
16 width in the areas where the new line will
17 interfere with the clearances required by the
18 existing lines. This will likely put existing
19 landowners on which these ROWs are built, and
20 the owner of the proposed line in conflict.
21 Many landowners do not wish additional land
22 taken. Eminent domain protects these
23 landowners with current New Hampshire law.
24 Some of these conflicts can be resolved by

1 additional tower height, but the rights of
2 these landowners is again put in jeopardy. It
3 is not evident these problems have been
4 addressed."

5 Thank you for letting me speak for
6 Mr. Hancock.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
8 you. Ms. Richards, could you -- thank you.

9 Mr. Sabu [sic].

10 MR. SABRE: My name is Steven Sabre,
11 S-A-B-R-E.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: I'm
13 sorry.

14 MR. SABRE: I've been called worse.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: I'm
16 terrible at reading handwriting. I'm sorry.

17 MR. SABRE: I'm going to speak to
18 some of the specifics of the siting here in
19 Grafton County.

20 There's a common axiom that states,
21 "The shortest distance between two points is a
22 straight line." Evidently, the high-priced
23 engineers in Northern Pass don't understand
24 that. The current proposed route is crookeder

1 than a snake's back. So here's -- since
2 evidently the designers don't like the
3 Interstate 93 option, I'm going to offer
4 another proposal, and that is to bring the line
5 down through the Notch by way of the bike path,
6 which would not interrupt traffic; from there,
7 in Lincoln there's a straight shot from Lincoln
8 all the way down to Franklin and on to Concord
9 down an existing railroad bed that is virtually
10 not utilized. This route would have the least
11 impact economically to towns' infrastructure
12 and environmentally, since the land is already
13 disturbed from a hundred years or more of use
14 as a railroad bed. The shorter, more direct
15 route would be less expensive, and you could
16 apply that savings to further burial. Thank
17 you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
19 you, sir. Bruce Ahern.

20 MR. AHERN: Bruce Ahern from
21 Plymouth, A-H-E-R-N. I just have a few
22 comments.

23 When I was working with my father, we
24 were looking at all the deeds and right-of-ways

1 that went through our property. And if you
2 look at the way that the right-of-way for
3 Route 3 was established, it was designed for
4 travel. It was not designed for transmission
5 of power or anything else. It was designed for
6 travel, for people to get from one point to
7 another. So I don't think that Northern Pass,
8 or anybody else, has a right to use that
9 without compensating the landowners for the
10 right-of-way, just like the electricity
11 companies and the telephone company had to
12 compensate the landowners for the right-of-way.

13 I own the land underneath Route 3.
14 Nobody else does. The town only has a
15 right-of-way to use the top of Route 3. They
16 don't have a right to go down 4 or 5 feet and
17 use that land. That's my land. So I don't
18 think that Northern Pass has a right to go down
19 through Route 3.

20 What they're doing by claiming that
21 this is too expensive to go other routes is
22 they're transferring the cost from themselves
23 to the local landowners, and that's not right.

24 So I think you need to look at a

1 different way to go about getting your power
2 down to Deerfield.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
4 you, sir.

5 Chris Thayer.

6 MR. THAYER: Chris Thayer, T, as in
7 Tom, H-A-Y-E-R.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
9 you.

10 MR. THAYER: I'm Chris Thayer from
11 the Appalachian Mountain Club. Last fall, many
12 of us here tonight participated in a round of
13 required pre-application information sessions
14 hosted by Northern Pass Transmission in each of
15 the five counties impacted by project. At that
16 time, Northern Pass had recently announced,
17 after years of saying it was impossible and
18 uneconomic, the burial of an additional
19 52 miles around the White Mountain National
20 Forest. AMC was optimistic that Northern Pass
21 was actually listening and would look further
22 and sincerely at realistic and doable solutions
23 to solve the most outstanding controversial
24 elements of this proposed project, its

1 continued and severe negative visual impact on
2 over 132 miles of New Hampshire's landscape.
3 Unfortunately, our optimism was unfounded.

