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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE
Docket No. 2015-066

Joint Application for Northern Pass Transmission, LLC
and Public Service Company of New Hampshire
d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site
and Facility

PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Grappone Conference Center
70 Constitution Avenue
Concord, New Hampshire
March 10, 2016
5:00 - 10:30 p.m.

1 MR. HONIGBERG: Good evening, ladies and
2 gentlemen. Welcome to a Public Hearing of the
3 New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee.
4 Specifically, this is a subcommittee forum to
5 consider the Joint Application of Northern Pass
6 Transmission LLC and Public Service Company of
7 New Hampshire which does business as Eversource
8 Energy, seeking a Certificate of Site &
9 Facility.

10 Before we go any further, I'm going to ask
11 the people up here to introduce themselves.
12 Starting to my left.

13 SPEAKER: William Oldenburg from the
14 Department of Transportation.

15 SPEAKER: Christopher Way from the
16 Department of Resources & Economic Development.

17 SPEAKER: Craig Wright with the Department
18 of Environmental Services.

19 SPEAKER: Martin Honigberg with the Public
20 Utilities Commission.

21 SPEAKER: Kathryn Bailey with the Public
22 Utilities Commission.

23 SPEAKER: Rachel Whitaker. Alternate

1 Public Member.

2 SPEAKER: Patricia Weathersby, Public
3 Member.

4 SPEAKER: Tom Wagner, Forest Supervisor,
5 White Mountain National Forest.

6 SPEAKER: Brian Mills with the Department
7 of Energy.

8 MR. HONIGBERG: This is actually two
9 hearings in one. A Site Evaluation Committee
10 hearing is going on concurrently with
11 proceedings by the Department of Energy. As you
12 heard, a member of the Department of Energy
13 staff is here as well as someone from the Forest
14 Service. Before I go any further, I will ask
15 them to make their remarks and I will ask them
16 and everyone else who reads something tonight to
17 read slowly and clearly so the stenographer can
18 get it.

19 MR. MILLS: Hi. I'm Brian Mills with the
20 Department of Energy. Thank you for taking your
21 time to attend this hearing. I work for the
22 Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy
23 Reliability. I'll be the Hearings Officer for

1 the Department of Energy. The reason we are
2 here is Northern Pass LLC or Northern Pass is
3 proposing to construct an international
4 transmission line. Northern Pass has asked the
5 Department of Energy for a Presidential permit.
6 A Presidential permit is needed before any
7 transmission line can be built across U.S.
8 international border. The Department of Energy
9 determined that an Environmental Impact
10 Statement would be the appropriate level of
11 analysis for this Presidential permit. This is
12 a public hearing on the Northern Pass
13 Transmission Line Draft Environmental Impact
14 Statement or simply the Draft EIS.

15 Once we begin the hearing, we will hear
16 from you in the order you have signed up. If
17 you wish to speak but have not signed up, you
18 can get signed up at the registration table.
19 For those of you who may not be familiar with
20 the process we go through in preparing an
21 Environmental Impact Statement, and where we are
22 for this particular project, I'll cover the
23 steps.

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1 The first step in the EIS process, starting
2 public participation, begins by DOE issuing a
3 Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS. For this
4 project, DOE issued our Notice of Intent on
5 February 11th, 2011, and an Amended Notice of
6 Intent on September 6th, 2013. The Notice of
7 Intent began an process we call scoping which
8 requests the public to tell us their issues and
9 concerns related to the proposed project. We
10 use this input to help us prepare a Draft EIS.
11 If you commented during the scoping period, we
12 used your scoping comments to determine which
13 alternatives and issues we needed to address.

14 The next step in the process is to prepare
15 a Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analyzes the
16 foreseeable environment impacts that might
17 result from granting the permit. The Draft EIS
18 also identifies steps that might be needed to
19 mitigate impacts. For this project, we issued
20 the Draft EIS in July 2015. After we issue a
21 Draft EIS, we asked the public to comment on it
22 during a public comment period.

23 The EPA or the Environmental Protection

1 Agency opens the comment period by publishing a
2 notice of availability in the Federal Register.
3 The EPA notice for this Draft EIS was in the
4 Federal Register, July 31st, 2015.

5 The comment period gives you the
6 opportunity to tell us any changes you'd like to
7 see in the final EIS, what you think is wrong
8 about the document and how you think we should
9 fix it. We are also looking for issues you
10 think we missed or didn't cover as well as we
11 should. If you ask questions as part of your
12 comment, we will not be able to answer your
13 questions today, but we will do so in the final
14 Environmental Impact Statement. It's also very
15 helpful for your comments to site specific
16 sections or page numbers from the document
17 itself. None of this is required, but it will
18 help us to understand your comments.

19 Posters with an abbreviated Draft EIS table
20 of contents are in the hall. During the
21 hearing, the hearings officer may ask questions
22 to allow you to clarify points you are making.
23 Whether you choose to speak or not, you are

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1 invited to submit written comments.

2 Instructions to do so are provided on another
3 poster in the hallway. All comments, whether
4 written or oral, are treated the same and have
5 equal weight. For this Draft EIS we will
6 continue to accept comments until April the 4th,
7 2016. To the extent we can, we will also
8 consider your comments submitted after that
9 date. After the close of the comment period, we
10 will write the Final Environmental Impact
11 Statement. The Final Environmental Impact
12 statement will contain a Comment Response
13 Document that addresses comments received on the
14 Draft EIS.

15 When completed the Environmental Protection
16 Agency will issue a notice of availability of
17 the Final EIS in the Federal Register and again
18 we will post the document on the EIS website and
19 send it out to the mailing list.

20 I hope that very general outline process is
21 helpful to you. I would also like to mention a
22 couple other things about the Draft EIS and this
23 project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the

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1 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S.
2 Forest Service and the New Hampshire Office of
3 Energy Planning are all cooperating agencies in
4 the preparation of the Draft Environmental
5 Impact Statement. DOE is evaluating the
6 application requesting issuance of a
7 Presidential permit for the proposed Northern
8 Pass Transmission line border crossing.

9 While DOE has authority to issue a
10 Presidential permit for the border crossing, DOE
11 does not grant rights-of-way, issue easements,
12 issue building permits, regulate utilities or
13 site transmission lines in the State of New
14 Hampshire. The State of New Hampshire Site
15 Evaluation Committee has authority to site
16 transmission lines in the State of New
17 Hampshire.

18 This hearing is a joint hearing with the
19 State of New Hampshire, SEC, on the EIS and the
20 Draft and the Northern Pass Transmission line
21 project. Comments on the Draft EIS expressed at
22 any of our hearings including the joint hearings
23 or provided to us by email or letter will be

1 considered equally. Thank you.

2 MR. WAGNER: Good evening. Brian has
3 covered the process so I won't repeat the
4 process. It's the similar process for us in the
5 Forest Service to listen to your comments here
6 and your comments in other venues and written
7 comments, but let me just quickly cover our role
8 in the siting process within the State of New
9 Hampshire.

10 Good evening. I'm Tom Wagner, Forest
11 Supervisor on the White Mountain National
12 Service. The Forest Service is the cooperating
13 agency working with DOE to ensure the Final EIS
14 meets the needs of all involved agencies with
15 jurisdiction. Northern Pass has applied to the
16 Forest Service for a special use permit
17 authorizing Northern Pass to construct, operate
18 and maintain an electric power transmission line
19 crossing portions of the White Mountain National
20 Forest. As the forest supervisor, I am the
21 agency official responsible for deciding whether
22 to issue such a permit. My decision will
23 consider whether the project is appropriate

1 based on the White Mountain National Forest Land
2 and Resource Management Plan and the laws
3 guiding the management of your federal public
4 lands. My decision will be documented in a
5 Record of Decision which would come out after
6 the Final EIS. Thank you.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: Thank you. Before talking
8 more about the process we're going to follow
9 tonight, there is an introduction that I need to
10 read, unfortunately, but I'm going to introduce
11 a couple of other people who are here. Sitting
12 to my far left is the attorney who represents
13 the Site Evaluation Committee, his name is Mike
14 Iacopino. Also somewhere either in this room or
15 out in the hallway is Pam Monroe. Behind me is
16 Pam Monroe who is the administrator for the Site
17 Evaluation Committee. She is the SEC's only
18 employee.

19 Also here this evening is a representative
20 of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office
21 who has appointed Peter Roth to serve as public
22 counsel. Peter, if you could stand up and wave.

23 On October 19th of 2015, Northern Pass

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1 Transmission LLC and Public Service Company of
2 New Hampshire which does business as Eversource
3 Energy submitted an application to the Site
4 Evaluation Committee for a Certificate of Site
5 and Facility to construct a 192-mile
6 transmission line. The line is proposed to have
7 a capacity rating of up to 1090 megawatts and is
8 proposed to run from the Canadian border in
9 Pittsburg down to Deerfield, New Hampshire.

10 On November 2rd, pursuant to statute, I as
11 the Chair of the SEC appointed a subcommittee to
12 consider the application. Some of the state
13 officials who serve on the SEC pursuant to their
14 statutory authority designated members of their
15 staffs to serve on this subcommittee.

16 On December 7th the subcommittee met to
17 review the status of the application. At that
18 time, the subcommittee determined that the
19 application contained sufficient information to
20 satisfy the application requirements of each
21 agency having jurisdiction under state or
22 federal law to regulate any aspect of the
23 construction or operation of the proposed

1 facility. The subcommittee also made an
2 independent determination that the application
3 contained sufficient information to carry out
4 the purposes of RSA Chapter 162-H.

5 On December 22nd, the subcommittee issued a
6 procedural order setting forth deadlines for
7 motions to intervene and scheduling public
8 information sessions in Franklin, Londonderry,
9 Laconia, Whitefield and Lincoln. All of those
10 meetings were held in January as scheduled.

11 The subcommittee has received over 150
12 motions to intervene in this docket. Many of
13 the people who would like to intervene are here
14 this evening. An order will be issued on the
15 motions to intervene in the near future.

16 On February 3rd, the subcommittee issued an
17 order and notice scheduling public hearings in
18 Meredith, Holderness and Deerfield for March
19 1st, 14th and 16th respectively. Also on
20 February 3rd, a second notice was issued
21 scheduling public hearings in Colebrook which
22 took place on Monday, and Concord which is being
23 held right now. As we indicated earlier, the

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1 hearing in Colebrook and this hearing are being
2 done concurrently with hearings by the U.S.
3 Department of Energy and the Forest Service.

4 The subcommittee is required to hold at
5 least one public hearing in each county in which
6 the project is to be located and public hearings
7 must be held within 90 days after acceptance of
8 the application for a certificate. In addition
9 to the five required hearings, one in each
10 county, we will be holding two additional
11 hearings for people to comment on supplemental
12 information that the Applicants filed in late
13 February.

14 As was required by statute, notice of this
15 hearing was served upon the public by
16 publication in the New Hampshire Union Leader on
17 February 10th, 2016.

18 This evening we will proceed as follows.
19 We will first hear a presentation by the
20 Applicant. Following that presentation, the
21 subcommittee or other agencies represented here
22 this evening will have an opportunity to pose
23 questions to the Applicant. Often the

1 subcommittee does not have questions for the
2 Applicant at this stage of the proceedings. We
3 have had an opportunity to review the filings of
4 the Applicant and other parties. We will have
5 further opportunities to question the Applicant
6 and ultimately probably later this year there
7 will be a hearing on the merits at which all of
8 the company's representatives will be under oath
9 and other parties will be there to present their
10 cases to us. That said, we may also ask
11 questions.

12 Thereafter, the public will be permitted to
13 pose questions to the Applicant. If you have a
14 question for the Applicant, we ask that you
15 write your question down and give it to someone
16 representing the committee, either Attorney
17 Iacopino or Administrator Monroe, using one of
18 the green forms. As noted by the federal
19 agencies, they will not be accepting and
20 answering questions. Our subcommittee may or
21 may not answer questions that are directed to
22 us. The substantive questions this evening
23 should be directed to the Applicant.

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1 We will try to organize the questions by
2 subject matter and present them to the Applicant
3 in an organized fashion. Once all of the
4 questions have been asked, we will take public
5 statements or comment on the application. If
6 you would like to make an oral comment, we ask
7 you to fill out one of the yellow forms which
8 can be gotten in the back, handed in. If you
9 would just like to submit a written comment, you
10 can do that on one of the blue forms. All the
11 written comments will be posted on the SEC's
12 website.

13 At the time when we start taking oral
14 public statements we'll make some judgment as to
15 how many people have signed up to speak and how
16 long it's likely to speak and whether to impose
17 reasonable time limits. I will tell you that
18 what we've done in the first two events in
19 Meredith and Colebrook we were asking people to
20 limit their comments to four minutes at
21 Meredith, and three minutes in Colebrook. What
22 that means for three minutes for those who were
23 there, is that once you got to four and a half

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1 minutes, I asked you how much longer you had to
2 go, and if you said you could wrap up quickly,
3 you could wrap up quickly. If you need more
4 time than that, we're going to ask you to stop
5 talking then and wait until everyone else has
6 had a chance to speak before you continue and
7 we've had people do that, and that's just fine.
8 But we're going to ask everyone here to be
9 reasonable regarding how long they intend to
10 speak. I believe that is all the process I need
11 to alert you to.

12 We will ask everyone to be polite and
13 respectful. Everyone who speaks here this
14 evening deserves your full attention and
15 respect. If you feel you are unable to give
16 full attention and respect to the people who are
17 speaking, we're going to ask you to leave. Now,
18 with that I will turn the microphone over to the
19 Applicant. I believe Mr. Quinlan will be
20 speaking first.

21 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. Thank you. My name is
22 Bill Quinlan. I'm the President of Eversource
23 New Hampshire. I want to thank everyone for

1 being here tonight. Also I want to thank SEC
2 Chairman Honigberg and Mr. Mills from the
3 Department of Energy for the opportunity to make
4 just a short presentation, and I'm going to
5 cover in the presentation a couple of important
6 areas. One, the role this project can play in
7 helping to lower and stabilize energy costs for
8 New England and New Hampshire. Two, the
9 important role that this project as a clean
10 source of energy can play in helping us meet our
11 environmental goals. Three, and particularly
12 important in New Hampshire, is the balance we've
13 attempted to strike to make this project more
14 acceptable to the State of New Hampshire, and
15 fourth and finally, the benefits that we
16 anticipate delivering to the State of New
17 Hampshire through this project, and you'll see
18 they're quite unique and substantial.

19 So first, to understand what's going on in
20 the energy market, we've come up with a simple
21 depiction. This is a bucket and it's intended
22 to reflect the power pool for the 6-state New
23 England region. I think many of you know that

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1 all six states of New England are interconnected
2 electrically. This is one grid. We all
3 participate in one market. So on any given day
4 on any given hour we all essentially pay the
5 same price for electricity, regardless of where
6 it's generated, and the way that price is set is
7 based upon matching customer demand with supply.
8 So every hour of every day, the Independent
9 System Operator looks at that customer demand
10 and dispatches generation units until there's
11 sufficient supply to meet that demand.

12 At that point, you've got the supply that
13 you need, those are dispatched from the lowest
14 cost plant to the plant just sufficient to meet
15 that customer demand, and once you've got
16 everything you need, it sets the clearing price
17 for every unit in that stack. That's preferred
18 to as the bid stack. Okay? So it's a simple
19 supply/demand balance. That last unit sets the
20 clearing price. And you'll see there are a
21 number of different types of units as you go
22 from lower cost to higher cost. You know,
23 renewables, nuclear, large scale hydro,

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1 relatively low cost. For most hours of most
2 days, natural gas generated power plants set the
3 market clearing price, and I'll explain to you
4 why, and then you get to some of the higher cost
5 unit.

6 So what's happening today. What's
7 happening today is plants that we've relied on
8 for quite a long time have been retiring across
9 New England. Here's a depiction of the last
10 five years and the five-year projection and
11 you'll see many power plants, large baseload
12 power plants, coal-fired, oil-fired, nuclear
13 plants that have retired or are at risk of
14 retiring. So essentially, when you retire those
15 units, you have to dispatch a higher cost unit
16 to meet customer demand and therefore prices go
17 up. Okay?

18 The role that a Northern Pass could play if
19 you go back to that bid stack, is as a
20 relatively low cost unit, if you insert a large
21 amount of hydropower into that bid stack, the
22 market clearing price comes down. Okay?

23 So here's the situation we're facing.

1 Retirements have already occurred, some are
2 about to occur. You know, Vermont Yankee is a
3 good example relatively nearby where a large
4 baseload, noncarbon emitting power plant retired
5 and essentially created upward pressure on price
6 as well as upward pressure and emissions. Okay?
7 So what's replacing that fleet. And here's the
8 dependence I was referring to on natural gas.
9 Over the last 20 years as coal, oil and nuclear
10 plants have retired, virtually all the new
11 generating capacity in New England is fueled by
12 natural gas. There's a lot of reasons for that.
13 It's a domestic supply, it's relatively low
14 cost, it's relatively clean, and there's a lot
15 of good reasons why we in the country and we as
16 a region are becoming more dependent on natural
17 gas. This is a very significant change in our
18 dependency. In 2000, we were 15 percent
19 dependent on natural gas. Today we are 50
20 percent. Five years from now we've expected to
21 be 70 percent. So we're becoming very dependent
22 on a single fuel source, and we don't have that
23 fuel diversity that we've had a region

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1 historically. So big move towards natural gas.

2 Here's an example of what has happened as a
3 result of that dependency. So if you look at
4 this, this on an annual basis, what is the price
5 of power in New England. Broken out between
6 winter in blue and summer in yellow. Okay? So
7 you see in 2008, they are about even. You would
8 expect that New England because our peak loads
9 are in the summer that prices would be a little
10 higher in the summer and that was actually true
11 in 2008. And then in 2009, hydraulic fracking
12 has become commercially feasible so the price of
13 gas came way down. As a result, all of those
14 market clearing prices came down.

15 This is the phenomena I really want you to
16 focus on. 2013 through 2015. The spread
17 between the winter price and the summer price
18 has widened dramatically. Why is that. Because
19 we've become so dependent on natural gas that in
20 the winter, when folks are using natural gas to
21 heat their homes and their businesses, there's
22 not enough fuel to power a generation fleet. So
23 we're dispatching higher and higher cost assets.

1 These are dramatic differences. Seasonal
2 differences in the price of electricity. If we
3 had ubiquitous gas supplied to the region you
4 would anticipate prices to be in that 20 to \$40
5 a megawatt hour year-round. That's what most of
6 the country is seeing. When you have price
7 spikes up to \$140 a megawatt hour period, that's
8 a 6-month period, that's a dramatic impact on
9 the New Hampshire and New England economy.

10 Just to illustrate that, these are across
11 New England, three or four billion dollar
12 increases during those winter periods. So the
13 difference between that yellow and blue, that's
14 probably two and a half billion dollars.
15 Difference between this yellow and blue, almost
16 five billion dollars. The difference between
17 these two, 3 to 4 billion dollars. That's the
18 additional cost that businesses and residential
19 customers across New England are paying as a
20 result of our dependence on natural gas for
21 generating fuel and power as well as the
22 scarcity that we see in the winter. Okay? So
23 that's what's happened over the last three

1 years. That's one of the problems that in
2 Northern Pass can help us address.

3 You project out for the next three years.
4 This is an illustration that the problem is
5 going to, in essence, worsen as you look out
6 over the next three years. So this is a graph
7 of the capacity. These are payments made to the
8 generation fleet to ensure that they're
9 available to generate those powers. These
10 markets clear three years in advance so we know
11 the value of these markets. For the last
12 decade, for New England, the total cost of
13 capacity market value, the capacity market has
14 been about a billion dollars. When we look into
15 2017 and beyond, it's a tripling and a
16 quadrupling of the capacity markets. That's
17 just to ensure we have sufficient generation
18 capacity to keep the lights on before we even
19 generate electricity.

20 It's an indicator to those who follow these
21 markets that this problem is going to continue
22 to get worse unless and until we bring in large
23 new supplies of power that are not gas

1 dependent. If you are following this closely,
2 you'll know that a couple years ago the
3 Governors of the six New England states
4 recognized this issue. They saw this coming.
5 They see where capacity markets are going, and
6 they came to an agreement among the six New
7 England states to say we really need to bring
8 more gas pipeline capacity into the region to
9 support the generation fleet that we've got, but
10 we also need to provide some fuel diversity
11 through new large power supplies that are not
12 reliant on natural gas.

13 That's where Northern Pass comes into the
14 equation. Northern Pass is ideal from this
15 perspective. It looks like a large baseload
16 power plant delivering power right into the New
17 Hampshire grid in Deerfield, and it's clean.
18 It's not dependent on natural gas. So that's
19 what Northern Pass can do to address the region
20 and New Hampshire's energy challenges is to take
21 out that volatility and stabilize prices for
22 businesses and residential customers.

23 For the last year and a half we've been

1 working to develop a balanced approach to this
2 project that meets the needs of New Hampshire.
3 We've been working to build support here in New
4 Hampshire. It's the result of a lot of
5 listening that we've done over that 18-month
6 period. We've listened to all types of
7 stakeholders; environmental organizations,
8 businesses, residential customers, elected
9 officials, municipalities, wide range of
10 stakeholders in an effort to develop a balanced
11 project that worked for New Hampshire, and by
12 balance what I mean it fundamentally has to work
13 as a matter of physics. It's got to get power
14 from where it's being generated in Canada to
15 Deerfield, New Hampshire, and it's got to do
16 that reliably. It's got to be affordable or
17 economically viable meaning we can't design and
18 engineer a project that is so expensive that no
19 one will pay for it.

20 And then here in the State of New
21 Hampshire, and with the Department of Energy at
22 federal level, we need a project that meets the
23 siting criteria so we need a balance and in

1 striking this balance we've been keenly focused
2 on input from stakeholders here in the state of
3 New Hampshire as well as the Department of
4 Energy. The plan we announced last August is
5 referred to as the Forward NH Plan. I'm going
6 to outline that for you in a moment. That is
7 the balance that we have struck. We worked very
8 hard to achieve this, and we think we've got it
9 right and that's the project we've put in front
10 of the SEC and Department of Energy.

11 I think it's important to understand how
12 this project has evolved since its inception in
13 2010 in an effort to meet New Hampshire
14 feedback. So if you started in 2010 when
15 initially announced, this was the proposal. So
16 you think about this. The hydroelectric dams
17 are way up here in Canada. There's a line being
18 built to the US border and then you cross into
19 the United States at Pittsburg, New Hampshire.
20 In the original plan and it's outlined in red,
21 you went from that border crossing on a fairly
22 direct route over the western part of the state,
23 and that's outlined in red, that's 40 miles of

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1 new right-of-way through some of the more
2 populated areas in the North Country. Okay?

3 You then at that intersection with the blue
4 picked up an existing right-of-way and followed
5 it all the way to Deerfield through the White
6 Mountain National Forest. The original concept
7 was that this was all going to be overhead
8 construction. It was going to be 40 miles of
9 new right-of-way in the north, there was going
10 to be all overhead construction. That's the
11 least cost alternative. It was going to be a
12 1200 megawatt project and it was going to cost
13 about 1.1 billion.

14 Many of you understand the feedback we
15 received in the North Country in this initial
16 proposal that led to these changes that were
17 announced in 2013 and they were largely focused
18 in the North Country. So if you think about
19 that 40 miles from the crossing down to the
20 existing right-of-way, 8 miles are now
21 underground. They're depicted in yellow. What
22 do these 8 miles allow us to do? They allowed
23 us to move the entire route to the eastern part

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1 of the state into a less populated area. So you
2 have 8 miles of underground construction in
3 yellow, you have overhead construction in red.
4 When we got to the eastern part of the state, we
5 were able to acquire a lease or an easement
6 through the Wagner forest so 24 of those 40
7 miles of new right-of-way and it's this large
8 segment in red, are in a working forest,
9 referred to as the Wagner Forest. There's
10 virtually no inhabitants in the area. It's away
11 from any population center. It's a forest that
12 is timber harvested routinely. So we were able
13 to move that line to the east away from the
14 population center. Still a 1200 megawatt
15 project at that point. These changes added
16 about \$300 million to the project cost. So it
17 went from \$1.1 billion project to a 1.4 billion
18 project.

19 2015, this is the announcement I was
20 referring to. It was referred to as our Forward
21 NH Plan. These were changes that we made,
22 submitted to that were quite substantial, and,
23 again, based entirely on feedback we received

1 from New Hampshire. At the time, universally,
2 the feedback we were receiving was you need to
3 address the White Mountain National Forest.
4 Regardless of where I was in the State of New
5 Hampshire, regardless of stakeholder, these
6 conversations almost universally started with
7 the White Mountain National Forest. That led us
8 to these changes. So quite substantial and from
9 a design perspective, we agreed to an additional
10 52 miles of underground construction so this
11 yellow segment is all underground and public
12 highways and rights of way under existing
13 roadways.

