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**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

**March 16, 2016** - 5:09 p.m.  
Deerfield Fair Pavilion  
34 Stage Road  
Deerfield, New Hampshire

**IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06  
JOINT APPLICATION OF NORTHERN  
PASS TRANSMISSION, LLC, AND  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF  
NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a EVERSOURCE  
ENERGY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF  
SITE AND FACILITY.  
(Public Hearing of the  
Subcommittee members held pursuant  
to RSA 162-H:10, I-c)**

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

<b>PRESENT FOR SUBCOMMITTEE:</b>	<b>SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:</b>
Chairman Martin P. Honigberg <i>(Presiding as Presiding Officer)</i>	Public Utilities Commission
Cmsr. Kathryn M. Bailey	Public Utilities Commission
Dir. Craig Wright, Designee	Dept. of Environmental Serv.
Christopher Way, Designee	Dept. of Resources & Economic Development
William Oldenburg, Designee	Dept. of Transportation
Patricia Weathersby	Public Member
Rachel Whitaker	Alternate Public Member

COURT REPORTER: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 052

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**ALSO PRESENT FOR THE SEC:** Michael J. Iacopino, Esq.  
Iryna Dore, Esq.  
(Brennan Lenehan)  
Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator

**COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANTS:** Barry Needleman, Esq.  
Thomas B. Getz, Esq.  
(McLane Middleton)

**COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC:** Peter C.L. Roth, Esq.  
Sr. Asst. Attorney General  
N.H. Dept. of Justice

Thomas Pappas, Esq.  
Elijah Emerson, Esq.  
(Primmer Piper...)

***Also noted to be present at one or more  
of the Joint Public Hearings in March  
from the Applicants available to provide  
the presentation\* and answers  
to questions:***

*\*William Quinlan, President NH Operations, Eversource  
James Muntz, President of Transmission, Eversource  
Kenneth Bowes, Vice President-Engineering, Eversource  
Samuel Johnson, Lead Project Manager-NPT, Burns & McDonnell  
Robert Clarke, Eversource  
Lee Carbonneau, Sr. Principal Scientist, Normandeau Assoc.  
Robert Varney, President, Normandeau Associates  
Terrence DeWan, Principal, Terrence J. DeWan & Associates  
Cherilyn Widell, Principal, Widell Preservation Services  
Mark Hodgdon, Esq.  
Jessica Kimball, Planner/Landscape Designer, Dewan & Assoc.  
Lisa Shapiro, Chief Economist, Gallagher Callahan & Gartrell  
James Chalmers, Principal, Chalmers & Associates  
Mitch Nichols, President, Nichols Tourism Group  
William Bailey, Principal Scientist, Center for Occup. and  
Envir. Health Risk Assess., Exponent, Inc.  
Brian Bosse, Northern Pass Project Manager, Eversource*

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19  
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24

**I N D E X**

**PAGE NO.**

<b>INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG</b>	7
<b>PRESENTATION BY THE APPLICANTS</b> (by Mr. Quinlan)	13
<b>QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION TO QUESTIONS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS BY:</b>	
Ms. Whitaker	23
Commissioner Bailey	25
Mr. Way	31
<b>QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC</b>	34
<b>COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION</b>	100
<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS BY:</b>	
City Councilor Tony Giunta	102
Senator David Boutin	106
Philip Bilodeau	107
Peter Bosco	111
Stephanie Labbe	115
Lance Clute	116
Joe Dionne	119
Jim Tighe	120
Mike Skelton	124
James DeStefano (by Mr. Skelton)	126
Mark Bailey	129

	<b>I N D E X (continued)</b>	
	<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS BY:</b>	<b>PAGE NO.</b>
1		
2		
3	Tiler Eaton	131
4	Craig Trottier	134
5	Thomas Mullen	137
6	Susan Seitz	141
7	Jonathan Mitchell	143
8	Ron Charland	144
9	Kris Shores	147
10	Diane Shores	147
11	Nick Karakoudas	147
12	James Page	150
13	Jane Difley	154
14	Joe Casey	156
15	Bob Elwell	160
16	Selectman Andrew Robertson	161
17	Michael Nolen	163
18	Preston Samuel	164
19	Michael Bennett	168
20	Thomas (TJ) Jean	171
21	Linda Maxwell (by Ms. Bradbury)	174
22	Denise Greig	175
23	Sherry Godlewski (by Ms. Bradbury)	180
24	Jo Anne Bradbury	181

	<b>I N D E X (continued)</b>	
	<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS BY:</b>	<b>PAGE NO.</b>
1		
2		
3	Billy Kunelius	184
4	Robert Mathews (by Ms. Mathews)	186
5	Barbara Mathews	187
6	Susan Arnold	190
7	Judy Marshall	192
8	Taras Kucman	195
9	Mike Collins	200
10	Suzanne Steele	201
11	Eric Stevens	204
12	Jeanne Menard	207
13	Admiral Maitland	209
14	Erick Berglund, Jr.	212
15	Racheal Stuart	216
16	Kate Hartnett	219
17	Cathy Laforge	222
18	James Mason	223
19	Paula Carry-Duchano	226
20	Maureen Quinn	228
21	Harriet Cady	232
22	Brian Tilton	235
23	Erica Druke	239
24		

**P R O C E E D I N G**

1  
2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Good evening,  
3 ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to a public hearing of  
4 the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee. We have  
5 one matter for consideration for today, a public  
6 hearing on the Joint Application of Northern Pass  
7 Transmission, LLC, and Public Service Company of New  
8 Hampshire, which now does business as Eversource, for a  
9 Certificate of Site and Facility, which is Docket  
10 Number 2015-06.

11 I have a number of remarks I need to  
12 make before we get started. But, before I do that, I'd  
13 like everyone on the Subcommittee to identify him or  
14 herself.

15 MR. OLDENBURG: I'm William Oldenburg,  
16 Department of Transportation.

17 MR. WAY: Christopher Way, from the  
18 Department of Resources and Economic Development.

19 DIRECTOR WRIGHT: Craig Wright, with the  
20 Department of Environmental Services.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Martin Honigberg,  
22 from the Public Utilities Commission.

23 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Kathryn Bailey,  
24 from the Public Utilities Commission.

1 MS. WHITAKER: Rachel Whitaker,  
2 alternate public member.

3 MS. WEATHERSBY: Patricia Weathersby,  
4 public member.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: In addition, to my  
6 far right is Counsel to the Site Evaluation Committee,  
7 Mike Iacopino, to my far left is the SEC's sole  
8 employee, Administrator Pam Monroe.

9 I'd also like to identify and introduce  
10 from the Attorney General's office, serving as Public  
11 Counsel in this matter, Peter Roth.

12 Peter, if you could stand up and wave.

13 MR. ROTH: Hello, everybody.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: On October 19th of  
15 2015, Northern Pass Transmission, LLC, and Public  
16 Service Company of New Hampshire, which does business  
17 as Eversource Energy, submitted an Application to the  
18 New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee for a  
19 Certificate of Site and Facility to construct a  
20 192-mile transmission line. The transmission line is  
21 proposed to run from the Canadian border in Pittsburg,  
22 down to Deerfield, approximately, as I said, 192 miles,  
23 with a capacity rating of 1,090 megawatts.

24 On November 2nd, pursuant to RSA 162-H,

1 I, as the Chair of the Site Evaluation Committee,  
2 appointed a Subcommittee to consider the Application.  
3 In turn, a number of the state officials who exercised  
4 their authority to designate senior members of their  
5 agencies to serve on the Subcommittee.

6 On December 7th of 2015, the  
7 Subcommittee met to review the status of the  
8 Application. At that time, the Subcommittee determined  
9 that the Application contained sufficient information  
10 to satisfy the application requirements of each state  
11 agency having jurisdiction under state or federal law  
12 to regulate any aspect of the construction or operation  
13 of the proposed facility. The Subcommittee also made  
14 an independent determination at that meeting that the  
15 Application contained sufficient information to carry  
16 out the purposes of RSA 162-H.

17 The Subcommittee subsequently issued a  
18 procedural order setting forth a number of scheduling  
19 matters. That order scheduled public information  
20 sessions, pursuant to RSA 162-H, in Franklin,  
21 Londonderry, Laconia, Whitefield, and Lincoln. Those  
22 public information sessions took place in January.

23 The Subcommittee also set a date for  
24 motions to intervene, and over 150 motions to intervene



1 were filed. I can tell you that an order on the  
2 motions to intervene will be issued in the next two  
3 days.

4 On February 3rd, the Subcommittee issued  
5 two orders scheduling public hearings in Meredith,  
6 Holderness, and this hearing in Deerfield, for March  
7 1st, 14th, and 16th. And, a separate order scheduling  
8 hearings in Colebrook and Concord for March 7th and  
9 10th. The Colebrook and Concord hearings were held  
10 contemporaneously with public hearings for federal  
11 agencies, including the United States Department of  
12 Energy.

13 The public hearing we are here for  
14 tonight is required under RSA 162-H:10, I-c. We are  
15 required to hold at least one public hearing in each  
16 county in which the proposed project is to be located.  
17 And, those public hearings must be held within 90 days  
18 after acceptance of an application for a certificate.

19 In addition, we have announced, but have  
20 not yet scheduled, two additional public hearings to  
21 hear comment on the supplemental information that the  
22 Applicant filed in late February. One of those will be  
23 held north of Franconia Notch and the other will be  
24 held south of Franconia Notch. But, as I said, dates

1 and locations have not yet been set.

2 Notice of this public hearing was served  
3 upon the public by publication in the New Hampshire  
4 Union Leader on February 10th of 2016.

5 This evening, we will proceed as  
6 follows: We will first hear a brief presentation by  
7 the Applicant. For those who have attended earlier  
8 hearings in the last few weeks, we have asked, and I  
9 believe the Applicant is prepared to shorten its  
10 presentation somewhat, so we can get to the public part  
11 of this a little quicker.

12 Following that, the Subcommittee will  
13 have an opportunity to pose questions to the Applicant.  
14 Sometimes the Subcommittee does not have questions at  
15 this stage of the proceeding. We have had the  
16 opportunity to review the filings of the Applicant and  
17 other parties, and we will have further opportunities  
18 to question the Applicant and other parties under oath  
19 during the adjudicatory process. At the same time, the  
20 Subcommittee may have questions.

21 Thereafter, the public will -- the  
22 public questions will be posed to the Applicant. If  
23 you have a question for the Applicant, we ask that you  
24 write your question on one of the green sheets and get

1 it to one of the people who's walking around in a  
2 position to collect them. Please write neatly. We  
3 will sort and organize the questions as best we can by  
4 subject matter. We've had a number of thoughtful  
5 comments regarding the way the questions have been  
6 posed to the Applicant in the earlier sessions. We  
7 will continue to ask the questions through the Chair,  
8 through the Presiding Officer, so that they can be  
9 organized and not repetitive, if possible. We have  
10 also had comments and questions regarding the  
11 shortening/editing of the questions. The general rule  
12 that we're following up here is that we're not reading  
13 the statements that are associated with the question,  
14 unless they're necessary for the context. And, even  
15 then, we may reword them, so that they can be answered,  
16 so that they can be asked fairly and answered fairly.  
17 The classic example of an unfair question is "when did  
18 you stop beating your wife?" There are a number of  
19 questions that are posed in these, on the green cards,  
20 that read like that. Those -- I will tell you,  
21 statements like that, questions like that are not going  
22 to be read. The questions are designed to elicit  
23 factual information from the Applicant regarding the  
24 Application, regarding its specific terms.

1                   Once all the questions have been  
2                   asked -- oh, let me add, we've also asked the Company  
3                   to try to shorten some of its answers. There are a  
4                   number of questions that get asked that require  
5                   extended discussion to explain context and information.  
6                   There are others that can be answered more briskly,  
7                   based on some of the presentation that has already been  
8                   done or information that's been out there. So, we are  
9                   going to do our best to try and get to the public  
10                  comment portion of the evening faster than we have in  
11                  the previous public hearings.

12                  After all the questions have been asked  
13                  and answered, we will take public statements or  
14                  comments on the Application. If you would like to make  
15                  an oral public statement tonight, please fill out one  
16                  of the yellow sheets. Based on past experience, there  
17                  are a lot of people who want to make public statements.  
18                  If the numbers are what we expect them to be, we will  
19                  ask you to put reasonable limits on how long you intend  
20                  to speak. If you are able to keep your comments under  
21                  three minutes, that would be wonderful. We will not  
22                  cut off the microphone and we will not stop you at  
23                  three minutes. If you need to go well beyond, say,  
24                  four minutes, we will ask you to wrap up, and either

1           come back later or submit written comments. We have  
2           allowed people, and we will continue to allow people,  
3           who want to make extended comments, to wait until the  
4           end to complete their remarks, so that others can have  
5           their turn and their opportunity to speak.

6                        If you would like to submit a written  
7           comment, we have blue forms for that. All the written  
8           comments get scanned and they're all posted on our  
9           website.

10                      So, that's how we're going to proceed  
11           tonight. I don't think there's anything else I need to  
12           do, all right, before turning it over to Mr. Quinlan to  
13           begin their presentation.

14                      MR. QUINLAN: Okay. Thank you. Good  
15           evening. My name is Bill Quinlan. I'm the President  
16           of Eversource New Hampshire. I'm joined tonight by Jim  
17           Muntz, who's the President of our Transmission  
18           business; Ken Bowes, our Vice President of Engineering;  
19           Sam Johnson, who is a technical expert with Burns &  
20           McDonnell; and Lee Carbonneau, who is an environmental  
21           expert with Normandeau associates.

22                      So, as the Chair indicated, I'm going to  
23           run through a very brief presentation, just to hit some  
24           highlights. And, then, obviously, look forward to your

1 questions and comments.

2 So, I've been involved in Northern Pass  
3 for about 18 months at this point. The first year of  
4 my involvement was really spent listening to New  
5 Hampshire. And, you know, we call it "stakeholder  
6 outreach", but there was a wide range of discussions  
7 we've had throughout New Hampshire to get input into  
8 the project that we were going to submit to the Site  
9 Evaluation Committee. Municipalities, landowners,  
10 environmental organizations, businesses throughout the  
11 state, labor, a wide range of outreach, to understand  
12 where are the issues and what could we do to make this  
13 the best possible project for the State of New  
14 Hampshire. That took, in essence, a year.

15 And, you know, during the course of that  
16 listening, one of the things we determined is, we  
17 needed to come forward with a project that struck an  
18 appropriate balance. And, the factors that I thought  
19 were important in striking the balance were we need a  
20 project that works technically, a project that  
21 addresses some of the major issues we've heard from the  
22 New Hampshire outreach, and then a project that's  
23 affordable. So, that's the balance that we targeted.

24 Throughout that year, there are really

1           only three major issues that came to the surface when  
2           you boiled it all down. You know, obviously, a lot of  
3           feedback on view impacts, given that, you know, we were  
4           proposing originally a largely overhead transmission  
5           route 180 miles long. Naturally, there are a lot of  
6           questions and concerns about aesthetic impacts.

7                         Secondly, and we heard this universally  
8           from businesses and residences across the state, "what  
9           will this Project do to address the high energy rates  
10          that New Hampshire is experiencing?" You know, many  
11          folks are concerned, particularly businesses in the  
12          manufacturing sector, that they cannot be competitive  
13          with the highest energy costs in the nation. They want  
14          to understand what will this Project do to lower energy  
15          costs and, simultaneously, help the region meet its  
16          environmental goals by reducing reliance on fossil  
17          fuels.

18                        And, then, thirdly, "what are the  
19          benefits to the State of New Hampshire?" You know,  
20          there's been a lot of misinformation that this Project  
21          is all about getting power from Canada to southern New  
22          England, and that all of the benefits were going to  
23          flow to southern New England. There's nothing in it  
24          for the State of New Hampshire and its residents. And,

1 it was clear to me from this listening that we had to  
2 address that very directly.

3 So, those are the three issues we  
4 attempted to direct -- we addressed through our  
5 ForwardNH Plan.

6 Here's what we come up with. This is  
7 the project as originally announced in 2010, and the  
8 project that we have proposed to the Site Evaluation  
9 Committee after a year of listening. And, it's  
10 fundamentally a different project.

11 These are some of the trade-offs that we  
12 made, based upon feedback from New Hampshire. We have  
13 a longer route. We've added 12 miles to the route.  
14 How did that happen? It happened because we moved the  
15 line, from the western part of New Hampshire, more  
16 populated areas in the North Country, to the east. So,  
17 we essentially put in this east-west segment, so that  
18 we can get over to what's referred to as "Wagner  
19 Forest", which is a working forest, 24 miles long,  
20 where there were really no significant scenic or view  
21 impacts that were of concern, there's one property  
22 owner. So, we changed a north-south route, and we went  
23 east, and then south. And, it was really based on the  
24 feedback from New Hampshire.



1           The next thing we did is we looked at  
2           underground construction. What could we afford to do?  
3           And, what could technically be feasible from an  
4           underground perspective? And, these areas in yellow  
5           are now all underground. So, we went from a project  
6           that had -- had no underground initially, to one that  
7           has almost a third of its route now underground.

8           There's eight miles of it up here in the  
9           North Country, to get us over to Wagner Forest, and  
10          then an additional 52 miles that we committed to last  
11          year to essentially go underground around the White  
12          Mountain National Forest, the Appalachian Trail,  
13          Franconia Notch.

14          Now, I have gotten a lot of feedback,  
15          "why did you pick that area?" You know, "why not other  
16          areas in New Hampshire?" And, it was, in essence,  
17          based upon the feedback we had gotten from stakeholders  
18          across New Hampshire. Almost universally, they said  
19          "you need to do something to address that critically  
20          important area."

21          The areas in blue, those are all  
22          existing right-of-ways. So, we wanted to utilize the  
23          maximum extent possible corridors that already exist  
24          today, they're cleared, and there's transmission

1 infrastructure in them. So, we tried to avoid, to the  
2 maximum extent possible, any new rights-of-way that  
3 require lots of clearing. So, you'll see most of the  
4 Project is blue, a large part of it is now yellow. So,  
5 there's very limited amounts of new rights-of-way,  
6 particularly when you take out the Wagner Forest.  
7 Okay?

8 So, we've got a fundamentally different  
9 route to accommodate 60 miles of underground  
10 construction, which will make this the longest  
11 underground HVDC line in North America. We actually  
12 had to change the cable technology and change the size  
13 of the Project. So, we went from what's referred to as  
14 "conventional cable", to state-of-the-art cable  
15 technology, to allow that amount of undergrounding. To  
16 do it reliably, in a way that we felt technically  
17 comfortable with, we actually had to scale down the  
18 size of the Project. So, we no longer have a  
19 1,200-megawatt project. We've taken about 10 percent  
20 of the project capacity and eliminated it, based,  
21 again, on New Hampshire feedback.

22 So, these are the trade-offs we've made.  
23 What do all those changes mean from a project cost  
24 perspective? They have added about a half a billion

1 dollars worth of project costs.

2 So, this is the balance that we made,  
3 based upon the feedback from New Hampshire. And, this  
4 is the balanced project that we've submitted to the  
5 SEC.

6 You know, we've gotten a lot of feedback  
7 since then. You know, "why not put it all underground,  
8 particularly in Interstate 93?" And, the fundamental  
9 reason for not doing that is it's not affordable. It's  
10 not an economic project. It would add an additional  
11 billion dollars to the project cost. So, a  
12 \$1.6 billion project becomes a \$2.6 billion project.  
13 And, when we look at who's going to pay for that  
14 additional billion dollars? It's not something  
15 anyone's willing to pay for.

16 So, that's the reason why we have landed  
17 on the project we have. We think it addresses the  
18 principal issues we've heard from New Hampshire in a  
19 balanced way.

20 On the issue of underground  
21 construction, you know, we get a lot of feedback that  
22 "everyone else in New England are building projects  
23 underground". You know, "you're using archaic  
24 technology, it's outdated."

1                   This is just a quick snapshot of what's  
2                   been built in New England over the last 15 years,  
3                   almost 600 miles of large transmission infrastructure  
4                   across New England. None of these projects are in New  
5                   Hampshire. Over 90 percent of that is conventional  
6                   overhead construction. Okay? So, less than 10 percent  
7                   is underground. The only exceptions to this are in  
8                   major cities. So, in Boston, you see this project in  
9                   Boston, the "Boston Reliability Project", or those  
10                  first two projects, which are Fairfield County,  
11                  Connecticut, as you head into Manhattan. Okay? So,  
12                  heavily congested areas, that's where you see  
13                  underground, underground construction. Virtually  
14                  everything else has been built overhead.

15                  And, another, I think, important thing  
16                  to recognize is that there's an existing line from  
17                  Hydro-Quebec that runs right through New Hampshire  
18                  today, it's called the "Phase II Line". This line in  
19                  red exists today, all overhead. It essentially does  
20                  the same thing that the Project is that we're proposing  
21                  to do here. The tower heights are actually taller than  
22                  what we're proposing here, and, in some instances,  
23                  substantially taller. There are towers and structures  
24                  along that line that are 240 feet tall. It's been

1 there for decades. And, it serves very reliably New  
2 Hampshire and New England's energy needs today.

3 So, the point here is really that, you  
4 know, if you look across New England as to what has  
5 been built historically, and what's actually being  
6 proposed to be built in the future, you know, the  
7 60 miles that we are proposing here in this Project  
8 will be the single longest underground construction in  
9 New England, and as I said earlier, for this  
10 technology, in all of North America. Okay?

11 Just on the issue of benefits to New  
12 Hampshire. So, when we reintroduced that route last  
13 fall, the other thing we knew we needed to address was  
14 "what are the direct economic and environmental  
15 benefits to the State of New Hampshire?" And, there  
16 are many numbers on this slide. Some important ones  
17 are the top line. When we look at it, and our experts  
18 analyzed the cumulative benefits, it's almost  
19 \$4 billion of direct economic benefits to the State of  
20 New Hampshire. I'm not going to read these, but this  
21 gets to the point raised by businesses, "what's it  
22 going to do to lower energy costs?" When we look at  
23 it, under current market conditions, about \$80 million  
24 a year savings to businesses and residences across the

1 State of New Hampshire. Okay?

2 We also added benefits. The  
3 \$200 million ForwardNH Fund are additional benefits  
4 we've made part of the Project as an ongoing expense to  
5 drive additional investment into the State of New  
6 Hampshire on some key areas of focus, particularly in  
7 host communities.

8 Property taxes. You know, taken a hard  
9 look at what does a \$1.6 million project mean from a  
10 tax perspective, to the municipalities hosting the  
11 line; to the counties hosting the line; and to the  
12 State of New Hampshire? It's about 30 million a year.

13 Importantly, this is a great opportunity  
14 for us to create jobs and economic stimulation in New  
15 Hampshire. We announced last fall, as part of this,  
16 our "New Hampshire first" approach to sourcing the  
17 Project. So, wherever possible, we're going to use New  
18 Hampshire labor and services and goods to build and  
19 construct this Project. So, and we think there's great  
20 opportunities for the state that will come from that.  
21 You know, we've already been exploring some of these  
22 and making them a reality. In total, almost \$4 billion  
23 of economic benefits.

24 The environmental benefits are also

1 quite significant, from the perspective of reduced  
2 carbon emissions across the region. Some things that  
3 we can do from a Project perspective to encourage  
4 small-scale renewable development, renewable generation  
5 development.

6 And, really, when you look at the  
7 benefits outlined here, they're unique. Both  
8 energywise, economically, and environmentally, we  
9 believe we've put together a benefit package for the  
10 State of New Hampshire that really complements the  
11 changes we've made to the Project route, and answers  
12 that stakeholder question "what's in it for New  
13 Hampshire?" Okay?

14 So, that's the thinking behind the  
15 ForwardNH Plan, which led to the filing that we've  
16 made. And, with that, I look forward to the questions  
17 you might have.

18 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Do members of the  
19 Subcommittee have questions for Mr. Quinlan and his  
20 team this evening?

21 MS. WHITAKER: I have one.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Whitaker.

23 MS. WHITAKER: Mr. Quinlan --

24 Mr. Quinlan, the \$7.5 million North Country Job

1 Creation Fund, is that different than the \$200 million  
2 ForwardNH Fund? And, if so, how?

3 MR. QUINLAN: It is. So, that was a  
4 commitment that we had made actually prior to  
5 announcing the ForwardNH Fund. It is a North  
6 Country-focused job creation initiative. Where we've  
7 essentially established a board, an independent board.  
8 It already exists. It's chaired by former Senator John  
9 Gallus and other leaders in the North Country. And,  
10 essentially, we provide funding to that organization.  
11 They solicit expressions of interest, as to how those  
12 dollars can be used in the North Country to create  
13 jobs, and they make determinations. We've actually  
14 provided some advance funding to them already. That's  
15 one example of where we've, even prior to, you know,  
16 getting our permits or having this Project in service,  
17 we've already made investments.

18 So, their first round of grants took  
19 place in 2015. It's managed entirely by leaders in the  
20 North Country. And, it's completely separate and apart  
21 from the ForwardNH Fund.

22 MS. WHITAKER: Thank you.

23 MR. WAY: I have a question, too.

24 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Commissioner



1 Bailey.

2 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Thank you. The  
3 \$3.8 billion impact for -- economic impact for New  
4 Hampshire, is that -- what period of time is that over?

5 MR. QUINLAN: So, many of those benefits  
6 are over a 20-year period, with the exception of the  
7 energy benefit. Because it's difficult to project  
8 energy markets and effects much longer than ten years  
9 out, our experts only felt comfortable on the energy  
10 analysis going ten years. So, the energy benefit, a  
11 10-year period, everything else a 20-year period.

12 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Okay. And, on the  
13 energy benefit, would the savings amount change, if the  
14 Spectra Project and the Kinder-Morgan Project are  
15 built, and also if oil and LNG prices stayed low?

16 MR. QUINLAN: So, there are a lot of  
17 variables in that type of analysis, so view that as a  
18 snapshot in time. You know, they make -- the experts  
19 make assumptions as to, you know, power plant  
20 retirements, power plant additions, new gas  
21 infrastructure that may come into the region, what  
22 happens in the forward capacity market. And, so, there  
23 are a lot of assumptions underlying that analysis. A  
24 key one is what happens with gas infrastructure.

1           You know, if a substantial amount of new  
2 gas infrastructure comes into New England, you know,  
3 energy prices should moderate. We shouldn't see the  
4 spikiness that you see today.

5           Now, what happens long term? Does that  
6 drive coal and oil plants, the remaining coal and oil  
7 fleet out of the market, towards retirement? Do  
8 additional nuclear plants retire? You know, it's a  
9 fairly complicated model that looks at plant additions  
10 and subtractions. It does it under a range of  
11 scenarios.

12           The ones you're referring to  
13 specifically are low gas sensitivity and are high gas  
14 sensitivity. So, there are some sensitivities where we  
15 assume -- the expert assumes "there is no new gas  
16 pipeline". Okay? And, LNG goes overseas, as opposed  
17 to, you know, being parked in Boston Harbor, as it's  
18 been the last couple of winters. That leads to very  
19 high future energy prices. That's one bounding case.

20           The other bounding case is a lot of new  
21 pipeline infrastructure, so it no longer creates a  
22 scarcity situation.

23           So, you're focused on a key variable,  
24 "what happens under gas scenarios?" And, the experts

1 have analyzed a range.

2 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Can you tell me  
3 where in the record that is, so I could look at that?

4 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, it's all under a  
5 expert report done by London Economics.

6 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Okay. You told me  
7 that the other day, I wasn't -- I didn't have time to  
8 look for it. But that's in the record somewhere.

9 MR. QUINLAN: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I'll find it.

11 MR. QUINLAN: And, you'll see the range  
12 of scenarios they evaluated. And, there are a lot of  
13 variables.

14 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Okay. All right.

15 MR. QUINLAN: But gas supply is a key  
16 one, and gas price.

17 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Yes. Okay. All  
18 right. Just a couple more questions.

19 MR. QUINLAN: Sure. Sure.

20 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: And you may not  
21 know the answers to these. But, on our first stop  
22 today, we were at Boyce Road, and we were --

23 MR. QUINLAN: Boyce Road?

24 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Boyce Road, in

1 Concord. And, we were looking at the crossing, and the  
2 person who was narrating the tour told us that the -- I  
3 think it was a 115 kV line had to be moved to the left.  
4 And, it looked like it was ten feet away from a house.  
5 And, I was wondering how you can move it to the left,  
6 when the house is right there? Does the code allow you  
7 to build a transmission line over the house or was it  
8 just a perception thing? I just, you know, if anybody  
9 could fill me in on that, I would appreciate it.

10 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, Mr. Johnson and  
11 Mr. Bowes.

12 MR. JOHNSON: So, the house you're  
13 referring to is right on the edge of the right-of-way.  
14 By codes, you're not allowed to go over the house,  
15 unless you have appropriate clearances. The way that  
16 the design is going in that area is that the conductors  
17 will be facing into the right-of-way, or away from that  
18 house.

19 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Okay.

20 MR. JOHNSON: And, they are designed to  
21 meet the National Energy Safety Code, so that it does  
22 meet the clearance requirements for that particular  
23 size of conductor.