4 Full burial we know is both
5 technologically and economically feasible for
6 similar-sized projects going the same or
7 greater distances. One need only look west to
8 New York and Vermont to see such full burial
9 projects that are now fully permitted. And
10 those projects are intended to carry the same
11 Canadian hydropower to southern New England and
12 New York. Now, tonight, at the conclusion of
13 yet another round of hearings in which we have
14 to listen to Northern Pass tout its plan and
15 its alleged benefits, it remains clear that
16 Northern Pass is neither listening nor willing
17 to honestly determine how full burial might be
18 accomplished. There are several reasonable
19 interstate highway, full burial options that
20 Northern Pass has falsely claimed were rejected
21 by agencies or organizations; whereas, in
22 reality, it is now obvious that Northern Pass
23 never even asked them of the feasibility.
24 Instead, they're using these sessions to

1 continue to say, "We need balance, or, "It is
2 too expensive," using crude,
3 grade-school-level, back-of-the-envelope
4 calculations.

5 The SEC process requires honestly
6 looking at reasonable alternatives to mitigate
7 impacts. To date, all that Northern Pass has
8 been about is how to get to "No" on full
9 burial, while all of its competitor lines got
10 to "Yes." New Hampshire should not be asked,
11 nor will it sacrifice its landscape, tourism
12 economy and quality of life. Northern Pass's
13 ForwardNH Plan in reality is a plan to
14 permanently scar New Hampshire's landscape to
15 achieve huge shareholders' profit margins. We
16 need to see a new "Protect New Hampshire Plan"
17 from Northern Pass if it is going to pass
18 muster. Thank you.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
20 you, sir.

21 Okay. The next four speakers will be
22 Judith Faran from Bridgewater; Dennis Ford, if
23 he's still here, from Easton; Douglas Evelyn
24 from Sugar Hill, followed by Taras Kucman from

1 Concord.

2 Thank you, Ms. Faran.

3 MS. FARAN: I'm Judith Faran. F, as
4 in Frank, A-R-A-N. I live in Bridgewater, very
5 close to the Pemigewasset River, or "the Pemi."

6 My family owns a large tract of
7 riparian land along the Pemi that has been in
8 our family since 1794. This project scares me.
9 Your current proposal calls for overhead
10 high-voltage lines to cross the Pemi four times
11 in places heavily used by residents, boaters,
12 campers and our town beach in Bridgewater.
13 Towers would be well above tree line in many
14 places. The Pemi is a state-protected river,
15 and this type of intrusion is unacceptable. In
16 addition, lines will be likely to impact
17 recreation and tourism and land values, all a
18 crucial part of the local economy. Lines will
19 come close to some homes, and despite your
20 assurances, there doesn't seem to be a valid
21 concern -- your assurance is that these are
22 safe. I do not see that that has been fully
23 addressed.

24 To me, this is a no-win situation. I

1 can't see any reason why Northern Pass should
2 go through. The benefits to New Hampshire
3 certainly do not outweigh the sacrifices that
4 we will make in the process of it going in. If
5 this must go through at all, and I hope it
6 doesn't, I urge you to bury the line. If
7 Hydro-Quebec is paying for the line, their
8 profits should not come from the cost of our
9 rivers, our environment and our way of life.
10 Thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Ms.
12 Faran, could you give your copy of your
13 statement to the --

14 MS. FARAN: It was ad libbed.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Oh,
16 okay. Thank you. That was pretty good.

17 Is Dennis Ford here?

18 (No verbal response)

19 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Douglas
20 Evelyn.

21 MR. EVELYN: It's Douglas Evelyn,
22 E-V-E-L-Y-N.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: My
24 apologies.

1 MR. EVELYN: And it's written on my
2 statement.

3 I am secretary of the Board of the
4 Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust, the chief area
5 land trust serving the White Mountain region in
6 Grafton and Coos counties. We appreciate this
7 opportunity to testify as part of the process.

8 ACT previously mentioned its
9 opposition to the power project at the SEC
10 informational hearings on September 8, 2015.
11 We do not believe it is justified as proposed.
12 Its above-ground sections are unwarranted and
13 detrimental. New sources and technologies for
14 providing energy are rapidly being developed.
15 Our position is "No build, or totally bury."
16 We will submit further written comment over the
17 course of the SEC process ahead, but we fully
18 endorse the positions and findings of our
19 colleague organizations, the Appalachian
20 Mountain Club, the Society for the Protection
21 of New Hampshire Forests, the Conservation Law
22 Foundation, Nature Conservancy and others.
23 Specifically, ACT wishes to see the inherited
24 New Hampshire scenic and working rural

1 landscapes respected and protected.