14 So what does that do? Now the White
15 Mountain National Forest, the Appalachian Trail,
16 Franconia Notch, the line will not be visible
17 from those key advantage points which was
18 important for us to do. We eliminated quite a
19 number of structures and importantly, we also
20 changed the cable technology. We went from a
21 1200 megawatt cable to a cable that we felt
22 comfortable with that amount of underground
23 construction. So we actually had to reduce the

1 size of the project to make these design
2 commitments. So the cable technology, converter
3 technology all changed based on feedback from
4 New Hampshire.

5 Here's what it now looks like. So the line
6 has gotten longer. Now 192 miles. You'll see
7 the area in the yellow now through the White
8 Mountain National Forest is underground.
9 Project cost has gone up again. So it went from
10 \$1.4 billion to \$1.6 billion. Project size, we
11 had to reduce it from 1200 megawatts to 1090
12 megawatts. Again, based on feedback from New
13 Hampshire.

14 Here's a table that summarizes that
15 evolution, and if you look, we fundamentally
16 have a different project today. I mean, it
17 still essentially does the same thing which is
18 to take a large amount of clean energy from
19 Canada and deliver it to Deerfield, New
20 Hampshire, but many of the key features of the
21 project have been changed substantially based
22 upon feedback from New Hampshire. It's a longer
23 project, almost a third of it is underground.

1 It's smaller, and it uses entirely different
2 technology. When you look at this from a cost
3 perspective, the cost has gone up by about a
4 half a billion dollars, and that was, again, in
5 an effort to strike the balance that I referred
6 to at the outset. So that's the balance we've
7 struck. Beyond the balanced project, as part of
8 our Forward NH Plan it's important for us to
9 demonstrate clear and direct New Hampshire
10 benefits.

11 The top line messages, those are almost \$4
12 billion as a result of this project. So a very
13 significant economic benefit to the state. It's
14 comprised of several things. But \$800 million
15 in lower energy costs. Those benefits flow to
16 businesses and residential customers across the
17 State of New Hampshire. 800 million. We've
18 committed to establish quite a large fund to
19 promote community investment. That's a \$200
20 million fund. Again, targeted towards the host
21 communities, these communities along the route
22 where this line will run. About \$600 million in
23 taxes. Quite a number of jobs. And other

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1 drivers of economic benefits.

2 I think the job portion is key. We got a
3 lot of feedback about these being temporary
4 positions. You're going to bring in a lot of
5 out-of-state labor to construct this project.
6 So we, working with our partners, have made a
7 very firm commitment to a New Hampshire First
8 approach to building this project. So if you
9 think about this, it's a \$1.6 billion
10 infrastructure project that's very complex and
11 requires a lot of different skills and
12 construction trades and support services.

13 Under our Forward New Hampshire, New
14 Hampshire First commitment, we are going to
15 source all of that locally to the extent
16 possible, and we've gotten that commitment from
17 every one of our major contractors so we are
18 going to put many in the State of New Hampshire
19 to work as a result of this project. And the
20 second and third order benefits to communities
21 along this route from hotels to restaurants and
22 recreation are quite significant and that drives
23 about \$2 billion in gross domestic.

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1 Separate and apart from the economics of it
2 are the environmental benefits. I mentioned
3 that we're retiring a lot of our historic
4 plants. Some of these are actually nuclear
5 plants that don't emit carbon. So Vermont
6 Yankee, Millstone, Connecticut Yankee, Pilgrim.
7 These are all baseload large noncarbon emitting
8 plants that either have retired or will retire.
9 Just replacing them with natural gas is not
10 going to allow the region in New Hampshire to
11 meet its environmental goals. We have some very
12 aggressive goals to reduce carbon. We're not
13 going to get there by replacing that with
14 natural gas so we need projects like Northern
15 Pass which are large baseload projects, bring in
16 a clean source of electricity and they're
17 noncarbon emitting. To the extent you could
18 match those with wind power and solar power all
19 the better. It helps us as a society meet
20 environmental goals.

21 So that's the high level overview of the
22 project. Those are the benefits we anticipate
23 delivering to the State of New Hampshire, the

1 balance that we've attempted to strike. So with
2 that, I look forward to your questions. Thank
3 you.

4 MR. HONIGBERG: Do members of the
5 subcommittee have questions for Mr. Quinlan and
6 his team? All right. We're going to turn to
7 the public's questions. There are a variety of
8 questions on a variety of topics. We will jump
9 around quite a bit. The first question is a
10 process question largely directed to the SEC and
11 we will answer this question, and the question
12 is will the SEC be doing site visits in
13 Deerfield on Wednesday the 16th prior to the
14 Rockingham County meeting. The answer to that
15 is yes. An order will probably be issued
16 tomorrow regarding that.

17 There's a series of questions, Mr. Quinlan,
18 regarding who is paying for the review of the
19 Applicant and the other permits that you need to
20 obtain to get this project built. Can you
21 outline what cost you money and what didn't in
22 terms of the filings that you've had to make
23 either with the federal government or the State

1 of New Hampshire?

2 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So the cost for this
3 project thus far are all being paid for by
4 Eversource and its shareholders as well as our
5 partner Hydro-Quebec. So it's a joint
6 obligation that the two of us had. Importantly,
7 on this question of cost, and who's paying for
8 this project, one of the commitments we've made
9 at the outset and we've remained firmly
10 committed to it is New Hampshire customers have
11 not and will not pay for any of this project
12 cost, either the development or the
13 construction, and we've been able to honor that
14 commitment through the Forward NH Plan that
15 we've proposed. So, importantly, New Hampshire
16 customers won't bear any of these costs, either
17 during this phase or the future.

18 MR. HONIGBERG: Talk filing fees.

19 MR. QUINLAN: Filing fees are paid for,
20 again, by Eversource and our partner
21 Hydro-Quebec. For example, the cost of
22 preparing the filing, making the filing, the
23 fees associated with the filing that have to be

1 paid to the SEC, paid for by our shareholders as
2 well as our partner Hydro-Quebec.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: Do you recall what the
4 filing fee for the SEC was? It was more than
5 \$500,000, but I don't remember the specific
6 amount. \$626,000.

7 MR. QUINLAN: It's a voluminous filing.

8 MR. HONIGBERG: 17 boxes as I recall.
9 Actually, I think that was one copy was that
10 many. Other State permits also had filing fees
11 associated with this, do they not?

12 MR. QUINLAN: They do. I know we have
13 filings that are made with the New Hampshire
14 Public Utility Commission. I believe there's a
15 filing fee associated with that. I think that's
16 true with the Department of Environmental
17 Services as well.

18 MR. HONIGBERG: I'll correct one of those.
19 Actually your filings with the PUC don't have a
20 filing fee.

21 MR. QUINLAN: Oh, they don't.

22 MR. HONIGBERG: No. I think the Department
23 of Environmental Services does, but the filings

1 that require PUC approvals I don't believe have
2 filing fees associated with them.

3 Had you filed this two years ago or three
4 years ago, would there have been a SEC filing
5 fee. The answer to that is no.

6 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. You have to answer.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: There's a series of
8 questions about who's paying for this review.

9 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So the short answer is
10 we are paying for the review. Any and all costs
11 associated with the preparation or the filing
12 are borne by the Applicant, and, therefore, we
13 are the Applicant. We and our partners are
14 paying for it.

15 MR. HONIGBERG: At the last meeting, there
16 was a question regarding former members of the
17 SEC who are now working on this project for the
18 Applicant. Would you please identify those
19 people for this crowd?

20 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So we have Bob Varney
21 who is with Normandeau Associates, formerly of
22 DES.

23 MR. HONIGBERG: When he was the

1 Commissioner of DES, he would have chaired the
2 Site Evaluation Committee.

3 MR. QUINLAN: Tom Getz from the McLane law
4 firm, formerly of the New Hampshire PUC, and I
5 believe he was also Chair of the SEC at the
6 time.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: I actually think he was
8 Vice Chair at that time.

9 MR. QUINLAN: Vice Chair.

10 MR. HONIGBERG: At the same time that the
11 statute was put in requiring filing fees, the
12 Chair of the SEC was switched from the
13 Department of Environmental Services to the
14 Public Utilities Commission, and the Vice Chair
15 switched from PUC to DES.

16 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. Any others? I believe
17 just those two.

18 MR. HONIGBERG: The question asked, the
19 question asker wants to know if there is a
20 conflict of interest in any of Mr. Varney or
21 Mr. Getz's participation in this, and I guess I
22 would broaden the question to ask if Mr. Varney
23 and Mr. Getz are in compliance with New

1 Hampshire statutes regarding their activities
2 post state employment.

3 MR. VARNEY: Yes.

4 MR. QUINLAN: Mr. Varney and Mr. Getz are
5 both signifying yes so I suspect they're aware
6 of the requirements and are compliant with them.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: The next question asks
8 other than you and the people who are here to be
9 part of your presentation and support your
10 presentation, are any of your employees,
11 Eversource's employees, being paid to attend
12 this meeting?

13 MR. QUINLAN: No.

14 MR. HONIGBERG: Are you or any other
15 Eversource employee or contractor going to
16 receive a bonus of any kind if the project goes
17 through, and, if so, how much?

18 MR. QUINLAN: So you know, Northern Pass is
19 a strategically important project for us. I do
20 not have a specific bonus that's tied to this
21 project going forward, and I don't believe
22 anyone from the Eversource management team has
23 any bonus or incentive that's specifically tied

1 to success on Northern Pass. Now, it is
2 strategically important, and when we make it a
3 reality, we are successful in doing so, that
4 will be certainly a positive in any executive
5 review. It's an indirect answer to your
6 question, but I do not have a specific incentive
7 or bonus tied to Northern Pass being placed in
8 service.

9 MR. HONIGBERG: Do you know if anyone else
10 does?

11 MR. QUINLAN: I'm not aware that anyone
12 else does.

13 MR. HONIGBERG: What is your estimate for
14 the time it will take to bury the proposed
15 section that will be buried under this proposal?

16 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to refer that
17 question to Sam Johnson. Sam is with Burns &
18 McDonnell. He's a project engineer and project
19 manager.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Bill. Limitations
21 from the Department of Transportation for
22 construction are from the period of April to
23 November. We anticipate that the entire

1 installation will take place over two full
2 seasons of construction.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: More construction
4 questions. Should the project be approved, how
5 will specific types of features like horse
6 pastures, fenced-in areas, be dealt with at the
7 time when construction is going on near them.

8 MR. JOHNSON: Sure. So as some of you are
9 aware, we have engaged a general contractor who
10 will be managing the entire construction
11 process. One of the items or duties of their
12 contract is that they must reach out to everyone
13 on the route to inform them of the construction
14 process. This would include soliciting feedback
15 regarding such exact things as horses, orchards,
16 hay fields and things like that where there is
17 potential for a construction to impact those
18 operations. All considerations will be made
19 during this process to ensure that there is
20 limited impact to these people and to ensure
21 things like gates remained closed once a vehicle
22 has entered or exited the property.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Louder, please?

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1 MR. QUINLAN: Perhaps you could cover the
2 steps we take on disturbed areas.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: Make sure you're close
4 enough to the microphone so that as you move you
5 don't fade in and out.

6 MR. JOHNSON: Is that better from the back?

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Little louder, please?

8 MR. JOHNSON: Sure. Okay. One other
9 aspect of this is that if we do disturb areas
10 and inevitably there will be roads constructed
11 for access, et cetera, that these roads will be
12 restored to their original condition, or the
13 ground around it will be restored to its
14 original condition either by hydroseeding or
15 working with landowners to replant the areas
16 back to where they were in their original
17 conditions.

18 MR. QUINLAN: Thank you.

19 MR. HONIGBERG: Is it true that burial and
20 having underground power lines requires less
21 maintenance than overhead power lines in the
22 long-term? Going to refer this question to Jim
23 Muntz. Jim is our president of transmission.

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1 MR. MUNTZ: Well, there's a tradeoff
2 between overhead and underground. Underground
3 is less susceptible to damage certainly, but
4 when you do have an issue of underground, you're
5 usually into a substantially longer and more
6 expensive repair.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: New topic. It has been
8 suggested that Northern Pass has not
9 communicated with towns. Can you explain what
10 communications you have had with towns along the
11 route?

12 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So even predating my
13 arrival on this project, I know the Northern
14 Pass team has done extensive outreach with
15 municipalities across the route and I know that
16 outreach continues today. We periodically meet
17 with each and every town along the route, and in
18 some instances it's in an informal Town Hall
19 setting. In other instances, it's with key
20 leaders in those impacted towns, depending on
21 their preference. So that's been a focus area
22 for us. Certainly was prior to my arrival as we
23 developed the Forward NH Plan that municipal

1 input has helped to shape the plan that we put
2 to the SEC. Municipal feedback has been helpful
3 in making that balance, striking that balance.
4 We continue to work at a municipal level now on
5 fine-tuning the route. Are there areas where we
6 can place a structure at a different location or
7 lower a structure or change a structure design
8 so that it reduces the view impacts. So these
9 are local decisions that have benefited greatly
10 from municipal feedback so that outreach will
11 continue and it's not just municipalities, it's
12 abutting landowners along the route.

13 MR. HONIGBERG: This is a different topic
14 but falls on something you just said. How many
15 lines can actually be hung on one tower which
16 might call on you to describe different types of
17 towers that you'll have along the route.

18 MR. JOHNSON: So there are two primary
19 types of towers that will be involved in this
20 program. A DC structure which will have two
21 conductors and two shield wires so two thicker
22 wires and two very thin wires to basically stop
23 lightning. The AC portion of the project will

1 have three conductors and two shield wires,
2 again, three larger conductors and two small
3 ones, again as protection from lightning.

4 MR. HONIGBERG: How many lines can go on
5 each type of tower?

6 MR. JOHNSON: As currently designed, our DC
7 portion of the project can only handle one
8 circuit which would be the two major conductors.
9 The AC portion of the project is also the same
10 to be designed as one circuit and so therefore
11 only three conductors.

12 MR. HONIGBERG: The next questions are on
13 the same general topic. How many structures
14 will be relocated as part of the construction of
15 this project.

16 MR. JOHNSON: In total for the entire
17 project, 635 structures will be relocated. In
18 Merrimack County, that number is 286.

19 MR. HONIGBERG: Is it correct that there
20 are roughly 900 new structures being put in
21 place?

22 MR. JOHNSON: Actually, the number is a
23 little bit higher than that. It's 1198.

1 MR. HONIGBERG: All right. There was an
2 assumption in the next question that had 900
3 there. So added to existing structures, with
4 the new structures, what's the total number of
5 structures that this project entails building or
6 moving?

7 MR. JOHNSON: Just north of 1800
8 structures.

9 MR. HONIGBERG: After the transmission
10 lines enter Deerfield, actually it's when they
11 exit Deerfield, what is the height of the towers
12 that will go from Deerfield to Scobie Pond.

13 MR. JOHNSON: The new construction
14 associated with the project actually ends at the
15 Deerfield substation. There are ten structures
16 that have to be adjusted in that corridor that
17 goes down from Deerfield to Scobie Pond as part
18 of the system uprights and that means that any
19 time you build a new project you also have to
20 assess the impacts of injecting that much energy
21 into the system, and are there trickle down
22 effects where you would have to increase or
23 change the configuration of the lines in that

1 general area.

2 In this particular case, there are ten
3 structures that have been identified in this
4 corridor and of those ten structures, the
5 average height will increase by about five feet.
6 Those ten structures are spread throughout that
7 entire corridor, and I believe the majority of
8 them are in Deerfield itself.

9 MR. QUINLAN: Sam, you might want to share
10 the numbers of structures in that existing
11 corridor so it's ten out of?

12 MR. JOHNSON: Out of just close to 600.
13 There are two circuits that go down in that
14 corridor, just about over 300 each.

15 MR. HONIGBERG: This is following on what
16 you just said. I'm just going to read it as it
17 is, and if there are things in it that need to
18 be corrected, go ahead.

19 The application shows work being done
20 beyond Deerfield to transmit to Scobie Pond and
21 other locations. Who will pay the cost of the
22 necessary reconductoring and transmission lines
23 to those locations?

1 MR. JOHNSON: Again, that is a cost that
2 will be borne by Northern Pass.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: More about towers. Do you
4 know how tall the tallest transmission tower
5 currently in use in New Hampshire is?

6 MR. JOHNSON: Off the top of my head, I do
7 not know. There are many, many miles of
8 corridor in New Hampshire, and I'm basically
9 familiar with the Northern Pass corridors.

10 MR. QUINLAN: Somewhere over 200 feet.

11 MR. HONIGBERG: What's the range of heights
12 of the existing transmission lines in the state
13 to your knowledge.

14 MR. JOHNSON: So the existing 115
15 structures that are within the project's
16 corridor range from 40 and just shy of 100 feet.

17 MR. HONIGBERG: And how tall will the
18 Northern Pass Transmission towers be?

19 MR. JOHNSON: On the DC side, they will
20 range from 60 to 130 feet, and on the AC side,
21 they will range from 40 to 155 feet.

22 MR. QUINLAN: Just back on the question of
23 the tallest existing structure in New Hampshire,

1 we'll get a precise number.

2 MR. HONIGBERG: The person actually wants
3 to know where that tower is. Do you know?

4 MR. JOHNSON: I'm assuming that that would
5 be in the Newington area where there is a large
6 river crossing, but that, again, is conjecture
7 on my part so we will look that up.

8 MR. HONIGBERG: The next couple of
9 questions are about benefits of the project.
10 Mr. Quinlan, some of this I think you covered in
11 your presentation, but you're going to be asked
12 to redo some of this.

13 MR. QUINLAN: Okay.

14 MR. HONIGBERG: How will the towers that
15 you're building benefit the residents of New
16 Hampshire when New Hampshire already generates
17 more power than it uses.

18 MR. QUINLAN: So I did touch upon this in
19 the outset which is we are part of one power
20 pool, one integrated grid, one market. It
21 almost doesn't matter where the physical
22 generation assets are located. They all feed
23 one grid and the electrons flow ubiquitously

1 around a 6-state region. The benefits of this
2 project will certainly benefit all of New
3 England, but in particular they'll benefit New
4 Hampshire by lowering energy costs, by
5 delivering the environmental benefits that are
6 referred to, and then delivering all of those
7 unique benefits that are specific to the host
8 state whether it's jobs, taxes, the commitments
9 we've made to the Forward NH fund, those
10 benefits are unique to New Hampshire as a result
11 of hosting the line.

12 MR. HONIGBERG: How will customers of other
13 utilities, the Co-op, Unitil or Liberty, how
14 will they benefit from the construction of
15 Northern Pass?

16 MR. QUINLAN: So again, those customers are
17 part of that very same power pool so to the
18 extent the energy prices are reduced and
19 stabilized for all of New England, the customers
20 from those utilities, Unitil, Liberty and Co-op,
21 will see a reduction and greater stability in
22 their energy cost. They will also see the same
23 environmental benefits that customers of

1 Eversource will see. Again, carbon doesn't know
2 boundaries, doesn't know state boundaries,
3 doesn't know utility boundaries. That's a side
4 benefit that customers of those utilities will
5 receive their share.

6 MR. HONIGBERG: What are the tax benefits
7 to the New Hampshire towns from this project?

8 MR. QUINLAN: So our current estimate based
9 upon the \$1.6 billion price is about \$30 million
10 a year in annual tax benefits. The majority of
11 that is municipal taxes. There are some state
12 and county taxes as well, but approximately \$30
13 million a year to the municipalities hosting the
14 line.

15 MR. HONINBERG: For how many years will
16 that \$30 million benefit be in place?

17 MR. QUINLAN: So the depreciable life of a
18 transmission investment is a long one. They
19 tend to be 40-year depreciation schedules so
20 they go down, but they go down very gradually,
21 like two and a half percent a year. That's
22 assuming there are no other capital investments
23 made. To the extent we are investing additional

1 capital in the line, that would increase the
2 taxes. So start at about \$30 million a year and
3 you depreciate it basically on a straight line
4 over a 40-year period, other than additions will
5 which tend to extend that life.

6 MR. HONIGBERG: I think the next question
7 is one that I can answer. There's a study, a
8 cost/benefit local economic impact analysis that
9 is part of the application, correct?

10 MR. QUINLAN: Correct.

11 MR. HONIGBERG: And you filed a motion for
12 confidential treatment of that report. Is that
13 right?

14 MR. QUINLAN: That's right.

15 MR. HONIGBERG: That motion is pending and
16 at some point will be ruled on so that answers
17 the question on that page.

18 Back on the tax benefits, I'm going to read
19 it as it's written. Will you attempt to abate
20 your property taxes?

21 MR. QUINLAN: No. So the projection I just
22 gave which is \$30 million at the outset and then
23 straight line depreciation is an industry

1 accepted tax methodology. It's one we're very
2 comfortable with. Assuming municipalities tax
3 us on that basis, we're very comfortable with
4 it. In fact, we have in our discussions with
5 the municipalities offered to formally commit to
6 that in writing.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: Are you in compliance with
8 your Memorandum of Understanding with the New
9 Hampshire Department of Historical Resources
10 regarding this application?

11 MR. QUINLAN: To the best of my knowledge,
12 we are, yes.

13 MR. HONIGBERG: Can you describe that
14 Memorandum of Understanding and what it required
15 you to do?

16 MR. QUINN: Yes. So I'm going to introduce
17 Cherilyn Widell. Cherilyn is a historic
18 resources expert. Cherilyn?

19 MS. WIDELL: Good evening. My name is
20 Cherilyn Widell. I'm a historic preservation
21 expert, and my company is Widell Preservation
22 Services. The question is regarding a
23 Memorandum of Understanding which has been

1 signed between Northern Pass and the Division of
2 Historic Resources, and it commits to the
3 Division of Historic Resources to complete above
4 ground inventory forms and necessary archeology
5 for as a bridge between the identification stage
6 currently being done and the completion of an
7 agreement document under the Section 106
8 process, and Northern Pass is completely in
9 compliance with that process.

10 MR. QUINLAN: Just one point of
11 clarification. Those commitments are Applicant
12 commitments, not DHR, and we're in compliance
13 with those.

14 MR. HONIGBERG: Your presentation included
15 claims that there will be regional price
16 reductions, and the question is, and I'm going
17 to read it as it's written, if the project were
18 to increase prices, should the SEC deny the
19 application?

20 MR. QUINLAN: So energy benefits are an
21 important reason for this project. We feel very
22 strongly that this project will increase power
23 supply into the region as a new source into the

1 mix. We have an Expert Report who has
2 determined the numbers I shared with you which
3 is about an \$800 million a year energy cost
4 savings from across New England. Our view is
5 that this will certainly save customers on their
6 energy costs, particularly New Hampshire
7 customers who are not being asked to bear any of
8 the cost of the project. Energy benefits are
9 one part of the review process by the SEC and
10 looking at the total benefit package so it would
11 also be looked at, if somehow it were to create
12 upward pressure on cost, but I don't believe
13 that's possible here in New Hampshire since New
14 Hampshire is not going to bear any of the cost.

15 MR. HONIGBERG: When you say that
16 Eversource is paying costs, one of the questions
17 on the sheet I'm looking at says doesn't that
18 mean your customers and ratepayers are going to
19 be paying?

20 MR. QUINLAN: No.

21 MR. HONIGBERG: Why don't you explain a
22 little bit about that process works.

23 MR. QUINLAN: So the investments in this

1 project are being paid by Northern Pass which is
2 a subsidiary of Eversource, but we are paying to
3 build the line. We cover our costs through a
4 contract we have with Hydro-Quebec, our partner.
5 We are essentially receiving payments from them
6 to use our lines so they can deliver their clean
7 hydropower into New England. That's how we
8 recover the cost. New Hampshire ratepayers will
9 not bear any of those costs. It's all pursuant
10 to the agreement between Northern Pass
11 Transmission and Hydro-Quebec and that agreement
12 has been submitted to the Federal Energy
13 Regulatory Commission for review and they've
14 approved it. So the cost recovery will not
15 implicate New Hampshire customers in any way.

16 MR. HONIGBERG: How many customers does
17 Eversource have in New Hampshire?

18 MR. QUINLAN: In New Hampshire, just over
19 500,000.

20 MR. HONIGBERG: What is the significance of
21 the effect on tourism in your view to this
22 process? So please explain how you believe this
23 project will affect tourism, if it will, and if

1 it were to have a negative effect on tourism, is
2 that something that should cause the SEC to
3 reject your application.

4 MR. QUINLAN: So certainly the effect on
5 tourism is one of the factors the SEC can weigh
6 in looking at the totality of the project. I am
7 not a tourism expert, but I did hear just
8 recently that our last hearing from some tourism
9 experts, one from the ATV and snowmobiling
10 community, who spoke quite eloquently and
11 convincingly about the benefits that this
12 project can deliver to that peak tourism sector,
13 ATV and snowmobiling, through creating new
14 rights-of-ways, creating new trails, and as many
15 of you know that's a critical area of the
16 tourism future in New Hampshire.

17 There was another expert who's currently
18 developing, redeveloping the Balsams project,
19 and I think he shared his views on the impacts
20 on tourism. He doesn't see any negative
21 impacts, and to the extent we can work with him
22 to make his project a reality, it will be a
23 substantial increase in tourism in that

1 critically important area of the North Country.
2 So, again, I'm not a tourism expert, but we're
3 hearing from some of the experts that the
4 impacts on tourism are not significant in a
5 negative way and will be quite positive.