24 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Okay. Thank you.

1 MR. QUINLAN: Mr. Bowes, anything you'd  
2 add?

3 MR. BOWES: So, just to add that there  
4 are actually two properties in that Concord area that  
5 were built on the right-of-way and encroached on the  
6 easement area. We have designed around that, I think  
7 the one at least what Mr. Johnson just talked about.  
8 There is a second one where we've done a similar  
9 workaroud, to allow the house to remain on the  
10 easement area or in the easement area, but the  
11 construction can take place around it.

12 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Thank you. And,  
13 one more thing that I would ask maybe if you could draw  
14 for me, not here, but give it -- you know, file it. At  
15 the Concord hearing, we heard from a gentleman who was  
16 very upset, he lived in Deerfield, and I think his name  
17 was Mr. Bilodeau. And, he said that the Deerfield  
18 Substation backs right up to his property and that the  
19 line was going to end on his property. And, he was at  
20 the Deerfield Substation today, and I asked where the  
21 house was. And, some of the people pointed to the  
22 back.

23 And, so, I was wondering if you could  
24 provide a map that outlines the substation as it exists

1 today, and then shows the footprint of the new  
2 substation, and the location of his house and property  
3 line?

4 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. We could certainly  
5 do that. And, we have actually looked into the issue  
6 raised associated with the Bilodeau property. Just  
7 like any other issue raised here, where a landowner or  
8 a municipality indicates they're not getting the  
9 information they need, we're following up on every one  
10 of those, because we've got a tracking matrix.

11 I'm going to ask Mr. Johnson to address  
12 the Bilodeau residence.

13 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Thank you.

14 MR. JOHNSON: So, we did reach out to  
15 Mr. Bilodeau yesterday, and we spoke to his wife, and  
16 are in the midst of arranging a site visit.  
17 Mr. Bilodeau lives to the south, off Nottingham Road,  
18 of the actual substation itself, which is not on the  
19 corridor that we'll be building the 345 lines are.  
20 He's part of the corridor that stretches between  
21 Deerfield and Scobie Pond. So, he's about a quarter to  
22 half a mile south of the actual substation itself, on  
23 the opposite side of the right-of-way from where the  
24 substation is today.

1                   *[Audience interruption.]*

2                   COMMISSIONER BAILEY:   Okay.

3                   MR. QUINLAN:    But we'll provide a map.

4                   COMMISSIONER BAILEY:   Yes.   Show me a  
5                   map.

6                   MR. QUINLAN:    Okay.

7                   COMMISSIONER BAILEY:   That would be very  
8                   helpful.   Thank you.

9                   MR. QUINLAN:    Okay.

10                  CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG:   Mr. Way.

11                  MR. WAY:    Mr. Quinlan, there's been some  
12                  interest on the 2,600 jobs.   And, I'm wondering, one,  
13                  how you arrived at that number?   But, also, too, if  
14                  you've had the opportunity or will have the opportunity  
15                  maybe to break that down a little bit more by the  
16                  activity type?   Are we talking about timber?   Are we  
17                  talking about journeyman linemen?   And, maybe a little  
18                  bit about the longevity of the jobs and -- over the  
19                  long term.

20                  MR. QUINLAN:    Yes.   So, the details on  
21                  the jobs analysis are in the same London Economic --

22                                 *[Cellphone disruption.]*

23                  MR. QUINLAN:    -- expert report, where  
24                  they look at job effects.   And, they do it both

1 analytically, and then they analyze it based upon  
2 comparable projects. And, they actually do break it  
3 down between direct jobs and indirect jobs. So, it's  
4 laid out in quite a bit of detail there.

5 Now, I'll give you a high-level, you  
6 know, sense for that. You know, a relatively small  
7 percentage of those are actual line workers doing  
8 electric work. Now, that's probably several hundred of  
9 those jobs. Many of those jobs are direct contractors  
10 or services that we need to retain to, you know, clear  
11 rights-of-way, deliver gravel, build roads. That's a  
12 large chunk. And, then, there's actually a second  
13 order job effect, which is the local businesses  
14 necessary to support, you know, a \$1.6 billion  
15 infrastructure project. It's all laid out in quite  
16 some detail in that report.

17 Lisa, do you want to share any of those  
18 jobs breakdown? Lisa Shapiro is an economist. You  
19 want to introduce yourself and maybe add some light to  
20 this.

21 MS. SHAPIRO: Hi. My name is Lisa  
22 Shapiro. I'm an economist consulting with the Project.  
23 I didn't perform the study, but I did provide some of  
24 the inputs into it.



1                   The breakdown is pretty detailed in the  
2                   report. So, I think that would be more helpful to look  
3                   at it. In terms of you asked a specific question about  
4                   longer term jobs, there's also a modeling in the report  
5                   with the lower energy costs. As you know, energy costs  
6                   that are high do have an impact on job production and  
7                   retention, they have an impact on expenditures of  
8                   homeowners. And, so, there is a longevity of job  
9                   production over 500 a year, based on the lowered energy  
10                  costs, as well as the ongoing operating and  
11                  maintenance. Which is not a significant number, but  
12                  there is about three to five million dollars a year  
13                  that will be spent for operation and maintenance, as  
14                  well as for the ForwardNH Fund.

15                 MR. WAY: And, Lisa, just one quick  
16                 question. The "500 per year", does that also include  
17                 the indirect jobs as well?

18                 MS. SHAPIRO: Yes. From the -- that's  
19                 from the REMI model.

20                 MR. WAY: The REMI model? Okay.

21                 MR. QUINLAN: And, we can -- we can  
22                 provide you some citations that get you directly to  
23                 that table and the analysis in the expert report.

24                 MR. WAY: Okay.

1                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Are there any other  
2 questions from the Subcommittee?

3                   *[No verbal response]*

4                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. I  
5 pulled one question as a follow-up on your answer to  
6 Commissioner Bailey regarding the London Economics  
7 study.

8                   "Is that study available to the public  
9 or is that subject to the confidentiality motion?"

10                  MR. QUINLAN: It's currently available  
11 in its entirety to the SEC. It is a confidential  
12 document. So, portions of it have been redacted. I  
13 believe we're working with Public Counsel on a public  
14 version, that just redacts or excludes the most  
15 sensitive information. And, I think those discussions  
16 are underway. So, I do expect a version of that to be  
17 publicly available, with only the most sensitive  
18 information that's not available.

19                  CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: There are a number  
20 of questions in this pile that reference "danger  
21 trees", I believe. And, there's different versions of  
22 it. But here's one that gets to a lot of the issues.

23                  "Your Application to the SEC states that  
24 the existing centrally located distribution towers will

1 be relocated to the western edge of the right-of-way.  
2 The new towers will be 80 to 125 feet in height. The  
3 Application also states that, if existing trees on  
4 abutting properties may endanger the new towers and  
5 lines, that you will notify property owners prior to  
6 cutting or trimming these trees. Can you explain how  
7 this will be done and how it will affect private  
8 property? Is this not an eminent domain taking if you  
9 cut down their trees?"

10 MR. BOWES: So, for trees off of the  
11 right-of-way, either the cleared or the uncleared  
12 portion, we would get landowner permission to remove a  
13 tree.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And, if you  
15 couldn't obtain such permission, what would you do?

16 MR. BOWES: We wouldn't remove the tree.

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: This is a question  
18 for the SEC members: "Can the SEC members confirm that  
19 they do not own shares of Eversource stock, including  
20 any Eversource affiliates or subsidiaries?"

21 And, I'm fairly certain that I do not.  
22 Does anyone on the Subcommittee?

23 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: No.

24 MS. WHITAKER: No.

1 [Multiple members indicating in the  
2 negative.]

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. The  
4 record will reflect that every member of the  
5 Subcommittee indicated they did not own stock in  
6 Eversource or any Eversource affiliate.

7 There are a number of questions about  
8 burial. "Why are portions of two current Eversource  
9 transmission proposals, the Seacoast Reliability  
10 Project and the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project,  
11 proposed for partial burial?"

12 MR. QUINLAN: So, the Merrimack Valley  
13 Reliability Project is an all-overhead line. I don't  
14 believe any of that project are proposed for burial.

15 The Seacoast Reliability Project is a  
16 project that feeds into Portsmouth. A portion of it is  
17 underwater, which is through Little Bay. It's the most  
18 direct route. So, we're actually using a "jet plow"  
19 technique that we talked about at our last session to  
20 go underwater. And, there is a small additional area  
21 that we're contemplating burying, in and around the  
22 University of New Hampshire campus, because the line  
23 runs through the campus.

24 So, we have not yet filed the Seacoast

1 Reliability Project with the SEC. But, right now,  
2 there's the underwater stretch going through Little  
3 Bay, and a short area of underground construction on  
4 the University of New Hampshire campus. The vast  
5 majority of the line is overhead construction.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: This next sheet has  
7 a similar assumption regarding the Merrimack Valley  
8 Reliability Project, and you just said that's totally  
9 overhead, is that correct?

10 MR. QUINLAN: It is.

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. This  
12 questioner goes on, though, to ask "whether burial  
13 could be expanded along the AC line in historic  
14 Deerfield or in Concord?"

15 MR. QUINLAN: Is this with respect to  
16 the Merrimack Valley?

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: No. That was an  
18 assumption of the question asker, that you were  
19 proposing to bury part of Merrimack Valley, and asked  
20 "why can't you use similar technology?" But forget  
21 about the assumption.

22 MR. QUINLAN: Again, at the outset, I  
23 tried to explain the rationale behind the areas that  
24 we've selected for undergrounding.

1                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Just a minute,  
2                   Mr. Quinlan. Just a minute.

3                   Every speaker this evening, either to my  
4                   right or in front me, deserves your full and undivided  
5                   attention and your respect. Any show of disrespect, if  
6                   you feel you can't abide by that, you should probably  
7                   leave.

8                   Mr. Quinlan, you may continue.

9                   MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, the balanced  
10                  project that we've submitted to the SEC reflects, you  
11                  know, the underground construction that we've  
12                  determined was appropriate, you know, based upon the  
13                  feedback, and based upon the other factors that I  
14                  articulated, the cost of underground construction and  
15                  the technical feasibility of it.

16                  CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: A question for you  
17                  and for Mr. Muntz: "Are power lines in your  
18                  neighborhood buried?"

19                  MR. QUINLAN: So, I live in Merrimack,  
20                  New Hampshire, and the answer is "no", they're not  
21                  buried. The distribution line into the area I live is  
22                  buried. But there are many transmission corridors that  
23                  run through Merrimack, including the Hydro-Quebec line  
24                  that I referred to earlier.

1 MR. MUNTZ: I live in West Hartford,  
2 Connecticut. There is a small stretch of underground  
3 distribution lines along the main shopping district.  
4 And, to my knowledge, there are no other underground  
5 lines in West Hartford.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Can you make a very  
7 brief explanation of the difference between a  
8 distribution line and a transmission line?

9 MR. MUNTZ: A distribution -- go ahead.

10 MR. QUINLAN: Distribution basically are  
11 the low-voltage lines that feed into a neighborhood or  
12 a business. Transmission lines are high-voltage, and  
13 they carry large volumes of energy. They go -- tend to  
14 go much longer distances. And, they tend to be on  
15 rights-of-way, as opposed to in neighborhoods.

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "A Hydro-Quebec  
17 project is being considered in Vermont. That project  
18 will be entirely buried underground or under Lake  
19 Champlain. Why can't you completely bury this and take  
20 and eat the additional cost or share these costs with  
21 Eversource" -- I'm sorry, "share the cost with  
22 ratepayers over the life of the project?"

23 MR. QUINLAN: So, that's referring to a  
24 project that was proposed into the New England RFP.

1 It's a relatively short project, I believe it's  
2 60 miles in its entirety, 20 miles of which are  
3 underground, the rest is underwater, which is a very  
4 different technology.

5 Hydro-Quebec's involvement in that  
6 project is very limited. They are essentially  
7 providing backstop hydroelectricity. It's  
8 predominantly a project to bring wind power into  
9 Vermont from upstate New York. Hydro-Quebec's only  
10 role is to provide backstop hydropower when the wind is  
11 not blowing. So, their role is limited. They have no  
12 role in the project itself. They're purely a default  
13 energy supplier, if you will.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Separating  
15 Northern -- or, rather, Hydro-Quebec's involvement, I  
16 think the second part of the question is "why can't you  
17 do that and share the additional cost between  
18 ratepayers and shareholders?"

19 MR. QUINLAN: Again, the Project we've  
20 proposed is going to be the longest underground  
21 construction in North America. That's 60 miles of  
22 underground construction. I pointed at the outset  
23 that, if we pursued complete underground construction,  
24 the Project is not economically viable, meaning it's



1 not affordable. And, I think that's the principal  
2 reason for us not proposing an all-underground project.  
3 You know, it's technologically feasible, but it's not a  
4 project that is affordable.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Can buried lines  
6 be buried along state roads? And, if they are buried  
7 along state roads, would the state receive revenue from  
8 the -- for the use of that right-of-way?"

9 MR. QUINLAN: So, yes. We believe that  
10 transmission lines can be buried along state roads.  
11 That's a permissible use of a state right-of-way. I  
12 believe there is a modest payment made to the state for  
13 use of that right-of-way.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "How many  
15 facilities, in addition to towers and the main  
16 substation, will be the subject of construction in  
17 Deerfield? And, is there any future construction in  
18 Deerfield envisioned?"

19 MR. QUINLAN: Mr. Johnson.

20 MR. JOHNSON: There will be 87 345 kV AC  
21 towers that will be built. There will be 39 115  
22 structures that will be relocated. And, there will be  
23 the improvements to the Deerfield Substation itself, a  
24 modest expansion to put in some additional electrical

1 infrastructure. We have no plans to further build out  
2 beyond this Project.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: The next question  
4 refers specifically to "the transition station in  
5 Bethlehem that will allow the overhead lines to go  
6 underground near The Rocks Estate." And, the questions  
7 are: "How large will the substation be? How tall will  
8 the buildings" -- I'm sorry, "the station". "How large  
9 will the transition station be? How tall will the  
10 buildings be? What steps will be taken to minimize the  
11 visual impact of a "substation-type" facility to the  
12 nearby properties?" And, the last question on this  
13 sheet is "Will "dark-sky" lighting and landscaping be  
14 considered?"

15 So, if you want to take those one at a  
16 time, I can repeat whatever you need repeated.

17 MR. BOWES: I'll start, and I think I  
18 may have them all. But the physical dimensions of the  
19 transition station in Bethlehem are 130 feet by  
20 75 feet. The size of the building inside the  
21 substation, it's about 12 feet high, about 10 feet by  
22 20 feet. The size of the structures, there are A-frame  
23 type structures in the substation, are just over  
24 100 feet in heighth.

1           The screening or things that we will do  
2           around that substation will or could include,  
3           obviously, landscaping, with evergreen-type or natural  
4           types of vegetation. And, the "dark-sky" lighting is,  
5           is the lighting will be directed at the various  
6           equipment in the substation. So, I wouldn't say it  
7           will be directed all down. By the lighting will only  
8           be in use when they're working inside the substation at  
9           night. It will normally be a dark substation.

10           CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: With reference to  
11           Bear Brook State Park, "how high will the poles be in  
12           Bear Brook? Will some be as tall as 145 feet? And,  
13           are the poles in Bear Brook some of the tallest poles  
14           along the entire project?"

15           MR. QUINLAN: Mr. Johnson.

16           MR. JOHNSON: I can't speak specifically  
17           to the exact number of structures in Bear Brook Park.  
18           They are in the 100 to 130-foot range. And, they tend  
19           to be towards the upper end of the heights on this  
20           Project, yes.

21           MR. BOWES: If my memory serves me, I  
22           believe there are nine or ten structures in the park.

23           CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: On our drive today,  
24           we were driven by a location that is probably outside

1 the park, that has the single tallest structure on the  
2 entire route. I've forgotten the exact height. Maybe  
3 someone else remembers?

4 MR. OLDENBURG: 165.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: 160, I think. It  
6 was down in like a valley next to the road.

7 MR. JOHNSON: That's correct.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And, is that  
9 outside the park?

10 MR. JOHNSON: That's outside the park,  
11 yes.

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I'm going to read  
13 this as it's written, although I'm not 100 percent sure  
14 I know what it means.

15 "How many cables and", I believe the  
16 word is "diameter will be used on the line?"

17 MR. JOHNSON: So, the underground cable  
18 is about four and a half inches in diameter. And,  
19 there is one per pole, one positive/one negative. So,  
20 there will be two four and a half inch diameter cables  
21 that will placed in the ground. There will also be  
22 2-inch conduit put in for communication purposes, and  
23 there will be three of those. Those are, again,  
24 approximately two inches, and they will contain fiber

1 optic cable.

2 Sorry. The clarification there is, when  
3 I say "pole", I don't mean a tower. We're talking in a  
4 trench under the ground here, with a positive and a  
5 negative pole. A positive pole and a negative pole.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So, the reference  
7 to "cables" refers then only to what is going  
8 underground?

9 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.

11 MR. JOHNSON: If you'd like to know the  
12 diameter of the overhead cable, it's slightly over an  
13 inch, an inch and a half in diameter.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. Thank  
15 you.

16 "It has been said that we all receive  
17 power from the same grid. Why are the New Hampshire  
18 rates higher than the rates in our neighboring states?"

19 MR. QUINLAN: They're actually not. You  
20 know, if you look at the rates across New England, just  
21 focusing on the energy rate, they're essentially equal.  
22 You know, there are seasonal variations at times. So,  
23 for example, Eversource New Hampshire customers  
24 benefit, particularly during high winter energy prices

1 from the ownership of generation, it tends to provide a  
2 safety net, if you will, from those high prices.

3 So, last winter, you know, our rates  
4 were among the lowest in New England. In times of  
5 abundant gas supply, to your earlier question, energy  
6 rates across New England are, in essence, identical.  
7 And, I'll say that there's one exception. So, it's one  
8 pool, with one energy clearing price. There are times  
9 when the grid is congested. So, if there's a  
10 transmission constraint, which doesn't allow economic  
11 generation to get into a region, then that area becomes  
12 what's referred to as "congested", and prices in that  
13 area would go up during the period of congestion. So,  
14 that's kind of the exception to the "one price" rule.  
15 But those are very limited today, as a result of those  
16 transmission projects I showed earlier, which have, in  
17 essence, eliminated congestion across the region.

18 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: This is a topic I  
19 know there was a question about last time. "Is it true  
20 that, in a number of places where you'll be overhead,  
21 that multiple lines will be closer together than  
22 recommended by", it says here "FERC", but I believe the  
23 correct acronym is "NERC"?

24 MR. BOWES: So, in all cases where we

1 have multiple lines on the same right-of-way or with  
2 crossings of the lines, they all meet the National  
3 Electric Safety Code clearances. So, the premise of  
4 that question is not correct.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So, there are no  
6 separate recommendations from NERC regarding spacing  
7 that are different or more strict than the Code?

8 MR. BOWES: So, the physical dimensions  
9 are set by the National Electric Safety Code. There  
10 are planning criteria that comes through NERC to  
11 ISO-New England. And, again, we meet all of those  
12 criteria as well, as indicated by the approval of the  
13 Project by ISO.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So, a question that  
15 says "why are you ignoring NERC's recommendations in  
16 this area?" You would say "you are not ignoring any  
17 recommendations", correct?

18 MR. BOWES: That would be correct, yes.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. "Are  
20 you risking major outages by placing lines as close  
21 together as they are?"

22 MR. BOWES: Again, I would say "no".  
23 There is redundancy built into the system by its design  
24 and by the construction that's taken place across the

1 New England grid for decades.

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Is there any  
3 recommendation from FERC, from the Federal Energy  
4 Regulatory Commission, regarding how lines are placed  
5 within rights-of-way?

6 MR. BOWES: I believe it's NERC that has  
7 those requirements. I'm not aware of FERC requirements  
8 in that area.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: This next sheet  
10 says that "the route today that we drove passed by  
11 crews installing poles in groves of an invasive  
12 species, specifically Japanese knotweed", I don't know  
13 if that's true, that is asserted here. "What best  
14 management practices were those crews using to prevent  
15 the spread of Japanese knotweed?"

16 Are those -- do you know, did we pass  
17 any Eversource crews today that were working?

18 MR. QUINLAN: I did not. And, without,  
19 you know, some definition as to the location, it's a  
20 difficult question to answer.

21 Lee Carbonneau.

22 MS. CARBONNEAU: Yes. I was on the bus  
23 trip. I think we did pass a few working crews. I  
24 can't say if they were working in an area with invasive



1 species or not, and I can't speak to exactly how they  
2 were dealing with that. But there are measures in  
3 place for the Northern Pass Project that would address  
4 invasive species and try to minimize the spread of such  
5 species during the construction of the line.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: There's a reference  
7 to "best management practices" in that question, and  
8 there's one later in this pile that I've read but I  
9 can't find it real quick. Who's going to enforce best  
10 management practices in the construction of this  
11 Project?

12 MS. CARBONNEAU: The Northern Pass  
13 Project has written into their project management  
14 plans, all of the requirements that -- or, they're in  
15 the process of writing this up, all of the requirements  
16 that will need to be addressed, including best  
17 management practices, any of the state and federal  
18 permit requirements that are issued as part of the  
19 permitting process, as well as the additional methods  
20 of impact avoidance and minimization that the Project  
21 has already committed to.

22 Those things will be enforced, in part,  
23 by a series of environmental monitors that the Project  
24 will be paying for, to have on-site during

1 construction, to make sure that all of those  
2 requirements and the plans that -- and everything  
3 that's on the plans are followed. Again, there may be  
4 some enforcement by the state and federal agencies.  
5 They certainly have the right to come out and witness  
6 any of the construction activities that are ongoing,  
7 and make sure, to their own satisfaction, that those  
8 standards are also being met.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. We're  
10 going to have to cut questions off at this point.  
11 Because I've asked this many [indicating], and I have  
12 this many sheets [indicating] still to go. So, we're  
13 just -- we're going to have to cut off the questions,  
14 so we can get to the public comments before dark.

15 "Would it be technically feasible to  
16 bury the AC line through a section of Concord as has  
17 been done elsewhere, specifically in Connecticut,  
18 Middletown and Norwalk?"

19 MR. BOWES: We have not done any studies  
20 on the underground of the AC portion of the line.  
21 Short distances would likely be technically feasible.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: If FairPoint can  
23 bury its fiber optic lines next to I-93, why can't  
24 Northern Pass?

1 MR. BOWES: The only fiber optic cables  
2 that I'm aware of buried on I-93 are for the State DOT  
3 purposes. I'm not aware of FairPoint. I'm not saying  
4 that they don't or have not done that. But I'm just  
5 not aware of it.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: But why can't you  
7 bury your lines along I-93?

8 MR. BOWES: So, we believe we would have  
9 to be in the undisturbed portion of I-93, if we were to  
10 build there. So, not in the median, not in the travel  
11 lanes, not in the breakdown lanes, and not in the  
12 shoulder, but to the far right-hand side of the  
13 highway, in the disturbed section of the right-of-way.  
14 And, that would lead to several issues around  
15 constructability, environmental impacts, public safety,  
16 as we're building, in essence, a road next to the road  
17 to do our construction, and ultimately would lead to  
18 very high project costs.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Will Northern Pass  
20 or Eversource or any other company involved in this  
21 purchase properties that will lose all their value,  
22 devastated by this project", is in the phrase of this  
23 question asker?

24 MR. QUINLAN: So, we have, as I said at

1 the outset, done a lot of outreach to landowners, and  
2 are working with many of them to address questions or  
3 concerns that they have about the Project. In some  
4 cases, we are, you know, changing Project design to  
5 mitigate impacts, whether it's structure heights,  
6 structure location, structure design.

7 The notion that there's going to be a  
8 material impact on property values, perhaps  
9 Mr. Chalmers, just a quick comment on that.

10 MR. CHALMERS: Yes. Briefly, -- my name  
11 is Jim Chalmers. We have looked at every sales of an  
12 abutting property along the red alignment, the Phase II  
13 alignment, in the last three years. And, we've also  
14 looked at every sale of an abutting property along the  
15 proposed route of Northern Pass. And, we've also  
16 looked at about 150 sales of lots, where some of the  
17 lots in the subdivision were crossed by the line and  
18 some weren't. And, more often than not, there's no  
19 affect of proximity to the lines. That's the results  
20 of that research. And, on that basis, we don't expect  
21 that the Project will have any widespread or consistent  
22 effect on property values. We have found --

23 *[Audience interruption.]*

24 MR. CHALMERS: We have found particular

1 attributes of a property that make it vulnerable. And,  
2 we understand better what those are. And, there will  
3 be a handful of properties that may experience impacts,  
4 but that number will be very small.

5 This, you know, it may be worth to take  
6 another minute here, --

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: No more than a  
8 minute.

9 MR. CHALMERS: Okay. Those results to a  
10 lot of people sound counterintuitive. We know the  
11 direction of the effect of transmission lines on  
12 properties is generally negative for most people. In  
13 rural areas, some people see positive benefits. But,  
14 in general, they're negative.

15 But what you don't have any intuition  
16 with respect to is what weight that particular variable  
17 plays in the home purchase decision. You've got all  
18 the variables associated with the house, with the lot,  
19 with the neighborhood. Okay? And, all you can do is  
20 go look at the sales. And, when you go look at the  
21 sales, if you don't find an effect, which we generally  
22 don't, what that means, that doesn't mean that the  
23 effect isn't negative. It just means that it's not  
24 carrying a heavy enough weight in the decision calculus

1 to show up in the market data.

2 MR. QUINLAN: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Will workers on  
4 the Northern Pass Project have an opportunity to  
5 continue working for Eversource after the Project is  
6 completed?"

7 MR. QUINLAN: So, one of the things that  
8 I talked about earlier was the "New Hampshire first"  
9 approach. As part of that, one of the things that we  
10 have launched, in collaboration with the IBEW, is an  
11 Apprenticeship Training Program, which really is designed  
12 to bring individuals who are interested in this trade,  
13 to this highly skilled trade, onto our projects,  
14 including Northern Pass. Give them an opportunity to  
15 receive, you know, state-of-the-art training. And, in  
16 some instances, we anticipate, you know, trying to  
17 recruit them as future Eversource employees. When we  
18 think about the electric worker of the future, projects  
19 like these are ideal opportunities to build out the  
20 craftsmen and to fully qualify a line worker.

21 So, the short answer is "yes". We do  
22 anticipate opportunities for many of the workers on  
23 this Project as part of that apprenticeship feeder program.

24 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "What are some

1 examples of economic development projects that the  
2 \$200 million ForwardNH Fund will support?"

3 MR. QUINLAN: So, the four focus areas  
4 were outlined on the slide. I won't repeat them.  
5 Probably, the single best example of that is our recent  
6 commitment we've made to the Balsams redevelopment up  
7 in Dixville Notch. You know, it's a project that is  
8 pretty far along in its development, from a permitting  
9 perspective, and is really working on final project  
10 planning and, ultimately, financing.

11 So, we have made an advance commitment  
12 to that important project in the North Country, because  
13 it's exactly the type of project that the ForwardNH  
14 Fund is intended to make a reality. It's in the North  
15 Country, it's a host community, it's economic  
16 development, it's tourism. It's kind of the perfect  
17 project for us to consider, and we've already made a  
18 \$2 million commitment to it, in advance of our Project  
19 becoming a reality. We felt very strongly that that  
20 was the right thing to do. And, it's probably the  
21 single best example that I could provide you at this  
22 point.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Is that \$2 million  
24 in addition to the 200 million or is that the first

1 deduction from the 200 million?

2 MR. QUINLAN: It's the latter. We would  
3 ultimately consider it part of the ForwardNH Fund  
4 commitment, as an advance commitment.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Does Eversource  
6 support U.S. Representative Kennedy's bill", which is  
7 quoted here as "Fair Ratepayer Accountability,  
8 Transparency, and Efficiency Standards Act, to  
9 determine if Forward Capacity Market structure and  
10 policies are actually providing electric reliability at  
11 just and reasonable rates for consumers in New  
12 England?"

13 MR. QUINLAN: I'm not personally  
14 familiar with the bill. I am aware that, you know,  
15 capacity markets across this country, including in New  
16 England, are under review at a federal level, to look  
17 at whether they are really working. Are they incenting  
18 the investment they're intended to incent, to ensure  
19 that we have a reliable and diverse supply of power in  
20 the future? I think this bill is targeted on that very  
21 question, as well as, you know, are the rates being  
22 charged for capacity just and reasonable?

23 And, I'll give you an example of what's  
24 probably triggered this bill. You know, the capacity



1 market for the last decade has been a billion dollar a  
2 year market for New England. Okay? In 2017, it's  
3 going to be a three billion dollar a year market; in  
4 2018, it's going to be a four billion dollar a year  
5 market. And, that's -- those are just payments to  
6 generators to ensure that the lights could stay on.  
7 They have nothing to do with the generation of  
8 electricity.

9 So, it's just a logical review to  
10 conduct. You know, are we comfortable that those  
11 multi-billion dollar increases that New England  
12 customers are paying are effective? And, you know,  
13 what can we do as a region to bring them back under  
14 control?