2 This generation of New Hampshire
3 leaders has great responsibility to do no harm
4 to the extraordinary natural and human-shaped
5 landscapes our predecessors have stewarded.
6 Our landscapes have inspired art and literature
7 for two centuries and undergird the state's
8 international reputation as a tourist
9 destination. Future users of these landscapes
10 should be able to appreciate them without
11 intersecting industrial towers as they travel
12 our scenic byways.

13 ACT rejects the narrowly determined
14 area of visual impact used in the Department of
15 Energy's Environmental Impact Statement and
16 Section 106 Analysis, as this narrow
17 determination deflects attention from the
18 broader natural and cultural landscape and
19 prejudices any impact analysis. Instead, we
20 urge efforts to define historical districts
21 appropriate to the landscape and its history.
22 Simply look around you as you drive through
23 this landscape and imagine the task that these
24 people have to discuss the impact in terms of a

1 narrow 2-mile strip on either side of a line.
2 It doesn't make sense for this landscape that
3 we've inherited.

4 ACT applauds the National Trust for
5 Historic Preservation designation last October
6 of the scenic landscapes of New Hampshire as a
7 national treasure, calling nationwide attention
8 to these threatened resources.

9 ACT strives to help landowners
10 achieve solutions that revitalize traditional
11 uses of our landscapes in ways that protect the
12 lands and invigorate the economy, including
13 support of our regional food systems. We
14 believe in respecting the lands and finding
15 uses that sustain them for future generations.

16 I close with a word written by Jim --
17 James Garvin in 2009, then our state's
18 historian, and still a learned observer of our
19 history.

20 "New Hampshire is a museum of its own
21 history. What we once had we still have, at
22 least in part. Things that were familiar to
23 the people of 1730 can still be seen today,
24 along with everything that has accumulated

1 since. Much of New Hampshire remains a place
2 where we can read our history in the landscape
3 itself, proving through our own senses that
4 other people inhabited our land and met the
5 challenges of their day, as we meet those of
6 our day. The objects through which our
7 predecessors carried out their lives' work or
8 embodied their sense of beauty and meaning are
9 often among our most accessible windows to
10 history."

11 We've inherited a national treasurer.
12 Let us preserve these unique landscapes for
13 future generations. Thank you.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
15 you, sir.

16 Mr. Kucman.

17 MR. KUCMAN: My name is Taras Kucman.
18 I'm a resident of Concord. I live on the
19 right-of-way.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Spell
21 your name, please.

22 MR. KUCMAN: Last name is Kucman,
23 K-U-C-M-A-N. First name is Taras, T-A-R-A-S.

24 Well, I had prepared a comment to

1 make when I came here today, but I'm going to
2 have to do that. I'm going to expand on the
3 question, and I will clarify for impact.

4 I let my daughter read it. She's a
5 French linguist. And when she got to the part
6 about "abatis," I had a feeling there's a
7 problem. So I got the same impression, that
8 many people here have not heard of the term
9 "abatis." And an abatis -- this is just a
10 picture of what an abatis is. Please pass it
11 around and let people see. I have a copy for
12 you, too. The point --

13 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
14 you, sir.

15 MR. KUCMAN: The point I'm trying to
16 make is that, as a former Army Corps of
17 Engineer officer going through training, we
18 learned about trafficability. We learned about
19 impending -- impeding trafficability, taking
20 out bridges by calculating, setting and
21 detonating charges. And one of the things that
22 really comes to mind in this location between
23 Franklin and Deerfield is that there's a
24 250-foot right-of-way. And crowded in that

1 right-of-way are two 115kV lines and one 345kV
2 line.

3 The point I'm trying to make is that
4 the abatis -- I kid you not. Placing charges
5 on your monopoles would cut through those
6 monopoles like a hot knife through butter. And
7 regardless of how you design it, people who
8 know anything about demolitions will place
9 those monopoles [sic] where they want them.

10 Reference to the 2003 blackout was
11 because that was a 345kV line, which in hot
12 August became stretched, touched vegetation,
13 shorted out. And it gradually, over a
14 three-hour period, avalanched into the
15 55-million-people blackout from Ontario all the
16 way over to Massachusetts. That was a
17 three-hour avalanche.