6 MR. HONIGBERG: Following up on the issue
7 of aesthetics, general question, can you explain
8 how you conducted your visual impact assessment,
9 and there's a specific question within that. So
10 in explaining that, how did you select the key
11 observation points generally. How did you
12 select them specifically in the Concord area.

13 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to refer that
14 question to Terry DeWan. Terry is our visual
15 simulation expert.

16 MR. DEWAN: My name is Terry DeWan. I'm a
17 scenic assessment consultant from Yarmouth,
18 Maine. We've been working on this project now
19 for over two years. When we were on the tour
20 with the SEC the last two days, we visited a
21 number of the KOPs or the key observation
22 points. As we described in the field, we looked
23 at places where the general public has a right

1 to, people go to these key observation points
2 because they are known for their scenic values.
3 We, in identifying key observation points, we
4 considered a number of factors, not the least of
5 which is whether or not these are considered to
6 be a scenic resource. Scenic resources are
7 identified and defined in our visual impact
8 assessment.

9 The methodology that we've used is a fairly
10 standard one that's been prescribed by the SEC
11 rules that starts out with a thorough
12 investigation as to where scenic resources are,
13 within a defined area, area of potential effect.
14 We initially did a three-mile distance outside
15 of the line. As you know, the recent revised
16 rules call for us to go out ten miles. We've
17 done that, we've done viewshed analyses,
18 computer-based analyses. We did a substantial
19 amount of field investigation. We looked at a
20 number of factors relative to each of these
21 sites we've identified. We've been to and
22 identified over 600 sites within our study area.
23 The final results of the work has been

1 identified and presented in the visual impact
2 assessment which you have on file already.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: Do you know how many key
4 observation points there are in Concord? There
5 was a specific question about the stretch in
6 Concord.

7 MR. QUINLAN: We can find that in a moment.

8 MR. HONIGNBERG: While you're looking for
9 that --

10 MR. QUINLAN: Mr. Chairman, may I introduce
11 Mitch Nichols who is our tourism expert? I was
12 speculating on tourism impact and I didn't see
13 Mr. Nichols here.

14 MR. HONIGBERG: Why don't we circle back to
15 the tourism questions while you're looking for
16 the answer regarding Concord.

17 MR. NICHOLS: Very good. Good evening. My
18 name is Mitch Nichols from Nichols Tourism
19 Group. We have spent the last year
20 investigating the Northern Pass project, and
21 we're very familiar with New Hampshire industry.
22 We work across the country with destinations and
23 states in strategic planning and development of

1 the tourism industry. We looked at five various
2 elements and study areas investigating that
3 question related to impacts to the tourism
4 industry. In combination, all five of those
5 areas develop a very similar finding that the
6 Northern Pass project would not have an impact
7 on the regional demand for visitation within the
8 State of New Hampshire. That there are broader
9 more powerful factors that influence that
10 visitor demand decision to choose New Hampshire,
11 and we do not feel that the project will vary or
12 impact that overall visitor demand into the
13 state.

14 MR. QUINLAN: Thank you.

15 MR. DEWAN: This is a very large document.
16 So in the city of Concord we evaluated a total
17 of 48 scenic resources. Of those we did photo
18 simulations in our initial go-around. It was
19 delivered back in October at Turtle Pond. That
20 was a key observation point. Since then we have
21 also done evaluations at Suffolk River and Oak
22 Hill's trail. We've done others as part of the
23 additional supplemental information we

1 presented.

2 MR. HONIGBERG: We have a number of
3 questions about burial, and more are coming, I
4 see. Under the current proposal, how many miles
5 will be buried and how many will not be buried.

6 MR. QUINLAN: Roughly 60 miles will be
7 buried. 132 will not be buried.

8 MR. HONIGBERG: What would it cost to bury
9 the balance of the line?

10 MR. QUINLAN: Approximately one billion
11 dollars of incremental costs.

12 MR. HONIGBERG: Can you tell us the per
13 mile cost of burying the HVDC cable?

14 MR. MUNTZ: Our costs as we've confirmed
15 with competitively bid contractors and cable
16 suppliers are between five and \$10 million
17 incrementally for each mile of additional HVDC
18 burial.

19 MR. HONIGBERG: It sounds like some people
20 didn't hear that answer so could you make sure
21 you're close enough to the microphone so you're
22 projecting to the entire room?

23 MR. MUNTZ: Our costs for burial of the

1 HVDC are about 5 to \$10 million incrementally,
2 and that is based on actual bids from cable
3 suppliers and contractors that do that work.

4 MR. HONIGBERG: Do you have the cost broken
5 out for the various components of construction?
6 Digging, trenching, refilling?

7 MR. MUNTZ: Yes, we do.

8 MR. HONIGBERG: Could you break out roughly
9 the per mile cost of the various components of
10 construction?

11 MR. JOHNSON: I'm doing the math in my
12 head. I apologize. I'm doing the math in my
13 head. The cable itself is going to range about
14 three million dollars a mile with the remainder
15 being the trenching and the trenchless crossing
16 cost.

17 There are two components of the underground
18 installation. There is the trenching where
19 you're going along the road edge, and then
20 there's the trenchless part where you have to go
21 underneath rivers and/or environmentally
22 sensitive areas. Those areas tend to be very
23 expensive in relation to the actual trenching

1 activities so it, on average, is the cost that
2 we're presenting to you.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: Can you estimate the cost
4 of burying the line from Franklin to Deerfield?

5 MR. MUNTZ: Probably be about \$250 million.

6 MR. QUINLAN: That's incremental costs,
7 correct?

8 MR. MUNTZ: Incremental costs, correct.

9 MR. JOHNSON: I'll just add to that that
10 that component of the project is AC underground
11 which is more expensive than the DC because
12 there's a third phase that's involved or third
13 conductor. So there are three underground lines
14 and not two, I'm sorry, underground cables and
15 not two in this case.

16 MR. HONIGBERG: Have you, I'm going to read
17 it as it's written and it's a little hard to
18 read so I may stumble on some of these words.
19 Have you tried to reach out to the communities
20 affected suggesting that perhaps some limited
21 sections could possibly be buried and then
22 develop an actual cost estimate for those
23 sections to compare to the overhead cost.

1 MR. QUINLAN: So, again, we've had
2 extensive discussions with municipalities four
3 years or more up and down the route. Oftentimes
4 the question of the possibility of additional
5 underground construction is one that we are
6 asked and we provide answers to. I'm not aware
7 of any municipality who has asked for a specific
8 cost estimate for the burial associated with
9 that municipality. Sam, you've been involved in
10 some of that? Am I correct?

11 MR. JOHNSON: That's correct. The
12 inquiries to date have been general in nature
13 and not specific to a particular town or route
14 as proposed by municipalities.

15 MR. HONIGBERG: There are a number of
16 questions, the essence of which is please
17 explain your statement that it is not
18 economically viable to bury the entire line or
19 greater portions of the line than are in the
20 current proposal.

21 MR. MUNTZ: Well, as Bill has said
22 repeatedly, we've tried to strike a balance here
23 where we actually have a viable project that the

1 supplies and the customers will find to be
2 economic. We've had this discussion with
3 Hydro-Quebec who needs to sell power into this
4 market and recover enough money to pay for the
5 line and to recover their costs, and, obviously,
6 we consulted with them and we've put in a
7 proposal to the Site Evaluation Committee. We
8 looked at all the interests and all the feedback
9 that we got in New Hampshire, it worked out and
10 we feel that 60 miles of underground addresses
11 some of the key points in New Hampshire that we
12 have achieved the economic goal balancing point
13 for all the parties.

14 MR. HONIGBERG: The next couple of
15 questions have some assumptions in them that may
16 or may not be correct. You're going to need to
17 explain however you need to answer this
18 question.

19 Would you consider replacing the lattice
20 structures, all of the lattice structures with
21 monopoles or would you consider increasing the
22 number of monopoles and placing them closer
23 together so as to lower the height of the poles

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1 and thereby lower the volume of noise about the
2 project?

3 MR. QUINLAN: So these are the type of
4 local design techniques that we are exploring up
5 and down the route. For those of you who are
6 not familiar with the difference between a
7 lattice structure and a monopole, a lattice
8 structure tends to be a more imposing structure.
9 It has four legs. It looks like an erector set.
10 A monopole is a single pole that looks more like
11 a tall conventional telephone pole. We have
12 already determined several hundred locations
13 where we are going to bear the incremental cost
14 of using monopoles in some of the areas that
15 have been identified as scenically important.
16 We're also working on pole location and height
17 in an effort to minimize visual impacts.

18 As to the specific questions, these are
19 discussions we are now engaged in up and down
20 the route with municipalities and with
21 landowners to strike a further balance at a
22 lower level to the best of our ability to
23 address these concerns through the design and

1 engineering and construction of the project.
2 That will continue right on through the balance
3 of the project.

4 MR. HONIGBERG: Why aren't you using the
5 I-93 corridor through Concord; and the followup
6 on that, why are you not considering burying the
7 line on that corridor through Concord?

8 MR. QUINLAN: So I'm going to refer this to
9 Mark Hodgdon. Please introduce yourself?

10 MR. HODGDON: Sure. My name is Mark
11 Hodgdon. I'm a private attorney in Concord.
12 Before going into private practice, I was in the
13 Attorney General's Office for 24 years where I
14 represented the Department of Transportation.

15 I-93 was looked at along with other routes
16 when we started looking at underground burial.
17 The first thing you have to understand is I-93
18 is not a preferred option from DOT's point of
19 view. It is the most important road in the
20 state. It carries tens of thousands of cars a
21 day depending on where you are. It can be in
22 the 20 to 30 range or as much as 50 down on the
23 border. But in the areas we're talking about

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1 it's tens of thousands of cars a day at high
2 speed. DOT does not want you using that
3 corridor unless you have, in their policy terms,
4 an extreme hardship, and one of the criteria for
5 an extreme hardship is you have to have no other
6 viable alternatives. The roads being proposed
7 are viable alternatives.

8 In addition, if you look at I-93, DOT will
9 not, even if you met the hardship criteria, DOT
10 will not allow you to be in what we call the
11 disturbed areas, meaning the road or the
12 shoulder, and they also won't allow you to be in
13 the median, and you can't impact traffic by
14 entering and exiting the main line of the road.
15 So you have to build, essentially, a parallel
16 access road at the outside limits of the
17 right-of-way where they're going to require you
18 to locate the facility.

19 The impacts out there are enormous, both
20 wetlands wise, tree removal wise, vegetation
21 wise, and probably well water wise, and it would
22 be unsightly. So even if we could meet the
23 criteria, which we don't, it would not be an

1 appropriate alternative.

2 Furthermore, you have, not down in this
3 particular area, I know your question was about
4 Concord, but for the White Mountain region, it
5 is not even remotely viable to go through
6 Franconia Notch. Franconia Notch is an
7 extremely narrow area with probably the highest
8 concentration of environmental and cultural
9 sites in the state in that small area. Just off
10 the top of my head, they have Echo Lake, Profile
11 Lake, you have numerous wetlands, you have the
12 Pemigewasset headwaters. You have several
13 small water courses. In addition, you have
14 Franconia State Park, you have the historic Old
15 Man site, you have enormous and very sensitive
16 geological formations in the basin and Boise
17 Rock and an extremely fragile rock face which
18 unfortunately used to house the Old Man, but no
19 longer does. That's a testament to how fragile
20 it is, and that area is so sensitive it's
21 governed by Federal Court consent decree which
22 bars any further construction along the
23 Franconia Notch Parkway, and that consent decree

1 was after 20 years of litigation and required
2 congressional approval to do it. So Franconia
3 Notch area is simply off limits. You can't do
4 the construction in there and not have massive
5 impacts, and that accounts for the 24 miles
6 around the White Mountain region.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: Related to burial, but
8 specifically about employment, would burial
9 require a larger workforce?

10 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

11 MR. HONIGBERG: The followup assumes that
12 not many New Hampshire residents are certified
13 to work on these types of lines. Wouldn't it
14 increase the number of New Hampshire jobs if you
15 were to go ahead with burial?

16 MR. QUINLAN: First as to the premise of
17 the foundation of that question --

18 MR. HONIGBERG: That is the premise of the
19 question.

20 MR. QUINLAN: I think it's false. I think
21 there are many aspects of this project that will
22 be sourced locally. It's true that some of the
23 electrical work may require some skilled

1 craftsmen from outside of the state, but there
2 are plenty of those skilled craftsmen here in
3 the State of New Hampshire. We have a very good
4 and solid contingent of electrical workers who
5 are expert in this craft and they're going to do
6 the vast majority of this work.

7 If you go beyond the pure electrical work,
8 we expect to source much of this construction
9 locally. Whether it's gravel suppliers,
10 excavation crews, forestry folks who are going
11 to clear rights of way. Our anticipation is
12 we're going to put many hundreds of folks to
13 work here in New Hampshire, and that's the
14 majority of this work is going to be done
15 locally.

16 Mr. Muntz mentioned the contracts we have
17 executed for our general contractor. All of our
18 contractors are now committed the maximum extent
19 possible to use the local labor and services to
20 build this project, and we're very happy about
21 that commitment, and we think it's going to
22 create some real opportunities for the citizens
23 in this state.

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1 MR. HONIGBERG: If the total project costs
2 increase with burial and you were to go ahead
3 with burial and increase costs, would that
4 translate into increased taxes collected, lower
5 taxes collected or would it have no effect on
6 taxes collected?

7 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to introduce Lisa
8 Shapiro. Lisa's an economist.

9 MS. SHAPIRO: My name is Lisa Shapiro. I'm
10 an economist and I worked on the tax estimates
11 for the project. So the way taxes work in New
12 Hampshire, as you all know, is the higher the
13 value of your property, the more taxes you pay.
14 So if the project costs more, the tax bill will
15 be higher, but if the project costs so much more
16 that there's no project there's no taxes.

17 MR. HONIGBERG: All right. We have some
18 new topics. In past winters, Hydro-Quebec has
19 stopped exporting power to the US because they
20 needed to meet Canadian demand. How can we be
21 sure that the power will in fact come when we
22 need it.

23 MR. QUINLAN: So two things. One of the

1 things that's unique about this project is
2 Hydro-Quebec is actually making a firm delivery
3 commitment to New England which doesn't exist
4 today. Right now, Hydro-Quebec with the two
5 lines that interconnect their grid with the New
6 England grid, they have very few commitments to
7 deliver energy to New England. They essentially
8 do it when the market is favorable. They have
9 the ability to move it to New York, go to
10 Ontario, wherever the prices are best. That's
11 today's situation.

12 Under this project, and their proposal to
13 the New England, they're actually making a firm
14 delivery commitment which is a binding
15 contractual obligation to deliver power to New
16 England during peak periods during the months of
17 the year when we need it the most. So they now
18 have a firm contractual obligation. The
19 reliability of these lines is very, very high.
20 Reliability of their generation fleet is very,
21 very high. So our full expectation and I think
22 history proves this out, they've been a very
23 reliable partner in New England. They've been

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1 delivering hydro power to New England markets
2 for decades quite reliably, and now they'll have
3 a firm contractual obligation to get it to us
4 when we need it most.

5 MR. HONIGBERG: If the project does not go
6 through, is there a chance that over the next 20
7 years there will be brownouts or blackouts in
8 the region?

9 MR. QUINLAN: So technically this is not
10 what's referred to as a reliability project
11 today, meaning today it's not a project that's
12 necessary to keep the lights on, but I showed
13 you some graphics which reflected the
14 retirements of the New England generation fleet
15 and our increasing dependence on natural gas.
16 Over the last couple of winters we've had
17 instances where there just wasn't enough gas to
18 run the fleet, and we were very, very close to
19 situations where we would have to do what we
20 refer to as curtail load. In essence, brownout
21 customers. And not only were prices high and
22 volatile but supply was very, very tight. If
23 you project that out into the future, and we

1 don't bring in new baseload supply, we'll
2 continue to retire the coal plants and nuclear
3 plants in this region, you could envision
4 instances where we have to make that very
5 difficult decision which is to curtail load,
6 essentially shut off customers, generally during
7 the worst possible time of the year which is the
8 coldest days of the winter. The challenge with
9 becoming so dependent on one fuel supply,
10 natural gas, is you're dependent on one fuel
11 supply, and if you look at the history of
12 natural gas, it's quite a volatile fuel in
13 quantity and price.

14 So fuel diversity to me is a very important
15 thing. This would be a very diverse fuel
16 source, very reliability fuel source and would
17 be there when we needed it. So technically
18 today, no, it's not a reliability project, but
19 our supply/demand balance is becoming very
20 tight, and the surplus that we once enjoyed as a
21 region is largely evaporated.

22 MR. HONIGBERG: Will Northern Pass in
23 addition to paying local property taxes be

1 paying state taxes as well? State property tax,
2 business profit tax, et cetera?

3 MR. QUINLAN: And I'll refer this to Ms.
4 Shapiro.

5 MS. SHAPIRO: Hi, the statewide utility
6 property taxes, utilities pay directly to the
7 state and then that money goes into the
8 education trust fund and that's used for
9 distribution to communities. In the first year,
10 I'd estimate that's about \$10 million, and then
11 with the depreciation schedule, that would
12 gradually go down. At the state level, the
13 property tax rate is fixed at \$6.60 per thousand
14 so it doesn't change each year like what you see
15 at the local level.

16 The project will also be subject to
17 business profits tax and business enterprise
18 taxes, and the business profits tax in the first
19 year will likely be over \$10 million and, again,
20 that would go down over time as the assets
21 depreciate and the earnings decline with the
22 depreciation of the assets.

23 MR. QUINLAN: Thank you.

1 MR. HONIGBERG: Will the construction use
2 best environmental methods available.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: So I'm going to refer this
4 to Lee Carbonneau. Lee Carbonneau is an
5 environmental expert with Normandeau Associates.

6 MS. CARBONNEAU: Thanks, Bill. Lee
7 Carbonneau. The project has committed to using
8 what we call best management practices. That's
9 a common root word. There are many different
10 best management practice manuals available.
11 There's some that have been put out by the
12 state. There are other practices that some of
13 the construction companies and engineering firms
14 have also developed.

15 In addition to that, there have been a
16 number of commitments that the project has made
17 above and beyond the typical best management
18 programs that will be employed to help minimize
19 and avoid impacts to particularly sensitive
20 species of wildlife or rare plants and these are
21 been included in our mitigation report. They
22 include a variety of things like seasonal
23 restrictions on working in certain sensitive

1 areas during particular breeding seasons, using
2 protective fencing in areas where we definitely
3 don't want any mechanical equipment to stray off
4 a path and into a sensitive area, using mats
5 along sensitive plant locations so that they are
6 more easily restored, and having environmental
7 monitors out in the field during construction to
8 make sure that the commitments are obeyed, that
9 the permit conditions are adhered to and that
10 all of the other best management practices are
11 used and maintained and done according to all of
12 the plans and commitments.

13 MR. HONIGBERG: Don't put the microphone
14 down. Do your considerations of the environment
15 include consideration of the carbon impact of
16 the flooding of the lands up in Quebec that
17 occurred to generate the power that will come
18 down through these lines?

19 MS. CARBONNEAU: The carbon issue is not
20 part of our state and federal permit
21 applications that we're doing for the siting of
22 the project in New Hampshire. So although the
23 project is aware of carbon issues associated

1 with the project up in Canada which someone else
2 can speak to more generally than I can, it is
3 not part and parcel of the application
4 materials.

5 MR. QUINLAN: So one of the expert reports
6 that you referred to earlier prepared by London
7 Economics which is pending consideration of a
8 protective order, they evaluate the emissions
9 impact. They determine there's about three
10 million tons a year in carbon reduction across
11 the region. So that analysis is embedded in
12 that Expert Report.

13 MR. HONIGBERG: In construction, will you
14 be using nonreflective wires along the towers?

15 MR. MUNTZ: I believe that is the type of
16 wire that we will be using.

17 MR. HONIGBERG: Are buildings in the fall
18 zone of the towers that are being proposed?

19 MR. JOHNSON: So I think what the question
20 is is if a structure were to fail and fall
21 outside of the right-of-way, would it
22 potentially have an opportunity to impact a
23 residence or a business of some sort. In

1 general, when towers fail they don't fall
2 outside of the zone. They're specifically, over
3 the right-of-way they're specifically designed
4 so that does not happen. It's to do with the
5 way that the wire's tension and structures
6 themselves so if one were to fall it would
7 either crumble in place or fall along the way
8 the lines are built. There are always worst
9 case scenarios, I'll say, but those are
10 extremely rare, and to my knowledge, I have
11 never encountered one of these situations.

12 MR. HONIGBERG: Along some portions of the
13 route, towers are in the same right-of-way as
14 gas pipelines. If a tower were to fall on top
15 of a gas pipeline, would that be a problem?

16 MR. JOHNSON: Again, there are strict codes
17 that govern the installation of electric lines
18 within or coexisting with high pressure gas
19 pipelines, the Natural Energy Safety Code, and,
20 again, there are rules about how far away those
21 must be, and we are adhering to those standards.

22 MR. HONIGBERG: The next one is really
23 directed to the Department of Energy's EIS. I'm

1 just to read it and this will be considered as a
2 comment for DOE. Will the Department of Energy
3 issue the Final EIS and Record of Decision
4 before the Section 106 historic review process
5 is complete. If yes, how will the project
6 complete its historic review process before
7 permits are finalized or before beginning
8 construction.

9 The next question is probably also directed
10 at DOE, but if the company wants to answer this,
11 how will the project impact greenhouse gas
12 emissions in New Hampshire. You may have
13 answered that question a moment ago.

14 MR. QUINLAN: I did. So it's a regional
15 number. It's approximately \$300 million tons
16 per year in carbon dioxide emissions that will
17 be reduced. Just for frame of reference, that's
18 the equivalent of removing approximately 600,000
19 cars from the highways. Again, a regional
20 number.

21 MR. JOHNSON: I'm sorry, Bill. Three
22 million, not 300 million.

23 MR. QUINLAN: I'm sorry. Three million per

1 year.

2 MR. HONIGBERG: If there's a contractual
3 disagreement between Hydro-Quebec and Northern
4 Pass or Eversource, will the ratepayers of New
5 Hampshire be liable for damages or other costs
6 of litigation?

7 MR. QUINLAN: No. No. Again, ratepayers
8 of New Hampshire are not a party or in any way
9 implicated in any of the contractual
10 arrangements between Hydro-Quebec And Northern
11 Pass Transmission. These are contracts that
12 exist between a limited liability company,
13 Northern Pass Transmission, under Eversource, a
14 wholly owned subsidiary totally insulated from
15 our regulated businesses like Eversource, New
16 Hampshire. Formerly, Public Service of New
17 Hampshire.

18 MR. HONIGBERG: I'm going to read the
19 question that's on this sheet as it's written
20 that does not have a town associated with it.
21 So the question may not make quite as much sense
22 without that, and you'll understand why when I
23 read it.

1 Per the town selectmen, Northern Pass has
2 not done any presentations. The Town Manager
3 states, quote, Northern Pass is not coming here,
4 close quote. Can you explain why?

5 MR. QUINLAN: No. Without identification
6 of the town, I can't answer the question. I
7 will say, however, that we have been in
8 continuous contact with each and every
9 municipality hosting this line so to the extent
10 there's any municipality that's interested in
11 such a meeting, we'd be happy to participate.

12 MR. HONIGBERG: Are there benefits to a
13 landowner that has the right-of-way already on
14 his or her property? Monetary benefits in
15 addition to what that property may have received
16 when the right-of-way was originally granted?

17 MR. QUINLAN: So an existing landowner,
18 existing right-of-way. There's no incremental
19 benefit through use of the property directly to
20 that landowner. Lease payments or payment to
21 acquire the already existing line. However,
22 those customers and those adjoining landowners
23 will benefit similar to all other New Hampshire

1 customers from lower energy costs, job
2 opportunities, reduced emissions. Those are
3 universal benefits that inure to each and every
4 citizen in the State of New Hampshire. There's
5 nothing new or specific for the use of a
6 right-of-way.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: If a property is a historic
8 property that has the right-of-way on it, is
9 that treated differently from other pieces of
10 property along the route?

11 MR. QUINLAN: I'll refer this to Cherilyn
12 Widell.

13 MS. WIDELL: Historic properties which are
14 properties defined by the Park Service as those
15 that are on or eligible for the National
16 Register of Historic Places are afforded
17 protection under Section 106 of the National
18 Historic Preservation Act and also need to be
19 taken into consideration for the SEC
20 application. So the effects of the project on
21 historic properties are considered as part of
22 the application and as part of the Section 106
23 process.

1 MR. HONIGBERG: If a property owner can
2 prove that the project has lowered the property
3 value, will that person be entitled to any
4 payment from you for any part of this project?

5 MR. QUINLAN: In addition to the outreach
6 we've done with municipalities along the route,
7 we've also conducted extensive outreach to
8 landowners along the route, and we're working
9 with those landowners on a case by case basis,
10 either to do what we can to mitigate any adverse
11 consequences or to address specific questions or
12 concerns that they may have, and it's really a
13 case by case determination that we engage in
14 with the landowners. It's something we've been
15 focused on for quite some time now, and it's
16 going to continue right on through the
17 permitting and construction phase.