15 So, I'm not personally familiar with the  
16 bill. But I think capacity markets, in general, should  
17 be looked at.

18 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "How much of the  
19 proposed power will be sold or used in Deerfield? And,  
20 how much of the proposed power will be sold and used in  
21 New Hampshire?"

22 MR. QUINLAN: So, all of the power will  
23 be delivered to Deerfield, New Hampshire. That's the  
24 terminus of the Project. From there, it enters the New

1 England grid. We do anticipate a power purchase  
2 agreement with our partner, Hydro-Quebec, that will  
3 reserve a minimum of 10 percent of the total capacity  
4 of the line for New Hampshire customers. The balance  
5 of it is unaccounted for. So, there's been no  
6 transactions to commit any of the other 90 percent.

7 So, specific to Deerfield, you know,  
8 Deerfield is in our service territory. So, they would  
9 get a proportion of that, if you would. But, you know,  
10 I don't know off the top of my head what percentage  
11 that would be.

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "What is the  
13 expected rate for electricity supply after completion  
14 of the Project?"

15 MR. QUINLAN: So, when you look at the  
16 combined effect on the wholesale energy market and the  
17 capacity market that I was just referring to, because  
18 Northern Pass will push both of them down, it's about  
19 \$800 million a year across New England. New Hampshire  
20 is about 10 percent of New England's load, it's about  
21 \$80 million a year in savings to New Hampshire  
22 customers. If you look at all of the customers in New  
23 Hampshire, residential and business, our estimates are  
24 it's about 5 percent reduction on the bill, for every

1 business and residential customer, not only in New  
2 Hampshire, but all of New England.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Two questions on  
4 this sheet, one of which you may have answered, or  
5 Mr. Chalmers may have answered.

6 "As a property owner in Deerfield,  
7 located on Cate Road, part of the power lines will be  
8 on this person's property. How will this affect this  
9 property owner and his property values?"

10 If there's anything -- if there's  
11 nothing other than what you have already said regarding  
12 property values, just say that.

13 MR. QUINLAN: Anything else? We have  
14 nothing to add.

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. "How  
16 much of a disruption will this be for a property owner,  
17 like someone living on Cate Road?"

18 MR. JOHNSON: So, from a construction  
19 perspective, it follows, very briefly: Tree clearing,  
20 access road development, foundation installation,  
21 structure erection, and structure stringing. Those  
22 activities will be sequential. And, it may -- it may  
23 not be all at the same time. It might be a week or a  
24 couple weeks, and then, you know, the crews might come

1 out a month later to do that again. All told,  
2 construction, in certain areas, is expected to be less  
3 than six months.

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: The last question  
5 on that sheet -- on this sheet asks about the  
6 possibility of burial. Is there anything you want to  
7 add to what you've already said about burial here in  
8 Deerfield?

9 MR. QUINLAN: No. I think I've pretty  
10 much explained the view of that, and the balance that  
11 we've worked to strike.

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: The first question  
13 on this sheet is an additional question about  
14 "compensating landowners for decreased property value,  
15 and will there be any offset to property owners whose  
16 property values decrease?"

17 Do you have anything you want to add to  
18 your earlier answer on that topic?

19 MR. QUINLAN: No. Although, I will just  
20 add one thing, which is kind of in the same area, which  
21 are the tax benefits of the Project. Like I shared at  
22 the outset that, you know, a project of this size will  
23 have a significant tax basis. And, it will contribute  
24 to those local municipalities from a tax perspective,

1 which is one of the factors in property valuation. We  
2 estimate that to be about \$30 million a year, for the  
3 first 20 years of the Project.

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: This question asker  
5 believes that your tourism expert is from Florida. I  
6 don't know if that's true. But you -- "you talk about  
7 hiring New Hampshire people. How many of your experts  
8 here today, who are not employees of the company, are  
9 from New Hampshire? And, if they're not from New  
10 Hampshire, where are they from?"

11 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So, can we quickly  
12 identify where you live? Lee?

13 MS. CARBONNEAU: Lee Carbonneau, with  
14 Normandeau Associates. I live in Loudon, and have been  
15 in Loudon for decades. And, my company is based in  
16 Bedford, New Hampshire.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Sam Johnson. I live in  
18 Connecticut. And, we have an office in Manchester.

19 MR. QUINLAN: These two gentlemen are  
20 with the Company. Mr. Varney?

21 MR. VARNEY: Bob Varney, Normandeau  
22 Associates. And, I live in Bow, New Hampshire.

23 MS. WIDELL: Cherilyn Widell. I live in  
24 Chestertown, Maryland. And, I'm a historic

1 preservation officer.

2 MR. BAILEY: I'm William Bailey, of  
3 Exponent, and --

4 *[Court reporter interruption.]*

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: No one heard that.

6 MR. BAILEY: I'm William Bailey, with  
7 Exponent. And, I live in Maryland.

8 MR. NICHOLS: I'm Mitch Nichols, from  
9 Nichols Tourism Group. I'm from Washington State.

10 *[Audience interruption.]*

11 MR. CHALMERS: Jim Chalmers, Montana.

12 *[Audience interruption.]*

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Everyone here this  
14 evening deserves your respect.

15 MR. DeWAN: My name is Terry DeWan. I'm  
16 the landscape architect working on the visual impact  
17 assessment. I'm from Yarmouth, Maine.

18 MS. KIMBALL: I'm Jessica Kimball, also  
19 from Yarmouth, Maine. I work with Terry.

20 MS. SHAPIRO: Lisa Shapiro. I live in  
21 Canterbury, New Hampshire. And, I work with a firm in  
22 Concord, New Hampshire.

23 MR. HODGDON: I'm Mark Hodgdon. I'm a  
24 private attorney, in Concord. And, I live in Epsom,

1 New Hampshire.

2 MR. QUINLAN: That's it.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Please explain  
4 what distributed generation is?" And, the rest of the  
5 question is "why Eversource is not in favor of it?"

6 MR. QUINLAN: So, distributed generation  
7 is generally small-scale generation that is located  
8 close to the customers. It's not centrally located,  
9 like a large power station with, you know, long  
10 transmission lines. So, it's close to where the  
11 electricity is consumed. It could be, you know, a  
12 solar array on a house. It could be a fuel cell  
13 located on a college campus. It could be, you know, a  
14 small wind farm. These tend to be distributed, which  
15 means "local".

16 The notion that -- or, the statement  
17 that "Eversource is not in favor of distributed  
18 generation" I think is wrong. We are a long-time  
19 supporter of distributed generation. You know, through  
20 our three-state service territory, there's quite a bit  
21 of distributed generation at this point. You know, and  
22 it runs the gamut of all the areas that we just spoke  
23 about.

24 So, you know, it's clearly part of our

1 energy mix in the future. Generally, it does need to  
2 be backstopped by large central generation. Because,  
3 when the wind is not blowing and the Sun is not  
4 shining, and customers -- customers are demanding  
5 electricity, you need a reliable bulk power supply.

6 But there's clearly a place in New  
7 England and New Hampshire's energy future for  
8 distributed generation, and the two really need to  
9 complement each other.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "What percentage of  
11 the electricity along the line will be lost along the  
12 route?"

13 MR. QUINLAN: Mr. Bowes, losses.

14 MR. BOWES: So, losses on the  
15 transmission portion will be a few percent. There's  
16 also some losses with the conversion from DC to AC.  
17 But, in general, it's a fairly nominal value.

18 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Back on distributed  
19 generation.

20 MR. QUINLAN: Okay.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I'm going to read  
22 the question just as it's written: "Why is power for  
23 Connecticut and New York not generated near the  
24 end-user?"



1 MR. QUINLAN: Again, I think the premise  
2 under the question is not correct. There's quite a bit  
3 of generation, certainly, in Connecticut, which is an  
4 area I'm more familiar with. There's two large nuclear  
5 power plants in Connecticut, on Millstone Station, the  
6 largest single generation station in New England.  
7 There is an extensive amount of gas-fired generation in  
8 Connecticut as well.

9 I would, as I think about it, there's, I  
10 believe, more generation sited and operating in  
11 Connecticut than there is in New Hampshire.

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Please explain  
13 where the "possible" 5 percent savings come from."

14 MR. QUINLAN: So, it's our estimate of  
15 what an \$800 million energy and capacity market annual  
16 savings in the wholesale markets translates into on a  
17 retail customer's bill. So, it's an allocation of that  
18 \$800 million annual figure down to the customer base,  
19 if you will.

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Can you explain  
21 how sending money to Canada for this power will affect  
22 the Gross National Product?"

23 MR. QUINLAN: So, again, you know, our  
24 involvement in the Project, we are the developer and

1 the builder of the transmission line. The statement's  
2 incorrect, you know, in the sense that it is  
3 Hydro-Quebec who will be paying us for the use of the  
4 line that we have built and own. Hydro-Quebec will  
5 then sell their power into the markets of New England.  
6 Just like they do today.

7 They're one of the largest trading  
8 partners in the energy markets today. They have been  
9 enjoying that role for decades. In reality, New  
10 England is hugely dependent on power generated in  
11 Quebec every day. And, you know, they're a strong and  
12 active participant in those markets.

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Following up on  
14 Hydro-Quebec's involvement and their legal standing in  
15 this proposal. The question is, "how does Hydro-Quebec  
16 have the legal right to existing Eversource  
17 rights-of-way, especially considering that Hydro-Quebec  
18 has publicly stated that they're a separate company  
19 from Northern Pass?"

20 MR. QUINLAN: Again, the Northern Pass  
21 line in the United States will be built, financed, and  
22 then owned by Northern Pass Transmission, which is a  
23 Eversource subsidiary. Hydro-Quebec will not own the  
24 facilities in the United States.

1                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Please explain why  
2                   New Hampshire is bearing the brunt of this project that  
3                   is beneficial for the rest of New England."

4                   MR. QUINLAN: As I explained at the  
5                   outset, you know, the benefits to New Hampshire are  
6                   quite significant for this Project. Deerfield was  
7                   selected, because it's a optimal point in the electric  
8                   grid to -- for the importation of a large amount of  
9                   hydropower. So, electrically, it works. And,  
10                  Mr. Muntz alluded to this earlier. The System Operator  
11                  looked at that and said "you can inject that large  
12                  amount of hydropower into that point in a safe and  
13                  reliable way." So, Deerfield was selected because of  
14                  the robust nature of the infrastructure. The reason we  
15                  selected the route we did was we thought it was a great  
16                  opportunity to advance both our energy and  
17                  environmental goals, as a region and as a state, in a  
18                  way that can deliver significant benefits to New  
19                  Hampshire.

20                  And, we have the benefit of an existing  
21                  transmission corridor, back to the balance that we've  
22                  been trying to strike. You know, and utilizing  
23                  existing corridors was a key part of the  
24                  decision-making.

1                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: A safety question.  
2           "Emergency responders must have appropriate equipment  
3           for all hazards they face in the field. Does this  
4           project require any special equipment for first  
5           responders?"

6                   MR. BOWES: It does not, with maybe one  
7           exception. I think we would want to do some training  
8           with the Franklin emergency responders for the  
9           converter station, just because it is a new technology,  
10          and there will be a large indoor component of that  
11          facility. So, that's probably the only exception. The  
12          rest is very similar to what is built and in service in  
13          the rest of New Hampshire.

14                  CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Will the Company be  
15          paying for that training in Franklin?

16                  MR. BOWES: Paying -- we would certainly  
17          be hosting and putting it on. I'm not sure that we  
18          would actually pay the fire department for that, no.

19                  CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Well, the fire  
20          department, the City of Franklin won't incur the cost  
21          of that training, correct?

22                  MR. BOWES: That is correct.

23                  CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "What is the risk  
24          to existing lines in the right-of-way if the

1 transmission towers fall in an ice storm?"

2 MR. BOWES: So, the Northern Pass  
3 Project is designed to the latest standards, which are  
4 different than standards have been in the past.  
5 They're a higher level. They're called the "heavy  
6 standards" of the National Electric Safety Code, which  
7 care about wind, extreme wind, and ice-loading. So, if  
8 those design criteria are exceeded, I mean, it is  
9 potentially possible that a structure could fail or a  
10 portion of the structure could fail, inherently in the  
11 design with the conductors, it will also fail in a  
12 manner that would most often be within the  
13 right-of-way. And, when I say "most often", in my 32  
14 years in this business, I have not seen a structure  
15 fall outside of the right-of-way. So, I guess, while  
16 it's technically -- or, is a possibility; in practice,  
17 I just don't think it's a reality.

18 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: If it were to  
19 happen, how long would it take to get them back up?

20 MR. BOWES: So, a structure repair can  
21 take from a few hours to a few days.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: The next question  
23 is about trees again. This property owner has 300  
24 year-old Black Tupelo trees that are on the edge of

1 their property line near the right-of-way. "Will the  
2 Northern Pass Project cut these trees down if they  
3 happen to be at a height that threatens the towers?"

4 MR. BOWES: So, if they're in healthy  
5 condition, and they're off the right-of-way, the answer  
6 is "probably no." I think we'd want to look at the  
7 specifics of the trees to make that determination.  
8 And, we're very willing to work with the landowner for  
9 that.

10 MR. QUINLAN: And, just if I may add.  
11 There was an earlier question about "hazard trees". A  
12 "hazard tree" is one that's been identified as an  
13 arborist as being "dead or dying". And, so, it tends  
14 to be an imminent risk to the infrastructure. It's  
15 generally not a healthy tree.

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Will Northern Pass  
17 make it easier for New Hampshire to transition to other  
18 sources of renewable energy, like solar and wind?"

19 MR. QUINLAN: So, you know, there are --  
20 there is a relationship here, and I had a slide that  
21 kind of highlighted it earlier. Which is the ForwardNH  
22 Plan in the Northern Pass Project does allow us the  
23 opportunity to upgrade the Coos Loop, so, the  
24 transmission loop in the North Country. There is a

1 substantial amount of small renewable facilities that  
2 feed into that loop that today are not operating,  
3 because the loop is constrained. This Project is  
4 creating the funding and the opportunity for us to  
5 upgrade that loop to allow that small-scale renewable  
6 generation, which is generally distributed generation,  
7 to run more, and to be more profitable, and also to  
8 create the opportunity for new small-scale renewables  
9 in that region, which is, you know, seems to be  
10 receptive to wind and other forms of renewable power.  
11 So, it's -- and this is something that has been  
12 contemplated for quite some time here in New Hampshire  
13 and has been cost-prohibitive. This Project gives us  
14 the funding source to make it a reality.

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: The next two  
16 questions or the next two sheets both have questions  
17 directed to Public Counsel, which I'm not going to ask  
18 Mr. Roth to address, I'm just going to make him aware  
19 of the questions.

20 "In reviewing previous SEC applications,  
21 it appears that the Attorney General's Public Counsel  
22 only represents the interest of those who oppose  
23 projects. Does Public Counsel have a responsibility to  
24 represent all citizens, including supporters, or just

1           opponents?"

2                           And, the second one is "how does Public  
3           Counsel determine what issues he or she fights for in  
4           this process? Are issues raised by opposing interests  
5           given more weight or will the issues like ensuring  
6           local jobs be an issue that Public Counsel advocates  
7           for?" People are watching you, Mr. Roth.

8                           "Mr. Quinlan has stated that the  
9           incremental cost to bury the entire Northern Pass line  
10          would be approximately 1 billion." And, there's a  
11          series of questions based on that statement.

12                          "Is this figure based on an assumed  
13          burial of the proposed route? If not, please describe  
14          the alternate route on which the figure is based."

15                          MR. QUINLAN: Could you repeat the  
16          middle part for me? Is it assuming based on --

17                          CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Is it assuming  
18          burial along the current proposed route?"

19                          MR. QUINLAN: No. No. It assumes that  
20          the burial is in the public highway, not in the  
21          existing transmission corridor.

22                          CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Would it be more  
23          expensive or less expensive to bury it in the  
24          proposed -- in the current proposed route?



1 MR. QUINLAN: It would be significantly  
2 more expensive to bury it in the current right-of-way.  
3 And, it would be significantly greater environmental  
4 impact to bury it in the existing right-of-way, which  
5 is generally forest, as opposed to in the public  
6 highway, which is disturbed.

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Who did the burial  
8 cost study for you?"

9 MR. QUINLAN: Our Engineering team,  
10 including Burns & McDonnell. And, it's also been  
11 checked against the bids that we've received for  
12 construction, both underground and overhead, as we've,  
13 you know, competitively bid the actual construction of  
14 this Project. So, we now actually have true market  
15 data on the unit cost of construction for underground  
16 here in New Hampshire.

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "When was that  
18 study done?"

19 MR. QUINLAN: Within the last several  
20 months.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Is that study  
22 available to the SEC and to the public?"

23 MR. MUNTZ: Those studies are actually  
24 part of a competitive bid process at this point with

1 our contractors.

2 MR. QUINLAN: And, so, what Mr. Muntz is  
3 referring to is, I alluded to the New England Request  
4 for Proposal, where transmission projects were  
5 competitively bid; Northern Pass is one of those. So  
6 that we could provide a firm cost estimate for Northern  
7 Pass, we actually have gone out and contracted for all  
8 elements of this Project.

9 So, the information Mr. Muntz is  
10 referring to is the data provided to us as a result of  
11 those processes. I believe we're bound under  
12 confidentiality with those contractors not to release  
13 unit data. I believe that, if the SEC were interested,  
14 I'm sure we can determine a way, in consultation with  
15 our providers, to provide that pursuant to a protective  
16 order perhaps.

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: This next sheet has  
18 ten separate questions on it, on many different topics.

19 The first is, "where did Hydro-Quebec  
20 get all this water to produce so much electricity?"

21 *[Audience interruption.]*

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I don't make any of  
23 these up, folks.

24 MR. MUNTZ: Well, Hydro-Quebec has a

1 long history and an extensive network of dams. I think  
2 they have 42 or 43 generating stations that are in  
3 operation. They actually have lakes almost as big as  
4 the State of Connecticut. So, they've got an  
5 incremental amount of terawatt-hours stored and  
6 available to service not only Quebec, but all the  
7 surrounding markets.

8 MR. QUINLAN: Just for a sense of scale,  
9 Hydro-Quebec, their hydro system is about  
10 40,000 megawatts of hydro generation. For a sense of  
11 perspective, all of the generation in all of New  
12 England is about 32,000 megawatts. So, it's a very  
13 significant hydro generation point.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: On our trip today  
15 we heard about helicopter fly-overs of the route. This  
16 question asker wants to know if they're yours? But  
17 wants to know how often you've been flying over the  
18 route? And, will you continue to be flying over the  
19 route with your helicopters?

20 MS. CARBONNEAU: I think the question  
21 refers to a discussion we had about looking for nests,  
22 raptor nests, or heron rookeries along the route, in  
23 which we -- our wildlife biologist did one fly-through  
24 of the route, from Canada all the way down to

1 Deerfield, to look for stick nests on existing  
2 structures or in trees along the right-of-way. That's  
3 the only fly-down that Normandeau has been involved in.  
4 But I will pass this on.

5 MR. JOHNSON: We did a LIDAR survey,  
6 which is a type of survey to get the topography of the  
7 land. And, we did that approximately two years ago.  
8 And, again, it was a one-time -- one-time usage.

9 MR. QUINLAN: Any anticipated additional  
10 fly-overs?

11 MR. BOWES: So, normal operations, we  
12 also do visual inspections via air for all the  
13 transmission system, at least on an annual basis. And,  
14 after every disturbance, we will also fly that portion  
15 of the line where a disturbance occurs. So, you could  
16 see several times a year, on certain lines, we may be  
17 through there.

18 MS. CARBONNEAU: And, we'll also have  
19 one more nest flight before construction.

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "If employees are  
21 coming from out-of-state, where will they stay?"

22 MR. QUINLAN: Generally, as close to the  
23 work as possible. So, it will depend on the phase of  
24 the Project. But that's one of the benefits of the

1 Project, is that there will be workers.

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Will any of the  
3 work be done at night?"

4 MR. QUINLAN: Do you work at night?

5 MR. JOHNSON: At this time, it's not  
6 anticipated that any work will be done. However, we  
7 do, when asked, in certain emergency situations, we may  
8 have to work at night.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Do you consider  
10 the towers to be a potential threat for terrorists and  
11 is there a threat to the entire power grid?"

12 MR. BOWES: So, any particular tower or  
13 any particular line, by its design, has redundancy  
14 built in. For Northern Pass, in the case of this line,  
15 it would be importing approximately a thousand  
16 megawatts of hydropower, it would actually provide some  
17 redundancy to the existing Hydro-Quebec line that  
18 imports about 1,200 megawatts.

19 I'm probably not the best person to ask  
20 about what targets are from terrorists. They seem to  
21 be things that generate a public or a human issue,  
22 rather than an object. So, in general, I don't think  
23 transmission structures are necessarily a target by  
24 themselves.

1                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: The next question  
2 asks about how you'll respond to accidents. Do you  
3 have anything you want to add to what you've already  
4 said about accidents?

5                   MR. QUINLAN: No.

6                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Please speak to  
7 the problem of buzzing and the noise that has been  
8 heard and recorded under transmission lines."

9                   MR. BOWES: So, there is a section of  
10 the Application that deals with the audible noise, from  
11 both the DC system up north, as well as the AC system.  
12 The levels of noise would be similar to what you would  
13 experience now under a transmission line. There's  
14 nothing out of the ordinary with that. They do tend to  
15 be higher noise levels during humid weather, as the air  
16 around the constructors starts to ionize. So, that it  
17 is a phenomenon that is very common, foggy weather as  
18 well. But you wouldn't expect to have any different  
19 levels than you have today on the transmission system.

20                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: You've already  
21 discussed "danger trees" at some length. So, I will  
22 skip that question.

23                   I'm gone to read this as it's written:  
24 "Is there a plan to have a "non-participant

1 moderator"?" That may not be directed to you, but I'm  
2 not sure. Does it mean anything to you?

3 MR. QUINLAN: No.

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: If it's directed to  
5 "who is going to chair hearings like this?" The answer  
6 is "no".

7 "Please speak to how you're going to  
8 deal with traffic during construction."

9 MR. JOHNSON: So, from the overhead  
10 perspective, traffic would only be impacted at the  
11 entrances and exits of the right-of-way, which would be  
12 on public roads for the most part. And, there will be  
13 appropriate flagman and/or barrels or cones set up  
14 designating those areas. Typically, it's a  
15 one-on/one-off type of arrangement.

16 For the underground construction, we are  
17 working with the Department of Transportation to  
18 establish, you know, approved markings and traffic  
19 lights and jersey barriers and barrels and cones and  
20 flagmen and police detail. All of that has to be put  
21 together and approved by the DOT prior to construction  
22 beginning.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: There are a number  
24 of questions regarding work between Deerfield and

1 Scobie Pond. They're scattered throughout the rest of  
2 this pile. But here's the first.

3 "You have stated that the only upgrades  
4 to out -- let me start again. "You've stated that the  
5 only upgrades to outgoing lines that are not part of  
6 the Northern Pass Project consists of raising the  
7 height of nine structures between Deerfield and Scobie  
8 Pond. Deerfield has seen tremendous work along its  
9 right-of-way over the past few years that must  
10 therefore be part of the Northern Pass Project. Have  
11 these upgrades been factored into the cost of the  
12 project?"

13 MR. QUINLAN: So, any upgrades that have  
14 taken place in that corridor to date are totally  
15 unrelated to Northern Pass. And, we have not begun any  
16 construction activities associated with Northern Pass  
17 in that corridor.

18 And, I think the question is about right  
19 as to the number of structures impacted in that portion  
20 of the line.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I'm not sure that  
22 that's right. I think the question is directed at  
23 "from the substation to Scobie Pond", what work has  
24 been done in that corridor in the last few years?



1 MR. JOHNSON: So, as Bill mentioned,  
2 that none of the work that's been done in any of the  
3 areas around Deerfield is associated with the Project.  
4 Quite frankly, we can't do it until we have the  
5 permits. Which is the process that we're going through  
6 as we speak right now.

7 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, that is the  
8 portion I was referring to, between the Deerfield  
9 Substation and the Scobie Pond Substation, out of the  
10 600 or so structures in that existing transmission  
11 corridor, I believe there are approximately ten that  
12 have to be raised on average 5 feet. Those won't begin  
13 until this Project is permitted and we're in  
14 construction.

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "So, the power gets  
16 to Deerfield Substation. How does it get out of  
17 Deerfield to end-users? What projects come after the  
18 Northern Pass Project? And, where is the plan for  
19 that?"

20 MR. MUNTZ: So, as part of siting any of  
21 the projects like this, where there's going to be a  
22 large, you know, it looks like to the system a  
23 generator that delivers power to Deerfield, the  
24 Independent System Operator, ISO-New England, analyzes

1 the system as it is and tells us what we have to do to  
2 the system to upgrade, so that we can deliver that  
3 power under all system conditions, under all generation  
4 dispatches, under all seasonality, and under all load  
5 conditions. They give us a list of upgrades. We've  
6 done -- we're very close to getting that finalized list  
7 from ISO. We've done the same study and come up with a  
8 list of system upgrades, which include those ten poles  
9 that need to be raised -- ten towers that need to be  
10 raised by about five feet each. All of those upgrades  
11 are included in our proposed Project.

12 MR. QUINLAN: So, there is nothing  
13 required beyond what is already on the proposed plan.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "The Northern Pass  
15 Project Application was accepted by the SEC in December  
16 of 2015." According to this question asker, "some of  
17 the information requested in the Application is either  
18 missing or not sufficiently detailed. Does this mean  
19 that the SEC has sufficient information about the  
20 project to make a decision? And, if more information  
21 is needed, please identify what that information is."

22 MR. BOWES: So, based on the new SEC  
23 requirements that were approved in December, we have  
24 filed a supplemental filing in February. And, it's

1 several pages, and it covers several new topics as  
2 well. And, that will be the subject of the two  
3 additional hearings that you mentioned at the beginning  
4 of this meeting.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: This question  
6 asserts that "in 2003, a transmission line that runs  
7 over the right-of-way on this question asker's property  
8 suffered a significant accident. And, an 80-foot pole  
9 was pulled down in a wetland while a new power line was  
10 being pulled through. A tracked vehicle was dispatched  
11 immediately across the wetland to the location of the  
12 downed pole. Shortly thereafter, a helicopter with  
13 management people landed in the hayfield. It did not  
14 appear that there was any predefined approach to solve  
15 a serious problem like this. What measures does  
16 Northern Pass have in place to prevent serious problems  
17 like this and to solve them safely and quickly without  
18 collateral damage?"

19 MR. BOWES: So, I believe that that  
20 situation did occur in proximity to the Deerfield  
21 Substation as well. I would say that we have learned a  
22 lot since that experience. That, certainly, with the  
23 wetlands, we need to be very cognizant of where they  
24 are, not only during construction, as has been all

1 outlined for Northern Pass, but also for our ongoing  
2 operations and maintenance activity. So, whether it's  
3 vegetation management or whether it's emergency repairs  
4 on the system.

5 And, I think we are much better today  
6 than that situation that occurred in the past. And, I  
7 think we'll continue to learn from our experiences and  
8 improve.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "What is the system  
10 to be employed to assure that best management practices  
11 are complied with? What organization will serve as the  
12 neutral party to follow progress and report violations  
13 and stop operations if necessary?"

14 You may have -- you may have provided an  
15 answer to that earlier. If you have anything you want  
16 to add, you may.

17 MS. CARBONNEAU: I don't think I really  
18 have anything to add to that.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "How much larger  
20 than the existing substation will the new footprint of  
21 the new substation transformer be?"

22 MR. BOWES: So, the site will be about  
23 eight acres larger than it is today, the cleared area.  
24 And, I'm not sure how that relates to the transformer.

1 That's the total area, which includes, in Deerfield, it  
2 includes the static VAR compensators and capacitor  
3 banks, and I think there's either one or two  
4 transformers as well.

5 MR. QUINLAN: In that footprint.

6 MR. BOWES: Inside the 8 acres, yes.

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "In order" -- this  
8 question says "in order for the additional power to  
9 leave Deerfield to go to Scobie Pond or other  
10 locations, upgrades to all of the existing towers will  
11 need to be made. Who will be paying for those  
12 upgrades? Shouldn't the costs be part of the Northern  
13 Pass Transmission Project?"

14 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. The ten towers we  
15 talked about that need to be raised are the only  
16 upgrades that are required for Northern Pass to deliver  
17 its power safely and reliably to Deerfield. The costs  
18 are included as part of the Northern Pass Project.

19 MR. BOWES: That is also true for any of  
20 the 115 distribution upgrades as part of the Northern  
21 Pass. They will be paid for by Northern Pass and not  
22 PSNH ratepayers.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "If those towers  
24 are not upgraded, can the power be used?"

1 MR. MUNTZ: If, for some reason, we  
2 didn't upgrade those towers, there may be some  
3 conditions that occur on the system where the ISO-New  
4 England would tell us that we need to either turn down  
5 the power delivery or, you know, turn it off, in an  
6 extreme case.