18 What I'm saying is, anybody with any
19 knowledge can take both of those 115kV lines
20 and the 345kV lines and cut them and have them
21 fall towards each other like an abatis and
22 cause a three-system through-fault. Now, I'm
23 comparing what took three hours with what would
24 take normally 10, 15 seconds to create those

1 through-faults. No better target than right
2 there between Concord, Franklin and Deerfield.
3 I am mystified at how many times we come in
4 front of you and tell you, "Bury it."

5 The question I had is, in hindsight,
6 after such an event, given the depth, not in
7 August but in February -- yes, acknowledged
8 greater, worse situation -- point being is when
9 you take a look at an event like that and you
10 ask yourself: What would have been a prudent
11 countermeasure? Burying it. And I keep
12 hearing "burying it," and the message is not
13 getting through. I accept that the key to
14 adult learning is repetition. I really do.
15 And sometimes it can take a day, a week, a
16 month, sometimes six years. But we continue to
17 say, "Bury it." Aside from that, I have no
18 strong opinion. Thank you.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
20 you, Mr. Kucman.

21 The next three speakers are Dolly
22 McPhaul of Sugar Hill, Ryan Barber from Rumney,
23 and Margo Connors from Sugar Hill will be
24 followed by Ann Hunnewell from Holderness --09

1 MS. McPHAUL: My name is Dolly
2 McPhaul, M-C-P-H-A-U-L, and I'm from Sugar
3 Hill.

4 Mr. Quinlan, I'll be a little nicer
5 tonight than last night. I have a concern, and
6 then I have a brief statement.

7 My concern is -- and I do not know
8 the answer to this, but I didn't want to
9 include it in the question section because we
10 normally can't believe what we're told. But my
11 concern is, if the Northern Pass happens, and
12 if the towers and the lines are put on the
13 rights-of-way, what happens if Hydro-Quebec
14 wants to buy those? Now, I've heard that it
15 would have to be okayed by the PUC. I've seen
16 some people from the PUC in action on the SEC,
17 and the bias I believe is incredible. To me,
18 if Eversource wants it, Eversource will get it.
19 So, if the towers are sold to Hydro-Quebec,
20 then five years down the line, what happens if
21 Russia or North Korea or Iran want to buy those
22 lines? What will happen to us if they are
23 allowed to buy those lines and our enemies
24 control our infrastructure and our energy

1 corridors? That's my concern.

2 My statement is you keep mentioning
3 that you're -- to bury it would cost you
4 another billion dollars. Well, guess what? We
5 don't care. We care about our beautiful views.
6 We care about our property values. We care
7 about important things, not the bottom line.
8 We do not care about your stockholders.
9 Mr. May can turn over some of his money, your
10 stockholders could give up some of their
11 returns, and you could bury it. But now I will
12 tell you that I'm sick of saying "bury it."
13 You don't listen to us. So as far as I'm
14 concerned, you can take your whole project,
15 buried or not, and leave New Hampshire. Thank
16 you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Ryan
18 Barber. Margo's next.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She's gone.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. BARBER: I'm Ryan Barber. I live
23 in Rumney, New Hampshire. I'm a graduate of
24 Plymouth State University. I have lived in New

1 Hampshire most of my life. I love the land.
2 When I first heard about the Project, I was
3 initially opposed because of many of the issues
4 that people have brought up. However, the more
5 I learn about electricity and the more I
6 understand energy demands, I've changed my
7 viewpoint, and I'm in promotion of the Project.
8 One of the reasons is that one of the biggest
9 concerns for me is the use of burning things to
10 generate electricity, one of the primary means
11 that we do so, as well as creating a nuclear
12 fission reaction, which do have their own
13 inherent danger, although they are clean, much
14 cleaner than burning fossil fuels or gas or
15 wood, or anything which is inherently
16 polluting. I believe in a future where we
17 don't have to generate -- we don't have to burn
18 dinosaur bones, don't have to burn anything.
19 We can use natural resources to power our
20 entire world, our cars, our living, our heat
21 and everything. I think Northern Pass is a
22 small step in doing this, if it's done
23 responsibly and appropriately.

24 Furthermore, the construction

1 industry and electrical industry I know in the
2 past has had a very difficult time. As a rural
3 resident, education or no, skilled trades are a
4 way that a lot of us have had to learn to adopt
5 our lifestyle and our livelihood, and for that
6 reason I became a part of the IBEW Local 490's
7 Inside Wiring Program.