18 MR. HONIGBERG: That answers part of the
19 question that's on this sheet, but the other
20 part on the sheet I'm looking at right now has
21 to do with existing rights-of-way. Are existing
22 rights-of-way going to be widened along the
23 route. Obviously, we're in Concord, and this

1 person is in Concord and wants to know about
2 Concord rights-of-way, but will right-of-ways
3 have to be widened and will the towers be
4 higher? I think we already know that the towers
5 will be higher.

6 MR. QUINLAN: Towers will generally be
7 higher but the rights-of-way will not be wider.
8 One of the things our engineers are working on
9 is a design that will in essence allow us to
10 collocate the existing transmission line with the
11 new line in the same right-of-way. Therefore,
12 the rights-of-way will not have to be wider.

13 MR. HONIGBERG: What percentage of the time
14 will the line be at full capacity and are there
15 times when it won't be used at all?

16 MR. MUNTZ: The commitment that HQ has made
17 is to flow the line a minimum of 67 percent of
18 capacity. Basically, what's known in the
19 industry as 7 days a week, 16 hours a day during
20 the peak period. As a reference point, existing
21 line that HQ has into the US has run at over 90
22 percent capacity over the last five years and
23 that includes all outages, weather, maintenance

1 outages, what have you, so we expect that 67
2 percent at a minimum.

3 MR. QUINLAN: That's a minimum. It's
4 during the peak periods. So the price pressures
5 that I was alluding to earlier occur during
6 these peak hours, and that's why their
7 commitment to deliver during those periods is so
8 important.

9 MR. HONIGBERG: You've made a proposal in
10 response to the New England Clean Energy RFP.
11 If you are not selected is your project still
12 viable and will you proceed?

13 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. We believe that the
14 project is viable as proposed to the SEC with
15 Hydro-Quebec funding the project. We also
16 believe the project is viable as proposed into
17 the RFP where Hydro-Quebec has made other
18 significant commitments about the timing and
19 extent of delivery and in exchange for that has
20 asked for assistance in paying for it.

21 MR. HONIGBERG: You may have answered this.
22 How much electricity is estimated to flow
23 through the line in a given year?

1 MR. MUNTZ: About as a minimum, 7.2
2 kilowatt hours each year is 7.2 million
3 megawatts.

4 MR. QUINLAN: 7.2 million megawatt hours.
5 That's the minimum commitment.

6 MR. HONIGBERG: If you were to bury the
7 line and incur the additional one billion in
8 cost, and you amortize that cost over 40 years,
9 what would the annual cost increment be?

10 MR. MUNTZ: When we look at the cost to
11 this line right now, the first year revenue
12 requirements, if you will, for customers are
13 about and for Hydro-Quebec will be about \$240
14 million and that would decrease over the life of
15 the line down to about \$50 million which is sort
16 of our ongoing O&M costs. If we were to add
17 another billion dollars to it, that would add
18 \$145 million to the first year cost.

19 MR. HONIGBERG: I think I'm going to ask
20 all the questions on this at once. What is
21 Northern Pass's and Eversource's expected return
22 on its investment for the current proposal.
23 What would the return be on the investment if

1 the line were completely buried. And what
2 portion of the projected New England energy
3 costs would come to Northern Pass/Eversource?

4 MR. QUINLAN: Jim, why don't you answer the
5 first two.

6 MR. MUNTZ: Could you please repeat the
7 question.

8 MR. HONIGBERG: Sure. This is the first
9 two questions. What is Northern
10 Pass/Eversource's expected return on its
11 investment for the current proposed line and
12 what would its return on investment be if the
13 line were completely buried.

14 MR. MUNTZ: Okay. Basically this is a
15 \$1.65 billion investment, 40-year anticipated
16 life. The return is linked to the New England
17 transmission, regional transmission rate of
18 return that's approved by FERC. We would expect
19 to make about \$90 million in the first year and
20 that, again, declines over the life of the line.

21 If we were to add another billion dollars
22 to that and there was someone willing to pay for
23 that, we would actually make more money if the

1 line was buried. The problem we run into is the
2 line is not economical, and there aren't folks
3 willing to pay for it either to deliver their
4 power in the case of HQ or receive the benefits
5 of that power in the three states that have
6 indicated interest. They would pay for it. At
7 some point the cost of the line becomes
8 prohibitive.

9 MR. HONIGBERG: I'm going to read this one
10 just as it's writing, Mr. Quinlan. What portion
11 of the projected New England energy costs,
12 parens, three billion plus, close parens, would
13 come to Northern Pass/Eversource?

14 MR. QUINLAN: So the short answer is none
15 of it. Our return on this investment is through
16 the mechanism Mr. Muntz just described. We
17 invest capital to build the line. Our earnings
18 and our return come from the use of the line and
19 the repayment and it's subject to approval by
20 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and
21 purely based on the capital investment. Has
22 nothing to do with what's going on in the
23 markets. Those costs and those benefits flow to

1 customers. Ours is a capital investment with
2 return on the investment.

3 MR. MUNTZ: Return on investment is 11.17.

4 MR. QUINLAN: Just over 11 percent. Return
5 on equity portion of the investment.

6 MR. HONIGBERG: How are you establishing
7 the right to build this project in all of the
8 various places that you're proposing to build
9 it? So if you could go through the different
10 types of relationships you have to the land
11 that's being used, I think that's what this
12 question is getting at. In particular, this
13 questioner also wants to know what the situation
14 is in Bear Brook State Park so if you could hit
15 Bear Brook State Park as part of this answer,
16 that would be helpful.

17 MR. QUINLAN: So for the vast majority of
18 this line, we have an existing right-of-way with
19 an existing transmission line. In that existing
20 right-of-way, we have the property rights
21 necessary to construct and own this line.

22 In areas that we are using the public way,
23 meaning we're going to build under an existing

1 state roadway, we have requested approval from
2 the Department of Transportation for use of
3 those corridors.

4 In the far northern portion of the state,
5 those 40 miles that I was referring to, there's
6 one 24-mile segment that we have leased, the
7 Wagner Forest. So we have a lease that allows
8 us to construct and own the line in that leased
9 area. And then we acquired parcels, generally
10 we bought them, in some cases we've leased them,
11 to essentially bring us over, so it's a
12 combination of lease arrangements, purchase
13 arrangements, that far northern part, use of the
14 state highway is where we're going to the
15 Department of Transportation and then our
16 existing corridor.

17 Bear Brook State Park. Sam?

18 MR. JOHNSON: In Bear Brook State Park, we
19 have an existing easement that goes through the
20 park. We will be maintaining our construction
21 within that easement.

22 MR. HONIGBERG: What is the current status
23 of the Seabrook power plant? Didn't PSNH used

1 to own that and lose it in the bankruptcy?

2 MR. QUINLAN: No. So it's true that
3 Seabrook was partially owned by Public Service
4 of New Hampshire, I think with a minority
5 ownership interest, but it was owned by
6 utilities across New England. I think in early
7 2001, many of those utilities under industry
8 deregulation were required to sell their
9 generation equipment. In New Hampshire we were
10 required to, PSNH was required to sell its
11 ownership interest in Seabrook and we did so
12 it's currently owned by NextEra which is a
13 Florida-based company and to the best of my
14 knowledge, it's operational. It's been running
15 since 2001 when we sold it.

16 MR. HONIGBERG: Does New Hampshire get some
17 of its power from the Seabrook plant today?

18 MR. QUINLAN: I'm not certain what the
19 contractual arrangements are that NextEra has
20 for its output. Again, we are one grid of one
21 power pool. It really doesn't matter where
22 those plants are located. For example, they
23 could have a contractual obligation to deliver

1 MR. HONIGBERG: The first thing we're going
2 to do is Mr. Quinlan has asked for the
3 opportunity to clarify something that was said
4 in response to one of the questions. I don't
5 even know what the question or answer was, but
6 they need to clarify something so Mr. Quinlan?

7 MR. QUINLAN: I'd like to provide some
8 information on the tallest transmission tower in
9 New Hampshire. It's actually 340 feet tall.
10 It's in the Seacoast area in Portsmouth, New
11 Hampshire, and it is part of a river crossing.
12 And also to provide clarity on the using the low
13 reflective conductor, we are not using the low
14 reflective conductor on this project.

15 MR. HONIGBERG: We're now ready to start
16 with the public comments. We have over 50
17 people who have signed up to speak. It is
18 really in everybody's best interest for you to
19 be concise and if at all possible limit yourself
20 to 3 minutes. If you're not able to do that, we
21 will ask you to stop and come back at the end in
22 a second round with those who need more time.

23 If someone before you said what you would

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1 have said, or essentially what you would have
2 said, please don't just repeat what someone else
3 has done. Please say I agree with what an
4 earlier speaker said regarding X, Y or Z and
5 everyone behind you will be ecstatic.

6 There are some people who signed up online
7 through the Department of Energy's process. We
8 have a bunch of yellow sheets. We have a
9 handful of elected officials. We're going to
10 call the elected officials first. I hope we got
11 them all. Is Senator Lou D'allesandro back from
12 his earlier meetings? No. Not yet. All right.
13 So we'll put Senator D'allesandro aside, and
14 we'll start with Senator Andrew Hosmer followed
15 by Representative Howard Moffett and then Les
16 Otten, a Dixville selectman.

17 SPEAKER: Good evening and thank you. I'm
18 State Senator Andrew Hosmer. I represent
19 District 7 which is 8 towns and two cities. One
20 of those cities being the city of Franklin which
21 is where the converter station is proposed to be
22 built. Franklin is a city that's struggled over
23 the past few decades with the closure of mills

1 and the depreciation of its tax base. It's also
2 a place that's quite beautiful. Its citizens
3 are proud and hard working, and I know that the
4 ones that I speak with are hopeful that the
5 future will hold economic opportunity for them
6 as well as for future generations.

7 The Northern Pass project will be
8 transformational for the city of Franklin. The
9 project will provide a \$400 million investment
10 in the city's tax base, approximately \$6 million
11 a year in new tax revenues and more than 500
12 jobs coming to that city during the construction
13 phase. The benefits to the city will both be
14 short-term and long-term, and the residents of
15 the city are eager to see this project move
16 forward.

17 I have followed this project for many
18 years. No one will dispute the fact that
19 Northern Pass got off to a bad start and was
20 poorly designed and presented. However, the
21 project has continued to reach out to
22 communities, has listened to concerns from
23 residents and has made changes that address many

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1 of the concerns raised. Because of this, the
2 project deserves your support.

3 I recognize that these types of projects
4 have impacts, and many residents have very
5 legitimate concerns. The Site Evaluation
6 Committee can play a positive role in helping
7 address those concerns and encouraging Northern
8 Pass and abutting landowners to continue to
9 discuss opportunities to reduce the impact of
10 the project.

11 In conclusion, New Hampshire must pursue
12 long-term energy strategies that balance the
13 interest of its citizens, lowers the cost of
14 energy and helps create a vibrant economy. This
15 project allows the citizens of Franklin to look
16 into the future and know that the city they love
17 has a future filled with opportunity.

18 Thank you very much. I appreciate the
19 opportunity to speak.

20 MR. HONIGBERG: Senator Hosmer, if you have
21 something in writing if you could give it to the
22 stenographer, that way she'll get your remarks
23 exactly as you intended to deliver them. That's

1 a ground rule for all of you, if you are going
2 to be reading something, if you could read it
3 just the way Senator Hosmer read his statement,
4 that would be great, and if you could provide a
5 copy to the stenographer, that would be very
6 helpful. Also if you could spell your last name
7 if there's any ambiguity in your last name that
8 would be helpful as well.

9 So next up we have representative Howard
10 Moffett, followed by Dixville Selectman Les
11 Otten.

12 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
13 members of the committee. I thank you
14 especially for the time and attention that
15 you've given to this docket. My name is Howard
16 Moffett. I represent Canterbury and Loudon.
17 I'm also among the 68 state legislators who have
18 filed jointly a Petition to Intervene in this
19 docket. Little before 4 o'clock on Monday
20 afternoon, I was passing through Franconia Notch
21 on my way to the Colebrook Elementary School.
22 As I went by Profile Lake, I looked up to the
23 left to the spot where the Old Man used to be.

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1 I always do that when I go through the notch.
2 The cloud cover was low but not too low. I
3 could see where he used to be. Keeping watch
4 over the Pemigewasset River Valley, and it
5 reminded me of something that Daniel Webster
6 once said. He said men hang out their signs
7 indicative of their respective trades.
8 Shoemakers hang out a gigantic shoe, jewelers a
9 monster watch, and the dentist hangs out a gold
10 tooth, but up in the mountains of New Hampshire,
11 God Almighty has hung out a sign to show that
12 there He makes men. We lost the Old Man in
13 2003, but he still serves as the symbol of the
14 Granite State, and I'd like to think that he
15 still watches.

16 So what would he think of Northern Pass,
17 which now proposes to hang out its own signs,
18 two signs, up there. Two chains of steel
19 towers, 100 feet high, strung with wires from
20 Pittsburg to Bethlehem and from Bristol to
21 Deerfield to show that there, high above some of
22 New Hampshire's most valued landscapes, Northern
23 Pass wants to transmit high voltage electric

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1 power made somewhere else for the benefit of
2 consumers in Massachusetts and Connecticut and
3 for the profit of Eversource shareholders. I
4 believe I know what he would think.

5 The first thing to be said about Northern
6 Pass is what you heard earlier from Mr. Quinlan.
7 It's not a reliability project. It's an
8 economic project. It's not needed to keep the
9 lights on. So I want to suggest that it
10 behooves you to weigh very carefully the
11 benefits, the alleged benefits of the project
12 against the cost, because I think if you do
13 that, you will find that compared to some of the
14 alternatives, the benefits of the project end up
15 being rather modest compared to the costs
16 because unless the line is buried, the cost to
17 the public, the costs to the state of New
18 Hampshire are going to be incalculable.

19 Mr. Chairman, I'm going to go a little over
20 three minutes and I'm happy to come back at the
21 end.

22 MR. HONIGBERG: You're already over three
23 minutes.

1 SPEAKER: Why don't I come back at the end.

2 MR. HONIGBERG: Thank you, Representative
3 Moffett.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. HONIGBERG: Next up is Dixville
6 Selectman Les Otten.

7 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Les
8 Otten. I'm the developer of the Balsams Resort
9 in Dixville, New Hampshire, and a Selectman of
10 that unincorporated town. Thank you for the
11 opportunity to speak tonight. Our business has
12 received a two million dollar investment from
13 what will become the Forward NH Fund established
14 to help lift one of the poorest economies in the
15 northeast. This investment was made with no
16 strings attached. Northern Pass may make a more
17 substantial investment in our project in the
18 near future as their process continues.

19 Our North Country community is suffering
20 from decades-long job losses. Drugs have
21 invaded our schools and communities and there
22 has been a dramatic and continuing decline in
23 our wood products industry. On a positive note,

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1 our communities have already embraced renewable
2 power now for decades with hydrogeneration
3 stations on the Androscoggin River and 33 wind
4 towers sited along our ridgelines. These dams
5 release water on schedules that have enhanced
6 the recreation rafting industry. Seven of these
7 wind towers are located on our property and do
8 not negatively impact the viability of the \$143
9 million investment my company is attempting to
10 make in its first phase of development adding an
11 estimated 1700 long-term jobs and 600
12 construction jobs.

13 I've been involved with resorts from
14 California to Maine, including three resorts in
15 New Hampshire, none of which have been
16 negatively affected by transmission lines to my
17 knowledge. Our resort will benefit from the
18 reduced power cost we expect as bulk power
19 buying becomes possible from the proposed DC
20 power line. My staff has estimated that that
21 will save our company over \$200,000 a year. We
22 are attempting to build a green farm to table
23 renewable reliant resort which will be favored

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1 globally as a vacation destination.

2 It's long past the time for us to
3 acknowledge there is no silver bullet for
4 solving the effects of fossil fuels in our
5 environment. Northern Pass is one positive step
6 that will reduce our dependence on the sources
7 of power generation that are harming our
8 environment.

9 Since 2008, I have been investing in clean
10 renewable energy in New Hampshire. My company
11 Maine Energy Systems has been the leading
12 installer of clean renewable central heating
13 pellet boilers and has been delivering fuel
14 produced in Maine, New Hampshire and Canada to
15 New Hampshire residents.

16 Finally, my father was born in 1886. He
17 was 63 when I was born. If my son lives as long
18 as his grandfather, he will live until 2079. In
19 that 193-year time span we will have consumed
20 the vast majority of all the fossil fuels
21 created on our planet in a 6 to 7 billion year
22 history. Releasing that CO2 into the atmosphere
23 is understood to have devastating effects on the

1 ecosystem of our planet. It is also shameful
2 for us not to make every reasonable effort to
3 move to renewable resources like the hydropower
4 we are discussing. I support renewable energy
5 locally and globally, and I therefore support
6 Northern Pass. Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. HONIGBERG: Next up, Robert Werner to
9 be followed by Gail Matson. Those are the only
10 other elected officials that I'm aware of who
11 are here. If you are an elected official and
12 would like to move up in the queue, if you could
13 come up and tell Mr. Iacopino, that would be the
14 best way to do that. Mr. Werner.

15 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name
16 is Rob Werner. I represent Ward 5 here in
17 Concord and also chair the Concord Energy and
18 Environment Subcommittee. Many of us know in
19 this community that we had a subcommittee of
20 Concord City Council work very diligently for
21 many hours and many days and the recommendation
22 was to bury the lines of the Northern Pass
23 project within Concord.

1 It was stated earlier by Mr. Quinlan that
2 we needed to address the impact of this project
3 on the White Mountain National Forest. Time to
4 take a step back and to address the impacts of
5 this project on the city of Concord which is
6 highly significant. Some of the towers have
7 been described as much as 120 feet, 125 feet
8 high. Very large impact in terms of sight
9 lines.

10 The lines on the projects are really quite
11 contrary to our vision of a city in terms of how
12 we generally look at power lines, whether it be
13 downtown Concord or, whether it be in other
14 areas of the city, whether it be new
15 developments where it would require lines to be
16 buried. So what we have before us is actually a
17 scar on our city that we highly recommend to
18 look at other options that have less impacts,
19 not only in the city of Concord but on our
20 wildlife, on our forests and our other impacts
21 of our culture and life here in New Hampshire.
22 And Councilor Matson, my colleague who chaired
23 the subcommittee, will talk in a bit more detail

1 about some of these impacts.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. HONIGBERG: Councilor Matson to be
4 followed by Beth Campbell who is representing
5 Representative Kathy Rogers tonight.

6 SPEAKER: My name is Gail Matson. I'm the
7 Ward 8 City Councilor. Also the chair for the
8 subcommittee for Northern Pass here.

9 Our subcommittee gathered information from
10 Eversource and other stakeholders to determine
11 the impact of the proposed project in Concord.
12 The report submitted to Council, they voted
13 unanimously to file a Petition to Intervene and
14 recommend burial of the lines in our city. We
15 request for burial of the lines is based upon
16 the project's current proposed aerial path and
17 subsequent impacts to character, property values
18 and as well as visual and audio impacts due to
19 the close proximity to residences.

20 Concord has spent nearly two million to
21 bury utility lines in the downtown area of
22 Concord and is considering burial of the lines
23 on South Main Street. Currently, our city

1 regulations require that new subdivisions bury
2 title lines. The proposed route of the Northern
3 Pass passes through 31 communities using the two
4 2010 census, slightly more than 117,000 people
5 live in those communities. Concord's population
6 is 42,695 which is slightly more than 36 percent
7 of the entire affected population.

8 There are 8.1 miles of overhead lines
9 proposed for Concord; approximately, 6 percent
10 of the total overhead route, and per the
11 Northern Pass, the most common height of the
12 existing structures in the right-of-way in
13 Concord are 43 feet. The height of structures
14 being relocated for the project will increase
15 from 43 to 88 feet. The October 14th Northern
16 Pass project map indicates that there are 120
17 structures over 90 feet in Concord. Sixty of
18 those 120 will be between 100 and 125 feet. For
19 perspective, the Capitol dome is 150 feet.

20 Northern Pass claims the average scenic
21 impact is 1.79 on a scale of 0 to 5 which is low
22 to very low. However, for the southern section
23 which includes Concord, the impact rises from

1 1.92 to 2.92 with additional 6 square miles of
2 the viewshed rating high or very high. The view
3 from roads will increase from low to moderate to
4 moderate to high. In the DOE draft
5 Environmental Impact Statement in July 2015,
6 sites two areas in Concord with strong aesthetic
7 visual impacts. Loudon Road increases from
8 moderate to severe. And Turtle Town Pond
9 increases from moderate to strong. Clearly, the
10 visual impact to Concord will be significant.

11 In our subcommittee meetings, Brian Bosse
12 of Eversource has told us that the cost of
13 aerial installation was approximately three
14 million per mile and the cost of underground
15 installation was between 8 to 13 million per
16 mile which is quite a range. The subcommittee
17 councilors asked on varying occasions for cost
18 estimate breakdowns due to a variety of soil
19 conditions and this information was never
20 provided.

21 Citizens of Concord have been clear and
22 consistent in their position on the Northern
23 Pass. Aerial installation will have lasting

1 negative effects on individuals and the city as
2 a whole with respect to quality of life and
3 economic development. Therefore, we request
4 burial of lines throughout the city of Concord.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. HONIGBERG: Next up is Beth Campbell
7 for Representative Rogers to be followed by
8 George Dzjuna, a Franklin City Councilor, and
9 then Ellen Schaefer.

10 SPEAKER: Good evening. Speaking for
11 Katherine Rogers: Good evening. My name is
12 Katherine Rogers. I am a New Hampshire
13 representative who lives here in Concord. I am
14 speaking out in favor of this project because of
15 my constituents. As a state legislator, I work
16 to balance sometimes competing interests of
17 issues like this. Two areas in which we all
18 agree is that a number of older power plants
19 retiring and going off line requires this
20 conversation, and if we don't embrace projects
21 like this, we will not make any progress in
22 lowering electric rates which remain among the
23 highest in the country.

1 My constituents tell me their electric
2 bills are way too high. Many of the people I
3 represent are low income families who struggle
4 with their monthly payments. They need help. I
5 also have heard from businesses who tell me
6 their utility costs are too expensive. They
7 need relief, too. We can't forget about these
8 folks.

9 Eversource has repeatedly explained this
10 project is estimated to lower residential
11 electric rates by 5 percent. Businesses are in
12 line to save substantially more. That is on top
13 of the \$80 million in property tax revenue for
14 the communities along the route. Those are real
15 savings for the people who live in our
16 communities, and I can't ignore that type of
17 savings.

18 In addition, as a representative of a
19 working class neighborhood, I have heard from
20 many people who celebrate the fact that this
21 proposal means well over 1,000 jobs with
22 training opportunities available to actually
23 participate in the economic benefits of Northern

1 Pass in direct ways. Some of my constituents
2 are members of the International Brotherhood of
3 Electrical Workers, and they are clear and
4 unanimous in their unwavering support for this
5 project and the jobs that will be created by
6 allowing it to proceed.

7 This project has become demonized by many
8 in this debate, and I feel like we have lost
9 sight of why we are talking about Northern Pass.
10 Are there 77 new towers going up to sustain the
11 line? Yes. There are also 122 poles that are
12 being relocated to lessen the impact on
13 visibility so there is positive response based
14 on resident feedback, and I keep coming back to
15 this reality. Every inch of this line through
16 this area is in a utility right-of-way which was
17 designed many decades ago to be the acceptable
18 pathway for power lines. Perhaps there are ways
19 to keep lowering the heights, but if we want new
20 energy resources, we have to be willing to
21 connect them. I'm not saying I wholeheartedly
22 and enthusiastically endorse every detail of
23 this project, but I know major progress when I

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1 see it and I know a proposal that resolves
2 constituent concerns when I see it and this does
3 both.

4 What I see is a plan that will lower
5 electric rates, provide new jobs and it will
6 produce clean energy that can actually take a
7 bite out of our carbon footprint. These are
8 good things. I fear that absolutes in this
9 debate, that all in or nothing sentiment,
10 jeopardizes the many benefits a project like
11 this can bring to New Hampshire. I urge the
12 members of the Site Evaluation Committee to find
13 the common ground to move this project forward
14 so our state can enjoy the benefits it would
15 bring. Thank you.

16 MR. HONIGBERG: George Dzujna.

17 SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Chairman and
18 Panel. My last name is Dzujna. I'm a City
19 Councilor in Franklin, and I concur with what
20 Senator Hosmer has said. He hit the nail on the
21 head so I'm not going to go on about all the
22 benefits. I guess the biggest thing that I just
23 wanted to, statement I wanted to make is back in

1 January when we had the meeting in Franklin,
2 somebody said oh, I don't blame Franklin for
3 taking the money and running, but that's not
4 what it's about. It's not taking the money and
5 running. It's taking the money and doing
6 something with our city. We're in the process
7 of revitalization and I know, being a City
8 Councilor for the last four years, I know some
9 of the challenges that we had with our budget
10 from the challenges from the state downshifting
11 to us, and where else can we find some money to
12 do the projects that we're doing for our
13 revitalization and for our mill districts. And
14 thank you very much.