7 More than likely, since we're raising  
8 these towers five feet, there's a sag condition, where  
9 the -- because of the slightly increased power flow  
10 over those lines are getting too close to the ground  
11 under extreme conditions, so, we would expect that they  
12 would probably tell us, for example, "limit the output  
13 of the converter to 800, you know, megawatts, instead  
14 of 1,090."

15 However, we're going to raise those ten  
16 towers, and be able to deliver under all conditions.

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: This question  
18 references "a sound proof wall", or a sound-reducing  
19 wall, "that would be built around the transformer. How  
20 high will the wall be? Are there other walls like this  
21 around other transformers? And, if so, how much noise  
22 reduction do they provide?"

23 MR. JOHNSON: I'm not aware of a wall  
24 that would be built around a transformer. The

1 existing -- trans -- or, the transformer that will be  
2 installed as part of the static VAR compensator will be  
3 outside in the open air.

4 MR. BOWES: And, attenuation from a  
5 sound wall is part of the design. So, although it may  
6 not be part of this Project, you can specify a certain  
7 sound reduction based on the design now intended.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I do have an  
9 understanding that there was a reference to a  
10 "sound-suppressing wall" at the Deerfield Substation  
11 today.

12 MR. BOWES: We'll find out at the break  
13 and then provide an answer.

14 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. Can I introduce  
15 Mr. Bosse?

16 MR. JOHNSON: And, Mr. Bosse is a  
17 project engineer.

18 MR. QUINLAN: Yes.

19 MR. BOSSE: As part of the Deerfield SVC  
20 design, I did indicate today that there's a transformer  
21 that is part of that extra yard. And, the sound study  
22 that we have done results in the need for a sound wall  
23 around that transformer.

24 MR. QUINLAN: Do you have a sense for

1 height?

2 MR. BOSSE: The transformer tank would  
3 probably be in the vicinity of either 10 to 12 feet.  
4 So, I would say, you know, 12-13 feet, roughly.

5 Bill, if I could, there was one question  
6 about the number of structures in Bear Brook State  
7 Park. Could I answer that question, because I have the  
8 data?

9 MR. QUINLAN: Yes.

10 MR. BOSSE: Okay. Nine structures,  
11 ranging in height from 110-foot to 145-foot, all  
12 monopole.

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: This is another  
14 question about the facilities beyond Deerfield, on the  
15 way to Scobie Pond. "Is nine the accurate number?  
16 And, what are the heights of the poles that will need  
17 to be modified?"

18 MR. JOHNSON: Ten is the number, and the  
19 average structure height existing today is about  
20 75 feet. So, they will go up to 80 feet.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: This is another  
22 question about "danger trees". I assume you have  
23 nothing you want to add?

24 MR. QUINLAN: Correct.



1                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "You spoke about  
2                   the existence of the Phase II overhead transmission  
3                   line through New Hampshire as part of the rationale for  
4                   building this project overhead. Please explain your  
5                   reasoning in comparing a line built more than 25 years  
6                   ago with a project being built today."

7                   MR. QUINLAN: So, the purpose for that  
8                   information was to illustrate what's been built in the  
9                   region that's large-scale transmission. Most of the  
10                  examples, the top ten examples that I showed, were all  
11                  built in states other than New Hampshire, but in New  
12                  England. So, those are all within the last ten years.  
13                  So, the point of that was, all of the large-scale  
14                  construction in the region, over the last ten years,  
15                  including some projects we just put in service a month  
16                  or so ago, have been overhead construction.

17                  I included the Hydro-Quebec line for  
18                  illustrative purposes, because there have been several  
19                  questions about that existing facility. What is its  
20                  route? What type of construction? And, how tall are  
21                  the towers? You know, many aren't aware that there  
22                  isn't even an existing line very similar to Northern  
23                  Pass that runs through New Hampshire today, through  
24                  towns like Hopkinton, Bedford, Pelham, that's actually

1 higher voltage, all overhead, and taller towers than  
2 what we're proposing here. It's just a point of  
3 reference.

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "How many jobs that  
5 will last more than two or three years will be created  
6 by this Project?"

7 MR. QUINLAN: I believe Mrs. Shapiro  
8 answered that question earlier.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Does burying the  
10 lines preclude the union people who are here this  
11 evening from working on the Project?"

12 MR. QUINLAN: No.

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Is the existing  
14 line", that you just referenced a minute ago, and "was  
15 on Slide 3, is that available for increased flow of  
16 energy to southern New England?"

17 MR. QUINLAN: Mr. Muntz, maybe you might  
18 want to sure a little bit about the operation today.

19 MR. MUNTZ: Yes. So, that line is rated  
20 at 1,400 megawatts. Its rating varies actually,  
21 depending on system conditions, actually, as far away  
22 as out in New York State. But, whatever -- however you  
23 want to rate it, whether it's a steady rating or an  
24 actual rating on any given day, over the last five

1 years, that line has flowed at 90 percent of its  
2 capacity. And, that's all-in. That's outages, you  
3 know, downtime, whatever, that it's 90 percent full.  
4 So, the line is essentially fully utilized, and there  
5 is really no more room, because of, as I said, the  
6 system conditions that really don't allow any more  
7 power to flow on that particular pathway.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Please discuss why  
9 you consider hydropower to be "clean energy". Although  
10 it does not use fossil fuels, many consider it not to  
11 be clean."

12 MR. QUINLAN: So, you know, I think many  
13 have recognized that hydropower is a clean technology,  
14 in the sense that you're not burning a fossil fuel and  
15 you're not emitting carbon dioxide. And, that was  
16 recognized most recently by the EPA, as part of Obama's  
17 Clean Power Plan. The State of New Hampshire I think  
18 recognized the environmental benefits of large-scale  
19 hydro in our Climate Action Plan. And, certainly, the  
20 six states across New England, as we've looked at "how  
21 do you address today's energy crisis and deliver clean  
22 energy?", have recognized the environmental benefits of  
23 clean hydropower.

24 If you look at the emissions that I

1 referred to, from even a large-scale hydro facility  
2 early in its life, when it does have some emissions,  
3 versus any other conventional power supply, coal, oil,  
4 natural gas, they're dramatically lower from a  
5 hydropower. With the sole exception of nuclear,  
6 baseload nuclear is also non-carbon-emitting.

7 So, you know, that's the reason we  
8 believe it to be "clean". You know, many states have  
9 now recognized that, including the State of  
10 Connecticut, which recently was counting large-scale  
11 hydro against its Renewable Portfolio Standards. I  
12 think you're going to see over time other New England  
13 states, and nationally, states adopting that and  
14 recognizing the environmental benefits.

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Are the IBEW  
16 people here tonight being paid to be here, if you  
17 know?"

18 MR. QUINLAN: I don't know.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Are Eversource  
20 employees here tonight being paid to be here, other  
21 than the ones who are part of your presentation?"

22 MR. QUINLAN: No.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Are Eversource  
24 employees allowed to speak against the Project?"

1 MR. QUINLAN: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: This question  
3 starts with some context that "the SEC process a  
4 requirement that the Applicant identify historic  
5 resources, archaeological, historic buildings, and  
6 landscapes that are eligible for the National Register  
7 of Historic Places." The question asserts that  
8 "Cultural landscapes and historic districts seem  
9 largely absent from the current Application materials."  
10 And, asks "why?"

11 MR. QUINLAN: Cherilyn Widell. She's  
12 our historic resource expert.

13 MS. WIDELL: Good evening. Yes. The  
14 SEC Application does require at least an assessment of  
15 the -- whether there is broadly an unreasonable adverse  
16 effect on historic sites. In preparation for the SEC  
17 Application, Northern Pass hired Preservation Company  
18 of Newington, New Hampshire, led by Lynne Monroe and  
19 her team and I to prepare a assessment of historic  
20 properties, which included cultural landscapes in its  
21 assessment.

22 For example, some of the cultural  
23 landscapes that were identified in that were Weeks  
24 State Park, which is listed on the National Register,

1 about 2.92 acres. But the cultural landscape actually  
2 encompasses about 400 acres. So, we looked broadly at  
3 that. One of the other cultural landscapes that was  
4 identified was the North Agricultural District in  
5 Lancaster, which includes 45 farms and over  
6 1,600 acres.

7 So, we believe that the assessment,  
8 which is, actually, I don't think ever has an  
9 assessment been specifically done for an SEC  
10 Application before this, is complete and does include  
11 cultural landscapes.

12 MR. QUINLAN: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: This next sheet has  
14 a few questions, some of which reference some of the  
15 discussion that took place in the Concord meeting.  
16 There was a commenter who said that he had "been able  
17 to refinance without a negative impact on his  
18 appraisal". I believe he said that the current  
19 transmission lines are in his backyard. He was "able  
20 to refinance without a negative impact and his  
21 appraisal was fine." Would you agree with this  
22 statement that "that does not necessarily mean that a  
23 home" -- "that a buyer is going to buy it at the price  
24 that the appraiser set"?

1                   That's a "yes" or "no" question for  
2 someone over there.

3                   MR. QUINLAN: Mr. Chalmers, do you have  
4 an opinion on this?

5                   MR. CHALMERS: I would agree with that.

6                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: At the Concord  
7 meeting there was a mention and a discussion about how  
8 bringing in lower-priced power from Hydro-Quebec might  
9 have an effect on some existing generators. Have you  
10 made any attempt to analyze the effect on those  
11 generators?

12                   MR. QUINLAN: No. What we have looked  
13 at is the effect on the market, and the generators that  
14 bid into that market in any given hour. And, the  
15 effect really is, as Mr. Muntz indicated, you know,  
16 Northern Pass looks like a low-cost generator  
17 delivering into New Hampshire. So, it displaces about  
18 an equal amount of higher-cost, generally  
19 carbon-emitting generation from that bid stack.

20                   But we've not analyzed specifically  
21 which generators, and that would vary under market  
22 conditions.

23                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: If your Project  
24 were to start putting small generators out of business,

1 would you do anything to try and mitigate the effects?

2 MR. QUINLAN: We don't anticipate  
3 Northern Pass having any adverse impact on small  
4 generators. In fact, as I mentioned earlier, we think  
5 we are going to actually enhance the prospects for that  
6 type of generation here in New Hampshire.

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Do corporations  
8 like Eversource feel like they can do anything they  
9 want in New Hampshire without regard to the people  
10 affected?"

11 MR. QUINLAN: No.

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "What safeguards  
13 are there in place that protect New Hampshire from any  
14 cost associated with maintenance or repairs of this  
15 line or the ramifications of the loss of power?"  
16 That's three different topics: Maintenance, repairs,  
17 and ramifications of loss of power.

18 MR. QUINLAN: So, the maintenance  
19 associated with the Project, the costs of that are all  
20 covered under an agreement between us and Hydro-Quebec  
21 that has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory  
22 Commission. So, it's all covered under that agreement.  
23 New Hampshire customers are not party to that agreement  
24 and have no responsibility under it.



1 As to the second question?

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ramifications of  
3 the loss of power?

4 MR. QUINLAN: Mr. Bowes addressed this  
5 earlier. We don't anticipate having those types of  
6 events with this line, it's a very highly reliable  
7 line. If it were to occur, the costs associated with  
8 that would be borne by the Project, namely Northern  
9 Pass and our partner, Hydro-Quebec.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "If ratepayers in  
11 Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts were  
12 willing to pay for the added \$1 billion, would you  
13 completely bury the Northern Pass line in New  
14 Hampshire?"

15 MR. QUINLAN: Again, the project we bid  
16 into the New England Request for Proposal is identical  
17 to the Project we've proposed here. We think that is a  
18 competitive proposal into that solicitation. That's  
19 why we submitted it there, as a mirror image to what we  
20 provided to the SEC.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: The next sheet asks  
22 "how you're going to get the power from Deerfield to  
23 southern New England?"

24 Do you want to add anything to what

1 you've already said on that topic?

2 MR. QUINLAN: No.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Do you have an  
4 estimate of how many danger trees it will be estimated  
5 that you will need to cut down per mile along the  
6 proposed route?"

7 MR. JOHNSON: So, inherently, the  
8 maintenance and operation of the existing right-of-way  
9 today already addresses danger trees on a regular  
10 basis, should they -- should they occur. We actually  
11 do not expect to find any. And, if we do, it will be  
12 in the single digits.

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: That's along the  
14 whole route?

15 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct.

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: You may have  
17 already answered this. "Will the lines create noise"  
18 --

19 MR. QUINLAN: Can I interrupt for one,  
20 I'm sorry?

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Sure. Go ahead.

22 MR. QUINLAN: So, we do have some new  
23 right-of-way that isn't today built. So, to the extent  
24 there were danger trees identified in the new

1 right-of-way, which is either in the Wagner Forest,  
2 that 24 miles, or that other 8 miles of overhead  
3 construction in the North Country, we would work with  
4 the landowners on the removal of potentially danger  
5 trees.

6 So, I just wanted to clarify, we do have  
7 some areas that aren't under our current tree-trimming  
8 policies.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: This next question  
10 asks "whether there will be noise created by the  
11 overhead line, particularly crackling and arcing?"

12 Do you want to add anything to what  
13 you've already said about noise on the line?

14 MR. QUINLAN: No. I think Mr. Bowes  
15 addressed this earlier.

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: "Will the Deerfield  
17 Substation" -- I'm sorry, "the Deerfield" -- yes, "the  
18 Deerfield Substation, will there be increased noise  
19 there?"

20 MR. BOWES: So, I think Mr. Bosse  
21 provided an update on that, that there is a new  
22 transformer going in there. And, there will be a sound  
23 wall around that to mitigate any noise impacts.

24 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Last question. "Do

1 the towers that you are proposing as part of this  
2 project have the potential to carry an increased number  
3 of transmission lines and increased capacity beyond  
4 what is currently in the proposal?"

5 MR. JOHNSON: No.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. With  
7 that, we will end the question section. And, despite  
8 our efforts to push us along a little bit faster, we  
9 ended the question section at almost exactly the same  
10 time as we did two nights ago.

11 So, we are going to take a 15-minute, so  
12 that Mr. Patnaude's hands and machine can cool off, and  
13 we will be back at 20 minutes after.

14 (Recess taken at 7:05 p.m. and the Joint  
15 Public Hearing resumed at 7:23 p.m.)

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right, folks.  
17 We are going to get started with the public comment.  
18 We now -- would you please, please keep it down out  
19 there please? Thank you, thank you, thank you.

20 We have almost 70 people who have signed  
21 up to speak. If everyone takes three minutes, that's  
22 210 minutes. And, if you do that, that's three and a  
23 half hours. So, again, we're going to ask you, if you  
24 can, to limit yourself to three minutes.

1                   Here's a couple of other ground rules.  
2           If you could spell your name, if there's any ambiguity  
3           in how your name is spelled, or sometimes even if there  
4           is not ambiguity, it would be helpful for the record if  
5           you could spell your name. If you have a written  
6           statement that you are reading from, there are two  
7           things about that. The first is to read slowly and  
8           clearly, so Mr. Patnaude can get it. The second is to  
9           give a copy to Mr. Patnaude in the bin that is to his  
10          left that he will hold up.

11                                *[Mr. Patnaude holding up the document*  
12                                *bin for all to see.]*

13                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: We are going to  
14          have a timer up here, which, as I said at the  
15          beginning, we're not going to cut people off, but, when  
16          you get to three and a half minutes, I'm going to raise  
17          my hand. After you've gone a little bit longer, I will  
18          probably ask you a question, like "how much longer do  
19          you have?" or "can you bring yourself to a close?" If  
20          you need additional time, we're going to ask you to  
21          wait until the end. So, we'll ask you to stop then,  
22          and can back at the end. People have done it at each  
23          of the first two meetings. So, it's not a problem.  
24          But it is polite to everybody else here to give as many

1 people a chance, before their babysitters could go to  
2 college on them.

3 So, we'll call, basically, three names  
4 at a time. So, we're going to start with Tony Giunta,  
5 from the Franklin City Council, to be followed by  
6 Senator Boutin, and Mr. Bilodeau.

7 MR. GIUNTA: Thank you very much, Mr.  
8 Chairman. My last name is spelled G-i-u-n-t-a. I am a  
9 City Councilor from Ward 1 in the City of Franklin.  
10 And, I thank you for the opportunity to take my  
11 testimony.

12 If I may please share with you some of  
13 the demographics of the City of Franklin. We are 8,500  
14 people. We are smack dab right in the middle of New  
15 Hampshire. Of those 8,500 people, approximately 4,400  
16 people are our labor force. Of those 4,400 people, a  
17 little more than 1,000 of those people work at  
18 manufacturing and industry. So, as a City Councilor,  
19 I'm here to give you a little bit different spin on  
20 what this project means. And, it's not necessarily  
21 related to people's homes or people's individual bills.  
22 It is related to manufacturing and industry. With such  
23 a heavy reliance, one out of every four people in the  
24 City of Franklin are relying on manufacturing jobs.

1                   When I heard the statistic that  
2                   electricity is the highest price than anywhere else in  
3                   the nation right here in New England, that gives me  
4                   pause, and it makes me a little bit nervous. So, for  
5                   the last three years, I have been talking to our major  
6                   employers in the City of Franklin. And, I've asked  
7                   them "how is this impacting your bottom line?" And,  
8                   their response to me has been "Significantly. We are  
9                   becoming more and more noncompetitive, with not only  
10                  foreign competition, but competition right here in the  
11                  United States. And, if things don't change, I, at some  
12                  point, will have to listen to my CFO, who continues to  
13                  walk into my office as the CEO, and says "we have to do  
14                  something about these high electricity costs"."

15                  Now, it may not mean much for a  
16                  homeowner that has a bill of \$150, and it goes to 175.  
17                  But, if you're paying a half a million dollars,  
18                  three-quarters of a million dollars a year in  
19                  electricity rates, you can go almost anywhere else  
20                  outside of New England and reduce that by 50 percent.  
21                  So, at some point, if you can drop a quarter of a  
22                  million dollars or a half million dollars to your  
23                  bottom line, and move 300 miles southwest of here, at  
24                  some point, you have to start paying attention to your

1 CFOs.

2 Now, I think, mostly through their  
3 benevolence, a lot of CEOs have said "this is where we  
4 started, this is where we want to stay." At some  
5 point, they have to make that decision whether or not  
6 they're going to stay based on these high costs.

7 So, bottom line is, many of the  
8 manufacturers have told me, if things don't change,  
9 they're leaving. We've had one company that has  
10 already left. And, the bottom line is, is that, once  
11 we lose a manufacturer, they are very unlikely to come  
12 back. A company left about seven years ago. We  
13 contacted them recently and said "would you ever like  
14 to come back to the City of Franklin?" And, their  
15 answer was "Absolutely not. We love it here in South  
16 Carolina, and this is where we're staying."

17 We can't afford that in the City of  
18 Franklin, and the thousand people in my ward cannot  
19 afford to lose their jobs for manufacturers to leave.

20 So, I merely bring this up, because it's  
21 a different perspective. And, I please want you to  
22 remember the statements that I have made, these  
23 thousand people with their jobs depend on those  
24 manufacturers staying, and recognize that they are all



1 looking at your decision. And, I think if you're  
2 decision is "no" to this project, they are going to  
3 decide that there's really nothing coming down the pike  
4 that will help us, and they are going to make that  
5 decision to leave.

6 So, please, approve the Northern Pass,  
7 and I ask you to do so as expeditiously as possible.

8 Thank you.

9 *[Audience interruption.]*

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Senator David  
11 Boutin --

12 *[Audience interruption.]*

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Excuse me. Every  
14 speaker --

15 *[Audience interruption.]*

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: -- deserves your  
17 attention and respect.

18 *[Audience interruption.]*

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Sir, if you can not  
20 control yourself, you will be asked to leave.

21 *[Audience interruption.]*

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Every speaker  
23 deserves your attention and respect. You can ask the  
24 people who are here who have been at other meetings.

1 If people want to applaud, they are free to applaud.  
2 I'm going to call the next speaker regardless of what  
3 they do.

4 But, if you want to boo or hiss or jeer,  
5 you're going to be asked to leave.

6 FROM THE FLOOR: I'm done.

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Is that clear?

8 FROM THE FLOOR: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Senator David  
10 Boutin, to be followed by Philip Bilodeau, and Peter  
11 Bosco.

12 SEN. BOUTIN: Thank you. Dear members  
13 of the Site Evaluation Committee, first let me thank  
14 you on behalf of all the citizens of New Hampshire for  
15 your dedication and hard work. I am a State Senator  
16 from District 16, which includes Hooksett, Bow, Canada,  
17 Dunbarton, and three wards in the City of Manchester.

18 I come before you tonight to express my  
19 support for the Northern Pass Project. While there are  
20 many benefits, I believe, in having this project move  
21 forward, there are three that I'd like to highlight:  
22 First, it will reduce electric power prices by \$80  
23 million. Secondly, we can expect that it will yield  
24 \$30 million in new town and state revenues. And,

1 thirdly, it will create over 2,000 much needed jobs.

2 I have been in the Legislature for  
3 eleven years. And, I have to tell you that, during all  
4 of that time, I have heard from ratepayers and  
5 businesses over and over and over again that we must  
6 take bold action to lower energy costs, more  
7 particularly, electric power energy rates.

8 If New Hampshire is going to be  
9 competitive in the regional, national, and global  
10 economy, energy costs must be contained and lowered. I  
11 believe the Northern Pass Project will get us there in  
12 a safe and environmentally sound manner. Thank you.

13 *[Audience interruption.]*

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Philip Bilodeau, to  
15 be followed by Peter Bosco, and Lance Clute.

16 Mr. Bilodeau, before you start, I want  
17 to go off the record for just a second.

18 *[Brief off-the-record discussion*  
19 *ensued.]*

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Bilodeau, you  
21 may proceed.

22 MR. BILODEAU: Thank you very much. I'm  
23 very thankful for the opportunity to talk tonight.

24 And, I do thank you for bringing me up a little earlier

1 than number 55 or something. I would also be very  
2 thankful to Commissioner Bailey for asking the question  
3 earlier this evening. I'm going to stay to the script,  
4 and so I'll be under three minutes. But, at the end,  
5 I'll probably make a few additional comments.

6 So, this evening, good evening. My name  
7 is Phil Bilodeau. Joan and Phil Bilodeau live at 140  
8 Nottingham Road, in Deerfield.

9 Northern Pass ends in Deerfield.  
10 Northern Pass ends in Phil and Joan Bilodeau's  
11 backyard. I spoke in Concord on March 10th at the  
12 joint meeting of SEC and DOE. I was too passionate at  
13 that time, and I believe some of you recall, to  
14 actually describe my position, our position.

15 Our home is on four acres, and abuts the  
16 65-acre Public Service substation. We personally built  
17 our home over the past 44 years. We were aware that  
18 Northern Pass would end in Deerfield. But, several  
19 years ago, Public Service of New Hampshire made  
20 improvements to the existing substation. Imprudently,  
21 we assumed those improvements would manage this new  
22 power.

23 We were notified as abutters of a  
24 wetlands permit application, in October, I'll say.

1           Upon review of the 750 plus pages of wetlands  
2           applications, we discover that a new substation will be  
3           built taking up approximately 5 acres. Now, remember,  
4           my lot, our lot, is only four acres in size.  
5           Clear-cutting the forest, taking 20 feet off the top of  
6           the hill, and filling in around 14 feet to flatten the  
7           five-acre site.

8                         The existing station is approximately  
9           1,500 feet away from our back porch. The new  
10          substation is proposed to be approximately 750 feet  
11          away from our back porch.

12                        I'll speak aside here. Those numbers  
13          I'm getting from the plan that you have in front of  
14          you, which is a Public Service plan, and you'll notice  
15          there's a scale there.

16                        The copy of the plan I provided you in  
17          this packet is from the wetlands permit application.  
18          The little square next to the number "416-14", on the  
19          left-hand side of the plan, is Phil and Joan's house.  
20          The big white blob, in the middle of the plan, is the  
21          proposed new substation.

22                        We have filed for intervenor status. We  
23          experience that Northern Pass objected to our filing.  
24          We filed our objection to their objection. We urge the

1 SEC to grant our request for intervenor status.

2 Should all the objectors to high towers  
3 prevail and the complete route be buried, the power  
4 will still end in Deerfield in Phil and Joan's  
5 backyard. Our quality of life, the enjoyment of our  
6 property, the value of our property will be greatly  
7 diminished.

8 At the March 10th hearing, in Concord,  
9 Mr. Quinlan stated that Northern Pass had reached out  
10 and contacted affected property owners. Are there any  
11 doubts that Phil and Joan Bilodeau are affected? Phil  
12 and Joan were contacted yesterday, March 15th.

13 Please grant us intervenor status. I'll  
14 go off script for a moment. Again, to thank you, and  
15 to pick up on a comment that was said earlier by one of  
16 Mr. Quinlan's experts. And, I came in late, and so I  
17 think I heard something like "oh, the houses are a  
18 quarter of a mile away."

19 Well, I went out in the lobby -- I went  
20 outside for a while to get some fresh air, and I  
21 Googled how far a mile is.

22 Yes, sir?

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: No. I'm just  
24 letting you know --

1 MR. BILODEAU: Three minutes.

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: -- that you're at  
3 three and a half at this point.

4 MR. BILODEAU: This is quick. I Googled  
5 a mile, it's 5,280 feet, a half a mile is 2,640 feet,  
6 and I don't question the accuracy of this gentleman's  
7 experience with the plan that they provided. And, the  
8 question for the six-month period for construction, I  
9 question that you can build a five-acre substation that  
10 would take six months or less.

11 Thank you very much for the opportunity.

12 *[Audience interruption.]*

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Peter Bosco, to be  
14 followed by Stephanie Labbe, and Lance Clute.

15 MR. BOSCO: Peter Bosco. That's B, as  
16 in "boy", o-s-c-o. I live in Shaftsbury, Vermont.  
17 And, I will travel three hours today each direction to  
18 be heard for barely three minutes.

19 I have intently followed and studied  
20 this issue since 2011. While Northern is not in my  
21 backyard, I consider New Hampshire my second home. I  
22 have traveled the country and think New Hampshire is  
23 one of the most beautiful states, your land, and the  
24 tourism it generates, is one of your greatest

1 resources. I have hiked and visited backcountry places  
2 in New Hampshire that few residents have probably  
3 haven't seen.

4 Over the past 35 years, I have spent  
5 tens of thousands of dollars recreating in your state.  
6 I have skied, camped, hiked, and vacationed four to six  
7 times a year, spending my money at your inns, camps,  
8 motels, restaurants, and gas stations.

9 I have waited months, years, actually,  
10 to say that, sadly, I will not come back, if these  
11 towers are built. And, I know I'm not the only one.  
12 It will be like a scar on a woman's face, always there,  
13 and she'll never get used to it. I, no one, will ever  
14 get used to those towers. If built as proposed,  
15 Northern Pass will have a profound negative effect on  
16 small business. It will have a cascading effect -- it  
17 will have a cascading detriment on tourism and the  
18 state economy. If I want to see industrial  
19 infrastructure, I can vacation in New Jersey. Don't be  
20 pennywise and pound foolish.

21 Most disturbing of all, this project  
22 will really only benefit a small group of outside  
23 shareholders at the expense of New Hampshire. The very  
24 soul of this beautiful state will be ripped out, all in



1 the name of greed, ugly, unadulterated greed. Don't  
2 buy into their false promises of riches and jobs for  
3 all.

4 But the towers don't have to happen. As  
5 many of you are aware, a similar project is essentially  
6 green-lighted in Vermont, built entirely underground.  
7 The difference here is Eversource. Formally known as  
8 "Northeast Utilities", which, by the way, had the  
9 lowest customer satisfaction survey of any utility in  
10 the country.

11 *[Audience interruption.]*

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Folks -- just a  
13 minute, Mr. Bosco. You know, I'd really like to be  
14 able to pay attention to what Mr. Bosco is saying.  
15 And, if you want to distract me from what Mr. Bosco is  
16 saying, you'll continue to interrupt him and clap. Why  
17 don't you wait until the end, because you clearly agree  
18 with him. Please, wait until the end. So, everyone  
19 can hear what he has to say. Thank you.

20 Mr. Bosco, you may continue.

21 MR. BOSCO: The clapping didn't bother  
22 me. But Eversource stands to make many billions of  
23 dollars over the life of these towers, while  
24 bankrupting that state's beauty and tourism industry.

1                   And, don't let Eversource tell you that  
2                   it can't be done underground. Much larger and more  
3                   ambitious projects have been completed. The additional  
4                   expense of burial can be paid down, in small part, by  
5                   utility customers over a 40-year period. That, shared  
6                   with an additional cost from Eversource, will make the  
7                   difference. Again, the factor here is greed. If they  
8                   want to access your land, they can do so underground,  
9                   or not at all. And, why should some parts of the state  
10                  have a buried line and other parts not? This is a  
11                  divisive issue on so many levels and it didn't have to  
12                  be like this. If it were up to me, I would have told  
13                  Eversource to take a hike a long time ago. They need  
14                  you more than you need them.

15                  You only have one chance to do this  
16                  right. Having towers that are up to 150 feet --  
17                  153 feet high in sensitive viewsheds is clearly not the  
18                  right way. I have no doubt New Hampshire tourism will  
19                  take a huge hit if these towers are built. I, for one,  
20                  will vacation in my home State of Vermont or travel to  
21                  Maine.