8 Northern Pass will provide me with
9 gainful employment through the majority of my
10 training in the program, which is the most
11 difficult time for someone who wants to learn
12 the mentally and physically demanding trade of
13 electrical construction, as well as employ many
14 of the older journeymen who, for a long time,
15 had to suffer the Recession. I love Franconia
16 Notch. I'm a climber in there. The Northern
17 Pass is going to provide me with the means to
18 support myself during this apprenticeship. And
19 also, the more you bury underground as you
20 decided, that's going to be in my sector. And
21 I appreciate that, as well as keeping the view
22 and the pristine nature of Franconia Notch
23 pure. Thank you.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank

1 you, sir.

2 I understand Ms. Connors is not here,
3 so we'll move on to Ann Hunnewell.

4 MS. HUNNEWELL: Thank you. My name
5 is Ann Hunnewell. And it's H-U-N-N-E-W-E-L-L.
6 And I am from Holderness, New Hampshire.

7 I want to address the social impact
8 that the Northern Pass proposal has had on the
9 citizens of New Hampshire. It is outrageous
10 that Hydro-Quebec and Eversource have pitted
11 neighbor against neighbor. The previous
12 speaker was a wonderful example. The
13 electricians of New Hampshire want the work
14 that this project supposedly will bring them,
15 and I hope it does. But meanwhile, the people
16 in the tourist industries, as well as
17 conservationists, want to preserve the beauty
18 and grandeur of our state. And then there are
19 the homeowners who want to preserve the value
20 of their homes. It is unconscionable that for
21 sheer greed Hydro-Quebec and Eversource would
22 bring such dissention to a state for five
23 years. It is shameful that they would create
24 such upheaval for the sake of money. I'm not

1 against companies making profit. I think they
2 could still make a reasonable profit, yet also
3 end the dissention by burying the line. We are
4 in the 21st Century and making important
5 changes in electrical transport. There are
6 five states, including one since 1968, which
7 required electric lines be buried for new
8 developments. Why can't Northern Pass be a
9 leader in the technology and show the nation
10 that they are a responsible party in bringing
11 electricity to this nation?

12 There should be no winners or losers
13 in this project. Northern Pass can bring
14 harmony back to the state by simply burying the
15 entire line. Thank you very much.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
17 you.

18 Okay. We have Luke Wotton of
19 Whitefield, Alan McLain of Berlin, and
20 Dr. Deborah Warner of Littleton.

21 MR. WOTTON: Hi, I'm Luke Wotton.
22 I'm from Whitefield, New Hampshire.
23 W-O-T-T-O-N.

24 And I'd like to -- there's this

1 little story I was told by my teacher. You got
2 a rabbit and you got a fox. The rabbit's,
3 like, "God, don't throw me in the bush patch.
4 Don't do it, do it." And then the fox throws
5 the rabbit in the bush patch. The rabbit just
6 hops around like no big deal. Then the fox
7 tries to go after him, and he gets all poked
8 and prodded and everything. I feel like this
9 is what Northern Pass is doing. They come in
10 saying "towers, towers," and then they got
11 everyone saying "bury, bury," but burying it is
12 kind of what they wanted to do in the first
13 place. Because if you look at the loss of
14 energy when you bury a line, it's significantly
15 less than if you have overhead lines running.
16 So I think they wanted to bury the whole time,
17 but they just did power lines. And then
18 they're going to look like the heroes when they
19 bury the whole line, finally. And that's what
20 they wanted. And you can wipe that fucking
21 grin off your face.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Hey,
23 hey, hey.

24 MR. WOTTON: Wipe that grin off your

1 face.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Your
3 statement, please, sir.

4 MR. WOTTON: That was a statement.

5 It's already been touched on in this
6 session, not as much as the other ones. But up
7 in Hydro-Quebec territory, all the dams they're
8 building up there, they are destroying the
9 land, releasing a lot of methane, destroying
10 the earth. And I don't know how -- like
11 picture this: My hand is the earth, and you
12 have a whole ton of water right here on the
13 earth. That's going to throw off the wobble of
14 the earth. And it's been throwing off by three
15 inches, supposedly, right now. But it's going
16 to get bigger. And the whole thing with this,
17 all this power, they built these dams way back
18 in the day, like the '70s and '80s. I think
19 the newest ones were in the '90s. But they've
20 had all this power for so many years, and they
21 haven't been able to sell it. So now that they
22 can sell it, well, now they're going into
23 United States territory to try to sell it. And
24 it's -- they have the money and the investment

1 already there.