15 (Applause)

16 MR. HONIGBERG: Ellen Schaffer, followed by
17 Taras Kucman and Jane Difley.

18 SPEAKER: Hello. My name is Ellen
19 Schaffer, and I'm a resident of Concord. I am
20 speaking tonight as a citizen of New Hampshire
21 and more specifically of Concord. I do not want
22 the Northern Pass at all, but because our
23 neighbors in the south need more electricity,

1 I'm willing to support a compromise as long as
2 it is not at the expense of destroying the
3 beauty and tranquility of our beautiful state
4 and its capital city. This is what will happen
5 if the line goes above ground or through the
6 right-of-way. The destruction of so many trees
7 and the humming of the lines will ruin the
8 surrounding areas, especially in Concord which
9 has the most new towers of any area.

10 Seventy-seven new towers are scheduled to be
11 built in Concord, destroying farmland, Turtle
12 Pond, and passing way too close to homes. For
13 this reason, it must be buried along roads and
14 not in the right-of-way.

15 When I heard Bill Quinlan's comment that he
16 wasn't hearing much opposition from people in
17 central and southern New Hampshire, I contacted
18 my neighbor, Sue Woodard, and who had a sign
19 saying Stop Northern Pass in her yard, and we
20 started the following Petition which states: We
21 support burying the Northern Pass Transmission
22 lines through the entire state but especially
23 through Concord where they will be in close

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1 proximity to many homes. We have gathered 1102
2 signature on this Petition and I have to say we
3 only had maybe 2 or 3 dozen people in Concord
4 that would not sign it in all the people we
5 spoke to. So I would like to have this entered
6 into the record. Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 SPEAKER: My name is Taras Kucman. I'd
9 like to thank the DOE and I'd like to thank the
10 SEC for allowing me to speak this evening. I'm
11 wearing orange, and it comes as no surprise that
12 I am opposed to the project as it is stated.
13 I'm a 20-year resident of Concord and I live on
14 the right-of-way. I've been a resident and
15 engineer and I've been a US Army engineer in the
16 past. I was commissioned back in 1983. And I'm
17 glad that the Corps of Engineers is represented
18 this evening also. My point is that what's
19 rarely brought up is the national security risk
20 of what's being proposed here this evening.

21 Right now it's a very simple right-of-way.
22 It's got two sources of energy on an east and on
23 the western boundary. They're 115,000 volt

1 lines. They're separated by about 150 feet, and
2 they're about 55-foot towers so if they fall
3 down in either direction, it makes no risk or
4 impacts nobody.

5 However, if this project proceeds as it is
6 planned, they will crowd that right-of-way,
7 simply 250 feet wide, the western boundary
8 service will be moved 40 feet closer to the
9 residences, and the towers are going from 55
10 feet to 85 feet, and then the artery, the 345 kV
11 will go right down the middle and that's where
12 the rub is.

13 To put it in context, I'd just like to say
14 that we recall the blackout of 2003. You may
15 recall that the blackout went clearly from
16 Massachusetts up through Minnesota and way into
17 Ontario. What caused that. That was a simple
18 event. It was heat in the summer, August.
19 Closed plants put additional plants on other
20 wires. Wires sagged, shorted out the ground,
21 blacking out power supplies. Further blackouts.
22 The rolling blackout lasted three hours. So
23 that by 4 o'clock everything was blacked out but

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1 the blackout stopped. Luckily, it was not a big
2 deal.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Kaufman, it actually
4 works better if you speak to the microphone.
5 People in the back will hear you better if you
6 speak to the microphone.

7 MR. KUCMAN: Okay. Will do. The repairs
8 were made and within a week everybody even out
9 in Ontario had power back. But now I would ask
10 that you consider in that context we had Y2K.
11 In that context we had 9/11 and then we had this
12 blackout. There was a lot of fear and anxiety
13 as to what was going on. So now I would ask you
14 to consider that in today's environment, what if
15 someone were compelled to create a spectacular
16 event like blowing the outside towers inward
17 towards the Hydro-Quebec line and take the
18 Hydro-Quebec line and then blow it so that it
19 falls in either direction. I guarantee you as
20 someone that's been qualified in building
21 bridges or blowing them up, knocking down poles
22 is not a problem. Anybody hell-bent on doing
23 that could do it.

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1 I would ask that DHS consider what the
2 impact of such a catastrophe would be, not in
3 August but on a coldest evening in February.
4 Eversource and Northern Pass may go ahead and
5 say that hey, this has never happened. There
6 are much greater targets, say, in Gary, Indiana,
7 or in Toronto. I don't know if you've driven
8 through the QEW in Toronto or if you've ever
9 been to Gary, Indiana, but having towers like
10 that come through New Hampshire would probably
11 be the biggest dream that Bill Quinlan and Tom
12 May could ever have. I just do not understand
13 how they can rely on '20s and '30s technology so
14 use that as a justification for increasing the
15 return on their investment. There's no excuse
16 for it. Automobiles replaced --

17 MR. HONIGBERT: Mr. Kucman, how much more
18 do you have?

19 MR. KUCMAN: Half a minute. Automobiles
20 replaced horse drawn carriages, cassettes
21 replaced 8-tracks. Buried transmission lines
22 will replace monopoles and towers. Your
23 competitors have figured it out. Why haven't

1 you.

2 In closing, while TSA continues to grope
3 women and children looking for explosives and
4 box cutters that are not there, and the FBI is
5 still struggling with constitutional
6 ramifications of breaking into terrorists'
7 Facebook accounts, terrorists are looking to
8 astonish us again within the next spectacular
9 event. It takes no imagination to conclude that
10 the casualties from such an event as I have
11 described would make 9/11 look like a fireworks
12 celebration gone wrong.

13 Regardless, I still believe in the premise
14 that the key to adult learning is repetition,
15 and in that spirit I say to you again, bury the
16 Northern Pass completely. Aside from that, I
17 have no strong opinion. Thank you.

18 SPEAKER: Thank you for holding these
19 meeting this evening. I appreciate it. My name
20 is Jane Difley, and I'm here this evening
21 representing the Society for the Protection of
22 New Hampshire Forests where I serve as the
23 President/Forester. Last week at the hearing in

1 Meredith, I summarized the Forest Society four
2 concerns with the Northern Pass project as
3 proposed. In Colebrook, Will Abbott reviewed
4 concerns we have about the project's impacts on
5 two of our largest forest reservations. Tonight
6 I would like to address a basic concern before
7 the SEC. That is, how you determine whether
8 this project serves the public interest.

9 The Forest Society protects land because of
10 the public benefits such conservation provides.
11 We hold conserved lands in the public trust. It
12 is our duty to defend these conserved lands from
13 interests that would adversely affect the
14 conservation values inherent in these lands.
15 Similarly, the state holds land in public trust
16 and has similar stewardship obligations for
17 state parks, state forests and state wildlife
18 conservation areas.

19 Eversource is a private company with a
20 fiduciary obligation to its shareholders.
21 There's nothing inherently wrong with this, but
22 the interests they bring to this table are very
23 different from the interests of those who

1 steward the public trust. When Mr. Quinlan says
2 that he believes that the Northern Pass project
3 as proposed is balanced, he is using a scale
4 where money is the primary counterweight. What
5 Eversource has proposed is a project that its
6 customer, Hydro-Quebec, says that it is willing
7 to pay to build.

8 The scale that the SEC must use to assess
9 whether the project serves the public interest
10 is very different. The counterweight on your
11 scale is the public interest in protecting
12 public lands, water resources, private lands
13 conserved for public benefit and the scenic
14 landscapes that New Hampshire advertises around
15 the globe to visitors to support our tourism
16 economy. In a nutshell, the resources held in
17 this public trust should not and cannot be for
18 sale, nor be made available for long-term lease.

19 The State's wetland resources are a
20 critical piece of water resources held in public
21 trust. The State's wetland protection law, RSA
22 482-A, requires an Applicant for a wetland
23 permit to demonstrate that it has studied

1 alternatives that would avoid any adverse
2 impacts to the maximum extent practicable. Only
3 then can the Applicant look to minimize or
4 mitigate impacts.

5 The Northern Pass application asks the New
6 Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
7 to issue wetland permits for disturbance of an
8 astounding 142 acres of wetland from Pittsburg
9 to Deerfield. In the 27,000 pages of the
10 application, we see no evidence that the
11 Applicant has actually studied any alternative
12 that would avoid any of the wetland impacts.
13 Rather it appears to suggest that they simply
14 need to write a large check to the state's
15 wetland mitigation fund for the 142 acres of
16 damage proposed without considering any
17 alternative that would significantly avoid these
18 impacts. Our preliminary analysis suggests that
19 there are reasonable alternatives that would
20 allow Northern Pass to be built in a way that
21 substantially reduces the wetland impacts.
22 The point is that Northern Pass should be
23 required to present information documenting that

1 they have actually considered alternatives that
2 would avoid the wetland impacts in the current
3 application. The statute requires it so the
4 public interest requires it.

5 As you begin your review of the Northern
6 Pass application, we ask that you consider the
7 public interest finding that you are charged to
8 make in a manner that fully values the public
9 trust and the resources that it is intended to
10 protect. Thank you.

11 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the
12 Committee for this opportunity. I do know my
13 statement is closer to four minutes so I'll just
14 say that from the outset.

15 MR. HONIGBERG: We won't cut the mike off.

16 SPEAKER: Thank you. Appreciate that. I'm
17 Susan Arnold, the Vice President for
18 Conservation for the Appalachian Mountain Club.

19 The AMC is the oldest conservation and
20 recreation organization in the country with more
21 than 100,000 members and supporters from Maine
22 to Washington, DC, including more than 12,000
23 here in New Hampshire. In our 140-year history,

1 AMC has helped to protect this region's open
2 spaces, including from poorly sited energy
3 projects such as Northern Pass which is
4 requesting to use high impact old technologies
5 to maximize profits at the expense of New
6 Hampshire's iconic landscape. Yes, parts of
7 this proposed project use an existing
8 right-of-way where current tower structures are
9 less than tree height. This project will
10 congest that right-of-way with over 1100 new
11 towers that are more than 2 to 3 times tree
12 height and cut a new swath for 40 miles through
13 northern New Hampshire. This is not state of
14 the art, and this is the unnecessary impact that
15 has brought out so many people in opposition to
16 this project as proposed.

17 I will reference but not repeat here AMC's
18 comments provided earlier in other meetings by
19 Dr. Kimball in Meredith in Chris Thayer in
20 Waterville. The first point is that the choice
21 before the SEC and the DOE is far from Northern
22 Pass or nothing. It is whether you will allow
23 the use of yesterday's technologies with their

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1 high environmental impacts at the expense of New
2 Hampshire's landscape. You know that other
3 competing projects are completely buried, using
4 21st century technology and that different
5 energy alternatives exist. Both the SEC
6 application and the DEIS fail to acknowledge or
7 appropriately examine competing or other
8 reasonable alternatives to meet regional energy
9 needs. The need for Northern Pass and its
10 impacts must be reviewed within a broader
11 framework.

12 Along with Northern Pass, other competitive
13 projects have been bid into the newest New
14 England Clean Energy RFP. These projects
15 include solar, battery storage, offshore wind
16 and more, and, ironically, one of these RFP
17 projects, the Vermont Green Power Line, even has
18 Hydro-Quebec power as part of its bid and it is
19 a totally buried transmission proposal. Much of
20 the future energy need Mr. Quinlan discussed in
21 his opening presentation will be met with or
22 without Northern Pass, but New Hampshire's
23 landscape will be permanently scarred if

1 Northern Pass is approved as proposed.

2 Mentioned but downplayed in Mr. Quinlan's
3 presentation and distributed energy and energy
4 efficiency. These alternatives are clearly ways
5 to help meet future energy need without the
6 negative environmental impacts and increased
7 foreign trade deficit of Northern Pass, and in
8 fact, they would create more New Hampshire jobs
9 than Northern Pass. Energy efficiency and
10 distributed generation are emphasized in New
11 Hampshire's 2014 update of our ten-year energy
12 strategy, but it's not even sited in the DEIS or
13 the SEC application. Why not. It should be.

14 Paradigm shifts for meeting energy needs
15 are happening at an accelerating rate. On
16 Tuesday night, the town of Lancaster voted for
17 solar arrays to reduce the town's total energy
18 cost by 25 percent. Ironically, Franklin's plan
19 to build a much larger solar project can't
20 proceed until more people are allowed to net
21 meter though it would halve that city's electric
22 bill. Big utilities like Eversource are
23 blocking efforts to increase net metering.

1 Eversource and its ilk are themselves the
2 primary barrier to getting more distributed
3 generation online faster.

4 Northern Pass's presentation discussed the
5 New England region's Forward Capacity market and
6 argues that prices will be going up in the
7 short-term because of the scarcity situation,
8 but Moody's most recent analysis this last month
9 states this market is expected to be further
10 depressed, i.e., prices lowered, because of the
11 amount and variety of resources that will be
12 available. From demand side commitments from
13 big energy users to the nation's first offshore
14 wind farm off Block Island to two large fuel
15 cell facilities, and, finally, the first
16 long-term forecast for solar growth that shows
17 small scale New England solar reducing demand by
18 390 megawatts in 2020. That's 50 percent of the
19 tower going off line because of the Pilgrim
20 nuclear power retirement. The DEIS's analysis
21 of these alternatives is absent or much out of
22 date and needs to be included and updated in the
23 FEIS, and these are factors the SEC should

1 consider when it determines the overall public
2 benefit or lack thereof of Northern Pass as
3 proposed. Thank you for your time and your
4 consideration.

5 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Tom
6 Colgan. I work for Wagner Forest Management, a
7 company based in Lyme, New Hampshire, with an
8 office in Errol, New Hampshire. Wagner Forest
9 Management owns and operates 100,000 acres or
10 more of working forest in Coos County, much of
11 which was depicted upon an earlier slide this
12 evening that Mr. Quinlan showed of where the
13 proposed route of the project would go through
14 the Northern Pass.

15 We employ many local residents who harvest
16 a sustainable supply of raw materials used in
17 wood businesses based in northern New Hampshire.
18 I'm here tonight in support of the Northern Pass
19 project. Twenty-four miles of the proposed
20 route will be over our land. When we were first
21 approached by the Northern Pass folks about a
22 right-of-way over our land, we spent an enormous
23 amount of time talking to them, working with

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1 them, using our firsthand local knowledge of the
2 property to ensure that it was going to cross
3 our land in the most environmentally friendly
4 way possible. That location you see on the map
5 is where we wanted it as much as and more so
6 than where Northern Pass wanted it.

7 You've heard and will continue to hear many
8 people espousing the importance of and necessity
9 to bury the entire line through the entire 192
10 section miles of the proposed project. Our
11 24-mile section is proposed to be above ground,
12 and that's exactly where we want it. In a
13 working forest, you want to be able to see the
14 obstacles that might be in your way. I can see
15 a power line above the ground. I can't see one
16 buried. With all the skidders, the harvesters,
17 trucks, bulldozers, the excavators that work
18 every day, that's the last thing I want to do is
19 be worried about any issues that occur with the
20 equipment that we use. And for the comments
21 that it's an incalculable, I think, quote of
22 disturbance of the aesthetics of the property,
23 it's a perfectly compatible use with a working

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1 forest. It's compatible with all the
2 recreational uses that go on on our land, and
3 it's a privilege that we offer the local public.

4 Our company believes that climate change is
5 real, and we do more than just believe the talk
6 about it. We walk the talk. We have been a
7 developer of a wind project and we still manage
8 a wind project in Maine. We're been an investor
9 in Granite Reliable project in northern New
10 Hampshire. We used to be a part-owner of the
11 largest wood pellet business based in Jaffrey,
12 New Hampshire, New England Wood Pellets.

13 So we walk the talk. And when I look at
14 this project, it will bring renewable energy.
15 Baseload hydropower. We also have solar panels
16 on our property, on our office, that we put up
17 with our own money, and I can tell you if I had
18 to live with only the power it generated every
19 day I would be cold and dark, and my computer
20 would not work. It's as simple as that. It's a
21 laudable cause, but it's not always the answer.
22 It's part of the big choices that one should
23 have.

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1 Technology Committee and as a member of the New
2 Hampshire Clean Tech Council, I have always been
3 interested in the intersection of design
4 aesthetics, power production, environmental
5 protection and economic profitability.

6 My work today continues to combine these
7 four components in what I hope are balanced and
8 practical, yet beautiful, solutions. The
9 Northern Pass is a challenging project to
10 consider when these requirements are applied to
11 it. Yet I believe that there is a way to
12 balance all and do that in harmony. This
13 project will be a long enduring source of power
14 for many years to come, and for that reason we
15 should take the long view and make sure that it
16 over time does nothing to diminish the
17 aesthetics of our beautiful state. That long
18 timeline also enables us to recoup its profits
19 and to spread out the costs over time as well.

20 For these reasons I rise to contribute my
21 voice to these who would like to see the line
22 buried for the entire distance through the North
23 Country. The economics have been proven,

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1 feasible in our neighboring states of Vermont
2 and Maine. Burying the line would lead our
3 wilderness a pristine wilderness without the
4 imposition of horrendously ugly towers cutting
5 across the landscape and would minimize the
6 environmental impact. Over time, perhaps a
7 little longer than has originally been planned,
8 revenue would be recouped and profits would not
9 diminish to unacceptable levels.

10 At the same time, I believe that the
11 developers should show a commitment to New
12 Hampshire's ability to self-generate power,
13 renewable power in the North Country, and
14 provide a way to help it get to market in the
15 southern tier of the state. I know there is
16 talk of Northern Pass providing economic support
17 for the upgrade of the Coos loop which would
18 enable the green power produced in the North
19 Country to make its way south. I encourage the
20 commitment of support to be realized and for the
21 sake of our local economy and our commitment to
22 our natural habitat. It is a small price to pay
23 that will enable our great State of New

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1 Hampshire to self-generate power using its own
2 resources. This will make us less reliant on
3 energy from over our border. It will enable us
4 to produce a greater economic churn from every
5 dollar spent on energy that is spent within our
6 state borders, in some cases generating economic
7 activity over six times its original value.

8 The New Hampshire Clean Tech Market report
9 dated in February of 2015 states on page 15
10 that, quote, if New Hampshire could achieve the
11 kind of relatively more efficient relationship
12 between total energy expenditures and the
13 economic activity as Massachusetts, which
14 happens to be one of the leaders in New England
15 and in the nation in clean tech, then New
16 Hampshire citizens and businesses would have
17 spent \$2 billion less on energy in 2012 for the
18 same level of economic output, and where would
19 that \$2 billion have gone? Mostly back into the
20 state's economy in other areas, boosting
21 producers of other goods and services and
22 incentivizing job creation, end quote.

23 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Swett. How much more

1 do you have?

2 MR. SWETT: Fifteen seconds. Northern Pass
3 can help make this happen through support of
4 that upgrade of the Coos loop. In conclusion,
5 let me say that the beauty of our natural
6 environment is central to our economic
7 well-being as we share it with all who come to
8 visit our beautiful state. We need to protect
9 our environment and at the same time allow for
10 utilization of our natural resources for the
11 generation of power that creates more than light
12 in the night. It creates employment for the
13 many more people, far more people than will be
14 employed by Northern Pass long after it's been
15 built. The balancing of these points will allow
16 profits to be realized by all parties concerned,
17 the economy will be strengthened, and the future
18 of our state will remain bright. I encourage
19 the burial of the Northern Pass line and the
20 upgrade of the Coos loop for these reasons.
21 Thank you very much.

22 (Applause)

23 SPEAKER: I'm Fred Brownson from Wentworth,

1 New Hampshire. I'm here to speak to the
2 question of the adequacy of the Environmental
3 Impact Statement and the SEC evaluation on
4 local, region and national security. Five
5 points to be made.

6 First, the failure of a grid for more than
7 3 or 4 days extending into weeks or months would
8 be a catastrophic impact on the people, tens of
9 millions of people, who are served by the grid.

10 Number two, a rather tightly veiled secret
11 for decades with penetrations from time to time
12 from retired utility executives and retired
13 government officials is the vulnerability of our
14 electric grids to attack from those who would do
15 harm to us, whether they be rogue nations like
16 Korea and the iso call fate to more mature
17 nations like Iran, China, Russia. They all have
18 the capability to take down our grid. The
19 amateur hacker could probably do it one day, but
20 the vulnerability is there.

21 Number 3, as to New England, that
22 vulnerability becomes greater the more power we
23 import from a foreign nation with a massive

1 transmission and transformer infrastructure that
2 is vulnerable to attack in an area that our
3 government cannot defend.

4 Fourth, the very existence of increasing
5 dependence upon Canadian power and the economic
6 stake that the utilities have in that creates a
7 major barrier to the ultimate solution to
8 security which is microgrids. And, finally, the
9 EIS and I suspect the SEC evaluation have failed
10 completely to address these issues. Fortunately
11 for us, and this is my written submission this
12 evening, Ted Koppel, who was at the top of the
13 ABC news network for years, a terrific
14 investigative reporter, released last year a
15 book that made it to the New York Times
16 bestseller list titled Lights Out. Ted examines
17 these issues in great depth and pulls the veil
18 of secrecy back off of this subject in a way
19 that had not been previously been accomplished.

20 I thank you for the opportunity to say
21 these words this evening, and I hope you will
22 take this Koppel book and where is the DOE?
23 I've already sent one to the head of the SEC,

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1 and, hopefully, they'll pay some attention to
2 it.

3 SPEAKER: Thank you, especially for the
4 correct pronunciation of my last name. My name
5 is Greg Rahe, and I've worked for Eversource New
6 Hampshire for 14 years. As an account executive
7 I worked with Eversource's large commercial
8 industrial customers in the greater Seacoast
9 area. The Seacoast is growing at twice the rate
10 of the rest of the state and is expected to
11 represent approximately 25 percent of New
12 Hampshire's electrical by 2020. The growth is
13 due in part to business expansion. Several of
14 the largest industrial customers on the Seacoast
15 are multi-national concerns with corporate
16 offices located in Europe and Asia. When
17 deciding where to expand, Seacoast businesses
18 are often competing against their counterparts
19 in other US locations or abroad. The talent
20 pool companies can draw from is abundant which
21 strengthens the argument to expand here.
22 However, many of these customers have stated
23 that the high cost of utilities, especially

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1 electricity, is a prime concern. They tell that
2 electric rates for their businesses in New
3 Hampshire are nearly double the national average
4 for manufacturing and almost 40 percent higher
5 for the commercial segment. These are energy
6 intensive businesses that consume a lot of
7 electricity, and any opportunity for them to
8 reduce their variable costs is very beneficial.

9 To give you some perspective, a large
10 business on the Seacoast consumes three million
11 kilowatt hours a month. That's 6000 times more
12 than the average home. To equate those figures
13 to cost, that business would pay \$255,000 a
14 month for energy, not including transmission and
15 distribution charges. A five percent reduction
16 in energy cost would save the business upwards
17 of \$108,000 annually. Those are funds that they
18 could use to hire additional staff, expand their
19 product line and give back to the communities.

20 I support Northern Pass because it's a
21 renewable energy source which will reduce energy
22 prices, help mitigate the price volatility we've
23 witnessed over the last several winters and help

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1 business and industry thrive and expand in New
2 Hampshire. Thank you.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: For those paying a
4 babysitter at home, we're about a third of the
5 way through the pile.

6 SPEAKER: Committee members, my name is
7 Susan Percy. I'm going to make this very easy
8 for you. You have a great job in front of you.
9 Hard work. I encourage you to either deny the
10 project as it's presented or insist that the
11 line be buried. My testimony is included.
12 Thank you very much.

13 SPEAKER: Thank you. I'm Frederick Fitts,
14 a property owner in Whitefield, and I teach
15 courses in environmental history. My ancestors
16 showed up in New Hampshire in the 1600s and now
17 responsibility for the land is on our watch just
18 as it was earlier on theirs. So I speak with
19 some reference for tradition. The decisions
20 that you make here will have a huge impact on
21 the legacy that you bestow to our state. Think
22 well on it. Nothing is lost by taking time to
23 reflect on the degradation of a transformed

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1 landscape. When you walk out of here tonight,
2 when you meet to make siting decisions, you will
3 see and feel the power provided by electricity.
4 We use it, we need it, we appreciate its
5 advantages as it lights our world, and you may
6 also turn out those lights at times, perhaps
7 when you read your child a bedtime story. I'd
8 recommend *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss.

9 All across this state, thousands of
10 citizens are dependent on the power this company
11 provides, but what my neighbors and I in the
12 North Country resist is the transformed power of
13 the landscape you have the power to prevent.
14 The issue here is not about jobs, not about
15 individual rights to the land or corporate
16 rights to provide services, nor about individual
17 preferences.