22                  Finally, this is the biggest decision  
23                  for New Hampshire in a generation. For those of you  
24                  empowered to make this decision, your political

1 aspirations and careers will forever be sullied if you  
2 approve these towers. New Hampshire voters will not  
3 forget. You will be held accountable. The will of the  
4 people, which is overwhelmingly against Northern Pass,  
5 and not monied interests, must be heard.

6 *[Audience interruption.]*

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Stephanie Labbe,  
8 followed by Lance Clute, and Joe Dionne.

9 MS. LABBE: Good evening. My name is  
10 Stephanie Labbe, L-a-b-b-e. I am a civil engineer and  
11 a Project Manager for PAR Electric.

12 I have personally been involved in our  
13 operations in New Hampshire and throughout New England  
14 over the past ten years. Over that time, we have  
15 constructed and maintained a large portion of the  
16 transmission and distribution lines that deliver power  
17 to everyone's homes. We also play a major role in  
18 restoring power after major storm events, such as  
19 Hurricanes Irene and Sandy and the October snowstorm in  
20 2011.

21 As a Project Manager, I am usually the  
22 first person to get involved in a project and the first  
23 person on site. I am the one who builds the beginnings  
24 of relationships with local businesses, so I can

1 personally attest to the benefits that a project of  
2 this size will bring.

3 On this project, it will not just be  
4 linemen that are put to work. You've heard, and I can  
5 confirm, that transmission line construction requires  
6 numerous subcontractors, for work such as  
7 tree-clearing, road-building, paving, equipment  
8 hauling, material hauling, survey and geotechnical  
9 investigation to name a few. We plan on hiring New  
10 Hampshire companies for these operations. They will  
11 employ New Hampshire residents. They will purchase or  
12 rent equipment in New Hampshire. They will purchase  
13 fuel in New Hampshire. They will rent office space and  
14 yard space in New Hampshire.

15 This is an important project, and one  
16 that I am proud to be a part of. It is important for  
17 New Hampshire and the future, and I support Northern  
18 Pass. Thank you.

19 *[Audience interruption.]*

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Lance Clute, to be  
21 followed by Joe Dionne, and Jim Tighe.

22 MR. CLUTE: Good evening. My name is  
23 Lance Clute, C-l-u-t-e. And, I'm the Vice President  
24 for PAR Electrical Contractors. We were recently

1 awarded the contract for Northern Pass. I want to  
2 thank the Site Evaluation Committee for the opportunity  
3 to speak. And, also, the fingers of the gentleman  
4 here, and of all of the meetings, the stenographers,  
5 because they do an unbelievable job.

6 Based on my past experience for  
7 projects, Northern Pass will add thousands of jobs, as  
8 has been attested to over and over. The greatest  
9 portion of these jobs are not through the line workers.  
10 The biggest portion, as the previous speaker said, will  
11 be from other work, and the services that they support.

12 We currently employ a large number of  
13 New Hampshire-based line workers, a lot of them here  
14 tonight. A lot of these men and woman work outside of  
15 New Hampshire currently. They don't work here, because  
16 there's no work here. There are other line contractors  
17 here tonight that also employ hundreds of line workers  
18 that are New Hampshire-based folks that work outside  
19 and in New Hampshire because of the lack of work.  
20 Construction of Northern Pass will allow all of these  
21 line workers to come home and work here in the state  
22 they grew up in.

23 I also wanted to give you an order of  
24 magnitude of some of the things that we will spend

1 money on as far as actual dollars and cents. We'll  
2 spend approximately \$7 million on gravel; \$8 million on  
3 concrete; duct bank system revenue of about  
4 \$27 million; the workers will spend approximately  
5 \$10 million on each, lodging and meals, over the course  
6 of the project; and, believe it or not, the purchase of  
7 ice, water, and Porta Potties will add about a million  
8 dollars to the local economy.

9 One other thing I want to touch on to  
10 spend is the equipment that we will use and the money  
11 we will spend on that equipment. We will rent most of  
12 the equipment that we use for the construction. We do  
13 own equipment, however, most of that equipment will be  
14 used elsewhere, and it's very expensive to transport.  
15 We will spend approximately \$10 million to run that  
16 equipment, all bought locally in New Hampshire. There  
17 will be about a \$20 million spend on repairs to that  
18 equipment, that we won't do ourselves, we will have  
19 that done by local shops throughout New Hampshire.

20 In closing, I would like to urge the  
21 Committee to approve this Application. The state's  
22 workforce, economy and wellbeing is best served by  
23 building Northern Pass.

24 Thank you.

1                   *[Audience interruption.]*

2                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Joe Dionne, to be  
3 followed by Jim Tighe, and Mike Skelton.

4                   MR DIONNE: Good evening. My name is  
5 Joe Dionne, D-i-o-n-n-e. I am currently employed by  
6 PAR Electrical Contractors as New England's Health,  
7 Safety, and Environmental major -- Manager. We  
8 recently have been selected as the general contractor  
9 for the Northern Pass Project, if approved. I would  
10 like to thank the Site Evaluation Committee for  
11 allowing to speak in support of this project tonight.

12                   I've been involved in our operations in  
13 New Hampshire for the past three years and will  
14 continue to work with our employees and Eversource to  
15 ensure all overall safety for the workforce, the  
16 public, and the environment.

17                   PAR will be purchasing thousands and  
18 thousands of timber mats for this project from New  
19 Hampshire companies. We will use these mats to help  
20 protect and save sensitive environmental areas. We  
21 will work in accordance with local environmental  
22 agencies to make sure there will be no impact in these  
23 areas.

24                   I am a Keene State College alum of

1 Keene, New Hampshire, and currently have two other KSC  
2 alum working for PAR reporting directly to me. PAR is  
3 looking forward to recruit from the University of New  
4 Hampshire, Plymouth State, KSC, and other New Hampshire  
5 institutes to help build our Health, Safety, and  
6 Environmental team. Recruiting from local institutions  
7 will also help lead to opportunities in business  
8 management, human resources, accounting, and many more  
9 fields. This is a great opportunity to put young  
10 educated professionals in the field to gain experience  
11 and knowledge that will help further their careers.  
12 PAR will use this opportunity to give future  
13 generations a chance to build their careers on a very  
14 exciting project. This project will help these young  
15 professionals build their future in the State of New  
16 Hampshire and one day start building their families. I  
17 look forward to moving back up to the State of New  
18 Hampshire full time in this upcoming year.

19 In closing, I would like to urge the  
20 Committee to approve this Application. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Jim Tighe, to be  
22 followed by Mike Skelton, and Jim DeStefano.

23 MR. TIGHE: Hi. Good evening. My name  
24 is Jim Tighe, T-i-g-h-e. I'm with Quanta Services.



1 I'm the Director of Business Development for Quanta.  
2 And, one of our operating companies, PAR Electric, is  
3 the general contractor for the project, for the  
4 Northern Pass Project. I wanted to thank the Site  
5 Evaluation Committee for the opportunity to speak to  
6 you tonight.

7 I support the project. This is one of  
8 the single most important projects in the country right  
9 now, and will address many of the energy issues we  
10 face.

11 If I could cover a couple of key points:  
12 New Hampshire jobs. There's a lot of people hurting in  
13 New Hampshire. The mills, loggers, concrete suppliers,  
14 this project is going to mean a lot to them. We have  
15 two operating companies in New Hampshire, PAR Electric  
16 that has a regional office in Bow, New Hampshire, and  
17 another company, called "JCR Construction", that  
18 operates in Raymond, New Hampshire.

19 Now, these two companies, some of which  
20 date back over 30 years, employ 200 people. And, these  
21 people live, work, and raise their families in New  
22 Hampshire. They're New Hampshire residents. They  
23 support this project. Quanta, the parent company of  
24 PAR Electric and JCR, is the largest IBEW employer in

1 the country. There's thousands of workers within the  
2 IBEW that support this project. And, I think, at one  
3 of the recent meetings I attended, there was 240 New  
4 Hampshire residents that work for the IBEW now that  
5 have to work away from their homes, in other states.  
6 And, we would like to try to bring those folks back  
7 home, to work in their towns, in their -- and be back  
8 with their families. And, Northern Pass will allow us  
9 to do that.

10 An important aspect of Northern Pass,  
11 and we worked closely with Eversource on this, is the  
12 "New Hampshire first" initiative. And, what that means  
13 is, we, as the general contractor, have a  
14 responsibility and an obligation to get as much  
15 participation of local New Hampshire businesses. I  
16 personally have gone out, probably not as an extensive  
17 a road trip as you folks, I know you've been on one  
18 looking at the route, but spent three days meeting with  
19 70 different interested businesses, and these were  
20 excavation-type companies, loggers, clearing-type  
21 companies, concrete companies, asphalt companies, all  
22 New Hampshire-based that will work on this project.

23 And, I think I could give you, from an  
24 economic benefit standpoint, I think I could give you a

1 real-world example. Because I've heard a lot of folks  
2 saying that "these are out-of-state jobs, it's not  
3 going to help our economy." But here's a real-world  
4 situation that I was involved in personally. There was  
5 the Maine Power Reliability Project that started in  
6 2010, and ran until 2015. And, it was a \$1.4 billion  
7 project. So, dollarwise, it's comparable to Northern  
8 Pass. That project, we have real-world data on that  
9 project. It employed 390 contractors, 270 of those  
10 contractors were Maine companies. So, that kind of  
11 gives you an indication that this is going to drive  
12 businesses and jobs for Maine folks. At the height of  
13 that project, there was 2,700 jobs that were created,  
14 and a positive impact to the economy, to the local  
15 Maine economy, of \$436 million. So, that's the kind of  
16 benefit we'll see with Northern Pass and New Hampshire.

17 Very quickly, I just wanted to  
18 highlight, one of the issues with Northern Pass and one  
19 of the things it's going to solve is our energy crisis.  
20 We have a country that's migrating away from coal, and  
21 we're never going to do a nuclear power plant in this  
22 country again, after Fukushima. So, we need different  
23 sources of energy. Northern Pass is an ideal source of  
24 energy.

1                   And, in closing, I'd like to urge the  
2                   Committee to approve this Application. Northern Pass  
3                   is a step forward in securing our future energy needs,  
4                   while creating much needed jobs and a positive impact  
5                   for New Hampshire.

6                   Thank you so much.

7                   *[Audience interruption.]*

8                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mike Skelton, to be  
9                   followed by Jim DeStefano, and Mark Bailey.

10                  MR. SKELTON: Thank you. Good evening.  
11                  Mike Skelton, S-k-e-l-t-o-n. I'm the President and CEO  
12                  of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. The  
13                  Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce is the largest  
14                  chamber in the State of New Hampshire. We represent  
15                  nearly 900 businesses from across the southern New  
16                  Hampshire region. Our Board of Directors first  
17                  endorsed the Northern Pass Project in 2012, and we  
18                  reaffirmed this position in support of the project in  
19                  2015, after reviewing the details of the new route and  
20                  the ForwardNH Plan. And, I'm here tonight to express  
21                  our support for the project and to urge its approval.

22                  In reviewing the project, the Board of  
23                  Directors recognized the statewide economic development  
24                  benefits of this project, as well as the impact of

1 accessing new, large sources of hydroelectric energy  
2 that can help stabilize our energy market.

3 As has been discussed tonight, New  
4 Hampshire faces a growing crisis around the cost of  
5 electricity. The business community, in particular, is  
6 greatly impacted by this issue, and it threatens our  
7 ability to grow our economy and create jobs. While  
8 demand for energy increases, the region has as well an  
9 increasing number of older generating plants coming off  
10 line, representing a loss of thousands of megawatts of  
11 electricity. This, combined with our increased  
12 reliance on natural gas power generation, leaves us  
13 vulnerable to price spikes due to an inadequate supply  
14 of gas into our region. While there is no single  
15 solution to this challenge, we know that we must  
16 increase the supply and diversity of our energy, if  
17 we're going to address this issue. And, Northern Pass  
18 does just that and is a step forward.

19 We believe Northern Pass is going to  
20 help address this issue in several ways. It's going to  
21 bring a thousand megawatts of new energy into the  
22 region, that will drive down the cost of electricity  
23 and save an estimated \$80 million annually for New  
24 Hampshire ratepayers. Second, the purchase power

1 agreement between Eversource and Hydro-Quebec  
2 guarantees that New Hampshire customers will receive  
3 the lowest price for power. And, third, increasing the  
4 supply of clean hydropower into the region helps  
5 diversify our overall energy supply, which makes us  
6 less susceptible to the price spikes we've seen in  
7 recent years.

8 Now, I also have with me Mr. DeStefano's  
9 comments. He was not able to attend.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So, just one  
11 second. Let me make clear for the people who are here.  
12 Our rules specifically allow for someone to read  
13 someone else's statement, if that person is unable to  
14 do that or is unwilling to do that. There are people  
15 here tonight, Mr. Page is one, who did that at the last  
16 meeting, and others have seen it. So, this is in our  
17 rules and allowed specifically in there.

18 So, Mr. Skelton, you may proceed for  
19 Mr. DeStefano. If you could spell Mr. DeStefano's  
20 name, so it's clear whose statement this is.

21 MR. SKELTON: Sure. James DeStefano,  
22 D-e-S-t-e-f-a-n-o. This is Mr. DeStefano's submission.

23 I'm writing to express my strong support  
24 for the Northern Pass Project and hope it gains

1 approval to be constructed to become operational.

2 I'm a lifelong New Hampshire resident,  
3 and have resided in Manchester for the past 16 years.  
4 I'm a shareholder in a New Hampshire-based commercial  
5 real estate services firm, an industry in which I've  
6 worked for the past 25 years. To disclose, I've been a  
7 vendor for some Eversource-owned real estate  
8 disposition projects over the years, including some  
9 active listings presently.

10 In my capacity as a commercial realtor  
11 on the frontline of economic development efforts in New  
12 Hampshire, I can attest to the significant disadvantage  
13 New Hampshire and New England has due to skyrocketing  
14 energy costs. Other than pockets of smart  
15 manufacturing, our state's manufacturing industry  
16 remains depressed. The last decade of brokerage has  
17 been filled with the sale of many vacant manufacturing  
18 facilities that formerly employed many thousands of  
19 workers repurposed into other uses.

20 My firm, Colliers International, was  
21 recently working with a Belgium company, Verstraete, in  
22 seeking to acquire industrial land to develop a 100,000  
23 square feet state-of-the-art manufacturing plant with  
24 hundreds of employees to be hired. A leader in the

1 mould labeling industry, Verstraete decided to instead  
2 invest in Tennessee. According to an email from  
3 Verstraete's Deployment Project Manager, energy cost is  
4 twice as high in New Hampshire as compared to  
5 Tennessee, and was a critical site criterion in their  
6 decision to not choose New Hampshire.

7 I'm discouraged when I hear opponents  
8 contend that the electricity supplied by Northern Pass  
9 will be used primarily in southern New England; thus,  
10 the project should be opposed. Frankly, New  
11 Hampshire's economy is highly dependent on a regional  
12 economy. If Massachusetts and Connecticut and others  
13 suffer, so does New Hampshire.

14 New Hampshire communities would receive  
15 substantial property tax revenue from Northern Pass,  
16 and the project would create enormous construction job  
17 base.

18 I realize this project has generated  
19 tremendous public comment. For that reason alone, I  
20 sincerely thank you for considering my personal  
21 thoughts on Northern Pass. Please count me as a strong  
22 supporter of this project.

23 And, that concludes Mr. DeStefano's  
24 comments. And, just want to reiterate that the Chamber



1 is here in support as well. Thank you.

2 *[Audience interruption.]*

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mark Bailey, to be  
4 followed by Craig Trottier, and Tiler Eaton.

5 MR. BAILEY: Good evening, members of  
6 the Committee. And, thank you for the opportunity for  
7 public comment. For the record, my name is Mark  
8 Bailey, B-a-i-l-e-y. No relation to Commissioner  
9 Bailey. I am a Facilities Engineering Manager for BAE  
10 Systems. I am responsible for facility strategy and  
11 business practices, and energy is clearly one area of  
12 strategic concern for us.

13 BAE supports the Northern Pass plan  
14 under your consideration this evening. We feel it is  
15 important for the region. We feel it is important to  
16 BAE Systems. Our company is the state's larger  
17 manufacturer, and we are certainly a major consumer of  
18 energy here in New Hampshire. We employ roughly  
19 4,500 employees here in the state, with sites in  
20 Nashua, Merrimack, Hudson, Litchfield, Milford, and  
21 Londonderry. This allows BAE Systems to make two  
22 informed and stark observations.

23 First, it's difficult for business to  
24 operate competitively in New Hampshire, as we've heard

1 from many speakers already. Compared to other regions  
2 of the country, we clearly pay a high cost for energy.  
3 We believe we must take action now to bring more  
4 supplies of energy to the grid for regional benefit.

5 Second observation is this: The cost  
6 disadvantage is addressable, if the right steps are  
7 taken and they're taken quickly. BAE systems, as well  
8 as all of New Hampshire businesses, need low-cost,  
9 reliable power to remain competitive with the rest of  
10 the country and the world.

11 The Northern Pass plan is balanced. It  
12 will improve our region's energy deficit by delivering  
13 clean, renewable hydroelectric power to New Hampshire  
14 and the region, and it does so with addressing  
15 environmental concerns.

16 The Northern Pass plan has other  
17 regional benefits, as we've heard as well tonight. It  
18 will provide millions of dollars in tax revenue to many  
19 local communities, and it will provide thousands of  
20 jobs for New Hampshire. That is why BAE Systems is  
21 leading a group of roughly 50, 5-0, New Hampshire  
22 businesses in support of this plan.

23 I have copies of our joint statement,  
24 and a list of the very diverse companies who have

1 signed on. I ask that it be included as part of the  
2 public docket.

3 You will note these companies span from  
4 every corner of the state. They are both large and  
5 small, representing a true cross-section of various  
6 industries and business sectors that make up the  
7 state's delicate economy.

8 BAE Systems looks forward to a thorough,  
9 fact-based review of the Northern Pass Project by this  
10 Committee. And, on behalf of BAE Systems, I urge you  
11 to act in a fair and timely manner. New Hampshire  
12 citizens and businesses cannot afford to wait any  
13 longer for action.

14 So, I close with a terrible, but  
15 appropriate cliché. I say, "If not Northern Pass, then  
16 what? And, if not now, when?"

17 Thank you.

18 *[Audience interruption.]*

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Craig Trottier, to  
20 be followed by Tiler Eaton, and Tom Mullen.

21 MR. EATON: Good evening. My name is  
22 Tiler Eaton. And, I'm from Nottingham. Thank you for  
23 the opportunity to speak tonight.

24 I was born and raised in New Hampshire,

1 and I fully support the Northern Pass Project.

2 First, I would like to thank the SEC  
3 Committee, and especially Mr. Honigberg, for your  
4 management of these meetings. Of the 20 or more public  
5 hearings this project has had, these past SEC hearings  
6 have been the most controlled. Before your  
7 participation, many of the hearings were  
8 out-of-control, and many citizens' statements were  
9 booed or shouted down, and many citizens were  
10 intimidated into not speaking. Your management of  
11 these hearings have encouraged everyone, on both sides,  
12 to share their opinions, which is great.

13 There have been many statements on the  
14 record regarding the IBEW and our members. Some  
15 stating that we have come in by bus, that we have tried  
16 to intimidate people, or we are from out of state. I  
17 would like the record to show we are as much a part of  
18 the affected communities as any other group that has  
19 spoken about this project. Our members are very hard  
20 workers, very good members of their communities. Most  
21 are active and belong to not only IBEW, but other  
22 organizations, such as Sierra Club and Appalachian  
23 Mountain Club. They own homes, coach kids, go to  
24 church, have camps in the North Country, where they

1 spend time hunting, fishing, hiking, and skiing.

2 I would also like to say to Mr. Quinlan  
3 of Eversource, I am proud to find out you are a  
4 resident of New Hampshire. Many of the speakers at  
5 previous meetings have told you to go back to  
6 Connecticut. Well, if we applied that standard to many  
7 of the people who have spoken at these recent hearings,  
8 we all could have gotten to bed a lot earlier in last  
9 few meetings.

10 I support this project for many reasons:  
11 New tax revenues for schools; lower energy prices; and  
12 cleaner environment, to name a few. But my expertise  
13 in these transmission projects, they create jobs for  
14 working families.

15 I have seen it and I have experienced  
16 it. Unfortunately, after 35 years of being a lineman,  
17 I have never worked on a transmission project in the  
18 State of New Hampshire. We have hundreds of members  
19 that live in New Hampshire, but are forced to work  
20 extended periods out of state due to the lack of  
21 opportunities in this state. Missed birthdays, missed  
22 anniversaries, kids' games, things most people take for  
23 granted. Extended stays in campgrounds and motels, and  
24 on the road meals, are very hard living to provide --

1 make a very hard living to provide for our families.

2 Almost done. This project will allow  
3 them to come home. Three years of work in New  
4 Hampshire, and a huge opportunity for them. Something  
5 I have never experienced. Long-term work on a good  
6 project, and good pay and benefits. I encourage the  
7 SEC to give that a chance.

8 Also, the IBEW members are not paid to  
9 attend these meetings. Thank you.

10 *[Audience interruption.]*

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I attempted to call  
12 Craig Trottier. Is Craig Trottier here?

13 So, Craig Trottier, to be followed by  
14 Thomas Mullen, and Susan Seitz.

15 MR. TROTTIER: Good evening. My name is  
16 Craig Trottier, T-r-o-t-t-i-e-r. I've lived in New  
17 Hampshire for 48 ears. I'm an avid hiker. I've  
18 climbed all 4,000 footers many times. I'm a member of  
19 several outdoor clubs. And, I'm passionate about  
20 energy efficiency, environmental stewardship, and the  
21 economic wellbeing of our state. I'm also a strong  
22 supporter of the Northern Pass Project.

23 I've worked for Public Service of New  
24 Hampshire, now Eversource, since 1979. Most of my

1 career has been spent working with the largest energy  
2 consumers in the state.

3 I speak to you today as a concerned  
4 citizen with a background in the energy field, and  
5 through a decision made completely on my own. Through  
6 my career, I have seen how high electric rates have  
7 contributed to business failures, and caused some of  
8 New Hampshire's best employers to move operations to  
9 other regions in the United States where energy is less  
10 costly. I fear a continuation of this trend.

11 In a recent example, the owner of a  
12 large, energy-intensive manufacturing facility told me  
13 that an out-of-state competitor is selling product to  
14 his New Hampshire customers at prices he cannot match.  
15 Per this business owner, his competitor can undercut  
16 his prices because of lower electric prices in the  
17 competitor's region. This New Hampshire manufacturer  
18 stands to save over \$400,000 per year in electric costs  
19 solely due to the Northern Pass Project. Also, this  
20 same manufacturer has invested millions in energy  
21 efficiency. So, efficiency is not the problem, price  
22 is. And, \$400,000 will go a long way in improving this  
23 business's competitive advantage.

24 High electric prices in New Hampshire

1 are clearly a serious problem and must be solved.

2 We know that several large power plants  
3 in New England have closed or are scheduled for  
4 closing. We also know that wind and solar energy are  
5 intermittent power sources that require baseload power  
6 plants for backup. As such, we need more new baseload  
7 sources to replace the plants that have and will close.

8 Further, we all know the ardent  
9 opposition to new gas pipelines and the issues caused  
10 by tight natural gas supplies during the winter months.  
11 Combine the natural gas issue with power plant  
12 closings, it is clear that electric prices have no  
13 place to go but up. If we do nothing, the manufacturer  
14 I mentioned and other businesses may not survive here  
15 in New Hampshire.

16 I have the highest respect for and, for  
17 the most part, side with those organizations who oppose  
18 the Northern Pass Project, but I do not side with them  
19 on this issue. As with everything in life, there is a  
20 need for balance. The arguments against new energy  
21 sources, most notably Northern Pass, are out of balance  
22 with the obvious needs of New Hampshire's businesses  
23 and residents.

24 There are thousands of miles of power



1 lines in New Hampshire, yet thousands of tourists  
2 continue to enjoy hiking and outdoor recreational  
3 activities.

4 I urge you to shift -- to sift through  
5 the hype and do what is right for New Hampshire. We  
6 cannot compromise the viability of our businesses and  
7 our future because of illogical fears, including the  
8 supposition that tourists will no longer come to visit  
9 this beautiful state. I urge you to approve the  
10 Northern Pass Project.

11 Thank you very much.

12 *[Audience interruption.]*

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thomas Mullen, to  
14 be followed by Susan Seitz, and Jonathan Mitchell.

15 MR. MULLEN: Thank you, Commission  
16 [Committee?] members. Appreciate the opportunity to  
17 speak to you here this evening.

18 There's a fact that's, I think, missing  
19 largely in this room, and I want to call attention to  
20 it. I think the vast majority of the people that you  
21 see here in orange, and the vast majority that are here  
22 in blue, would like to see the Northern Pass Project go  
23 forward; nobody's arguing that fact. The issue truly  
24 and really comes down to "how it goes forward". And, I

1 take great exception, sitting in this chair over here a  
2 few minutes ago, hearing that contracts have been  
3 awarded to various contractors on this project, a  
4 project that you haven't even voted on yet. That I  
5 find immensely presumptuous on the part of the Northern  
6 Pass people.

7 The issue really does come down to "how  
8 they're going to do it". And, they can afford to do it  
9 underground. It's being done underground all around  
10 the world, at this stage, not just here in New  
11 Hampshire, but how about in Connecticut? The State of  
12 Connecticut now has a law on the books that requires  
13 "any and all distribution" -- excuse me, "high tension  
14 lines/transmission lines have to go underground in the  
15 State of Connecticut", must go underground. Now, why  
16 can they do it in Connecticut, but they can't do it  
17 here? I find something wrong with that.

18 I want to remind the folks here from  
19 Franklin that few, if any, people have a problem with  
20 this project going down to Franklin. We'd like to see  
21 it go down to Franklin, and be converted from HVDC over  
22 to AC power before it continues on its way.

23 There are probably more jobs that are  
24 available from this project if it goes underground than

1 there are overhead. The project will take longer to do  
2 it, and there will be more contractors that will be  
3 needed on those jobs.

4 And, so, the last thing that I want to  
5 bring to your attention, there is a website called  
6 "*glassdoor.com*". That's a website where people can go  
7 on the site and, if they work for a company, they're  
8 able to make comments about their company. And, you  
9 must identify yourself to the operators of this  
10 website. They then will check back to make sure that  
11 what you've registered for on this website is really  
12 true. And, so, I'm going to tell you a couple things  
13 that have been said.

14 First of all, I want to read a headline  
15 that's on this website: "Beware: There's been an  
16 internal campaign that had managers at Eversource rate  
17 positively on this site." So, there were lots of  
18 negative comments that finally Eversource woke up to,  
19 and they launched a campaign to get their managers to  
20 say positive things.

21 I'll read you some headlines.

22 February 8th, 2016, current employee: "Can this wreck  
23 be salvaged. Cons: Since the merger with NSTAR, the  
24 company is run more like a dictatorship than a

1 democracy. This has disenfranchised nearly everyone in  
2 the workforce in all positions. All the line workers,  
3 electricians, financial analysts, engineers, and  
4 low-level managers can see how their knowledge and  
5 decision-making skills are no longer valued by the  
6 ivory tower executives. Advice to management:  
7 Relinquish control back to local management. This  
8 could be a really good place to work for again.  
9 Communicate with people with the understanding that  
10 they have common sense and can see through all of the  
11 typical drone buzzwords.

12 Give me one or two more of these. "Last  
13 resort: I have been working at Eversource full-time  
14 for a year. The co-workers are great at this place.  
15 The cons: Disjointed management; low pay; no  
16 consistency of direction; directors means VIP status  
17 only; miserable."

18 And, the last one that I have, this is  
19 from a "Supervisor, current employee. I've been  
20 working at Eversource full-time for more than 10 years.  
21 Pros: The work is challenging. Cons: Upper  
22 management is not trustworthy and does not appreciate  
23 their employees."

24 This is a company that's asking you to

1 trust them that they can't afford to put this project  
2 underground. I beg to differ with them. They can  
3 afford to, and you should make sure that's exactly what  
4 they do do. Thank you.

5 *[Audience interruption.]*

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Susan Seitz, to be  
7 followed by Jonathan Mitchell, and Ron Charland.

8 MS. SEITZ: Hi. My name is Susan Seitz.  
9 And my name is spelled S, as in "Sam", e-i-t-z. I'm  
10 back, again. Today you visited Deerfield, for less  
11 than two hours. You ran out of time for the  
12 Committee's questions. To me, this says you do not  
13 value Deerfield. We are just an end location to you.