2 So, we as a people, as the United
3 States, why should United States fold for the
4 profit of Hydro-Quebec? I don't think we
5 should ever fold to another foreign country.
6 And you want to talk about relying on another
7 country for foreign power with oil and shit
8 like that? Look, we're going to get all of our
9 power from Hydro-Quebec. That's a foreign
10 country. Let's chillax and let's just do,
11 like, solar panels. That's it.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
13 you, sir.

14 Alan McLain.

15 MR. McLAIN: Good evening. My name's
16 Alan McLain. It's spelled M-C-L-A-I-N. I'm in
17 favor of the Northern Pass.

18 First of all, I'd like to see my
19 electric rates drop. Secondly, as a business
20 owner, I'm hoping to work and get some work
21 from the Northern Pass. It's hard for me to
22 keep my employees working year round in
23 northern New Hampshire. It's very difficult.
24 They depend on me to get the work. And they're

1 bringing a lot of jobs. Moving New Hampshire
2 Fund Forward [sic] is giving money to the
3 community so local entrepreneurs can bring
4 projects to their cities. And when you get a
5 project like that, you take that to the bank.
6 And to make it happen, you need to have equity
7 in cash. Sometimes entrepreneurs have not
8 enough equity, and sometimes more equity would
9 make the Project cash flow, and you're able to
10 bring these projects to the communities.
11 You're going to build these facilities. People
12 are going to work there. And again, it's going
13 to bring jobs to the North Country, maybe keep
14 some of our kids home. You know, they have to
15 leave when they go to college, in most cases.
16 I welcome the Northern Pass. I hope it comes,
17 and I support it. Thank you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
19 you, sir.

20 Dr. Warner.

21 (No verbal response)

22 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Okay.
23 The last two speakers are Walter Palmer,
24 followed by Admiral Maitland.

1 MR. PALMER: My name is Walter
2 Palmer, P-A-L-M-E-R. I'm from Franconia.

3 And first of all, I'd like to thank
4 the SEC for the opportunity to make a comment
5 tonight. My comment is as follows: For years
6 Northern Pass told us that burial of the power
7 line was financially unfeasible, technically
8 unfeasible, impossible to do. "It's the
9 Granite State," they told us, "you can't bury
10 things in the granite." Suddenly, last August
11 it became possible to bury a third of the power
12 line. And of course, all of us were delighted
13 to see that Northern Pass seemed to be
14 responding to some of our requests. But we
15 couldn't help but think: Wait a minute.
16 Weren't they saying up until now that it was
17 impossible to do that? So you'll understand
18 our cynicism and our distrust when you tell us
19 that now it's impossible and unfeasible to
20 build anything in the Franconia Notch or along
21 I-93.

22 I've read your filing with the DOE,
23 trying to outline why you feel that the use of
24 I-93 is unfeasible, and I find it weak at best.

1 And there's nothing in that argument that could
2 not be overcome by a company such as yourself,
3 if you really were determined to overcome it.
4 Each of the policies and guidelines that you
5 cite in there all have provisions for
6 exceptions if you were to try to fight them or
7 try to overcome them. A lot of the physical
8 obstacles that you claim exist in Franconia
9 Notch and along I-93 are the very same physical
10 obstacles you're telling us along Route 116 are
11 no problem. So it's hard for us to understand
12 why suddenly there's a problem all along I-93
13 but not along Route 116. And your whole
14 argument hinges on the fact that Franconia
15 Notch is one of the most sensitive
16 environmental locations in New Hampshire. And
17 it is a sensitive and beautiful place. But
18 let's face it, there's an interstate going
19 through it. There are semi-trailers roaring up
20 and down that road constantly. And the
21 installation of this power line along that
22 interstate highway would make almost an
23 incrementally zero impact on top of what's
24 already there.