18 The one issue in front of you is your
19 responsibility to our common birthright. An
20 environment preserved from selfish and greedy
21 assault and scarred by corporate muscle. The
22 lands around our community, the vistas we see
23 are not the provenance of the powerful and the

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1 wealthy and the greedy. The scar that enormous
2 towers represent stands as emblematic of a
3 willingness to give privilege to profit over
4 preservation. To prioritize speedy development
5 over assured safety and to declare that all
6 progress is good progress.

7 So I rise here and ask that you embrace the
8 precautionary principle and oppose a project
9 whose electromagnetic health risks are yet
10 unknown, and I rise here to ask that you reject
11 the project whose negative transformation to the
12 environment is known and would be visible to
13 every community as long as steel shall stand
14 against sky.

15 I am asking you to stand against these
16 towers. Bury them if this project is, in your
17 judgment, essential, but deny the right to
18 degrade our state. You will leave a legacy to
19 your children and to my children and to the
20 children of power company executives. You will
21 decide if enormous towers that can be buried are
22 worth degrading our communities. I am asking
23 that you not allow this company's proposed scar

1 to be tattooed onto our common landscape. Thank
2 you.

3 (Applause)

4 SPEAKER: My name is Bill Felling. I'm
5 here tonight to urge you to look very closely at
6 the entire path of construction that
7 Hydro-Quebec and its partner Eversource plan to
8 wreak on our state, the great state of New
9 Hampshire. New Hampshire is famous for
10 mountains, forests and natural beauty. Over the
11 years its citizens have been careful stewards of
12 land across the state to ensure a quality of
13 life unparalleled now and for future
14 generations. Whole swaths of forests have been
15 preserved from development through easements,
16 pastures are protected, entire mountain ranges
17 cover the state with extraordinary majesty.
18 Lakes, rivers and streams are enjoyed by people
19 and wildlife existing together.

20 The Northern Pass project as proposed
21 threatens what New Hampshire residents have
22 prized, all for the sake of greed. Billions of
23 dollars are projected to be realized by private

1 companies at our expense. Our citizens will not
2 have long-term jobs. Our electric rates will
3 not go down. We the residents of New Hampshire
4 cannot win anything.

5 I'm here to speak for the members of Percy
6 Summer Club whose properties are located on the
7 western shore of Christine Lake in Stark.
8 According to the Society for the Protection of
9 New Hampshire Forests, Christine Lake is the
10 closest thing to a wilderness lake in the state.
11 The lake is open to the public, is a trout
12 fishery and hosts nesting loons. Ospreys and
13 bald eagles are often seen.

14 Almost 30 years ago, members of the Percy
15 Summer Club worked with the state of New
16 Hampshire and the Forest Society to ensure that
17 the water and watershed of Christine Lake would
18 be permanently protected, preserving the unique
19 area for future generations. Easements on
20 Percy's Summer Club land combined with state
21 management of the Nash Stream tract and longtime
22 club member John Kauffmann's donation of the
23 nearly 2000-acre Kauffmann Forest surrounding

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1 the lake have made that vision a reality.

2 Until today, that is, when Northern Pass
3 proposes to erect a series of towers over 100
4 feet in height, using the existing PSNH
5 right-of-way which runs along the ridge on the
6 entire southern shore of the lake. Unlike the
7 current towers in the right-of-way, these new
8 towers will be visible from the lake itself as
9 well as from the surrounding trails and
10 mountains. Whether swimming, fishing, boating
11 or hiking, the transmission towers will become a
12 permanent part of the experience of Christine
13 Lake. The right-of-way runs directly through
14 the Kauffmann Forest making a mockery of John's
15 lifelong efforts to secure the viewshed.

16 When the right-of-way was originally
17 granted to Public Service New Hampshire, there
18 was in fact a public service involved, the need
19 to provide reliable electricity to the residents
20 of Coos County. While no one is busy taking
21 sunset photos of the existing power lines, we
22 all understand their purpose and the fact that
23 they serve a legitimate local need. Not so with

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1 Northern Pass. While it can be argued that this
2 project will benefit energy markets in southern
3 New England, that should not be a license to
4 permanently mar the precious landscape of
5 northern New Hampshire. Especially when
6 Northern Pass has already acknowledged that the
7 technology exists to bury this new and intrusive
8 power line. They are, after all, proposing to
9 do exactly that in some few sections. Clearly,
10 the transition from PSNH to Eversource has
11 removed public service from more than their
12 name.

13 I urge you to deny this project as
14 presented. The SEC through our RSA 162-H:16
15 must find that this project will not have an
16 unreasonable adverse effect on aesthetics,
17 historic sites, air and water quality, the
18 natural environment and the public health and
19 safety. There is nothing reasonable in any
20 portion of the proposal by Northern Pass. There
21 is nothing natural about the proposal running
22 from Canada to New Hampshire. This project
23 simply does not meet the tests of the Site

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1 Evaluation Committee, and, importantly, the
2 citizens of New Hampshire. Do the right thing
3 for the residents. Deny this application.
4 Thank you.

5 (Applause)

6 SPEAKER: Good evening. Thank you. My
7 name is Bob Clay. I'm a businessman, former
8 senator, and I'm here tonight speaking on behalf
9 of the Small Business and Small Industry
10 Association in New Hampshire. One of our
11 biggest issues facing small businesses is the
12 cost of electricity. New Hampshire pays on the
13 average 50 percent more for electricity than
14 other regions of the country, mainly due to our
15 lack of an adequate supply. This is a make or
16 break issue for my members, many of whom are the
17 Mom and Pop's operations that still drive a big
18 piece of New Hampshire economy. When I look at
19 a project like Northern Pass offering clean
20 hydropower from Canada, with most of it
21 constructed underground or in existing
22 right-of-ways and driving down energy costs to
23 consumers and businesses, to me it's a

1 no-brainer. New Hampshire should be doing
2 everything it can to move the project forward.

3 As I look around the room and as I've
4 looked at other places that I've testified, I
5 see the loudest opponents of the project are
6 group likes New England Power Generators, the
7 Appalachian Mountain Club, the Forest Society,
8 groups that seem to make the most noise but
9 certainly don't represent my interests, the
10 interests of my members or majority of the New
11 Hampshire people who support this project.

12 The power generators have an interest in
13 providing power at the highest price possible
14 because that's what their supporters and their
15 company is expected to do. Groups like AMC and
16 the Forest Society, which neither provide many
17 jobs where I come from in the southern tier,
18 still consider that under no circumstances
19 should this project go through unless its lines
20 are buried because of the views. I'd like to
21 remind everybody that the North Country
22 valiantly fought that the views were worth
23 anything. In the statewide property tax they

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1 demanded that they not be included in the
2 assessment because they had no real value. So
3 today to listen that suddenly their view has a
4 value is surprising to me and maybe it's time
5 that we revalued them for the statewide property
6 tax. We all know that burial of the lines is
7 meant to do nothing more than stop the project.
8 It's not economically feasible and it will shut
9 it down. But I can tell if we don't provide
10 more power, then we won't have any more jobs.

11 I also partner in a business that provides
12 an awful lot of commercial and industrial space.
13 When we lost Seabrook nuclear power plant in
14 1999, we lost a lot of companies that were going
15 to move in. Right now we're starting to lose
16 businesses who provide jobs because they can no
17 longer afford the cost of electricity. If we
18 don't allow the hydropower to come in, and we
19 continue to make gas the major source, we will
20 soon be a state with no jobs, not even the
21 service industry jobs. Thank you very much.

22 (Applause)

23 SPEAKER: Okay. It's Welch, W E L C H.

1 First name Don. In the spirit of town meeting
2 here in New Hampshire, I was going to call the
3 vote, but I get this isn't the meeting for that
4 so I'll move on with my remarks. Thank you for
5 the opportunity to speak.

6 I'm a resident of Bow. I'm a native of New
7 Hampshire. I'm also very fortunate to serve as
8 the President of Globe Manufacturing Company in
9 Pittsfield, 20 minutes from here. Global is a
10 127-year-old family business, been in New
11 Hampshire since the early 1900s and we employ
12 about 300 folks here in New Hampshire. We also
13 have smaller plants in Maine and Oklahoma.

14 We're fortunate to have a wonderful,
15 wonderful workforce in Pittsfield, but we're in
16 a very competitive business. As I said, we're
17 selling fire suits so from small municipalities
18 that we are very proud of like in the North
19 Country to very large cities like Washington,
20 DC, Atlanta, Dallas, you name them, and it's a
21 competitive business. Costs are important to
22 us. We're the largest employer in the
23 Pittsfield area. As you probably know,

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1 Pittsfield is a region with a long and very
2 proud history of manufacturing, but it's seen
3 that manufacturing base crumble dramatically in
4 the past few decades. We're the largest
5 employer as I mentioned by far and we have great
6 benefits and very good pay to our employees.
7 We're an important cog in the local economy.

8 As a manufacturer, rely on power for almost
9 everything that we do. Electricity. When we
10 start up the machines in the morning to cut the
11 high tech fabrics that go into the garments we
12 make, they're powered by electricity. The
13 sewing machines that join the panels are powered
14 by electricity. Even our customer service
15 people who are communicating with our customers
16 are doing it our computer terminals and need
17 electricity.

18 So one of our basic needs is low cost
19 reliability power. It's simple, right? I can't
20 run my operation without those things. As we
21 all know, electric costs in New Hampshire are
22 among the highest in the country. As I compare
23 my costs in New Hampshire to my plant in

1 Oklahoma, my costs are about double what they
2 are in Oklahoma. So we have other issues in New
3 Hampshire. It's not just about electric power,
4 and I understand that. Labor costs are lower in
5 other markets. Housing costs are lower, medical
6 costs are lower, but electricity is a big part
7 of it as the gentleman before me noted, and I
8 hear this from other manufacturers so I'm not
9 necessarily a small business or manufacturing
10 business, I communicate with other manufacturing
11 companies. They struggle with many of the same
12 issues about as I want to grow and make my
13 business better, do I do it in New Hampshire or
14 do I look to other places in the country.

15 The challenge is, you know, we in this room
16 think ah, people aren't going to leave. We have
17 options, and, you know, I'm not threatening, but
18 businesses have to make those choices.

19 The bottom line is we've got to find ways
20 to lower electricity costs. If we want to
21 continue to see businesses grow and thrive in
22 New Hampshire, which I think is important to our
23 economy, then we need to address the energy

1 crisis. I think the Northern Pass project will
2 bring reliable, lower cost energy to New
3 Hampshire which will begin to address our
4 region's economic competitiveness. I don't
5 believe Northern Pass is the end-all solution.
6 I understand we need other energy development
7 projects. I'm in support of all those, whether
8 it's natural gas pipelines, solar energy
9 development, wind farms, and I fully support
10 energy conservation. I know businesses, many,
11 myself included, are doing a lot of work in that
12 area because it makes economic sense, but I
13 believe in the future we're going to need the
14 additional power that Northern Pass will
15 generate. I think it's a wonderful opportunity,
16 and I don't want to see us let it slip by.

17 One other point. The scenic vistas. As a
18 New Hampshire native, as I mentioned, I spent a
19 lot of time in the North Country since I was a
20 little boy camping, hiking, snowmobiling, in the
21 winter skiing, I enjoy the North Country and I
22 enjoy our whole state so I appreciate your
23 concerns about scenic vistas, but I also have to

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1 balance those with the economics. I think the
2 Northern Pass folks have done a good job
3 addressing the key scenic vista areas, and I
4 recognize that others have concerns about this,
5 but most of the lines near as I can tell are in
6 existing right-of-ways, under roadways, et
7 cetera, so I think we just need to be able to
8 look forward without increasing the costs that
9 we're all going to pay.

10 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Welch, can you bring it
11 to a close, please?

12 MR. WELCH: Yes. In closing, as a
13 long-term manufacturer and large employer in the
14 state, I want to voice my support for the
15 project. Manufacturing companies in the region
16 need lower cost, reliable power. I think
17 approval for the Northern Pass project is
18 important to move us toward this goal. Thank
19 you very much.

20 (Applause)

21 SPEAKER: Hi, my name is Lance Clute. I'm
22 the Vice President of Operations for PAR
23 Electrical Contractors, and we were recently

1 selected as the general contractor for the
2 Northern Pass project.

3 MR. HONIGBERG: Can you spell your last
4 name for the record, please?

5 MR. CLUTE: C L U T E. First and foremost,
6 I want to thank the Site Evaluation Committee
7 and the DOE for allowing me the opportunity to
8 speak in support of the project.

9 I personally been involved with our
10 operations here in New Hampshire and throughout
11 New England for the past six years. Over that
12 time frame we have constructed and maintained a
13 large portion of the transmission lines that
14 bring power to really everyone here in the room.
15 We also have played a major role in restoring
16 power during recent storm events. An example,
17 we provided thousands of workers for Hurricanes
18 Irene, Sandy and the October snowstorm.

19 We have an office located in Bow, and we
20 currently employ approximately 200 people in New
21 Hampshire. These employees live, work and raise
22 families here in the State of New Hampshire, and
23 you can be sure that all of them are looking

1 forward to working on the Northern Pass project
2 staying here in New Hampshire. Some of these
3 current employees are part of a program that
4 Eversource and us started last year. The goal
5 is to find New Hampshire residents that want to
6 join the apprenticeship program. We hire these
7 candidates, put them into the program, and
8 approximately three and a half years later they
9 become fully qualified line workers. We plan on
10 continuing this program throughout Northern Pass
11 and into the future. What that does is allows
12 these men and women to be able to stay and work
13 in New Hampshire even long after the Northern
14 Pass project is finished and completed.

15 Based on my experience on past projects,
16 Northern Pass will add thousands of jobs to the
17 New Hampshire economy, and only a small portion
18 of those jobs will be those line workers. The
19 larger portion and the greatest portion will be
20 from local road builders, excavation companies,
21 lumber mills, loggers, landscapers, waste
22 management companies, aggregate hauling,
23 equipment maintenance, trucking and I could go

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1 on and on.

2 I also wanted to give you an order of
3 magnitude of some of the legal spend that we
4 occur from the project. With our experience in
5 the past projects, I put together an estimate of
6 these spends for the local now. We expect to
7 spend \$7 million on gravel. Upwards of \$10
8 million on concrete. \$27 million on conduit and
9 other items for the construction of the duct
10 banks and substations. Our lodging and means
11 from all of the people working in this project
12 we would expect to be \$20,000,000 and above.
13 Fuel costs alone for our equipment, not
14 including the folks that drive to and from work,
15 will add up around \$10 million. And believe it
16 or not we will spend over a million dollars on
17 ice, water and Porta-Potties. Keep in mind
18 these are just a few of the direct spends that
19 we will bring to the project. There are far nor
20 indirect, some of the trickle down spends that
21 will have a large impact on the economy.

22 In closing, I would like to urge the
23 committee to approve the application. The

1 State's workforce, economy and well-being is
2 best served by building Northern Pass. Thank
3 you.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. HONIGBERG: I will note for the record
6 that many years ago, more than ten years ago, I
7 did legal work for one of Mr. Rubin's
8 enterprises.

9 MR. RUBIN: Thank you, members of the
10 Committee. This is amazing testimony to civil
11 society in America that an issue that has been
12 tense and divisive for this long can result in
13 the civilized comments on both sides here, but
14 it's no secret that American faith and
15 confidence in our governing institutions has
16 reached a historic low, and there is basis for
17 this, and here, there is a lack of confidence in
18 this process, the SEC and the DOE process here.
19 People feel that this process is slanted in
20 favor of the Applicant, and there is basis for
21 that, and I'll just give you two examples for
22 the basis for the sensation that this is a
23 slanted process which has a known outcome or

1 predictable outcome.

2 Number one, the Applicant has testified
3 this evening that they have requested use, quote
4 unquote, requested use for a portion of the land
5 on which the project is to be built. They don't
6 control that then. They've testified as such
7 this evening. I'm a real estate developer and
8 if I had gone before a Planning Board with a
9 project and I were to build a shopping mall as I
10 have in the past and I would say I requested use
11 of the land in your town over which you have
12 oversight to build this project, the project
13 would never have even received a hearing. So
14 that's problem number one. They don't control
15 the land, and, therefore, you should delay this
16 entire process until the Applicant proves to you
17 that they own or control the land.

18 Item number 2, that is a very substantial
19 basis for the perception this is a slanted
20 process. You hear claims that this will save
21 money. And there are numbers associated with
22 these claims as to the amount of money that will
23 be saved, and yet we also hear that there is no

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1 business relationship with numbers attached.
2 The Power Purchase Agreement has either not been
3 disclosed or does not exist. However, these
4 numbers that are a basis for the projected
5 savings must by definition be predicated on the
6 at least assumptions as to the power purchase
7 price and the prevailing price of electricity
8 otherwise without the project. Let's see those
9 numbers. Again, a basis for the lack of public
10 confidence in this process. And there's
11 reasonable basis for not trusting the Applicant.
12 This applicant projected to us that their
13 Merrimack station, their Bow power plant
14 conversion with the scrubber was going to a big
15 savings, and the cost would be X. The cost
16 turned out to be 2X, and the ratepayers got
17 stuck with that added cost. So, again, there's
18 a basis for lack of confidence in the process.

19 So an idea, a solution idea. Obviously,
20 people would much more readily accept this
21 project if it were entirely buried. The
22 incremental cost for that burial could be paid
23 for, this is just an idea, creative idea, the

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1 Applicant could voluntary go to FERC and say we
2 will take a market rate of return, a risk
3 appropriate market rate of return on the
4 project, and that would compensate for all or a
5 good deal of the incremental cost of burying the
6 power line. What would be a market rate for the
7 appropriate risk associated with this? Because
8 it's a guaranteed return? 6 or 7 percent. Not
9 11.07. Thank you very much.

10 (Applause)

11 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Lynn
12 Woodard, W O O D A R D. I live in Concord, New
13 Hampshire. I am in opposition to the Northern
14 Pass proposed plan to construct overhead
15 transmission towers and distribution lines
16 through the city of Concord for the following
17 reasons, and these reasons are part of the
18 statutory requirement that you review and
19 consider. Aesthetics, safety, and economics,
20 and I'll be brief on these three subjects.

21 First, aesthetics. If this project with
22 its proposed overhead lines is allowed to go
23 forward, it will establish a visual blight on

1 the city of Concord for the next 40 years or the
2 foreseeable future. New Hampshire's capital
3 city will no longer be known as the fair city it
4 is. It will be known as the city with the ugly
5 125-foot towers in multiple lines. Due to the
6 level of the topography of the Heights area,
7 these towers will be visible for an extended
8 distance.

9 Now, safety. Relocation of existing
10 distribution towers from the center of the
11 right-of-way to its western boundary will place
12 private homes within the fall zone of these
13 towers. It will place Concord citizens in
14 direct danger should they fail due to weather
15 conditions or other factors. For an excellent
16 example, you have to look no further than the
17 1993 ice storm that raced up the New England's
18 east coast into Canada. There is a picture
19 taken from the May 1998 issue of the National
20 Geographic which I have here and I've included
21 it in my letter to you. You can readily see how
22 the 4 to 6 inches of ice totally collapsed the
23 giant steel towers. A future storm of this type

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1 could cause power failures resulting in death
2 and destruction, and I'm not kidding because we
3 have a lot of homes that are very close to the
4 right-of-way line now that these things are
5 going to be relocated to the western edge. This
6 is a health and safety issue that must be
7 addressed and certainly you're here to hear this
8 and hopefully you'll take into consideration.

9 Economics. Construction of the proposed
10 towers and lines will diminish not only property
11 values of adjacent property owners but also the
12 22 percent of property owners who will be within
13 the direct view of these towers. It will
14 further inhibit residential development and
15 recruitment of business and industry to this
16 area of the city. No one wants to pay good
17 money to view massive towers and electric lines.

18 For example, I refer you to the February
19 22nd, 2016, issue of Concord Monitor where the
20 Concord City Manager was speaking concerning the
21 redevelopment of downtown Main Street and
22 basically said, the short distribution towers on
23 South Main Street should be buried. These short

1 distribution lines, these are only 20 to 30 feet
2 high, okay? And it would have a greater
3 potential for development if the city would take
4 these wires underground.

5 Now, keep in mind the distribution poles on
6 South Main Street, like I said, are only 20 to
7 30 feet tall. The proposed Northern Pass towers
8 will be five to six times this height at about
9 125 feet or higher and have multiple
10 transmission and distribution lines.

11 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Woodard, how much more
12 do you have?

13 MR. WOODARD: I'm concluding right now.
14 Thank you. I would like to conclude by saying
15 the proposed overhead towers and wires will
16 create aesthetic, safety and economic problems
17 for the city of Concord if allowed to be
18 constructed. It is, therefore, recommended if
19 this project is to go forward these lines must
20 be buried through the entire 8 miles of the City
21 of Concord. Thank you for your consideration.

22 (Applause).

23 SPEAKER: My name is Joe Casey. I'm the

1 international representative for the IBEW,
2 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.
3 Lifelong resident of the State of New Hampshire.
4 And you know I, too, love the beauty and
5 everything about everything that New Hampshire
6 has, and that's why I've decided to spend my
7 life here and raise my family here. But there's
8 also the issue, and I come from a blue collar
9 family, and people have to make a living to work
10 and reside in this state, and I look at, I have
11 a 21-year-old daughter that's a senior at UNH,
12 and the other day on the front page of our
13 newspaper were a couple of friends that she went
14 to high school with that had been arrested in a
15 heroin sting in our town, and these were good
16 kids. These were good kids, good, they were at
17 my house all the time. I asked my daughter what
18 happened, what's going on with them. And she
19 told me that they've given up. In passing, she
20 said that they've given up and walked off.

21 There is not a heck of a lot of
22 opportunity, I can tell you that right now, and
23 we also have to look at our children and the

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1 opportunities that we're providing for them.
2 There's no debate that we have a flight of kids
3 that are leaving the state to find employment
4 elsewhere. We at the IBEW, we put people to
5 work. We put people to work in the construction
6 industry. Construction projects have to be
7 approved. I've been working on construction
8 projects my whole life trying to get approval so
9 that we can put our people to work, and in the
10 State of New Hampshire, I can tell you right
11 now, I'm not very successful. It's very
12 difficult to site something or get something
13 approved here in the State of New Hampshire.

14 And we have to take a look, we take people
15 in that have a high school degree or a GED
16 equivalent and we train them and give them a
17 trade in the electrical industry that they can
18 use for the rest of their lives, and I've seen,
19 the best part of about my job is in the
20 apprenticeship training program when you can see
21 a kid that comes in with no other place to go,
22 and he's able to make a career out of the
23 electrical industry, whether it be the line

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1 industry or where I represent, the electricians.

2 We need to have projects, we need to move
3 forward. You know, these projects will create
4 an atmosphere for lower electrical rates here so
5 other industries can come in and people can go
6 to work. We have to be able to take care of our
7 families, take care of the needs of our people
8 so that we can enjoy the beautiful State of New
9 Hampshire.

10 And I ask you, you know, this has been six
11 years. Ten years ago I sat on a committee to
12 upgrade the Coos loop. We're still waiting for
13 that to happen. Six years ago we started this
14 endeavor. We need to put people to work. I
15 have 240 IBEW linemen and electricians that are
16 New Hampshire residents that are currently
17 working elsewhere.

18 This whole country, this electrical system
19 needs to be upgraded. There's going to be
20 plenty of opportunity for these people to make a
21 living for the rest of their lives. Let's put
22 people back to work. Let's get our people in
23 the state back to work, and let's create new

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1 opportunities for our children. Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. HONIGBERG: We're going to do three
4 more speakers before we take a break.

5 SPEAKER: Good evening and thank you for
6 the opportunity to say a few words. My name is
7 Phil Bilodeau. When I first sat down this
8 evening and the chairman began to speak and then
9 Mr. Quinlan spoke about from Canada to
10 Deerfield, my heart's pounding. It was pounding
11 every time Deerfield was mentioned. I'm going
12 to reduce this conversation right now from
13 global energy and jobs and all that, and I'm
14 going to bring it to a personal note. The
15 project ends in Phil and Joan Bilodeau's
16 backyard at 140 Nottingham Road. We filed
17 intervenor status. We were disappointed that
18 the Applicant challenged that so we filed a
19 letter and objections to the objection and I
20 don't know. I guess I can't say anymore. I'm
21 too emotionally involved. But I am disappointed
22 and I'll say disappointed in Mr. Quinlan this
23 evening to say that you reached out to all the

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1 abutters that may have been in some situation or
2 some hardship, and I want to honestly say to
3 this crowd and for the record to say that Public
4 Service has never reached out to Phil and Joan
5 Bilodeau. Thank you.

6 (Applause).

7 SPEAKER: Good evening, Members of the
8 Committee. My name is John Dumais, and I'm
9 President of the New Hampshire Grocers
10 Association. I'm not here to tell you how you
11 should decide this particular proposal. In
12 fact, our associate has not taken a position on
13 this project. However, we are concerned about
14 electricity. I am here tonight to appeal to the
15 Site Evaluation Committee to redouble your
16 efforts to find a balance between environmental
17 concerns over new energy projects and the clear
18 economic benefits they would bring to our entire
19 state and its business community. If you say no
20 to this project, please be prepared to say yes
21 to something that will meaningfully start to
22 lower electric rates.