14 You are pushing a non-reliability energy  
15 project on New Hampshire, with technology that is  
16 currently old, and will look even more outdated by the  
17 proposed start date of this project. I have been a  
18 lot -- I've been at a lot of these meetings, and have  
19 heard a great deal of contradictory information. At  
20 one set of meetings that New Hampshire -- we were told  
21 that "New Hampshire would not benefit energywise", then  
22 we were told that we would get "10 percent". You keep  
23 telling us "it's all about the grid." I beg to differ.  
24 This project is not about the grid; it's about New

1 Hampshire, our way of life. Thirty of the thirty-one  
2 (31) towns along this route are opposed.

3 You stated tonight that this is a  
4 project you believe works. New Hampshire has stated  
5 loud and clear, we do not.

6 I'm tired of hearing how this project is  
7 going to lower energy costs a possible 5 percent.  
8 \$80 million savings at 1.4 million people in New  
9 Hampshire is 57.14 cents per person. I'm not really  
10 sure how that's going to help New Hampshire businesses.  
11 So, we just heard, one New Hampshire business is going  
12 to save \$400,000 a year. So, if you take that off the  
13 top, how much is left for everybody else? The people  
14 of New Hampshire are going to end up paying more, not  
15 less, if this project goes through.

16 You have not listened. You are throwing  
17 money at the objections. If you had listened in the  
18 first place, the money that you are spending to buy  
19 people could bury most of this project.

20 All New England states do not believe  
21 that hydropower is renewable energy. Connecticut is  
22 the only one. But you are pushing this as a renewable  
23 green project.

24 Please, SEC, listen to New Hampshire.

1 Thank you.

2 *[Audience interruption.]*

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Jonathan Mitchell,  
4 to be followed Ron Charland, and Shane Buckley-Gray.

5 MR. MITCHELL: I'm Jonathan Mitchell.  
6 Got the spelling on that okay?

7 MR. PATNAUDE: Yes.

8 MR. MITCHELL: All right. Thank you for  
9 the opportunity to speak. My name is Jonathan  
10 Mitchell. I'm a Training Director for the IBEW Local  
11 490. And, I'm here in favor of Northern Pass.

12 I'd like to address one thing, and it's  
13 the infrastructure. I've been to all but one of the  
14 meetings throughout the state, and I'm glad this is the  
15 last one. I've listened to all the pros and cons from  
16 Colebrook to Deerfield.

17 Included in a couple of the  
18 presentations, there was talk of -- or, actually, a  
19 statement made that this project was not one that had  
20 to be done "to keep the lights on". And, back in the  
21 cheap seats where I was sitting, the buzz was "Oh,  
22 good. We don't need to do this."

23 Well, myself, and many others like me,  
24 we're also back there thinking "Oh, good." You know,

1 "we're not going to wait until our infrastructure  
2 falters or fails to address it."

3 Far too many times, whether it be local  
4 municipalities or states, they abuse the hell out of  
5 their infrastructures, as the people in Michigan can  
6 attest to. And, I, for one, am very glad that  
7 Eversource has taken the reins and kept us ahead of the  
8 curve on that.

9 In closing, I just want to say I believe  
10 Eversource has bent over backwards with the people in  
11 New Hampshire, listened to their concerns, and  
12 addressed them through rerouting, and the means to, the  
13 methods -- wiring methods, I should say.

14 This is a good project, one that's good  
15 for New Hampshire. Let's get this thing done.

16 *[Audience interruption.]*

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ron Charland, to be  
18 followed by Shane Buckley-Gray, and Kris Shores.

19 MR. CHARLAND: I'm Ron Charland,  
20 C-h-a-r-l-a-n-d. Retired in Deerfield. This is a very  
21 complicated business, to me, especially, but we all  
22 love electricity. We can't do without it. However, if  
23 this project becomes absolutely necessary, I think most  
24 people want the lines totally buried, so we won't



1 regret it the rest of our lives.

2 Deerfield has a double line of towers  
3 coming into the center of town already, and a double  
4 line of huge towers going out. Another line of these  
5 120-foot towers or so in the middle of the existent  
6 would simply devastate the center of this village, and  
7 affect everybody's property values and increase our  
8 taxes.

9 We also think that 1,100 towers would be  
10 a huge risk to the New Hampshire image and natural  
11 beauty of our landscape. Our thousands of tourists and  
12 residents would be greeted by these 10- to 15-story  
13 towers on I-93 turnpike just beyond our State Capitol,  
14 and would cross I-93 twice by the time you get to the  
15 Lakes Region, and more of them by the time you get to  
16 the mountains. If we need this project, there is a  
17 modern, professional way of doing it without planting  
18 1,100 towers in the heart of New Hampshire. Burying  
19 the line also creates jobs.

20 We have not heard much about other  
21 projects in progress, but there are, in Vermont, New  
22 York, and Maine. And, the Boston Globe, Union Leader,  
23 recently, in the month of January, had articles, also  
24 on the Internet have reports about them.

1 Vermont's New England Clean Power Link  
2 approval has been made to bury a hydropower line of 154  
3 miles, from Canada to the -- through -- under the Lake  
4 Champlain, and underground for another 54 miles -- or,  
5 57 miles to the New England grid. Construction starts  
6 this year, according to the article, and in service by  
7 2019, all with new underground technology.

8 The same company is also building  
9 another line from Canada, buried in Lake Champlain and  
10 the Hudson River, as well as railroad beds, to supply  
11 New York City, one of their -- which is one of their  
12 largest state projects so far.

13 Eversource is an \$18 billion market cap  
14 company. Almost \$6 billion in revenues annually,  
15 serving Massachusetts, the Boston area, all the big  
16 cities, western Mass. area, Springfield and so forth,  
17 as well as Connecticut, the State of Connecticut, and  
18 New Hampshire. And, they can well do it  
19 professionally. Thank you.

20 *[Audience interruption.]*

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Shane Buckley-Gray,  
22 to be followed by Kris Shores, and Diane Shores.

23 Shane Buckley-Gray here?

24 *[No verbal response]*

1                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Kris Shores, to be  
2 followed by Diane Shores, and Nick Karakoudas.

3                   MS. K. SHORES: Hello. My name is  
4 Kristen Shores. I live here in Deerfield. I'm not  
5 going to make a speech. I don't -- I'm not a public  
6 speaker. I just want to say that, if this all could be  
7 buried, I would vote for this project. But, as it is  
8 now, I definitely oppose this project.

9                   Thank you.

10                  [Audience interruption.]

11                  CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Diane Shores, to be  
12 followed by Nick Karakoudas, and James Page.

13                  MS. D. SHORES: My name is Diane Shores.  
14 I live here in Deerfield. And, I, too, oppose this  
15 project.

16                  [Audience interruption.]

17                  CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Nick Karakoudas, to  
18 be followed by Jim Page, and Jane Difley.

19                  MR. KARAKOUDAS: My name is Nick  
20 Karakoudas, K-a-r-a-k-o-u-d-a-s. I'm a farmer. I grow  
21 fruits and vegetables here in Deerfield. I live on the  
22 Middle Road.

23                                 This is the time of year that farmers  
24 are making plans and preparations for the coming

1 growing season. One particular task lends itself well  
2 to making a metaphorical comment here, if I may, on  
3 what is perhaps the inevitability of the Northern Pass  
4 Transmission lines.

5 The farming task I'm speaking of is  
6 being certain to have enough fertilizer on hand. To  
7 this end, there are dairy farms that deliver and dump  
8 raw cow manure to me, which will then decompose into  
9 the wondrous, sweet compost that we can then put on our  
10 fields, to nourish our soil and our plants here in New  
11 Hampshire.

12 Now, those big piles of raw cow manure  
13 are pretty gross. Nobody wants to see them or smell  
14 them; certainly not the neighboring homeowners.

15 It must be noted that these big, raw  
16 stinkin' piles will naturally decompose all on their  
17 own, if you just let them sit there. But it would take  
18 a really long time. All that time, we would be  
19 imposing, our farmers, on our neighbors, negatively  
20 affecting their quality of life, just so that my  
21 business can make profits.

22 So, I, and all farmers, quickly get to  
23 work on these piles. We move them, we flip them. This  
24 greatly increases the rate of decomposition, rapidly

1 turning them into that sweet-smelling compost.

2 Now, it must be mentioned that this  
3 flipping procedure comes with some financial cost to  
4 the farmer. In terms of running and operating the  
5 tractor and the operator to continuously work the  
6 piles.

7 It's an added expense that could be  
8 completely avoided by just leaving the towering, ugly  
9 piles right where they were dumped. I could tell the  
10 neighbors that it's just too expensive to work the  
11 piles constantly. Gee, sorry, but the numbers don't  
12 work for my business, it bites into my profits. So,  
13 the piles will just have to stay where they are, all  
14 big and stinky, for a very long time, so I can save  
15 some money. Too bad about my neighbors.

16 But, of course, I, and fellow farmers,  
17 would never dream of doing that. We want to do the  
18 right thing by our neighbors, even if it costs us more  
19 to do so. Rightfully, rules around proper storage and  
20 handling of manure have been codified into law by  
21 regulatory agencies, to be certain that the environment  
22 and our neighbors are protected, right?

23 Today, I fear greatly that the oligarchy  
24 has already spoken, and this so-called Northern Pass is

1 inevitable. If this is the case, then I implore you,  
2 the regulatory agency here today, the Site Evaluation  
3 Committee, to do its job and protect all of our New  
4 Hampshire neighbors whose properties will be  
5 irrevocably negatively affected by the giant towers and  
6 their pulsing electricity.

7 Bury the line, if it must cut through  
8 our state. Its not okay for a mega corporation to cite  
9 its own need for greater profits as justification for  
10 being a poor neighbor.

11 Site Evaluation Committee, do your job,  
12 make them be good neighbors. You work for us, not the  
13 oligarchs.

14 *[Audience interruption.]*

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: James Page, to be  
16 followed by Jane Difley, and Joe Casey.

17 MR. PAGE: James Page. I'm a resident  
18 of Deerfield. P-a-g-e, for the last name.

19 In the beginning, prior to Northern  
20 Pass, there was a joint effort by Hydro-Quebec with  
21 Irving Oil to have a power line driven into the eastern  
22 provinces of Quebec, specifically Brunswick. To this  
23 day, these provinces have excess power. The whole idea  
24 was to provide Irving Oil Corp. with cheaper power, as

1 they would reap huge profits for their family-owned  
2 industries. Residential ratepayers would receive  
3 little or nothing, kind of like a slice of pepperoni  
4 pizza.

5 Well, the plan was voted down  
6 overwhelmingly by the people. So comes Hydro-Quebec  
7 and Eversource here.

8 Everything I read and hear from Northern  
9 Pass and their experts, they continually use the term  
10 "no impact". I'm tired of hearing this. Stop blowing  
11 smoke. If Northern Pass is going to rape, pillage, and  
12 burn New Hampshire, say so, be up front, be honest.

13 In a nutshell, Northern Pass will  
14 conventionally build 192 miles of line. That's a  
15 superhighway from Canada to Deerfield, whether it's  
16 overhead or underground.

17 In the wetlands, as an example,  
18 thousands of mats, multiple layers will be pressed into  
19 these areas, destroying everything below. Anybody  
20 walked a 180,000-250,000 pound pieces equipment over  
21 roads, mat systems, and other? I have in the past.

22 Blasting will leave chemical residues in  
23 the groundwater, roads to sites will have to be built  
24 extra-wide for the equipment used, tracks of

1 [inaudible] as an example, is 24 feet, D8s are 14-foot  
2 wide, sometimes equipment is rolled over.

3 State roads will be closed. In an area  
4 that I also own property, in Easton, New Hampshire, I  
5 measured the state roads, 23 feet, 8 inches wide,  
6 shoulder-to-shoulder, not white line-to-white line. No  
7 shoulders beyond that.

8 There's a structure going in the middle  
9 of that. It will take a 16-foot wide excavation to do  
10 that to set it in. Tell me how traffic is going to get  
11 back it. Very narrow, no other place to go.

12 I laid out five miles of your  
13 underground on Route 116 and 112. Real and potential  
14 wetland and road impacts are rampant. Who did the  
15 layout or was it just drawn off an aerial paragraph?

16 Noise levels on the work itself will  
17 exceed 100 decibels. A 340 kV line, in wet/damp  
18 conditions, will crackle at 45 to 60 decibels  
19 endlessly.

20 In Deerfield, Blandings and other  
21 turtles will lay eggs in the substation fill areas  
22 during construction. And, the New Hampshire timber  
23 rattle snake, not even noted by anybody, will be  
24 destroyed or banished from the Bear Brook State Park



1 and the Pawtuckaway area. One was found at a home in  
2 Raymond just a few miles from this project.

3 Nothing has been addressed about real  
4 public safety. What happens when a converter or  
5 substation melts down? A good reference is the Selmar  
6 facility, in California, in the 1970s, which was hit by  
7 an earthquake. We have earthquakes here. What happens  
8 when miles of towers fall? We have tornadoes. We had  
9 an F1 in Deerfield recently. I've lived through an F1  
10 in Texas, and I had twelve of my towers topple to the  
11 ground in every direction imaginable.

12 What about the huge uncompensated  
13 burdens on EMS statewide? When a town has to post  
14 additional EMS, as a town is divided and roads are  
15 closed for days at a time. What about EMS response  
16 training for the electrocution of a lineman, a  
17 construction worker, the snub anchor that pulled and  
18 dropped 10 miles of line and the towers during  
19 construction.

20 And, the children that played around the  
21 line, and when the sag was pulled up, they fell to the  
22 ground. No one was watching.

23 What qualifies the person to bring these  
24 things to your attention? I've been a transmission

1 line project manager and supervisor. I've supervised  
2 in-state highway construction, pipelines, jackings,  
3 tunnels, many other things. The answer that "BMPs are  
4 always practiced" holds no weight.

5 We, the people of New Hampshire, don't  
6 want payoffs, or tax incentives. We are not  
7 interested. We are looking for responsibility and  
8 respectfulness of our state and our people. We are  
9 being sold a Cadillac and given a Hugo.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 *[Audience interruption.]*

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Jane Difley, to be  
13 followed by Joe Casey, and Bob Elwell.

14 MS. DIFLEY: Good evening. My name is  
15 Jane Difley. And, I serve as the President/Forester at  
16 the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire  
17 Forests.

18 I'd like to thank the Subcommittee for  
19 the enormous investment of time of listening to the  
20 public during the five public hearings. There is  
21 already an enormous record to consider, and you are  
22 only at the beginning of your review process.

23 As I've listened over the past two  
24 weeks, there are three issues that I think are worth

1 emphasizing tonight.

2 First, the landscapes that would be  
3 adversely affected by Northern Pass, not just up north,  
4 but here in Deerfield as well, are part of New  
5 Hampshire's identity. We've heard from many that these  
6 are priceless assets worth protecting, for our own  
7 wellbeing, our economy, and for the legacy we leave for  
8 future generations. To allow these landscapes to be  
9 scarred by a merchant transmission line is simply  
10 unacceptable.

11 Second, there appears to be an  
12 opportunity to avoid nearly all of the adverse impacts  
13 of the project as proposed by considering interstate  
14 highway corridors for a completely buried transmission  
15 line. Yet, this alternative seems to be summarily  
16 dismissed by the Applicant as unaffordable and  
17 unworkable. I will tell you that the Forest Society,  
18 as a signatory to the Franconia Notch Parkway  
19 agreement, does not agree with Northern Pass Attorney  
20 Mark Hodgdon's interpretation of its limitations.  
21 There are options.

22 And, while the SEC may not have the  
23 option to insist that Northern Pass bury along  
24 interstates, you certainly have the opportunity to just

1 say "no" to the Application that's currently proposed  
2 due to adverse impacts that are avoidable.

3 Third, in the final analysis, the SEC  
4 needs to make a decision that it believes is right for  
5 New Hampshire. Your decision is not about what is  
6 right for Hydro-Quebec, for Eversource, for Northern  
7 Pass Transmission, or southern New England. I urge you  
8 to determine what is right for the communities and  
9 landowners most affected by the project as proposed.  
10 The affected communities, including those here in the  
11 central part of the state, have been speaking clearly  
12 about Northern Pass for five years, at town meetings,  
13 in petitions and at regulatory hearings that have been  
14 going on since 2011, these communities and their  
15 citizens have been saying that, if Eversource buries  
16 their Northern Pass extension cord completely, they can  
17 live with it. There is a win-win possible here, and  
18 you can be a facilitator for such an outcome.

19 Again, thank you for being here, and  
20 thank you for listening.

21 *[Audience interruption.]*

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Joe Casey, to be  
23 followed by Rebecca Hutchinson, and Bob Elwell.

24 MR. CASEY: Thank you all so much for

1 giving me the opportunity to testify here this evening.  
2 My name is Joe Casey. I'm a representative of the  
3 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. I  
4 reside in Rochester with my wife and four children, and  
5 I have lived in New Hampshire by entire life.

6 The IBEW has been in the business of  
7 training electrical workers in the construction  
8 industry for over a hundred years. Our focus is having  
9 the highest quality trained electrical workforce in the  
10 entire world.

11 Through our electrical apprenticeship  
12 and continuous journeyman training programs, our  
13 workforce take a great pride in the quality product  
14 that they produce.

15 We spend millions of dollars each year  
16 on specialized advanced electrical installation  
17 procedures. Our workforce have a complete and thorough  
18 understanding of every aspect of the installation they  
19 perform.

20 Above all else, the safety of our  
21 workforce and the general public that our completed  
22 product serves is our number one priority.

23 Having participated in many job-creation  
24 and job-retention workshops throughout the state, on

1           behalf of the state, including the New Hampshire Job  
2           Creation Grant Committee. I have learned that  
3           employers in New Hampshire and employees either lack  
4           the financing or the desire to train our young  
5           workforce for the 21st century. New Hampshire  
6           employers today are desperately seeking workers whom  
7           already possess skills that their company needs.

8                         We and our employers take great pride in  
9           seeking out local workers, whom have no electrical  
10          background and/or the financial backing for continued  
11          education. Our requirements for entry into our  
12          training programs are a high school diploma or a GED  
13          equivalent. The desire to work hard and willing to  
14          learn our industry is their most important asset.

15                        For every hour worked on this project,  
16          Northern Pass will be contributing to our  
17          apprenticeship training funds, over a million dollars  
18          in training and workplace safety for New Hampshire's  
19          workforce on this particular project.

20                        Along with the earn-while-you-learn  
21          programs we offer, all of our members are covered by a  
22          Family Health Care benefit, and our employers also  
23          contribute to individual retirement program. Ensuring  
24          that our workforce is a benefit and not a burden to our

1 local communities.

2           These are real jobs, and although we  
3 train them for a solid career with us, the skills, work  
4 ethic, and confidence they acquire gives them an  
5 incredible leg up for any and all future endeavors.

6           The opportunities that the Northern Pass  
7 will provide for electrical workers and many other  
8 industries truly only come around in a lifetime -- once  
9 in a lifetime in the construction industry.

10           Many people have spoken about the  
11 opportunities of this project as temporary and  
12 meaningless. Well, I'm here to tell you, the  
13 life-sustaining skills and experiences that so many  
14 workers will acquire on this project will provide them  
15 with the necessary experience for lifelong careers.

16           I hope you all will consider these  
17 wonderful, truly life-changing opportunities that this  
18 project will bring while making the difficult decision  
19 on Northern Pass approval.

20           Thank you.

21           *[Audience interruption.]*

22           CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Rebecca Hutchinson,  
23 to be followed by Bob Elwell, and Andrew Robertson.

24           Is Rebecca Hutchinson here?

1 FROM THE FLOOR: She had to leave.

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: How about Bob  
3 Elwell? I see him.

4 MR. ELWELL: E-l-w-e-l-l. My name is  
5 Bob Elwell. And, I came here to New Hampshire last  
6 September to start a company in Winchester, New  
7 Hampshire, called "New England Mat Company". Our  
8 parent company is Beasley Forest Products, out of  
9 Georgia. We came here to build timber mats for  
10 projects in the Northeast, specifically for electric  
11 projects in New Hampshire. We are starting, and we're  
12 making mats every day. We've only hired like five  
13 people at the time. But we are also -- we also are  
14 visiting sawmills in the area and buying timbers, and  
15 loggers are, you know, we're buying logs and those  
16 kinds of things. It's going very well. The project is  
17 going well.

18 I moved here from Pennsylvania. I'm  
19 looking to buy a house. This is all because of  
20 projects like Northern Pass that are in the area. I  
21 also like to hike. And, for the record, when I get to  
22 the top of a mountain, and I look out over the scenery,  
23 I don't really even pay attention to electric  
24 transmission lines. I look at the trees and the



1 mountains. And, it just doesn't even stand out to me  
2 as something that my eyesight sees.

3 I am really happy and very pleased to be  
4 a part of New Hampshire, and looking forward to  
5 spending the rest of my life here. And, as a General  
6 Manager of New England Mat Company, I would like to see  
7 5 percent off my electric bill.

8 Thank you.

9 *[Audience interruption.]*

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Andrew Robertson,  
11 to be followed by Denise Turcotte, and Michael Nolen.

12 MR. ROBERTSON: Good evening. My name  
13 is Andrew Robertson. And, I come before you as a  
14 Selectman from the Town of Deerfield. In March of  
15 2013, the Town of Deerfield voted in favor of two  
16 warrant articles voicing opposition to the Northern  
17 Pass Project in its proposed form. Both articles were  
18 approved by near 2-to-1 margins. I offer the language  
19 of these articles as Deerfield's stated position on the  
20 project.

21 The first: "The Town of Deerfield shall  
22 state its opposition to any new overhead development of  
23 alternating current and direct current high voltage  
24 transmission lines within its borders; and in turn

1 manifest the Town's strong preference for the burial of  
2 such lines, in a manner consistent with state and  
3 federal requirements, under rights-of-way and power  
4 line corridors now existing or to be established.  
5 Although burial in all instances is preferred, this  
6 statement of opposition shall not apply to distribution  
7 lines carrying electrical power and other utility  
8 lines, such as telephone and cable television, for Town  
9 residential or commercial use."

10 And, the second warrant article: "The  
11 Town of Deerfield shall state its opposition to the  
12 Northern Pass Transmission project as currently  
13 proposed, which, as currently proposed, will cause the  
14 significant expansion of existing power line  
15 rights-of-way; the installation of steel towers of  
16 heights up to 135 feet, well above the tree height,  
17 resulting in further impairment of Deerfield's rural,  
18 small town character and the further degradation of  
19 Deerfield's scenic vistas and natural scenic beauty;  
20 the development of the Town in a manner inconsistent  
21 with the Deerfield Master Plan; and the diminishment of  
22 the value of private property and assets for residents  
23 in proximity to the towers; the corresponding loss of  
24 property tax revenue for the Town; and the strong

1 possibility of negative health impacts."

2 Thank you.

3 *[Audience interruption.]*

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Denise Turcotte, to  
5 be followed by Michael Nolen, and David Crummey.

6 Is Denise Turcotte here?

7 FROM THE FLOOR: No. She's not.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Michael Nolen, to  
9 be followed by David Crummey.

10 MR. NOLEN: Hello. My name is Michael  
11 Nolen, N-o-l-e-n. I just want to thank the Committee  
12 for hearing us.

13 The State of New Hampshire's economy is  
14 linked to tourism, some regions more than others. The  
15 proposed tall towers can hurt people's livelihood in  
16 the regions who depend on tourism. There will be  
17 short-term benefits, of course, economic benefits that  
18 come along with the construction. But I think we  
19 should be considering some of the long-term harm that  
20 could be to the tourism in the state from the high  
21 towers. It must be considered. It's amorphous -- it's  
22 an amorphous factor, it's hard to quantify, but I think  
23 it's important.

24 I think burying the line is better.

1 Thank you.

2 *[Audience interruption.]*

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: David Crummey, to  
4 be followed by Preston Samuel, and Bonnie Heisey -- or,  
5 Hersey.

6 David Crummey?

7 FROM THE FLOOR: No, he's gone.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: How about Preston  
9 Samuel?

10 MR. SAMUEL: Good evening. My name is  
11 Preston Samuel, S-a-m-u-e-l. I represent the Lamprey  
12 River Advisory Committee, a Committee that is appointed  
13 by the 14 towns in the Lamprey River Watershed. It is  
14 promulgated under the RSA 483, the Rivers Management  
15 and Protection Program.

16 Our position requires that we advise on  
17 any permit that is applied for within the corridor.  
18 Interestingly enough, we have received the comments  
19 from -- or, rather, the permit applications from  
20 Eversource. But, in the process of looking at them, we  
21 realized that we've received similar applications on  
22 two prior occasions; one in August of 2013 and one in  
23 August of 2014, for the very same corridor. And, we  
24 always have comments, which we forward back to the DES,

1 but we always receive comments back, rebuttals to our  
2 comments, from the proponent.

3 In the cases of the Eversource permits  
4 of August 2013 and 2014, we never received any  
5 rebuttals. That disturbed us. And, when we received  
6 the most recent permit applications, it prompted us to  
7 go to the field, first, for the reasons of discovering  
8 whether a permit might have been issued, and whether  
9 prior projects might have actually been finished. When  
10 we got in the field, we noted that, yes, the projects  
11 had been completed. We also noted that there were some  
12 impacts.

13 We visited two sites. One was on  
14 Mountain Road and one was on Church Street. Mountain  
15 Road parallels the Lamprey River. And, in that area,  
16 Eversource contractors have used an access road up into  
17 the power line. It's a very steep hill, leaving  
18 Mountain Road, going north. In that area, we  
19 discovered that, following construction, it appears  
20 that the site was not revegetated, and that erosion had  
21 started, and that silt from the underlying soil had  
22 begun to erode down and form a delta on a flatter  
23 portion of land just outside of the wetland along  
24 Mountain Road.

1                   We had concern for it, because the type  
2                   of soil that's in the area is constituted by some  
3                   baseball-size round cobbles that are all kind of  
4                   cemented together by sand and silt in between the  
5                   cobbles. Once the sand and silt washes out, one more  
6                   storm, one more truck over the hill, and you're going  
7                   to have some serious erosion.

8                   At Church Street, we discovered  
9                   something that was even more disturbing. A wetland  
10                  about a 150 feet south of the road had been driven  
11                  right through, without any matting, without any  
12                  protection. The disturbance was so great that the  
13                  subsoil was pulled to the surface.

14                  After seeing those two, we went to  
15                  Google Maps, and said "well, how often does that  
16                  happen? Are we just looking at a weird case or what?"  
17                  Just looking at Google Maps, you can see that there is  
18                  significant disturbance of wetlands in Deerfield at  
19                  various sites.

20                  CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Samuel, how  
21                  much more do you have?

22                  MR. SAMUEL: I have just a little bit  
23                  more to go.

24                  CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay.

1 MR. SAMUEL: We're concerned, because  
2 these disturbances obviously show that either the plans  
3 that Normandeau prepared were never followed in the  
4 field, or it shows that there are significant secondary  
5 impacts after the plan -- after the work was completed.  
6 One of the recommendations that we made on the prior  
7 permit applications was to put in gates to prevent  
8 secondary impacts.

9 All we have to say tonight is that there  
10 are rules and regulations in this state, under RSA 483,  
11 482, *etcetera*. And, it appears that Eversource has  
12 been not paying attention to those rules and  
13 regulations.

14 If --

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Samuel, please  
16 bring it to a close. If you need more time, you can  
17 come back at the end.

18 MR. SAMUEL: If Eversource cannot follow  
19 the rules and regulations, we recommend that they be  
20 remanded to the highway. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Bonnie Hersey, to  
22 be followed by Michael Bennett, and Linda Maxwell.

23 Bonnie Hersey?

24 FROM THE FLOOR: Bonnie, she's gone.

1                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: How about Michael  
2 Bennett?

3                   MR. BENNETT: Good evening. My name is  
4 Michael Bennett. I live in Hampton, New Hampshire.  
5 I'm an avid hiker myself, from Ammonoosuc Falls to  
6 Mount Washington, --

7                   *[Court reporter interruption.]*

8                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG:

9                   MR. BENNETT: -- to Bear Brook, where I  
10 used to live right outside of the state park in  
11 Pembroke. I've been there around 15 or 20 times  
12 myself.

13                   I support the Northern Pass Project,  
14 because it leaves the next generation that comes behind  
15 me with cleaner power than I inherited. For 15 years,  
16 I've been in an active career working on clean energy  
17 projects, such as the Moore Station, in Monroe; the  
18 Lempster Mountain Wind Farm, the Bow Clean Air Scrubber  
19 Project, and solar panel installations in Concord, New  
20 Hampshire.

21                   Once this project is complete and  
22 supplies with hydropower, it is a step away from fossil  
23 fuels. It is a step away from West Virginia and  
24 mountaintop removal in Appalachian Mountains from coal



1 extraction, from natural gas fracking in Oklahoma,  
2 Idaho, and South Dakota, and tar sands removal in  
3 Canada. This is a complete divestment from fossil  
4 fuels.

5 In the construction field, we have a  
6 saying "We work our way out of a job." I prefer to say  
7 "We work our way into the next one." That difference  
8 is very important. And, yes, many of these jobs are  
9 temporary. The hotels and restaurants will eventually  
10 empty. It's what comes next after that is just as  
11 important. The influx of out-of-state revenue can be  
12 used to update the hotels and motels. It's an income  
13 to put a child through college. It's an expense paid  
14 for our highways, and investment to our school systems.  
15 It can be used to stock our ponds and lakes with fish  
16 to bring back tourism to New Hampshire.