1 Northern Pass has gone to an
2 extensive effort to try to make the argument
3 that burial along I-93 and through the Notch
4 would be impossible. You've developed a
5 multi-page filing with lots of citations and
6 references. But like I say, it's weak at best,
7 and it's not convincing. I believe that
8 Northern Pass actually tipped their hand when
9 they went to this much effort to try to
10 demonstrate that burial along I-93 was
11 infeasible. If it was truly infeasible, you
12 would just ignore it. Why would you spend so
13 much money trying to prove that it's
14 infeasible? I think that you're trying to
15 prove that it's infeasible because you don't
16 want to do it. Okay. You don't want to do it.
17 But the fact is that it is entirely feasible
18 and possible, and it could be done.

19 I think it's an affront to the people
20 of Franconia that Northern Pass has proposed to
21 bury this massive power line right down our
22 Main Street, right through the center of our
23 town, right past our elementary school, right
24 through the Easton Valley which is the crown

1 jewel of our scenic attraction and tourist
2 attraction areas, especially when there's such
3 an obvious alternative, which is to bury
4 Northern Pass through the Notch. That's my
5 comment.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
7 you, sir.

8 And Admiral Maitland.

9 MR. MAITLAND: My name is Admiral
10 Maitland. A-D-M-I-R-A-L, Maitland,
11 M-A-I-T-L-A-N-D. I'm a proud member of Local
12 104. I've been in the electric construction
13 and distribution industry for eight years, and
14 I understand why Northern Pass is basically
15 like a fundamental thing for New Hampshire. I
16 see all the positives. It's going to create
17 \$30 million in tax benefits, which will improve
18 the economy here, that creates more jobs in the
19 future. It's going to create 2600 jobs in the
20 construction phase, but after that, more over
21 the years to come. You're going to still need
22 to employ more people to do the system
23 maintenance and upgrades.

24 I also support the Northern Pass

1 because it provides cleaner energy, which
2 lowers the environmental impact. With my
3 experience from being a substation maintainer,
4 the generation at our plant -- I work for the
5 MBTA out in Boston, and we use fuel,
6 demineralized water and air. When you
7 eliminate -- that's our distribution system.
8 The other distribution systems require coal,
9 oil. When you eliminate that and use
10 hydroelectric power from Quebec, you're only
11 using water and a dam to generate the turbines
12 to generate electricity. With that being said,
13 that also helps customers like you and I and
14 everybody in this room to lower energy bills
15 because we're using less resources to provide
16 the energy.

17 Also, another fact. The Northern
18 Pass accommodates the -- you guys are
19 accommodating the visibility of the beautiful
20 scenic routes. Due to my experience in system
21 restoration, you know, from, like, storm
22 outages in overhead lines, to restore faster, I
23 believe overhead lines is the way to go. But
24 the fact that you all were nice enough to

1 accommodate by throwing down the lines
2 underground, you know, for people to be happy
3 about, you know, messing up their scenery, you
4 know, it's definitely a positive.

5 Last, but not least, from my
6 experience as a power dispatcher, I definitely
7 support more power lines for New Hampshire
8 because that creates more redundancy in the
9 distribution grid, which means when you as the
10 system operator, the power dispatcher, see that
11 there's an outage in one location, you can
12 therefore take power from another substation or
13 from another part of the grid, isolate that and
14 actually get power to support more customers on
15 that same feeder. So I definitely support the
16 fact of adding additional lines to New
17 Hampshire.

18 In conclusion, I just wanted to say
19 keep up the good work, and I hope you all move
20 forward with this. It's definitely a positive
21 thing for New Hampshire. Because at the end of
22 the day, if our ancestors had thought about,
23 you know, scenery and, you know, this impacts
24 that, there wouldn't be any lights on in this

1 room right now. That's all I have to say.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
3 you, sir.

4 That exhausts the folks that wish to
5 speak tonight. We're going to adjourn and
6 remind everybody if -- I'm sorry?

7 MR. ROTH: It exhausts the rest of
8 us, too.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER IACOPINO: Thank
10 you, Peter.

11 I just want to remind everybody, if
12 you intend to file a motion to intervene,
13 February 5th is the deadline for that. And
14 please keep your eyes on the web site and on
15 the newspapers next week for the schedule of
16 the joint public hearings with the Site
17 Evaluation Committee. Thank you all very much.
18 We are adjourned. 10:36 p.m.

19 (Whereupon the public information
20 session was adjourned at 10:36 p.m.)

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PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION - LINCOLN - January 21, 2016
SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06 Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC, and PSNH d/b/a Eversource

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