23 The food industry is a profession that

1 lives with narrow profit margins. The grocery
2 store business is not easy one. One of their
3 biggest expenses is electricity, and we have
4 minimal ways to reduce the operating expense on
5 our own. I'm sure your own power bills
6 skyrockets in the summer when the temperature
7 rises and you have to increase your air
8 conditioner uses. Imagine having to pay to keep
9 freezers and coolers operating all year long,
10 and that doesn't include the power required for
11 the rest of the store's functions. The cost
12 runs into many millions of dollars statewide.
13 These expenses can threaten operations of
14 grocery stores which is partly why several of
15 the big chain stores have closed stores and
16 scaled back their operations in the state in
17 previous years, and if they are having a hard
18 time doing this, the challenges have multiplied
19 for the several smaller independent operators.

20 When any operating expense, especially
21 electricity, is too high, the added cost has to
22 be passed on to the consumers as higher costs
23 for their groceries. This is a significant

1 financial burden to lower income households in
2 our state. It is also a major concern for the
3 New Hampshire grocers' out-of-state consumers
4 who are about 45 percent of all of our annual
5 sales. That's 45 percent come from out of
6 state. They come here regularly to shop,
7 seeking lower prices. When higher electricity
8 costs come that trend may not continue.

9 Needless to say, in a competitive business
10 such of ours, we are always looking for ways to
11 save money. We are glad the region's leaders
12 are starting to do the same. The New Hampshire
13 Grocers Association applauds the six New England
14 governors for working on a collaborative attempt
15 to identify and fund new and cheaper energy
16 resources for residents. Our current rates are
17 the highest anywhere in the United States and
18 relief seems far away. This process will take
19 years before a new project is up and running.
20 We hope you recognize that this, that as every
21 month passes, more grocers' profits are being
22 diverted to pay for higher electrical costs
23 without any expectation of seeing lower rates.

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1 Our message to you is simple. Please do
2 something to provide some relief as soon as
3 possible. Utility regulators have clearly
4 stated our region needs to develop new energy
5 resources totaling more than 6000 megawatts by
6 2020 to make up for the plants that are shutting
7 down. Even if Northern Pass is approved, that
8 would provide only a thousand megawatts. We
9 aren't even close to filling the gap. The New
10 Hampshire Grocers Association understands there
11 are sharp divisions between those who want
12 cheaper power from the Northern Pass versus
13 those who worry about the impacts of the power
14 lines in the North Country, thus opposing the
15 plant. We respect the views of both and hope a
16 compromise can be found to move the project
17 forward in a meaningful consensus. For those
18 who say no to every new energy option, we
19 respectfully ask, what is your alternative. We
20 know that the demand for power is too great
21 simply to conserve our way to cheaper rates and
22 lower demand. We need new resources and we need
23 them now. Thank you very much.

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(Applause)

MR. HONIGBERG: We're going to take a ten-minute break. When we come back the first three speakers will be Brian Sullivan, David Gustafson and Dr. Deborah Warner.

(Recess taken)

SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Commission. My name is David Gustafson. My permanent residency is in Hanover, Connecticut, and I drove the two and a half hours up here for this hearing as my chance to put my two cents in, I guess. As a property owner on Spooner Hill overlooking Lake Francis in Pittsburg for 40 years, I have to tell you that we go up to Pittsburg for the view, for the woods, because we love it. It's a five and a half hour drive each way, and we do it as often as we can.

From everything I've heard here night, the biggest difference between the views from the White Mountains and the views from Pittsburg are economic. It would seem that the tourists are much more affluent in the White Mountains than the snowmobiles, hunters and ATVers up in

1 Pittsburg, and I guess also that I know that
2 there's no permit required from the Forest
3 Service to run towers in Pittsburg as in the
4 White Mountains. I don't know if there's more,
5 obviously, there's more observation points from
6 the White Mountains and scenic resources other,
7 I can only think of Mt. Magalloway in Pittsburg,
8 but I can tell that you the view from the roller
9 coaster of Route 145 in Clarksville where you
10 can see to the Mt. Washington and the
11 Presidential Range are going to have a lot less
12 people pulled over on the side of the road to
13 take fall foliage pictures if all they can see
14 are towers.

15 My wife and I have actually discussed what
16 we're going to do if the signs go from the Great
17 North Woods to the Great North Towers because we
18 really don't want to end up continuing to making
19 that trip when we could stay in Connecticut to
20 see towers. I have to ask, Mr. Quinlan, and the
21 other members here, and not quite the same
22 comparison but if Verizon announced that they
23 were going to put cell towers across the street

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1 from your homes, would it be comforting to know
2 that they were going to put monopoles 20 feet
3 shorter than lattice poles 150 feet tall? The
4 result would be the same.

5 As the ultimate, probably the ultimate
6 flatlander in the room, from the North Country,
7 I know that the North Country needs the work,
8 but I would hope that you would decide to put
9 all these people to work burying the line rather
10 than putting up the towers. Thanks.

11 (Applause)

12 SPEAKER: Hello. Can you hear me all
13 right? I'm Dr. Deborah Warner. I have our own
14 Vanna White here to help us out. Thank you.

15 I'm Dr. Deborah Warner from Littleton, and
16 I have a handout for you. On page 2 I'd like to
17 start there with a study that I did in 2012 as
18 this whole project was developing, and the chart
19 as you see and is being held by Jean shows the
20 results of a study conducted in 2012 that
21 surveys studies more than a 100 attendees at
22 public events in Coos County, New Hampshire,
23 which is where I'm from, right on the border on

1 land right there. The spontaneous answers to
2 the question, what do you like about the North
3 Country. I heard they love the North Country.
4 As you can see in here -- show it to them. The
5 top line there is two thirds of people asked,
6 what do you like about the North Country,
7 spontaneously said, it's the mountains and the
8 forests that they like, and, in fact, as I
9 listened to them, they also said well, I like
10 the people here, I have a family here, I have
11 relations and such. Half of them talked about
12 the people. Two thirds talked about the
13 mountains and forests. They talked about nature
14 activities, about 30 percent. Quiet and daily
15 quality of life and so on. You can see the
16 items on this grid.

17 But as I listened to them I could hear that
18 they weren't just talking about gosh, you know,
19 Exit 43 or Exit 29, it's convenient because
20 there's a store right there. They're talking
21 about the mountains and the forests, and I'm a
22 psychologist so I listen to how people talk, and
23 the way they talked about these things were not

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1 talking about inanimate objects. They were
2 talking about the mountains and the forests like
3 they are family members. Their loved ones.

4 So when Northern Pass came on the scene and
5 said we're going to strike these things and
6 we're going to slash the woods, that's what we
7 heard. They're going to scar the landscape.
8 They might as well have said they're going to
9 take our children and do medical experiments on
10 them. It's that profound a feeling inside the
11 people in the North Country who live there.

12 And people live there. There's an economic
13 cost to living in the North Country, and if I
14 might indulge with going to page 1, I will go
15 over here. This is a quick lesson in economics.
16 There's the external market where goods and
17 services are made here, and they're sent away
18 and money comes back. You have a destination
19 market where people come here and they enjoy our
20 beautiful lands which we're happy to share with
21 them and they leave their money here with us.
22 The local market, we buy from each other. And
23 money we have just goes, changes hands among

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1 ourselves, and there's the drain market where
2 outside business comes in, uses our resource and
3 the money goes somewhere else.

4 Northern Pass fits into the drain market
5 category of economics. They're coming in from
6 afar, they're not local, they are taking our
7 resources, and in our case, it's the mountains
8 and forests' value that they are taking. If
9 Mr. Clay, I might correct, we actually are taxed
10 on the view. It has economic value. You have a
11 regular property tax based on the market value
12 of your house and then on top of that you have a
13 view tax. Many, many people pay that, and many,
14 many places are going under because the view is
15 in jeopardy with Northern Pass. We have the
16 Owl's Nest Golf Course and huge development in
17 Campton that went under just because of this
18 coming in, and no one would invest anymore and
19 they were thriving before that.

20 There are many, many people as you just
21 heard the gentleman speak from Connecticut who
22 have retirement homes, who come here to live who
23 buy the view and they buy it for the next

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1 generation, and that's what they want. And
2 they're not the big spenders necessarily, but
3 they are coming and we do appreciate their
4 business, and we appreciate their love of the
5 area that we're very, very happy to share with
6 them.

7 MR. HONIGBERG: Dr. Warner, how much more
8 do you have?

9 DR. WARNER: I'm probably summing up. Now
10 that you mention it. Thank you very much. I do
11 have one point to make. I do dispute something
12 that Mr. Quinlan has stated supposedly as fact
13 that they have reached out to every municipality
14 along the way. My husband served on the
15 Littleton Selectboard for four out of the past
16 five years, and we never heard anything of it.
17 I haven't seen any Town Hall meetings. The only
18 meetings that we have heard of and been to are
19 the large meetings that are required by this
20 Board that happened at some of the larger
21 places, the venues like Mountain View Grand.

22 I would prevail upon the Board to please
23 ask Mr. Quinlan to provide you with an entire

1 list of the these contacts and the notices given
2 for these meetings, and I certainly would hope
3 it would go onto the notification list because
4 I'd like to see that.

5 I recommend burial. It is done in other
6 states and we should have that as well. Thank
7 you.

8 (Applause)

9 SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Susan Seitz from
10 Deerfield, New Hampshire, and I'm asking a favor
11 of you. Don't worry. No one will know if you
12 do this or you don't. On Wednesday, when you
13 take your bus tour of Deerfield, please put
14 yourself in our shoes. As you pass the
15 Deerfield Community Church, imagine how you
16 would feel if that's the church you had attended
17 all your life, and suddenly there's 130-foot
18 tower towering behind your church.

19 And then consider how lucky you were when
20 you got your mother into the elderly housing
21 complex next to the church until your mother
22 calls you up crying because she can't sleep
23 because of the noise from the line.

1 It's Old Home Days. Many small towns in
2 New Hampshire hold these. You're at the gazebo,
3 but behind our historic town hall, a friend
4 calls your name and you turn to look, and you
5 see the towers engulfing the historic district.
6 And please consider the Bilodeaus. Nobody has
7 talked to them. The project ends in their
8 backyard. And nobody cares.

9 Please consider the human aspects of this
10 project and not use New Hampshire as a thruway
11 for power to the New England grid. Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Greg
14 Averill. I'm a resident of Canterbury, New
15 Hampshire. People today are moving towards
16 supporting local farms, businesses, permaculture
17 and community projects because they see value in
18 it. All involved have an vested interest in
19 their business as well as the well-being of their
20 community and natural environment. We are tired
21 of being told half-truths and lies by large
22 corporations with no interest in the local
23 communities so they can make higher profits. We

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1 do not appreciate being told this project has to
2 happen with scare tactics about the future when
3 most or even all of the electricity from these
4 lines will not go to New Hampshire residents but
5 we will be left with the scar on the land and
6 the towers in the sky.

7 Eversource has investors and shareholders
8 to please and show profit. Community members
9 have each other to work together and show value
10 in the community, not the almighty dollar.
11 Eversource will have you believe large scale
12 utilities are the only option for the future.
13 Evolving solar, wind and geothermal energies are
14 allowing individuals to provide power for
15 themselves and their communities. It is local,
16 responsible and everyone in the community knows
17 how things are working. More and more people
18 are looking to move away from the grid and as
19 the technology for homeowners continues to
20 advance and become available, there will be even
21 more options. I'm strongly opposed to the
22 Northern Pass project. Thank you.

23 (Applause)

1 SPEAKER: Thank you very much for the
2 opportunity to speak. My name is Pentti Aalto.
3 I live in Pembroke, New Hampshire, couple
4 hundred yards from where the line will go
5 through.

6 I guess what I'd like to do first is
7 recognize that there have been major
8 improvements in this project in the last years.
9 I remember one of the early meetings in this
10 room. Since then, quite a bit has changed and I
11 thank and recognize the efforts of the company
12 in moving things forward. Key word I guess
13 comes out of is balance and I guess that's where
14 some of my issues come out.

15 We seem to have chosen a rather expensive
16 path to do this work. Clearly, the power could
17 tend to reduce the price in New England. On the
18 other hand, some of the other paths that have
19 been chosen by other companies seem to have been
20 a lot cheaper and lot more easily achieved. DC
21 line under water seemed to go in much more
22 quickly in a few months instead of six years.
23 Operations in Maine seem to be doing the same

1 type of thing.

2 The concern I have is that ultimately the
3 cost of this will be borne by business and
4 people in New England if the unthinkable happens
5 and the price of energy drops. Ten years ago,
6 it would have been very difficult to think of
7 price of natural gas delivered to Boston at
8 \$2.10 on the 11th of March of this year,
9 tomorrow. That reflects a locational price for
10 electricity in New Hampshire of about 1 and a
11 half cents a kilowatt hour as the primary cost.

12 If we get much more development of
13 renewables that somehow could get into that
14 market here, some of these investments that we
15 make today may be in difficulty and that leads
16 to the question of who are the counter parties
17 to buy this power. Something as expensive as
18 this has to have someone willing to sign a
19 long-term contract to buy power. If that's a
20 competitive entity, that's on their heads. If
21 it's a regulated utility that buys the power for
22 the default service customers, then quite likely
23 those customers are going to end up paying that

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1 bill even if they choose to leave that service
2 at some point as we've recently seen with the
3 divestiture process where we as customers
4 probably will end up paying a half a billion
5 dollars.

6 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Aalto, how much more do
7 you have?

8 MR. AALTO: Just about done. If we do
9 build this facility, perhaps we could try to
10 make it as flexible as possible. By that I
11 mean, as the renewables develop, maybe we need
12 to make sure that power can go both ways over
13 this wire as a way of getting maximum benefit
14 for our own investments in renewables making use
15 of the storage capability in Canada. Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 SPEAKER: Good evening. Jean Menard from
18 Deerfield. To the women and men of blue in this
19 room, the work that you do to keep the lights on
20 is appreciated. My comment tonight is not
21 intended on pitting small business against big
22 business. A 2015 New Hampshire economic
23 development study by the Regional Planning

1 Commission announced that New Hampshire ranks
2 number two in the nation for being small
3 business friendly. I am a small business owner.
4 A driving argument for the Northern Pass project
5 has been to meet the need of low cost power for
6 businesses. I would like to respectfully
7 request that the SEC be open to further rigorous
8 discussion of the factors and criteria that
9 quantifies the number two high ranking of small
10 business in New Hampshire to ensure that this
11 project does not undermine a very healthy small
12 business environment. Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 SPEAKER: Members of the Committee,
15 representatives of the Department of Energy,
16 thank you very much for the opportunity to speak
17 tonight. My name is Melissa Birchard, and I
18 represent Conservation Law Foundation.

19 Conservation Law Foundation is a regional
20 membership-based organization that uses the law,
21 science and the markets to develop innovative,
22 pragmatic solutions to some of New England's
23 greatest challenges. Consistent with its

1 mission to promote thriving resilient
2 communities, CLF is dedicated to advancing
3 solutions that strengthen New England's and New
4 Hampshire's environmental and economic vitality.

5 CLF and its members are concerned that the
6 Northern Pass transmission line as currently
7 proposed has far too many negative impacts on
8 the State of New Hampshire, its landscapes, its
9 communities, and an energy future that is built
10 on efficiency and clean local renewables. At
11 the Department of Energy, CLF has advocated for
12 a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement
13 that would assess regional need and the various
14 projects proposed or under development that
15 could serve the same or similar goals that this
16 project purports to serve. CLF continues to
17 believe that there are sound alternatives to the
18 project as proposed and that the National
19 Environmental Policy Act and the Site Evaluation
20 Committee's review process necessitate the
21 rigorous and objective consideration of such
22 alternatives.

23 Conservation Law Foundation is particularly

1 concerned that New Hampshire needs to focus its
2 energy and resources on the development of local
3 renewable technologies. We are disappointed
4 that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
5 has given energy efficiency and renewable power
6 such short shrift, and we are also dismayed that
7 utilities like Eversource here in New Hampshire
8 seek to undermine lesser-impacting energy
9 alternatives like rooftop solar while claiming
10 that large cross-border high voltage
11 transmission lines are an inevitability that we
12 must accept.

13 As for the Draft Environmental Impact
14 Statement, although it is excessively narrow in
15 its consideration of alternatives to the
16 project, it does consider a range of feasible
17 aerial options. Conservation Law Foundation is
18 concerned that absent such burial, the proposed
19 project remains fatally flawed by the inequity
20 that it imposes on the State of New Hampshire.

21 While the project Applicants suggest that
22 climate change, unit retirements and
23 overreliance on natural gas necessitate the

1 project as proposed, that is not the case.
2 There are alternatives to this project as
3 proposed, and, importantly, there are
4 alternatives with lesser impacts on the State of
5 New Hampshire and on the region of New England.
6 Thank you very much.

7 (Applause)

8 SPEAKER: Thank you all for letting me
9 giving me the opportunity to speak tonight. My
10 name is Ammy Heiser. I'm from Pembroke. I'm
11 the Chairman of the Conservation Commission in
12 Pembroke, and I was authorized by the Board of
13 Selectmen to, they authorized me to act as the
14 intervenor for the town of Pembroke. Our Board
15 of Selectman are a pretty conservative group and
16 so I was quite surprised that they gave,
17 authorized me to speak and have Pembroke be an
18 intervenor to the Northern Pass. Twice we went
19 to town meeting and the town overwhelmingly
20 voted in preference of burial of the lines, and
21 the first time was at the March meeting in 2011
22 and then March meeting 2014, and I will give you
23 the wording of that article, and I just wanted

1 to make sure I went on record that the town has
2 been opposed.

3 This impacts the town. It basically
4 divides our town right in half. 6.2 miles of
5 transmission wires through our town and a lot of
6 them, the 54 new ones in our town, a lot of them
7 are going to be 130 feet in height. I just, for
8 all the reasons that people have so eloquently
9 discussed why they're opposed to this project,
10 my hat's off to all of them and I hope you will
11 consider burying this project. Thank you very
12 much.

13 (Applause)

14 SPEAKER: Thank for the opportunity to
15 speak this evening. My name is Lee Lajoie. I
16 live in Concord on Mountain Road. Native of
17 Concord, by the way. I am an abutter to the
18 Northern Pass project as the existing
19 right-of-way cuts across the back of my property
20 so I do have skin in the game.

21 I purchased my home in 1990, and one of the
22 things that actually made the property
23 attractive to me was the fact that the

1 right-of-way was there. I knew that no one
2 would be building behind me, and I have direct
3 access to a snowmobile trail. In the
4 intervening 26 years, I've yet to purchase a
5 snowmobile, but I still have hope.

6 As I expected, the presence of the
7 right-of-way has prevented further development
8 directly behind my home, despite numerous houses
9 and developments being constructed in my
10 neighborhood. The City of Concord has never met
11 a development they didn't like. I've attended a
12 number of these public hearings and one of the
13 common themes I have heard is that the Northern
14 Pass will decimate the value of adjacent
15 properties. In addition to the original
16 purchase, I've refinanced my property 2 or 3
17 times, and I can tell that you not one of the
18 appraisers mentioned the transmission lines, not
19 one of the comparison properties evaluated had
20 rights-of-way, and my property value is in line
21 with simpler properties in the city of Concord.
22 So my personal experience does not correlate
23 with the opinions expressed by others, although

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1 based on testimony by one of our city councilors
2 earlier, I guess I can expect a giant refund of
3 all those taxes I paid over the years. I guess
4 I'm not going to hold my breath for that.

5 I'm an engineer by training. I am an
6 admitted and unabashed geek. My wife used to
7 give me a hard time because I came back from
8 Switzerland with pictures of transmission lines
9 climbing over the top of the Alps, and from
10 Hawaii with photos of lines climbing up and over
11 the top of extinct volcanos. To my knowledge,
12 neither place has had a collapse of their
13 tourism industries, another common theme I have
14 heard in these forums.

15 I also confess to liking creature comforts.
16 When it gets hot in the summer, I like to have
17 air conditioning. When I go home at night, I
18 like to flip the switch and have the lights come
19 on. I play hockey at the rink in Laconia and
20 I'm well familiar with the need for electricity
21 to keep the ice frozen.

22 For these and many other reasons, I fully
23 support having adequate supply of electricity in

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1 the region based on a variety of fuel sources,
2 and with the changing landscape of the power
3 supply in New England, I understand the need for
4 additional sources such as the Northern Pass.

5 I've also heard numerous times that New
6 Hampshire is an exporter of electricity. Well,
7 I'm not an economist, but I fail to say how this
8 argument makes a case against Northern Pass. If
9 the state is an exporter of a commodity, in my
10 mind that means you have jobs in the state
11 producing that commodity which is good, and are
12 getting money from someone out of state which is
13 also good, and there is nothing more New
14 Hampshire than trying to get money from people
15 out of state.

16 In closing, I do not envy the task you have
17 in front of you. I wish you all the wisdom of
18 Salomon in balancing the various positive and
19 negative aspects of the project, and I hope
20 you're able to put aside emotions and carefully
21 weigh the facts while making your decision.
22 Thank you.

23 (Applause)

1 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and you
2 pronounced my name correctly. My name is
3 Elizabeth LaRocca, and I'm a native of New
4 Hampshire and I've worked at PSNH, now
5 Eversource, for 35 years. I work in community
6 relations, but I also held positions in
7 accounting and in regulatory affairs.

8 In 1988 I traveled with other New England
9 utility representatives and various state
10 officials to Quebec, and we toured the
11 hydroelectric complex in James Bay. Northern
12 Utilities had just negotiated two separate
13 energy agreements with Hydro-Quebec. Hopes were
14 high that this power would be as economical as
15 the power New Brunswick had been selling to the
16 region since 1971. The first HQ agreement was
17 signed in '83 and involved 52 miles of new line
18 in Vermont, 7 miles in New Hampshire, and a new
19 converter station in Monroe, New Hampshire. The
20 line went operational in '86, and allowed
21 Northern to buy hydropower for 11 years.

22 Second Hydro-Quebec agreement signed in
23 1985. That one extended that transmission line

1 133 miles through the center of New Hampshire
2 into Massachusetts, expanding the line capacity
3 from 690 megawatts to 2000. The purchase power
4 agreement covered a ten-year period from 1990 to
5 2000. The line stands today in communities like
6 Hopkinton, Dunbarton and Bedford which are all
7 considered very scenic and desirable places to
8 live.

9 Given the undisputed success of these
10 energy agreements, why the controversy today.
11 What has changed? Well, part of the answer lies
12 in the deregulation of the power generation
13 sector which began about 20 years ago in New
14 England and elsewhere in the United States.
15 Most of the power plants serving the region of
16 New England today are owned by merchant
17 generators who participate in the competitive
18 marketplace overseen by ISO New England but
19 governed by the economic principles of supply
20 and demand.

21 To those who doubt that Northern Pass will
22 lower electricity prices for New Englanders, I
23 point to the New England Power Generators

1 Association's fierce opposition to the project.
2 It seems that they object to their most
3 expensive generators being displaced by lower
4 cost hydropower since this will lower the
5 wholesale market clearing price paid to all the
6 market participants. Although this will also
7 lower electric costs for consumers, the
8 generators appear to be steadfast in their
9 opposition to lower profits and united in their
10 effort to keep the New England energy
11 marketplace one of the most lucrative in the
12 United States. Thank you for your time and
13 attention.

14 (Applause)

15 SPEAKER: Mary Lee. Thank you for the
16 opportunity to speak to this committee and to
17 the USDOE. I've been here before since 2011.
18 Here I am again. I am still convinced that the
19 best action for me, for my property in
20 Northfield and for the State of New Hampshire is
21 no build. As currently proposed, the Northern
22 Pass plans to keep the originally proposed steel
23 H-frame towers and the steel monopoles.

1 2. The aesthetics of my conservation land
2 and other properties along the 192 miles would
3 be permanently blighted by the proposed
4 aboveground structures that are to be taller
5 than the surrounding treetops and built of steel
6 rather than the wooden poles. Once the steel
7 structures are put up, there is irreparable
8 damage to our landscape. The placement would be
9 wrong, the dimensions would be disproportionate
10 to our rural beauty.

11 3. I and my neighbors live near the
12 right-of-way easement that Northern Pass will
13 alter. I and we are used to the small scale and
14 the camouflaged wood poles that are currently in
15 place. In my neighborhood we can walk out or we
16 can stay indoors and see the wood poles.
17 Especially in the winter. Right now. There
18 would be no camouflage for steel structures that
19 are taller and built as a tower. My neighbor is
20 further away from my property and sees in a long
21 perspective view from her windows more of the
22 stretch of transmission poles and lines than I
23 do. The discussion regarding the 100 foot or

1 100 feet distance to the proposal in order to be
2 considered as an intervenor during the review of
3 Northern Pass should consider the eyesore to
4 those whose viewshed is greater distance than
5 just outside my yard. So, in other words my
6 neighbors see more of the line out of their
7 windows than I do when I look directly out my
8 dining room table, picture window or over my
9 sink. So they have a right to be here as
10 intervenors even if they're within what is
11 called the list of nonabutters.