17 I was dismayed Monday night, in  
18 Plymouth, when a representative of Franconia expressed  
19 profound concern over the potential view impacts. He  
20 was not concerned about the next generation having  
21 clean air to breathe or clean water to drink. He was  
22 more concerned that the impacted views could lower the  
23 value of people's second homes.

24 In closing, when I'm fortunate enough to

1 make it home to catch a sunset down in Hampton, over  
2 federally protected marshlands, I see next to the Sun a  
3 large dome. It is the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant.  
4 It is not pretty, it is not perfect. But it is  
5 necessary to supply our state with power, to generate  
6 clean energy for New Hampshire and keep us away from  
7 fossil fuels.

8 In the 30 years since that plant has  
9 been built, the Seacoast area has not seen a drop in  
10 real estate prices since it was built. Seabrook is not  
11 the same town it once was. And, instead, Hampton has  
12 one of the best school systems in the state due to tax  
13 revenues generated from the transmission power lines, a  
14 thriving tourism industry that benefits having one of  
15 the top ten rated cleanest beaches in America.

16 These projects, they are necessary to  
17 push us forward. They are not perfect. And, I believe  
18 the right balance has been struck. Let's get it done.

19 Thank you.

20 *[Audience interruption.]*

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Linda Maxwell?

22 *[Short pause.]*

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Is Linda Maxwell

24 here?

1 FROM THE FLOOR: No.

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: TJ Jean?

3 MR. JEAN: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. We're  
5 going to hear from Mr. Jean. We're a little past half  
6 -- come on, Mr. Jean, come up. We're a little past  
7 halfway. But we're going to need to take a break,  
8 because we're not going to get through this entire pile  
9 in one sitting. So, after Mr. Jean, we're going to  
10 take a break. And, I'll let you know, after he's done,  
11 who the first three speakers are after the break.

12 MR. JEAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Before  
13 I begin, I do have comments that were written by one of  
14 the speakers in the cards that's coming up. Do you  
15 want me to read that after my remarks or --

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: No, we'll call you  
17 in the order when we get to that.

18 MR. JEAN: Okay. Very good. Thank you.  
19 Last name is Jean, J-e-a-n, first name Thomas. Thank  
20 you, members of the Committee, Mr. Chair. I am the  
21 Chairman of the Board of the Greater Rochester Chamber  
22 of commerce, and also the former Mayor of the City of  
23 Rochester. I want to thank the Committee for their  
24 time this evening. I know it's been a long evening

1           thus far, and it sounds like it's been a long several  
2           stretch of evenings for you folks. So, I appreciate  
3           your commitment to hearing the public this evening.

4                        I'm here today to extend the Greater  
5           Rochester Chamber of Commerce support of the Northern  
6           Pass Project. As a business advocacy organization of  
7           over 440 members, the Greater Rochester Chamber of  
8           Commerce is proud to support our member Eversource.

9                        We are especially thankful at  
10          Eversource's continuing commitment to reducing energy  
11          costs in the Granite State, and ensuring the reliable  
12          delivery of electricity to residents and commercial  
13          developments in New Hampshire.

14                      We also appreciate modifications to the  
15          plan, based on listening to all stakeholders of this  
16          project, including residents in the communities in  
17          which the proposed transmission line passes.

18                      So, why does the Greater Rochester  
19          Chamber of Commerce care about Northern Pass? Simply  
20          put, economic development in New Hampshire, and  
21          specifically in the Greater Rochester area is  
22          increasing. From retail to industrial development, to  
23          small and large businesses alike, all stakeholders care  
24          to have clean, reliable, and cost-effective energy.

1 This project promotes just that.

2 Specifically, in Rochester, we have been  
3 fortunate to welcome Safran USA and Albany Engineered  
4 Composites to our premier industrial park. Reliable  
5 and cost-effective energy was a paramount concern in  
6 their decision to choose Rochester, and ultimately New  
7 Hampshire, to open their 350,000 square foot advanced  
8 manufacturing facility, which will add approximately  
9 450 new jobs to the Greater Rochester area. This is  
10 why we must take immediate action to support this  
11 project, so that we can help reduce energy costs to our  
12 businesses in New Hampshire and help to promote further  
13 economic development.

14 And, members of the Committee, I know  
15 this is not going to be hard, I've sat on that side of  
16 the table several times in my tenure as Mayor. And, I  
17 can only appreciate that you're hearing both sides.  
18 And, I hope that you'll make the best decision in the  
19 best interest of our state. But I do urge you to look  
20 at this project closely, and to support it, and to  
21 expeditiously approve it, so that we can help provide  
22 relief to all stakeholders here in New Hampshire and in  
23 the region.

24 Thank you.

1                   *[Audience interruption.]*

2                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. We're  
3 going to take a short break, a few minutes. Before we  
4 do that, I do want to make an announcement for those  
5 who are here. There has been an open question about  
6 where the prehearing conference would take place next  
7 week, scheduled for Monday, with a carryover to  
8 Tuesday, if necessary. The site has been secured, and  
9 that will take place in Concord, at the Holiday Inn, at  
10 the corner of Main Street and Loudon Road.

11                   Our break will be about ten minutes.  
12 I'm going to ask you to do everything you can to come  
13 back here as close to ten minutes as you can.

14                   The three speakers when we come back  
15 will be Linda Maxwell, Olaf Zwickau, and Justin  
16 Cormier.

17                   (Recess taken at 8:59 p.m. and the Joint  
18 Public Hearing resumed at 9:09 p.m.)

19                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Is Linda Maxwell  
20 here? We're ready to go. So, Linda Maxwell will be  
21 followed by Olaf Zwickau, and Justin Cormier.

22                   MS. BRADBURY: Linda Maxwell asked me to  
23 speak for her. And, she would like you to know that  
24 she opposes this project. She had to go home.

1 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And, what is your  
2 name, ma'am?

3 MS. BRADBURY: My name is Jo Anne  
4 Bradbury.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. Thank  
6 you, Ms. Bradbury.

7 Olaf Zwickau, to be followed by Justin  
8 Cormier, and Marion Smith.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Chair, these  
10 are Olaf's comments. He had to leave. Want me to just  
11 put them in here?

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Sure. Moving  
13 quickly now. Justin Cormier, to be followed by Marion  
14 Smith, and Meredith Briggs.

15 Is Justin Cormier here?

16 FROM THE FLOOR: I think he went home.

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Marion Smith?

18 *[No verbal response]*

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: How about Meredith  
20 Briggs?

21 *[No verbal response]*

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Denise Greig? Ah,  
23 we found one.

24 MS. GREIG: Good evening. Thank you all

1 for coming to Deerfield. We appreciate it. I am  
2 Denise Greig. I'm the Co-Emergency Management Director  
3 here in town. And, I'm here to express my concern  
4 about the public health and safety impact of the  
5 proposed project on the town.

6 Our emergency response in Deerfield is  
7 geared to a rural residential town. The critical  
8 numbers: Deerfield is 52 square miles, with over  
9 80 miles of roads. We have 4,300 residents, and 1,670  
10 households. To serve that population over that square  
11 miles, we have a volunteer rescue squad of  
12 nine persons, and I'm excluding fire personnel. So,  
13 the numbers shift a little bit. But, basically, we  
14 have a rescue squad of nine personnel. We have a  
15 volunteer fire of 22, approximately 22, plus trainees.  
16 We have a fire -- a police department of eight  
17 full-time employees and four part-time employees.

18 In addition to these very capable,  
19 hard-working individuals, we have other resources. We  
20 have Mutual Aid. Our Mutual Aid, the closest stations,  
21 are fire stations, are 20 to 30 minutes away, and also  
22 are mostly volunteer. Our State Hazardous Materials  
23 Response Team, 30 minutes away. The closest hospitals,  
24 Concord, Manchester, Exeter, 30 minutes away.



1           As Emergency Management Director, part  
2           of what we do is look at "what if" and "what next"?  
3           It's all about looking at what happens -- what are the  
4           hazards that face this town, and, if they happen, what  
5           kind of damage will it cause? We've done our Hazard  
6           Vulnerability Assessment for our Emergency Operations  
7           Plan and our Hazard Mitigation Plan. No surprise,  
8           number one on the list in New Hampshire, in the  
9           southeastern towns, weather is our biggest issue. The  
10          town has ice, heavy snowstorms, rain, flooding,  
11          tornadoes, and other -- and straight-line wind events.  
12          We've had that all in the last ten years. FEMA data is  
13          clear: In the last 15 years, the trend in southern New  
14          Hampshire -- in New Hampshire, generally, we have seen  
15          a significant increase in the number of events that  
16          have been declared disasters.

17                 A recent UNH weather study confirms that  
18                 the Northeast has seen a 71 percent increase in heavy  
19                 precipitation events, the largest increase in the  
20                 nation. As our water and air temperatures rise, we  
21                 expect to see these events increase in frequency and  
22                 intensity. Deerfield's proximity to the Atlantic  
23                 Ocean, with its warmer winds and its nor'easters, make  
24                 us susceptible to those very heavy weather events.

1                   Damage to the power lines and towers  
2                   from severe weather events, such as ice, would have a  
3                   significant impact on this town. If they fall -- if  
4                   those towers fall, they will split our town in half.  
5                   We have the Community School on one half, the other  
6                   half is where our fire, police, rescue, and town  
7                   offices are located. The Deerfield Community School  
8                   also serves as our primary shelter for this town.

9                   In our Hazard Vulnerability Assessment,  
10                  we identified other issues and hazards. Two of them,  
11                  terrorism and cybersecurity. Federal Homeland Security  
12                  has recognized that energy infrastructure, power lines  
13                  and substations, are susceptible. The remotes rural  
14                  location makes Deerfield vulnerable to these risks.

15                  My concerns: The burden on emergency  
16                  volunteers, who will not only respond to car accidents  
17                  and house fires, but to substation and tower accidents.  
18                  Responders that should have the appropriate level of  
19                  training. I know you said only Franklin needs extra  
20                  training. But I'm not sure how a fire at two  
21                  substations next to each other falls within basic fire  
22                  training. My concern is that's a burden on our  
23                  responders. Third, the impact on response time, in our  
24                  town, if those wires fall down in the middle of town.

1 How long will it take to get from Central Station to  
2 Pleasant Lake in a crisis situation? And, although  
3 we're talking about, you know, disasters, let's talk  
4 about construction phase, when we're looking at the  
5 impact of construction, and slowing and blocking our  
6 roads.

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Greig, how much  
8 more do you have?

9 MS. GREIG: About 35 seconds.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay. We're  
11 watching.

12 MS. GREIG: All right. Finally, impacts  
13 on wetlands and potential flooding, again, an issue.  
14 Probably in an early stage, but, if you affect  
15 wetlands, you potentially affect flooding and roads and  
16 culverts. Again, a major issue in our town. That is  
17 where we've had significant damage and assistance from  
18 FEMA in the past.

19 So, I'm asking that you look at all of  
20 the issues, and you consider alternatives to the  
21 proposed project. Emergency personnel at every level,  
22 federal, state, and local, want to improve resiliency.  
23 Homeland Security is looking at microgrids as a means  
24 of improving resiliency in the energy sector. It's a

1 forward-thinking project. Maybe it fits better with  
2 the technology advances we have today. I encourage you  
3 to look long and hard at whether we need this project  
4 for the residents of New Hampshire, and to please make  
5 a decision to keep the public health and safety of our  
6 residents its priority.

7 Thank you.

8 *[Audience interruption.]*

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Sherry Godlewski,  
10 to be followed by Jo Anne Bradbury, and Robert Mathews.

11 Is Sherry Godlewski here?

12 FROM THE FLOOR: Oh, no.

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Yes, it seems she  
14 is. Oh, she left?

15 MS. BRADBURY: She asked me to speak for  
16 her.

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay.

18 MS. BRADBURY: Hi. I'm Jo Anne  
19 Bradbury. I'm speaking for Sherry Godlewski. She had  
20 to go home.

21 She's asked me to say: Those speaking  
22 in support of the project are mostly not from  
23 Deerfield, and stand to benefit financially from the  
24 project.

1                   That's it.

2                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Bradbury, don't  
3                   move, because you're up next.

4                   MS. BRADBURY: It's my turn. I'm Jo  
5                   Anne Bradbury. I own property and live in Deerfield.  
6                   I grew up down south, but it's been my lifelong dream  
7                   to live in rural New England. When I was looking for  
8                   land back in the early '80s, I discovered Deerfield, an  
9                   enchanted rural town, and I decided to settle here.  
10                  Deerfield is where I want to spend my golden years. I  
11                  love to roam the hiking trails on my own land and all  
12                  over the state.

13                  I have worked to create my special place  
14                  here in Deerfield for over 30 years. By 1992, I saved  
15                  enough to build a home. I worked hard at improving my  
16                  land and home slowly over that 30-year period, one step  
17                  at a time.

18                  The proposed Northern Pass towers and  
19                  lines, if built, will cross over my land. If you  
20                  permit them to proceed with this project, I will see  
21                  and hear these monstrosities every day for the rest of  
22                  my life. At my age, I am older than I look, it's not  
23                  possible that I will be able to sell out, at a loss,  
24                  and start again. I will not be able to recreate what I

1 have created here in Deerfield. I just don't have that  
2 much time.

3 Okay. So, the Applicant has brought in  
4 experts to tell you that these towers and lines will  
5 have no adverse effect on the property values and the  
6 aesthetics of this beautiful town and this beautiful  
7 state. Our common sense tells us that that opinion is  
8 nonsense. We all know what these towers will look like  
9 and what they will sound like, because our common sense  
10 informs us. The towers are massive, the electric lines  
11 have an incessant hum that will never go away, and the  
12 corona effect will create flashing lights. You don't  
13 need a Ph.D in this, that, or the other thing to know  
14 that these towers will devastate a large portion of the  
15 State of New Hampshire. Wetlands will be permanently  
16 destroyed by construction equipment. The expanded  
17 substation in Deerfield will ruin the value of the  
18 homes of everyone near it.

19 If this project goes forward, you will  
20 create a path of damage and destruction the entire  
21 length of the State of New Hampshire, from Canada to  
22 Massachusetts. There is no doubt that property values,  
23 aesthetics, health and welfare, wetlands and wildlife  
24 all will be irreparably harmed. Once these towers go

1 up, you can't make it right again.

2 Why would someone want to do such a  
3 thing? Is it about power? Yes. I have to believe  
4 that it's about the power of corporate greed, and what  
5 greed will do, what greed will lead a corporation to  
6 do, and shame on you. We've just been through the  
7 biggest recession since the Great Depreciation, and  
8 corporate greed caused it. \$8 billion is the amount of  
9 money that Eversource stands to make over the 40-year  
10 lifespan of this project. Don't let them take our  
11 land, our homes, and a corridor through our entire  
12 state.

13 Keep in mind that the rights-of-way that  
14 were granted in the '20s, '40s, '50s, did not remotely  
15 contemplate a construction project of this magnitude.  
16 The courts will adjudicate the issues relating to the  
17 rights-of-way.

18 You have many reasons to reject this  
19 project. In the words of Mrs. Reagan: "Just say no."

20 Thank you for your time.

21 *[Audience interruption.]*

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Billy Kunelius,  
23 followed by Robert Mathews, and Barbara Mathews.

24 Billy Kunelius? All the way over in the

1 corner. To be followed by Robert Mathews, and Barbara  
2 Mathews.

3 MR. KUNELIUS: I'm Billy Kunelius,  
4 spelled K-u-n-e-l-i-u-s. I don't know if I should say  
5 "good evening" or "good night" at this point.

6 But my name is Billy Kunelius. And, I  
7 am a forester for Fort Mountain Company, a private  
8 logging company located in Allenstown, New Hampshire.  
9 And, I am here in support of the Northern Pass Project  
10 representing my company.

11 There has been significant support of  
12 this project from logging companies in the northern  
13 half of the country -- northern half of the state, I  
14 should say. But I just wanted to let you, as the  
15 Committee, know that logging companies here in the  
16 southern portion of the state also support this  
17 project. And, the improvement that it would make for  
18 the timber industry in this state.

19 The project is estimated to provide up  
20 to 2,000 or more jobs in our state, varying fields, one  
21 of those fields being loggers and the timber industry.

22 The work would include clearing  
23 right-of-ways for new Northern -- in northern New  
24 Hampshire, working on existing right-of-ways, and



1 clearing access roads.

2 Another aspect is that it would  
3 generate, I know speakers earlier talked about these  
4 crane mats or mats that they use in wetlands, these are  
5 made out of wood. There would be an increased demand  
6 for these mats. And, those are made from wood that we  
7 produce right here in New Hampshire, logging companies  
8 do. And, so, that would be an increased market for us,  
9 but not also for us, but for landowners throughout the  
10 State of New Hampshire would find better markets for  
11 their wood, for managing their private timberland, that  
12 has nothing to do with the Northern Pass, but they  
13 would have better markets for their wood.

14 This project has taken numbers of steps  
15 to include local contractors and ensure that we have  
16 the opportunity to work on this project in our state.  
17 I know my boss has talked to several people from the  
18 Committee about, you know, from Eversource and the  
19 Northern Pass Project, about the possibility of us  
20 working on portions of this project.

21 Our company, in Allenstown, employs 20  
22 people right now, to run all facets of our operation.  
23 And, this would be a great opportunity for our company  
24 to thrive, as well as possibly expand into other areas.

1 And, we're ready to go and support the Northern Pass.  
2 And, we have employees, I know someone recently said,  
3 you know, most of these people being supportive aren't  
4 going to be from Deerfield. We -- a number of our  
5 employees are from Deerfield. So, we would be getting  
6 direct support back into Deerfield.

7 And, on behalf of Fort Mountain  
8 Companies, I would strongly encourage the Committee to  
9 put through the Northern Pass Project.

10 Thank you.

11 *[Audience interruption.]*

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Robert Mathews, to  
13 be followed by Barbara Mathews, and Susan Arnold.

14 MS. MATHEWS: Hi. My name is Barbara  
15 Mathews. And, I'm speaking first for my husband,  
16 Robert, who had to leave. It's M-a-t-h-e-w-s.

17 Robert says: I'll be brief. The  
18 proposed location for the project in Deerfield has  
19 major problems in that these towers would cut directly  
20 through Deerfield's historic town center, and would  
21 damage the scenic and historic nature of the town.  
22 It's not that the project would be off in a corner  
23 where it would be unnoticed, the people of Deerfield  
24 would have to live with and suffer the consequences on

1 a daily basis."

2 *[Transition of Robert Mathew's statement*  
3 *to Barbara Mathew's statement.]*

4 MS. MATHEWS: And, this is my statement.

5 Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you about  
6 the effects of the proposed Northern Pass Transmission  
7 project on all of the citizens of New Hampshire, and  
8 especially -- especially those who live in the areas  
9 through which the towers would march 192 miles from the  
10 Canadian border to its terminus in our Town of  
11 Deerfield, where we meet tonight. This line of towers,  
12 many of which will be far above the height of the  
13 adjacent trees, which will be highly visible, and a  
14 permanent scar across the face of our beautiful state.  
15 The power lines would traverse wild areas, scenic  
16 vistas, historic districts, and rural communities, all  
17 of them which would be forever besmirched. Property  
18 values in the towns in which Northern Pass would go  
19 will be greatly diminished by the introduction of this  
20 massive infrastructure.

21 Homes and lands that have been the  
22 life's work of many individuals and families across  
23 this state would no longer be the assets and treasured  
24 legacies that they were intended to be. The project

1 would create major adverse impacts on aesthetics,  
2 historic sites, the natural environment, and the public  
3 health and safety. Here in Deerfield, the towers would  
4 be directly adjacent to the historic center of town.  
5 If they were any closer, they would pass over the  
6 Congregational Church and be in the front yard of our  
7 beautiful old Town Hall.

8 The new, much taller towers will cross  
9 Routes 107 and 43 in the center of town. They will  
10 traverse -- excuse me -- they will pass by and be  
11 highly visible from homes, backyards, public lands,  
12 state parks, and hiking trails.

13 Construction of the new lines would  
14 disrupt wetlands and wildlife habitat. Since Deerfield  
15 would be home to at least one new large substation,  
16 there would be significant costs to the town for  
17 emergency response and public safety planning and  
18 implementation.

19 What is the purpose of this project that  
20 would have so many devastating effects on our Town of  
21 Deerfield and the State of New Hampshire? The Northern  
22 Pass is a for-profit project, not a public service  
23 project, and the reason is money, for the companies  
24 involved and their stockholders. New Hampshire does

1 not need this power from Hydro-Quebec. We already  
2 export more power than we use as a state. The plan was  
3 not that New Hampshire would get this power, rather  
4 that it would pass through on its way to larger markets  
5 in southern New England and New York City. The power  
6 is not clean, responsibly produced power as it has been  
7 billed, but it has been produced by destroying the  
8 landscapes and wildlife habitats, displacing native  
9 peoples, and drowning massive numbers of carbon  
10 sequestering trees.

11 And, I'm almost done. Why should the  
12 people of New Hampshire have their lives and futures  
13 irrevocably damaged for the sake of making money for  
14 large corporations, both foreign and domestic? In  
15 truth, there is no good reason. It is not right, and  
16 it can't be made right.

17 Thank you.

18 *[Audience interruption.]*

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Mathews, do you  
20 have the written statements for the stenographer?

21 MS. MATHEWS: Not in the form that he  
22 could read, but I could make it available.

23 MR. PATNAUDE: I'll still take it, if I  
24 can.

1 MS. MATHEWS: You will?

2 MR. PATNAUDE: Yes.

3 MS. MATHEWS: Okay.

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Susan Arnold, to be  
5 followed by Judy Marshall, and Taras Kucman.

6 All right. You may proceed.

7 MS. ARNOLD: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I  
8 will be very brief. You've seen a lot of my face today  
9 and other nights. So, I will be concise. I do want to  
10 take a bit of my time just to join in others to thank  
11 for the attention and care you're all taking with this  
12 process. It's much appreciated, and, obviously, very  
13 important to an awful lot of people. So, thank you for  
14 what you're doing.

15 So, here in historic Deerfield, I want  
16 to touch on a couple of issues related to historic  
17 resource review. The first being just real concern  
18 about the Section 106 process, and the fact that it is  
19 so out-of-step with the timing of the SEC process.  
20 Could take up to five years to complete the Section 106  
21 process. And, with the SEC on a much shorter statutory  
22 timeline, it's hard to understand what information,  
23 other than what the Applicant has provided, and we know  
24 they have provided you with significant information

1 about historic resources, what other information will  
2 you be using for [inaudible] the Section 106  
3 information that's feeding in. So, that's another  
4 concern.

5 And, then, also here in Deerfield, I  
6 think we heard earlier the term "cultural landscapes".  
7 And, I was thinking about it as sort of the -- that's  
8 the tapestry of New Hampshire's character. And, that  
9 tapestry, that character, can't be captured in a  
10 site-by-site key observation point approach to visual  
11 impact analysis. And, really want to urge the  
12 Committee to think broadly about that category, it is a  
13 recognized National Historic category of cultural  
14 landscapes, and we have them here in New Hampshire, in  
15 Deerfield, up and down the line. And, very clearly,  
16 transmission towers that are 10 to 12 stories high  
17 clash with cultural landscapes.

18 And, finally, I just want to talk about  
19 energy diversity briefly, because that's been a big  
20 topic, that Northern Pass has discussed at every  
21 meeting. And, just that, what it sees to be that  
22 there's a real concern about overreliance on gas  
23 currently. But, with Northern Pass, if it gets added  
24 to the mix, and potentially some of the other hydro

1 projects that are in the New England Clean Energy RFP,  
2 we'll really sort of be trading reliance on one kind of  
3 power, gas, for another.

4 As Mr. Quinlan himself said tonight, New  
5 England is hugely dependent on power generated in  
6 Canada every day today. And, Northern Pass will just  
7 exacerbate that reliance. So, this idea that this is  
8 somehow hugely contributing to diversity I think we  
9 need to watch what that tilt is.

10 But, again, thank you very much. And,  
11 that's all I have to say.

12 *[Audience interruption.]*

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Judy Marshall, to  
14 be followed by Taras Kucman, and David Doran, I think  
15 is the name.

16 Is Judy Marshall here? Yes, she's here.

17 MS. MARSHALL: My name is Judy Marshall,  
18 M-a-r-s-h-a-l-l. I was on my way out the door when I  
19 heard you, and had to stop and listen to Jo Anne  
20 Bradbury's statement. So, I did submit my statement in  
21 writing. But I stayed long enough to actually come to  
22 the mike.

23 I'm afraid that my statement is probably  
24 not as well-rationaled [sic] as many that have come



1 here, it's more emotional. I came here with the  
2 intention of just listening, but there's no virtue in  
3 silence, I guess.

4 When first presented with the prospect  
5 of Northern Pass, I was on the fence. After all, this  
6 is clean power and a better alternative than coal or  
7 nuclear. But, as I've seen the process play out, I've  
8 been deeply troubled by its methods of pushing the  
9 project through.

10 The first red flag was the Applicant  
11 dangling potential funding in front of the town and  
12 inquiring about "shovel ready" projects. Then, there  
13 was the lack of clarity of the Wetland Permit with its  
14 voluminous pages of data for the entire corridor. Now,  
15 the requests I've seen coming across my computer for  
16 more waivers from established rules, and the newest  
17 tactic, challenging individual motions to intervene  
18 one-by-one, in an attempt to lump everyone together,  
19 making these individual concerns generic and  
20 meaningless. Is the real motive just to wear everyone  
21 down till they tire of filing and refiling, and finally  
22 throw up their hands and throw in the towel?

23 I'm sadly coming to believe that the  
24 Applicant is a corporate giant that will manipulate the

1 system any way it can to push this money-maker through,  
2 claiming trickle-down economics in the form of  
3 increased tax revenues for the towns. Has there ever  
4 been a year that Eversource did not file an abatement  
5 for taxes in Deerfield?

6 I am concerned about the actual jobs to  
7 be created for this -- by this project. And, I  
8 understand, from what I've heard, that there are going  
9 to be multiple jobs that will benefit Deerfield and the  
10 State of New Hampshire. I am not opposed to that. We  
11 truly need more jobs in New Hampshire, whether it's  
12 under the apprenticeship program, sounds fantastic.

13 But, you know, I'm concerned about the  
14 way that things are moving in the project. What  
15 happens -- what happens if Hydro-Quebec someday pulls  
16 the plug? New Hampshire could be stuck with the blight  
17 of that big extension cord forever.

18 It's my understanding that there are  
19 only -- only around 80 abutters who will be impacted.  
20 That's 80 plus families shouldering the burden for the  
21 beneficiaries of this money-making endeavor. Even if  
22 that were a remotely accurate statement based on a  
23 subjective definition of "impact", where is the offer  
24 for direct compensation to those whom the Applicants

1 admit will be affected? Potentially increased tax  
2 dollars and the additional jobs for a couple of years  
3 don't even begin to pay for the permanent scarring of  
4 our landscape.

5 If the SEC takes away nothing else from  
6 this meeting, please, remember that this is a real  
7 heartache for a lot of folks. That these are real  
8 people being affected, and it's the little guy that  
9 needs to be protected here, not big energy.

10 I hope that the SEC will not become  
11 hardened by the barrage of voices clamoring to be  
12 heard, but will continue to listen, both with its head  
13 and its heart.

14 Thank you.

15 *[Audience interruption.]*

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Taras Kucman, to be  
17 followed by David Doran, and Mike Collins.

18 MR. KUCMAN: Good evening. My name is  
19 Taras Kucman. And, I appreciate this opportunity to  
20 speak to the Committee again. I have introduced myself  
21 in the past as a resident of Concord, living on the  
22 right-of-way. I've also introduced myself as a former  
23 Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.  
24 I presented a scenario last week that basically said

1 "the threat is clear and present", especially when  
2 we're talking about 250-foot right-of-ways in secluded,  
3 unsecured areas. We've got a public right-of-way with  
4 two 115 kV lines and a 345 kV line. To me, that's a  
5 clear and present danger.

6 I'm also speaking to you as someone  
7 who's working for a transformer service company. We  
8 maintain, we service, we test transformers,  
9 substations. On occasion, we're presented with  
10 transformers that were subjected to terrible  
11 through-faults, they exploded. We do -- and, we host  
12 and we conduct failure analysis on those transformers.  
13 Recently, it was Siemens, and other power generators,  
14 trying to understand root causes for these failures.

15 So, I am keenly familiar with what can  
16 happen with through-fault errors. As an engineer, I've  
17 said that "we're trained to build bridges and blow them  
18 up, if we need to." And, to the average engineer,  
19 blowing these poles together, from the 115 kV services  
20 to the 345 kV services, we can do it in our sleep.  
21 And, it's incumbent, I'm speaking to the Committee  
22 especially, it's incumbent upon you that, in that given  
23 scenario, ask the question, "are the breakers and the  
24 switch gears that protect the transformers, are they

1 robust enough to take such a shot?" "Are the relays  
2 responsive enough to protect the rest of the grid when  
3 such an event happens?" I have some real concerns  
4 about that.