12 Number 4, since 2011 I have attended
13 hearings before the New Hampshire legislature
14 and the US Department of Energy. Thousands of
15 New Hampshire citizens have voiced concern about
16 the suitability of Northern Pass. Visitors to
17 New Hampshire have come here to enjoy our
18 natural beauty and have remarked that our state
19 is, quote, still beautiful. I hope you will
20 decide to protect and cherish the environment,
21 and I want to make an addendum to this remark
22 because Mr. Quinlan is here and you mentioned
23 outreach by the Northern Pass to landowners.

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1 And I'm hoping you didn't say out of reach, you.
2 Said outreach by Northern Pass to those of us
3 who are landowners and I have made the outreach
4 to Northern Pass mainly because I didn't believe
5 that it should be built and I don't believe it
6 should be built today so I still have many
7 opportunities to outreach to you all to find out
8 what exactly going is to be coming up the pick
9 if it's approved. Just to correct the record.
10 Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 SPEAKER: My name is Ruth Niven. I live in
13 Franklin, New Hampshire. I went to the New
14 Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee website.
15 There I found the Executive Summary for the
16 Northern Pass Transmission Project, and under
17 potential impacts and proposed mitigation
18 measures, I'm going to quote: Northern Pass
19 will not have an unreasonable adverse effect on
20 aesthetics. The project will not have an
21 unreasonable adverse effect on archeological
22 measures. The actual adverse effects from the
23 project will be minimal on the project's

1 avoidant and minimization efforts. The project
2 will not have a significant effect on aquatic
3 resources. The project will also not have
4 significant effects on wildlife or wildlife
5 habitat. There will be no unreasonable adverse
6 effects on public health and safety. Any
7 potential effect on land use will be minimal.

8 There is no basis in the published
9 literature or in the New Hampshire research to
10 expect that the project would have a discernible
11 effect on property values or marketing times in
12 local or regional real estate markets. The
13 Northern Pass would not have a measurable effect
14 on the New Hampshire tourism industry.

15 I was amazed to find that this 192-mile
16 project would be so low impacted on the State of
17 New Hampshire. I also don't believe it. And I
18 really would like you all to consider the source
19 of this Executive Summary Statement and try to
20 discern the reason why it would be to the
21 benefit of Hydro-Quebec and Eversource to
22 minimize the impact on the State of New
23 Hampshire of the Northern Pass project as

1 proposed. I do not believe there would be such
2 opposition to this project if there wasn't an
3 impact. You've all heard testimony, this is
4 affecting people's lives and their businesses
5 and their homes and their recreation, and you
6 know what? Despite the fact that at the end of
7 the summary it says, in a manner that's
8 respectful to the voices of the New Hampshire
9 residents. Northern Pass has taken very
10 thoughtful steps to reduce the project's
11 potential impact. Well, you know what? There
12 has not been enough of an effort. This project
13 as proposed should not be allowed. If the
14 Northern Pass project must be constructed, it
15 should be buried. Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
18 Members of the Committee for investing your time
19 in this process. My name is Edward Craxton. I
20 and my wife are residents of the town of Dalton,
21 New Hampshire, where we retired from Louisville,
22 Kentucky. There were no mountains in
23 Louisville, Kentucky. It is my understanding

1 that a major part of your role is to determine
2 if the issuance of a certificate to Northern
3 Pass will serve the objective outlined in
4 RSA-162-H:16 which include giving due
5 consideration to the views of municipal
6 governing bodies and to ensure that the site and
7 facility will not have unreasonable adverse
8 effect on aesthetics, historic sites, air and
9 water quality, natural environment and public
10 health and safety. Regarding the views of towns
11 and governing bodies, Dalton, like Pembroke,
12 which was previously mentioned tonight, is one
13 of around 30 towns in New Hampshire which has
14 registered a vote against Northern Pass. While
15 such a vote is not binding, it clearly indicates
16 the will of the people with regard to this
17 project. The will of Dalton, our Selectboard,
18 and many other towns have said a resounding no
19 to Northern Pass and its proposed overhead
20 transmission lines.

21 I'd like to comment on the unreasonable
22 adverse effects on aesthetics and natural
23 environment. As we all know, the natural

1 landscapes are significant assets to New
2 Hampshire, attracting hundreds of thousands of
3 tourists to this part of our state every year.
4 Over the past few years I have intentionally
5 engaged many tourists in conversation while
6 riding up the ski lifts together or encountering
7 them on mountain trails. The vast majority of
8 them had not heard of the Northern Pass project,
9 and as I described the proposed route of these
10 overhead transmission lines, to a person they
11 were incredulous. Why would you scar this
12 beautiful country in that way. That's one
13 illustration of an unreasonable adverse effect
14 on the aesthetics and natural environment of the
15 area, not to mention the adverse effect on the
16 economy of the area when those tourists seek
17 more pristine destinations.

18 Regarding public health and safety, some of
19 my neighbors in Dalton live in a community of 45
20 homes. That neighborhood, according to the maps
21 that Northern Pass provided to us, would be
22 within 75 feet of the proposed new overhead
23 transmission lines. This is within the fall

1 zone. This same neighborhood is one in which
2 many children reside. I and the town are
3 concerned for the public health and safety of
4 the families living in such close proximity to
5 proposed power lines.

6 In the July 20, 2015 Public Health and
7 Safety Technical Report for the Draft
8 Environmental Impact Statement, it notes the
9 following, and I quote. Under normal operating
10 conditions, public safety hazards associated
11 with high voltage transmission lines include
12 electric shocks. These can occur by working and
13 recreating under or near transmission lines.
14 Electrical shocks can occur from touching
15 transmission towers or other large metallic
16 objects near power lines.

17 It goes on for a few more paragraphs like
18 that, and then continuing the quote, another
19 potential public safety hazard associated with
20 transmission lines is arc flashes. Arc flashes
21 occur when electricity from a high voltage line
22 travels between conductors through the air. The
23 gap distance varies according to the voltage.

1 These occur in normal conditions, but can also
2 be caused by smoke from fires. Arc flashes can
3 produce intense heat and light. If individuals
4 get too close to energized power lines without
5 touching them, an arc of electricity can form
6 between the power line and the person and result
7 in serious burns.

8 MR. HONIGBERG: Mr. Craxton, how much more
9 do you have?

10 MR. CRAXTON: Two more paragraphs.

11 MR. HONIGBERG: How long are the paragraphs
12 you've been reading?

13 MR. CRAXTON: I'll just be 30 seconds. In
14 addition, while studies over the past 20 or more
15 years on exposure to EMF, electromagnetic
16 fields, from overhead power lines and
17 demonstrated health effects have been
18 inconclusive, some studies do show a weak
19 association between such exposure and childhood
20 leukemia. These above-referenced conditions
21 created by overhead high voltage transmission
22 lines are unacceptable in a community where
23 adults and children live and play. In

1 conclusion, for these and many other reasons I
2 will not take time to enumerate, I ask that the
3 SEC disapprove of this project. However, in the
4 spirit of common ground and compromise, at the
5 least, I ask the SEC to require that the entire
6 transmission project be buried along an
7 appropriate transportation corridor. If
8 developers of high voltage transmission line
9 facilities in New York, Vermont and Maine can
10 totally bury their facilities, we can, too.
11 Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 SPEAKER: Laura Bonk. I live in Concord,
14 New Hampshire, and I'm here to speak for the
15 southern half of the state in this project.

16 The proposed high voltage transmission
17 line, Northern Pass, will pass through a few
18 thousand feet of Bear Brook State Park in
19 Allenstown, New Hampshire. This proposed
20 project will create an unreasonable adverse
21 effect on the aesthetics and the natural
22 environment of Bear Brook State Park.

23 Furthermore, the proposed Northern Pass will

1 violate the original transfer deed from the
2 federal government. For these reasons, I am
3 opposed to this project as currently presented.

4 Bear Brook State Park is the largest
5 developed State Park in New Hampshire. It is
6 currently more than 10,000 acres and lies within
7 both Merrimack and Rockingham Counties. The
8 park contains pond beaches, 40 miles of trails,
9 a 101-site campground, group picnic areas and a
10 museum complex. The Civilian Conservation Corps
11 within the State Park is listed on the National
12 Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, this
13 large state park lies within 15 miles of
14 Manchester, New Hampshire, the state's largest
15 city. It provides nearby recreational access to
16 our large population centers, and it's a very
17 busy place as families can easily access this
18 State Park. I encourage you to visit it on a
19 warm summer weekend.

20 The proposed towers will be significantly
21 above the current tree line. They will be
22 visible from numerous places within the park
23 including both Catamount and Hall Hills, popular

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1 day hikes. The view of these towers will
2 undoubtedly disturb the visitor's experience to
3 this natural environment. The proposed towers
4 negatively impact the enjoyment of this state
5 resource. Bear Brook State Park is of no less
6 importance than the White Mountain National
7 Forest. It provides much of the same amenities
8 for our citizens and is much closer to our
9 population centers.

10 In 1943, in the middle of World War II, the
11 State of New Hampshire accepted the Bear Brook
12 land from the federal government with the
13 following conditions in the original deed.
14 Provided always that this deed is made upon the
15 express condition that the State of New
16 Hampshire shall use this property exclusively
17 for public park, recreational and conservation
18 purposes.

19 The proposed Northern Pass project is not a
20 recreational or conservation project. It is a
21 project to benefit the shareholders of
22 Eversource Energy. As such, it violates the
23 original deed in which the State of New

1 Hampshire accepted these lands. Thus, it should
2 not proceed as currently proposed.

3 This Saturday, March 2nd at 10 a.m. please
4 meet me in the snowmobile parking lot, Bear
5 Brook State Park, Deerfield Road in Allenstown.
6 I'll be very happy to walk you through the park
7 and show you the impact of this proposed project
8 on our state's treasured natural resource.
9 Please be prepared for mud. Thank you.

10 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Martin
11 Kimbell. I have had a business in the State of
12 New Hampshire for 30 years now. For 24 years my
13 power has come from -- excuse me. In Ashland.
14 Bridgewater Power has been a-wood fired
15 generating plant for the entire time I've been
16 there for 24 years plus. New Hampshire's number
17 one economic resource is recreation. My
18 business is involved in recreation. I also
19 started a second business in recreation in
20 Campton, and I have been living in Campton, New
21 Hampshire, for the last 24 years. For 14 years
22 I've been living on Route 3, and Eversource came
23 to visit me and put forth a proposed project on

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1 what the impact on Route 3 would be having
2 buried this transmission line. Well, that's my
3 front yard. I was living on Route 175 and that
4 was my backyard. I didn't want it in my
5 backyard and now I don't want it in my front
6 yard.

7 When they proposed this project, I asked
8 them, I said, so what is it going to look like?
9 Is it going to be on my property? Is it going to
10 be on my neighbor's property or is it going to
11 be right in the middle of the road, under the
12 road, under the river. I have 75 feet of
13 frontage on Route 3. Not a whole lot. But I
14 own 1500 feet of river up to the thread of the
15 river. Now, this river that flows along my
16 property and goes underneath Route 3 is only
17 about 10 feet higher than the thread of the
18 brook. I don't see any room for what they
19 propose is a three foot by three foot concrete
20 conduit going underneath the highway or side by
21 side to the highway or underneath the bridge.

22 In the springtime we have ice falls that
23 come down through these rivers, all up and down

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1 the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and the
2 highest recorded ice fall since I've been there
3 has been over 14 feet and run right into the
4 bridge and flooded out my property. What a
5 transmission line would look like buried in New
6 Hampshire going underneath the Pemigewasset
7 River in the White Mountains and all of these
8 smaller brooks/rivers throughout our area is in
9 question.

10 So I asked the Eversource team if there was
11 a transmission line buried that we could observe
12 and observe how they were constructed with
13 bridges in the area. They said that that didn't
14 exist here in the United States. That we could
15 take a trip to Europe where lots and lots of
16 transmission lines are buried successfully. I
17 said, if you guys would like to buy us all plane
18 tickets and go to Germany or Austria or
19 Liechtenstein or otherwise, we're be glad to
20 take a trip and view those transmission lines
21 underground.

22 If they would construct one here in New
23 Hampshire, we could take a field trip and look

1 at such a construction. My concern personally
2 is not in my front yard. With transmission
3 lines overhead we hear of the snap, crackle, pop
4 and arcing electromagnetic forces. What is it
5 underground? What is the impact of that buzz
6 going to be on my property and my value.

7 Lastly, I would just like to say that since
8 my energy at my shop does come from a wood-fire
9 generated plant, it has been said that a number
10 of wood-fired generated plants in the State of
11 New Hampshire would belly up if Northern Pass
12 were to come through the state. I would not
13 want to see the jobs for the people I know in
14 Ashland, New Hampshire, be taken away due to
15 another energy source coming through the state
16 that was only passing through us to power yet
17 another energy grid south of here. That would
18 be all I have to say. Thank you very much.

19 (Applause)

20 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
21 Members of the Committee. My name is Walter
22 Palmer. I'm from Franconia, New Hampshire. I
23 wasn't planning on getting up and making a

1 comment here tonight, but I feel like somebody
2 has to get up and say this. I'm reacting to a
3 statement made by Mr. Quinlan earlier this
4 evening. Mr. Quinlan stated several times that,
5 quote, New Hampshire residents are not being
6 asked to bear any of the costs of this project.
7 This is one of the most outrageous and
8 incredibly insensitive statements I've heard so
9 far in this proceeding. New Hampshire residents
10 are asking to bear the brunt of the cost of this
11 project in terms of major visual impacts, loss
12 of property values, damage to the tourism
13 economy, crushed dreams and ruined lifestyles.
14 That's why we're all here protesting this
15 project and have been doing so for the last five
16 years.

17 Northern Pass brings out so-called experts
18 who assert that the visual impacts, property
19 value impacts, tourism impacts somehow all will
20 negligible with this project. But New Hampshire
21 residents know that this is ridiculous. We've
22 already heard many testimonies here tonight of
23 people here in New Hampshire who are already

1 experiencing negative economic and other impacts
2 just from the threat of Northern Pass. How much
3 more so once Northern Pass, if Northern Pass
4 were to be built.

5 Your experts are like performing magicians.
6 They pull a little bit of misdirection based on
7 dubious studies, and, presto, somehow serious
8 impacts of the project seem to magically
9 disappear, but we all know it's just a trick.
10 You can't make the very real and serious
11 negative impacts of this project just disappear
12 by waving your hands at them. If you really are
13 so eager to make the impacts disappear, why not
14 try listening to the will of the residents of
15 New Hampshire and propose to bury the
16 transmission line along interstate corridors or
17 not build it at all.

18 Mr. Quinlan, I'm afraid your statement that
19 New Hampshire resident are not being asked to
20 bear any cost of the project reveals how little
21 you think of New Hampshire residents and the
22 real cost of this project. Northern Pass would
23 externalize all of the serious visual property

1 values and economic costs so you don't even
2 recognize these costs exist. To us, these costs
3 mean everything. To our way of life, quality of
4 life, to our lifestyle.

5 So please, Mr. Quinlan, I ask you that you
6 be good enough not to make that statement at
7 future meetings like this. You are asking us to
8 bear onerous and massive costs, and you would do
9 well to acknowledge that. The only way New
10 Hampshire residents will not bear any cost to
11 this project is if the project is not permitted
12 and not built as proposed. Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 SPEAKER: I'm Lawrence Phillips. I'm from
15 Canterbury. My family has operated a business
16 in New Hampshire for 37 years. It's constantly
17 a challenge controlling cost and increasing
18 profit to stay in business. A lot of the costs
19 of doing business are not controllable. It's
20 the cost of doing business. But a lot of those
21 costs are controllable where you have to make a
22 decision, whether to do the ethical thing for a
23 customer or not. You're not required by any

1 kind of a law or anything like that. And we
2 always make the ethical decision, even though it
3 costs us money in the business to make an
4 ethical decision, and we do that, and what I'm
5 asking is for Eversource to make the ethical
6 decision and to bury the line. Even though it
7 would cost more, it's the ethical decision
8 because it affects so many people in New
9 Hampshire. Thank you very much for your
10 attention.

11 (Applause)

12 SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Craig Pullen. My
13 wife and I own a 140-acre farm, equestrian
14 facility, bed and breakfast in Canterbury, New
15 Hampshire. It's a historic farm. We rely on
16 tourism. We have allowed trees to grow on our
17 property to hide the existing 40-60 foot towers
18 that are on our property right now, less than a
19 quarter mile from our buildings. Eversource's
20 proposing up to 130-foot towers on our property.
21 There's no hiding these. They're towers. We've
22 allowed these trees to grow at the expense of
23 our hay fields. They're shading them out.

1 to answer them.

2 SPEAKER: Right. So if Northern Pass was
3 approved, would Hydro-Quebec open any more
4 additional big hydro dams to increase supply
5 based on increased demand over time? How many
6 dams are there now? How many dams are planned
7 in the future and over what time frame? Who are
8 all the current and future customers for
9 Hydro-Quebec/Eversource. Now I'll start my
10 comments.

11 Big hydro is not technically clean due to
12 the permanent damage it does to the environment.
13 Who pays for the external cost due to the
14 environmental damage. US citizens and humanity
15 in general. Not Northern Pass. It costs a huge
16 amount to build dams in terms of resources and
17 concrete and CO2 emissions. Pristine forest and
18 valleys are flooded in Canada, destroying
19 wildlife and displacing people and as well as
20 recreational and economic opportunities. The
21 rivers are no longer reaching the ocean or only
22 as a trickle of its former self. This has
23 negative impacts on the sensitive ecosystem of

1 the oceans worldwide. It contributes to the
2 warming of water temperatures of the ocean and
3 advances climate change and global warming. The
4 cost of big hydro is too much to bear when there
5 are better alternatives such as solar power and
6 wind that can be developed in New Hampshire.
7 Wind and solar would allow New Hampshire to be
8 self-reliant and live free of foreign power
9 sources. New Hampshire should invest in itself,
10 not be a passive consumer of private, foreign,
11 for-profit enterprises.

12 Rivers are like gold in Canada. Canada is
13 known for having the most fresh water in the
14 world. Canada doesn't have a problem destroying
15 their own pristine land to be to create big
16 hydro dams so why the hell would they care about
17 New Hampshire's scenery. Why can't New
18 Hampshire generate its own sources of power that
19 are truly clean and don't cause global damage.
20 Don't approve Northern Pass. If is it approved,
21 bury all lines.

22 (Applause)

23 SPEAKER: Good evening. Brian Tilton. I'm

1 opposed to Northern Pass. No secret to many of
2 you on the panel and for those in the back. I
3 wear the orange shirt. I attended a round of
4 SEC sessions previous to this round, and in that
5 round and this is for the DOE's benefit to
6 understand, not a single person that spoke in
7 favor of the project was a disinterested party.
8 Everybody had some sort of financial gain. And
9 tonight, we've heard from everybody that's in
10 favor of the project, except for maybe one or
11 two people, again, stand to have a direct
12 financial benefit if the project were to be
13 built as proposed. So I do want to add to both
14 the DOE and SEC in response to the claims about
15 supermarkets leaving the state, in full
16 disclosure I do work for a supermarket chain in
17 New Hampshire, Market Basket. I'm not speaking
18 on their behalf. I'm not speaking in any way to
19 represent them. I'm just speaking as myself.

20 Companies like Market Basket are actually
21 expanding in this state despite the claims that
22 were made earlier about higher electricity
23 driving them out. The reason why our

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1 competitors have been driven out is because of
2 their business model. Inefficiencies and
3 extremely high cost. We excel in selling a
4 product that's 15 percent cheaper on average
5 than our retail competitors and our employees
6 are paid quite well. So as one of those proud
7 employees, I can say that is certainly the case.

8 Any of the claims that have been made about
9 the financial benefits to New Hampshire
10 ratepayers, how much cost savings that we'll
11 have, again, without a Power Purchase Agreement
12 in place, all those numbers you see on those
13 screens are meaningless. They don't mean a darn
14 thing because without a signed Power Purchase
15 Agreement, there is nothing, absolutely nothing,
16 to base those numbers on. So until that is in
17 place, I think you guys are just completely
18 wasting your time. Thank you.

19 (Applause)

20 SPEAKER: Howard Moffett. Thank you,
21 Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to take another
22 couple of minutes to talk about one issue that I
23 didn't get chance to talk about, and it's one

1 that seems to have been relevant to a number of
2 people who have spoken tonight. It's the
3 question of whether and to what extent Northern
4 Pass is actually going to reduce electric rates
5 in New Hampshire and New England. I think
6 there's a case to be made that it will have or
7 could have a modest effect in terms of reducing
8 electric rates, but I think it's going to be
9 very important for the committee if they want to
10 get a handle on this to really look carefully at
11 these claims. Mr. Quinlan has told you that
12 Northern Pass hydropower would displace higher
13 cost generation in the ISO New England bid stack
14 resulting in \$800 million in annual savings for
15 New England, and that New Hampshire's share of
16 those savings would be ten percent or \$80
17 million based on our 9 percent share of New
18 England's electric load. He calls this the
19 market suppression effect.

20 What he didn't tell you or at least he
21 hasn't emphasized is that Hydro-Quebec plans to
22 sell Northern Pass power at prevailing market
23 rates, meaning it will charge as much as the

1 market will bear. So yes, Northern Pass could
2 in theory displace the most expensive thousand
3 megawatts of the 16 to 20,000 megawatts that New
4 England uses in an average winter day, but that
5 doesn't mean that electric rates paid by New
6 Hampshire ratepayers would be cut by five
7 percent. Not even close.

8 The effect of Northern Pass on the average
9 ratepayer's monthly electric bill will be much,
10 much smaller than some of the figures you've
11 heard tonight. I heard a figure of five
12 percent, and, frankly, I don't know where that
13 could come from if Hydro-Quebec is going to be
14 charging prevailing market rates. Mr. Quinlan
15 also mentioned a beneficially priced Power
16 Purchase Agreement, Mr. Tilton referred to it
17 earlier, for ten percent of Northern Pass's
18 power, but as you've heard before, Eversource
19 has been talking about that for several years,
20 but we have yet to see the contract.

21 You don't have to take my word for this.
22 Okay? I'm not an expert on electric rates, but
23 you have available to you some people that are

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1 experts on electric rates, and I would suggest
2 that if you want to get a sense of how to weigh
3 the potential effects of the Northern Pass
4 project would have on reducing electric rates,
5 you might want to look carefully at another
6 project that is coming before your committee,
7 that's the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Project, the
8 Northeast Energy Direct Project. Because
9 members of the PUC staff in an investigative
10 study that they did last year in IR 15124,
11 coming out of that study they have, they've
12 concluded that the Northeast Energy Direct
13 Project would actually reduce electric rates in
14 New England by somewhere between 7 and 11
15 percent. That's not 7 to 11 cents. It's 7 to
16 11 percent. And I don't think there's any other
17 project on the drawing boards anywhere that
18 comes close to that. Certainly not the Spectra
19 AIM project, and I don't think Northern Pass is
20 going to come close to it either.

21 My point is, if you really care, if you
22 really think that this project is going to
23 benefit New Hampshire ratepayers by

1 significantly reducing electric rates, I would
2 ask you, I would urge you do your homework.
3 Take advantage of the expertise you have in the
4 PUC and find out because I don't think it makes
5 sense. That's all I'll say. No, it's not all
6 I'll say. I'm going to say a couple more
7 things. It's the cost to the public that really
8 make this project unacceptable unless it's
9 buried. You can't quantify those costs.
10 Because if Northern Pass is hung from
11 hundred-foot towers, the damage to the state's
12 most treasured natural landscapes would be in
13 incalculable. You've heard countless people
14 testify about that tonight. New Hampshire's
15 sense of itself would be in irretrievably
16 compromised, and as for the state's symbol and
17 welcome sign, you would be asking us to trade
18 the Old Man for 130 miles of overhead
19 transmission lines. Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MR. HONIGBERG: I believe I have called
22 everyone who signed up to speak. Did I miss
23 anyone? All right. I will ask the

1 Administrator and Counsel if there's anything
2 else we need to do?

3 PAM MONROE: No.

4 MR. HONIGBERG: Seems like there is nothing
5 so we will adjourn this hearing. Thank you all
6 for your participation.

7 (Hearing ended at 10:24 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 I, Cynthia Foster, Registered Professional
3 Reporter and Licensed Court Reporter, duly authorized
4 to practice Shorthand Court Reporting in the State of
5 New Hampshire, hereby certify that I reported in
6 machine shorthand the above-entitled Public Hearing
7 conducted in conjunction with the U.S. Department of
8 Energy, held on March 10, 2016, in the matter
9 indicated on the title sheet, and that the foregoing
10 is a true, complete, and accurate transcript of
11 public comments as appears from my stenographic notes
12 so taken to the best of my ability and transcribed by
13 me.

14 I further certify that I am a disinterested
15 person in the event or outcome of this cause of
16 action.

17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my hand and
18 affix my Certified Shorthand Reporter seal this 28th
19 day of March, 2016.

20
21 _____
22 CYNTHIA FOSTER, LCR, RPR
23

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