5 Our engineer here from Eversource  
6 claimed that he really didn't have the wherewithal to  
7 give an honest answer as to whether or not the Code --  
8 the National Electric Safety Code was going to be  
9 violated. And, frankly, I look at codes, and when I'm  
10 looking at the terrorist attitude out there, I'm sure  
11 that the towers in New York met every single code,  
12 except the one that might have specified that they  
13 should withstand two airplanes knocking them down.

14 We're looking at these towers. When I  
15 bought my property 20 years ago, there was a benign,  
16 simple right-of-way, two 115 kV services, no problem,  
17 on wooden towers. Let me just recap briefly. In 2007,  
18 I got a letter from Northeast Utilities saying "oh, by  
19 the way, we're going to be tearing down your wooden  
20 posts on the eastern boundary and we're going to push  
21 them out 25 feet.

22 In 2010, Northern Pass was coming, with  
23 eminent domain threatened. How did that work out? In  
24 2013, Northern Pass was coming, the DOT has scoping

1 meetings, Draft Environmental Impact Statements. They  
2 were conflated. All those questions, those hundreds of  
3 questions that we asked were conflated, so that they  
4 were incomprehensible, and then they were summarily  
5 dismissed because they were incomprehensible.

6 In 2015, here we go again. In August,  
7 there was an epiphany. ForwardNH. Amazing. We will  
8 bury 52 additional feet --

9 Another minute please. We will bury an  
10 additional 52 miles, and that will be good. New  
11 Hampshire's share of the savings: \$80 million a year.  
12 Ah! Pardon my Lewis Black moment. \$80 million for the  
13 State of New Hampshire really translates to 1.2 million  
14 people receiving a pizza pie, pepperoni, per month.  
15 That's what it really amounts to for a family of three.  
16 And, if they make the trip, they won't be able to sit  
17 down and have enough to pay for the tip for delivery of  
18 service.

19 But, in any case, my concern is that it  
20 is disgraceful, and it's not fooling anybody. They  
21 will kick and claw to keep the power lines on the  
22 right-of-way, because you refuse to bury it down I-93.  
23 We get it. We really do. Why pay scratch to the State  
24 of New Hampshire, when you can run it down your

1 right-of-way and not pay a nickel.

2 I feel bad for Mr. Quinlan, I really do.  
3 You've probably heard of the Greek God Atlas who's  
4 holding up the world right now. He was a Titan who  
5 rebelled against Zeus, and he was sent to hold up the  
6 world. Well, he must be looking at Mr. Quinlan now and  
7 saying "It must suck to be you."

8 You're going through all this for a  
9 bonus you're not supposed to get.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Kucman?

11 MR. KUCMAN: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Please wrap up --

13 MR. KUCMAN: Okay.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: -- or come back at  
15 the end.

16 MR. KUCMAN: I could go on. At the risk  
17 of sounding repetitive, and that -- that's okay,  
18 because repetition is the key to adult learning, as I  
19 have said before.

20 So, I'll say to the Committee just in  
21 brief, you have three choices: You can either accept  
22 the Application as it is; you can reject it as it is;  
23 or you can accept it with an exception, and have that  
24 exception be "bury all of it".

1 I thank you for your time.

2 *[Audience interruption.]*

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: David Doran, to be  
4 followed by Mike Collins, and Suzanne Steele.

5 *[Short pause.]*

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: It is possible that  
7 it's Dotan, D-o-t-a-n?

8 *[No verbal response]*

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: No?

10 *[No verbal response]*

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: We'll never resolve  
12 what that middle letter is in this name.

13 Mike Collins, followed by Suzanne  
14 Steele, and Eric Stevens.

15 MR. COLLINS: Good evening. My name is  
16 Mike Collins, C-o-l-l-i-n-s. My family's lived in  
17 Deerfield over 35 years. I'm an IBEW Local 104 member,  
18 journeyman lineman. You've heard over and over again  
19 how jobs will be coming to New Hampshire to help people  
20 like me, families like mine, which is true.

21 I guess I only have one thing to add on  
22 top of all of those benefits. This is clean energy.  
23 It's what the country, not only New Hampshire, is  
24 striving for. It's the right thing to do. I want my



1 two little boys to grow up with cleaner air than what I  
2 have. It's not going to happen unless we do projects  
3 like this. It important. Should be done. I'm all for  
4 it.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mike Collins, to be  
7 followed by Suzanne Steele, and Eric Stevens.

8 That was Collins? Sorry. My bad.  
9 Suzanne Steele.

10 MS. STEELE: Good evening. Suzanne  
11 Steele, S-t-e-e-l-e. I've lived in Deerfield since  
12 1993. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the Committee, for  
13 your time, during these sessions, the site visits, the  
14 hours that you've devoted so far, and that you will  
15 continue to devote during this time.

16 I hope that over the last two weeks  
17 you've gotten a better understanding of the public's  
18 concern. And, I hope that you've seen that there's  
19 overwhelming opposition to this project from all the  
20 communities that are proposed to have Northern Pass run  
21 through its borders.

22 This afternoon, you were driven through  
23 our rural town, and ended at Deerfield Substation. You  
24 also viewed the beauty of our historic town center.

1 You really asked some good questions this afternoon,  
2 and I really appreciate that. And, you asked questions  
3 that would be -- we would --

4 Let's see. Where am I? It's late.  
5 And, I've had two hours of sleep. Came in from Salt  
6 Lake City this morning. But that's another story.

7 You asked good questions to determine  
8 that there would be more than one tower that could  
9 raise over 100 to 140 feet tall, clearly visible from  
10 where we all stood at our Town Hall.

11 Go down here. I go to the Deerfield  
12 Community Church. And, based on today's comments,  
13 there would be no trees left between our church and the  
14 right-of-way. That was an awakening to me this  
15 afternoon.

16 I would like each of you to put  
17 yourselves in Jean -- in Joan and Phil Bilodeau's  
18 shoes. How would you like to have potentially the  
19 substation more than doubling in size and expanding  
20 right next to your home? Besides the months of  
21 construction noise, the end result would be that  
22 continuous 24 by 7 hum that we all heard this afternoon  
23 at the substation, and that massive amount of power  
24 converging next door.

1                   Mr. Quinlan and the other executives --  
2                   the other executives from Eversource, and the  
3                   Hydro-Quebec executives don't have any concern about  
4                   the location of this additional power. Why? Because  
5                   none of them live near any of the proposed new lines,  
6                   the expanded lines, the Deerfield or Franklin  
7                   substations. The only impact they would have is a lot  
8                   of additional money flowing into their bank accounts.  
9                   This is not a project to benefit New Hampshire  
10                  citizens, but rather the bottom line of a Canada  
11                  company and a company with Connecticut ties. New  
12                  Hampshire is a net exporter of electric power;  
13                  therefore, the continual message by Northern and  
14                  Mr. Quinlan saying that we're in need of this  
15                  additional power is untrue.

16                  Having unlimited funds should not be a  
17                  prerequisite for getting this project approved. It  
18                  should be approved because it's the right thing to do.  
19                  It must serve the public interests.

20                  And, I have about a minute? Thank you.  
21                  I'm a bit confused when I'm told that this project is  
22                  benefiting the State of New Hampshire, when Northern  
23                  Pass has said tonight even, that Mr. Les -- Les Otten,  
24                  whom I used to work for, is going to get \$2 million for

1 his Balsams project. Perhaps you and the Committee can  
2 figure out how this supports the entire state.

3 This project is not for the good of our  
4 community. In our immediate area, it would scar the  
5 Pawtuckaway mountains, impact our historic center, and,  
6 as we saw, 40 to 50 feet taller towers.

7 I am a Wellness Consultant, as I  
8 mentioned in Meredith, when I saw you all last. And, I  
9 am concerned about the health impacts. Although we are  
10 not abutters to the proposed plan, I am concerned for  
11 the families who are, and who would constantly be  
12 exposed to the dramatic increase of electromagnetic  
13 pollution from these proposed lines.

14 Burying the lines seem to be a better  
15 option, however, according to Eversource, not feasible  
16 due to the cost. Another concern is that potential  
17 long-term negative impact from these buried lines to  
18 the surrounding land, human and animal life.

19 I urge you to sift through the hype and  
20 make the best decision that's for our state, and the  
21 futures of our children. Thank you very much.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Eric Stevens, to be  
23 followed by I am Jeanne Menard, and Emily Moore.

24 MR. STEVENS: Good evening. Eric

1 Stevens, S-t-e-v-e-n-s. It was just last September I  
2 was here, and at that point I was six months  
3 unemployed. I'm an IBEW member. The week after, I  
4 went to work for a month and a half, got laid off on  
5 Halloween. A couple weeks after I got laid off, I lost  
6 my unemployment because my benefits ran out. A month  
7 ago, I lost my health insurance for me and my family,  
8 because there's no work. As far as I'm concerned, I  
9 said it before, this is not the first power line that  
10 was ever built. You see them every time you walk out  
11 your door.

12 Myself, personally, I was embarrassed to  
13 see people laughing at these people sitting over here  
14 when they were saying where they were from. This isn't  
15 a choice, it's a livelihood, and it's a sacrifice that  
16 their family makes, just like all of us make, to earn a  
17 living for our families. And, that's not funny to me.  
18 It's downright rude, to laugh at somebody for the  
19 living that they choose to make for their families.

20 This project has been, you know, talked  
21 about for so long now. And, it's changed, and  
22 Eversource has made the changes to accommodate the  
23 negative that everybody has about it. Everybody's  
24 entitled to their opinion. I have mine, you all have

1           yours. You might not like mine, and I don't like  
2           others. That's the way it goes.

3                        But me standing up here as a parent, you  
4           know, and a grandfather, you know, I think about my  
5           children. And, listening to some people talk, I feel  
6           like I'm talking to my child. I want my child to be  
7           better than me, I want them to have more than me.

8                        The comment was made "if not now, when?"  
9           Well, by then, when might be too late. And, I'm sorry,  
10          I don't want to live with the fact of later down the  
11          road my children and my grandchildren paying for our  
12          mistakes of not doing something that should be done now  
13          for free. I just can't fathom it.

14                       Myself, earning a living, well, that's  
15          my problem, not anybody else's. But, when I signed the  
16          books on November 2nd to go back to work, and I was  
17          52nd, and I called last week and I'm 39th, that  
18          projects me like June or July, if it keeps going this  
19          way, before I can go to work. With no income, my wife  
20          going to work 10 to 12 hours a day just to get by, so  
21          we don't lose our house.

22                        We go force this underground issue, it's  
23          not the way to go. It ends the whole project. It  
24          eliminates a couple thousand jobs, and it eliminates

1 hundreds of local businesses making potentially a lot  
2 of money off of this. And, later on down the road,  
3 everybody benefiting from it. I have a hard time with  
4 the math that everybody doesn't see.

5 Clean energy is the way to go. I  
6 support the project. And, I can go home tonight, go to  
7 bed, knowing that I tried for my Local 104 brothers and  
8 sisters, and for my children, for a better future for  
9 them, and for us to go to work. Thank you.

10 *[Audience interruption.]*

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Jeanne Menard,  
12 followed by Emily Moore, and Richard Moore.

13 MS. MENARD: Good evening. Menard,  
14 M-e-n-a-r-d. I would like to start off by saying to  
15 Eric, I'm sorry. I feel it, too, in terms of  
16 disrespect own both sides. And, hopefully, we will all  
17 rise to higher levels. And, I am grateful to hear both  
18 sides. This is a wonderful opportunity, to be hearing  
19 and learning and listening. And, so, give hope we will  
20 get it right, in terms of treating each other well.  
21 So, thank you.

22 My comments this evening are focused  
23 primarily on the prefiled testimony of James Chalmers,  
24 and his Appendix 46 of the Northern Pass Application,

1 which refers to possible effects of Northern Pass on  
2 both property values and marketing times in local and  
3 regional real estate markets.

4 It is my hope that members of the SEC  
5 and the Counsel for the Public would agree on the  
6 absolute necessity to review additional research, which  
7 has not been written by an individual who was retained  
8 and paid for by a utility company, like Northern Pass,  
9 looking for support for a major high voltage tension  
10 line project.

11 In Appendix 46, Mr. Chalmers utilizes  
12 case studies, or sold property data from Corridor  
13 Number 2, which is an existing line which passes  
14 through Deerfield. In my opinion, this study does not  
15 adequately address before-and-after effects. Drawing  
16 empirical data from a line, whose tower heights are 45  
17 to 75 feet currently, does not address property owners'  
18 concerns about the effects of the proposed project,  
19 whose tower heights are well above treeline.

20 The proposed heights on my family's  
21 property: Pole 301 is 135 feet; Pole 302 is 130 feet;  
22 303 is 140 feet; 304 is 135 feet; and 305 is 120 feet.

23 There is literature which does address  
24 valuation guidelines for before-and-after effects of



1 transmission line projects.

2 For the record, I wholeheartedly agree  
3 with real estate broker/owner Peter Powell's remarks  
4 that were made in Plymouth. I will not repeat his  
5 points, but I echo his property value concerns.

6 In closing, the summary of Chalmers'  
7 report states that Northern Pass will have little to no  
8 impact on real estate value. In my opinion, this  
9 conclusion creates a terrible injustice to property  
10 owners throughout New Hampshire.

11 I am hopeful to participate in the SEC  
12 proceedings to bring the concerns about loss of  
13 property value to the table.

14 Thank you.

15 *[Audience interruption.]*

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Emily Moore, to be  
17 followed by Richard Moore, and Admiral Maitland.

18 FROM THE FLOOR: The Moores left.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: The Moores had to  
20 leave?

21 FROM THE FLOOR: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Admiral Maitland,  
23 to be followed by Erick Berglund.

24 MR. MAITLAND: Good evening, everybody.

1 My name is Admiral Maitland, just for the record.

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Could you spell  
3 your name please.

4 MR. MAITLAND: M-a-i-t-l-a-n-d. I'm a  
5 proud Local 104 member. I'm actually also new to New  
6 Hampshire. I'm been in the energy industry for the  
7 past eight years. I say that, because, I actually -- I  
8 have an understanding of what goes on, and why I  
9 actually think there's a lot of benefits to the  
10 Northern Pass.

11 The Northern Pass, as far as  
12 environmentally, being that I'm -- I'm a substation  
13 operator down at the T in Boston, and I see the fuel  
14 exhaust that's burnt from the generator that actually  
15 goes up in the air. And, being that the Northern Pass  
16 will actually be clean energy, clean energy from  
17 Hydro-Quebec, that means that it will actually be a  
18 water dam jet engine, a turbine, and a generator, which  
19 means we won't use resources like fuel and gas and oil  
20 to exhaust the fumes in the air. So, I do understand  
21 the environmental part of it.

22 As far as the visualization of, you  
23 know, the problems people might have, I kind of don't  
24 really understand how that would really totally impact

1 in a negative way, especially when Eversource was nice  
2 enough to actually accommodate the folks that really  
3 cared about the views of, like, Appalachian Trails and  
4 the White Mountains, they actually decided to put that  
5 underground. So, as far as that's concerned, I mean, I  
6 think they were nice for doing that, because, actually,  
7 my experience in underground and overhead construction  
8 line work, it costs more to actually, like, run cable  
9 underground than actually overhead. And, then, when  
10 you're actually restoring and putting the feeder back  
11 together after an outage, regardless of redundancy or  
12 not, if that feeder is out, that feeder is out. And,  
13 it will take longer for a crew to find where that fault  
14 is and to restore that energy service back to our  
15 customers. So, I applaud Eversource on taking that  
16 step to make that work.

17 Another reason why I think this is a  
18 great project is because I'm not just here worrying and  
19 thinking about myself, I'm actually thinking about my  
20 kids' future, like the jobs that it will bring. It  
21 won't just bring 2,600 jobs to New Hampshire, because,  
22 after the construction phase, now you have to hire  
23 people who have to maintain the service, engineer the  
24 service, troubleshoot the service, and, you know,

1 well-qualified folks to actually manage and run the  
2 system.

3 I'm sorry, I got like 30 seconds left.  
4 Besides that, it will help the economy. And, one of  
5 the things I do want to point, and this is my last  
6 statement towards it, is the fact that, if I remember  
7 reading right, it will bring \$7.5 million to like  
8 training programs later on in the future, like I  
9 believe it was called the "Job Creation Fund", when I  
10 was reading on the site. And, that's something for the  
11 future of New Hampshire. Like we need more programs to  
12 help people learn trades and electrical and plumbing.  
13 Like this is the -- this is what New Hampshire needs.

14 So, yes. That's all I got to say  
15 tonight. And, you all have a great night.

16 *[Audience interruption.]*

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Erick Berglund, to  
18 be followed by Racheal Stuart, and Kate Hartnett.

19 MR. BERGLUND: Good evening. And, thank  
20 you for the opportunity to comment to the SEC regarding  
21 this project. Our family resides at 23 Nottingham  
22 Road, in this town, in Deerfield. We've been here for  
23 45 years. The proposed transmission line will run  
24 1,200 feet over our property, crossing an active

1 hayfield and a vibrant wetland teeming with wildlife.  
2 We are cherishing -- cherishing our views of Mount  
3 Pawtuckaway each day, knowing that they will be gone  
4 forever if this project is implemented. We adamantly  
5 oppose the Northern Pass Project.

6 The SEC must determine the cost/benefit  
7 of this project, and the cost/benefit for New  
8 Hampshire. And, the major component of the SEC  
9 decision process is to decide whether this project will  
10 serve the New Hampshire public interest.

11 Northern Pass is withholding its  
12 cost/benefit analysis, which was asked for in its  
13 Application to the SEC. I have put one together based  
14 on what we know today, and I'd like to take a look at  
15 that and tell you about it. This is brief, not as long  
16 as perhaps the real one.

17 At this point in the process, we have a  
18 fairly good knowledge of what Eversource is asking New  
19 Hampshire to pay for this project. More will be  
20 discovered as the SEC process goes forward.

21 Let's talk about the costs, the  
22 permanent hard costs, not in dollars and cents, but  
23 categories, if you will, or particulars, that will lead  
24 to costs ultimately.

1                   To the landscapes: I don't know if  
2                   you're aware that the landscape along and around the  
3                   entire length of this project was declared a national  
4                   treasurer by the National Public Trust. That will be  
5                   something that we won't see as well after the project  
6                   is done, if it is done. Loss of scenic views: We can  
7                   expect damaged and destroyed wetlands; loss and damage  
8                   to wildlife habitat; steel tower industrialization;  
9                   loss/destruction of wildlife and endangered species;  
10                  negative health impacts of EMF; negative impact on  
11                  historic and cultural areas along the route; property  
12                  value declines; infliction of potential health and  
13                  safety hazards and fears, because Northern Pass fall  
14                  zones are outside of the right-of-way; loss of danger  
15                  trees outside the right-of-way; impact of future  
16                  expansion of the Northern Pass corridor by spawning  
17                  transmission lines to other areas and states adjacent  
18                  to New Hampshire and to transmit energy from other new  
19                  sources.

20                         Impact of building Northern Pass,  
21                         long-term and permanent: And, while details of many  
22                         construction operations are not in the Northern Pass  
23                         Application, we can be sure of traffic congestion,  
24                         we've heard about some of that tonight. Noise,

1 crowding, property damage, and we're talking about over  
2 a length of time, which I don't know what it is, but it  
3 would be probably several years.

4 So, let's talk about benefits now. Yes?

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Just wanted to let  
6 you know you're three and a half in. So, how much --

7 MR. BERGLUND: Three and a half?

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Yes.

9 MR. BERGLUND: All right. I didn't --  
10 didn't time this right, excuse me. I'm almost there.

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Understood.

12 MR. BERGLUND: Benefits: And, this is a  
13 problem. There is no meat. Northern Pass has stated  
14 New Hampshire residents may receive a 5 percent  
15 reduction in electric energy costs. That is it. There  
16 is a significant imbalance between the supposed  
17 benefits of what Northern Pass proposes to give New  
18 Hampshire for the cost New Hampshire is being asked to  
19 pay.

20 So, questions to Eversource: Show us  
21 your Northern Pass cost/benefit analysis? Show us the  
22 power purchase agreement with Hydro-Quebec? Show us  
23 the Memo of Understanding with Hydro-Quebec?

24 This is clearly a bad deal for New

1 Hampshire. The project is a speculative Eversource  
2 project to bring power to southern New Hampshire -- to  
3 southern New England, excuse me. It is not a  
4 reliability project to keep the lights on. The  
5 objective of this project is clear, it's to enrich the  
6 Eversource stockholders.

7 So, I urge the SEC to exercise its due  
8 diligence and study this project thoroughly. I expect  
9 the SEC to bring forth an honest decision that is fair  
10 to New Hampshire.

11 And, one last point, if I may. A  
12 different topic. I have a strong objection to this  
13 confidentiality. It's -- Eversource is dealing with  
14 the public here, and they're selling to the public in  
15 New Hampshire, that should not be -- that should not be  
16 kept from us. They're pitching to us, and we deserve  
17 full and complete knowledge of this project.

18 Thank you very much.

19 *[Audience interruption.]*

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Racheal Stuart, to  
21 be followed by Kate Hartnett, Cathy Laforge.

22 MS. STUART: Hello. My name is Racheal,  
23 Stuart, S-t-u-a-r-t. I thank you for the opportunity  
24 to speak. I also want to thank the people in this room



1 for being here. So many who have absolutely nothing to  
2 gain, personally, financially, but are here out of  
3 great care and affection for this community and this  
4 state. I find it very moving.

5 I am opposed to the Northern Pass  
6 Project, because it will have a negative impact on the  
7 welfare of this community. I believe it will reduce  
8 property values. And, I cheer you on Jeannie Menard.  
9 I hope you can help the group to understand how that  
10 works.

11 It does nothing to promote long-term  
12 growth of industry for Deerfield. It will have a  
13 negative impact on the environment, aesthetics, and use  
14 of natural resources of this community and this state.  
15 And, I would like to say a few more words about what I  
16 mean by "use of natural resources" and the long-term  
17 negative impacts.

18 In 2010, I was a member of a delegation  
19 of ten foundations from around the country who were  
20 invited to meet with USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack,  
21 Undersecretary Doug O'Brien, at the White House, to  
22 talk about the most pressing issues facing rural  
23 America. And, guess what? Energy extraction and  
24 transmission was at the top of our list. New Hampshire

1 is not the only place this is happening. Our argument  
2 at the time was that rural America was and is facing a  
3 new gold rush, that is large-scale extraction,  
4 generation, and transmission of energy. And, this will  
5 decimate the critical natural amenities that are the  
6 very key to the future for rural areas.

7 Not much has changed. At that time, I  
8 was talking about Coos County, now we're looking at the  
9 entire state, multiple projects. And, while rural  
10 areas may not have the financial wealth or political  
11 capital to buy our way to economic vitality, for us,  
12 for neighboring population centers, and for the entire  
13 state, we have natural assets that are essential and  
14 provide essential services now, and will in the future,  
15 if they are still here. The Northern Pass project  
16 threatens the landscape and the natural amenities that  
17 are the key to our long-term economic vitality.

18 So, I understand your charge, as I think  
19 it's in Chapter 162-H, I think it's fairly narrowly  
20 prescribed. And, I am looking at all of you asking you  
21 to lift your eyes up, lift your heads up and look at  
22 the broader context of this project, all externalities,  
23 and make sure that the true extent of the impacts,  
24 short- and long-term, are considered very deeply.

1                   You know, like Jeannie, I really  
2                   appreciate hearing all points of view. And, I think  
3                   this is a great time to say that reasonable people can  
4                   disagree on some of these topics. Will the short-term  
5                   gains outweigh the permanent destruction of our natural  
6                   assets that are our future wealth. Reasonable minds  
7                   can disagree on that. I think it's up to the SEC  
8                   Committee to really think deeply about that.

9                   Thank you.

10                  [Audience interruption.]

11                  CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Kate Hartnett, to  
12                  be followed by Cathy Laforge, and Michael Van Natta.

13                  MS. HARTNETT: Kathryn Hartnett,  
14                  H-a-r-t-n-e-t-t. Okay, night owls, I am not one. So,  
15                  I'm going to be very brief. I'll try to raise things  
16                  you have not heard before. I have five points.

17                  Number one. Mr. Quinlan talked a lot in  
18                  an earlier meeting about frequent referencing to  
19                  "listening". My experience, as a planning board and  
20                  conservation commission member since 2011, it is sales  
21                  and marketing, and now listening. I discovered in RSA  
22                  162-H that the site and facility basically will not  
23                  interfere with the orderly development of the region,  
24                  with due consideration be given to the view of

1 municipal planning commissions. Guess what? I've been  
2 on a municipal planning commission; we have not heard a  
3 peep from anybody from Northern Pass; 162 says  
4 otherwise. I assert, like Phil Bilodeau, "maybe I'll  
5 hear tomorrow. We'll see."

6 That's number one. Listening, maybe,  
7 but not burial.

8 Number two. The applicants, who somehow  
9 missed the chronic wetland damage that Mr. Samuel  
10 referenced over on Church Street. And, it fits a long  
11 record of nonperformance in town that we can document  
12 going back to the early 2000s. One thing is said;  
13 another thing is done. Track record. Okay. That's  
14 point number two.

15 Point number three. It seems to me that  
16 the heart-rendered stories about the jobs and the  
17 economic benefits, and all of the supply-side things  
18 that are happening, those all accrue with a different  
19 level of design that avoids or minimizes adverse  
20 impacts. Those jobs will stay there, they just come  
21 out in a different form, as far as I can tell. But I'm  
22 not an expert on that, I just sort of suspect it.

23 Number four. There's a real contrast  
24 between what I've experienced as a sales and marketing

1 pitch and some of what you've heard tonight, about  
2 employees' experience with the newcomers who now own  
3 the former PSNH facility/company, from that website.  
4 The track record about significant customer  
5 dissatisfaction, which I didn't know and learned  
6 tonight.

7 And, then, thirdly, I can tell you about  
8 that wetland and erosion lack of performance, which is  
9 happening in this town, and may happen elsewhere. And,  
10 I've got a bunch of letters on file with specific  
11 suggests on how to get around that, like with  
12 Mr. Preston Samuel, no coming back feedback from those  
13 points.

14 So, finally, I want to thank you, thank  
15 you all for your listening. It's late. I can't  
16 believe your appetite for taking in information. Thank  
17 you very much for being here. This is qualitatively  
18 different, a variant from the previous Eversource  
19 winter meetings. We appreciate your visit. Please  
20 come back.

21 Thank you.

22 *[Audience interruption.]*

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Cathy Laforge, to  
24 be followed by Michael Van Natta, and Sean Matthews.

1 MS. LaFORGE: Cathy Laforge,  
2 L-a-f-o-r-g-e. I'm going to be really brief.  
3 Deerfield has a vision and a plan, and a lot of  
4 volunteer hours have gone into that over the last  
5 couple of decades. I'm a Deerfield resident. The  
6 residents of Deerfield have been working hard to  
7 maintain the rural character and aesthetic beauty of  
8 our town. Northern Pass, obviously, does not subscribe  
9 to our plan, but burying the lines would preserve  
10 Deerfield's history and character, as this does matter  
11 to us.

12 I realize going from a \$1.6 billion  
13 project to a \$2.6 billion project is a lot of money,  
14 but that doesn't justify the ruin of our scenic byways  
15 and our declining real estate values. Bury the lines.

16 The bottom line is that, once these  
17 towers go up, there's no going back. Temporary jobs  
18 that Northern Pass creates will be at the expense of  
19 our town -- our town's tourism industry, sorry, at the  
20 expense of our tourism industry and local businesses.

21 We do need green energy. I totally,  
22 completely believe in green energy, clean energy. And,  
23 we can still have it with the lines buried.

24 Thank you very much.

1                   *[Audience interruption.]*

2                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Michael Van Natta,  
3                   to be followed by Sean Matthews, and Bill Powers.

4                   Is Mr. Van Natta here? Perhaps not?

5                   *[No verbal response]*

6                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: How about Sean  
7                   Matthews? Yes? No?

8                   *[No verbal response]*

9                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: No. Bill Powers?

10                  *[No verbal response]*

11                  CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Maybe they all came  
12                  together. Jason Bentley?

13                  *[No verbal response]*

14                  CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Jim Mason? Yes.  
15                  The slips after Mr. Mason are Paula Duchano and Maureen  
16                  Quinn.

17                  MR. MASON: My name is James Mason. I'm  
18                  a resident of Franklin, New Hampshire. I'm a business  
19                  owner there, and I also own land in Canterbury, New  
20                  Hampshire. My home and farm is near the travel route  
21                  of Northern Pass. And, I'm also a former City  
22                  Councilor for the City of Franklin.

23                  I'm here to support the Northern Pass  
24                  Project, and wanted to speak briefly on the great level

1 of misinformation that's been out there about the tax  
2 benefits and what can be expected from this project. A  
3 common statement that I've heard many times is the tax  
4 benefits from the project will disappear in just a few  
5 years. These statements are completely false. The  
6 reality is that these types of utility investments,  
7 whether transmission lines, pipelines, or other  
8 infrastructures, provide long-term benefits to the  
9 communities that host them. In the case of Northern  
10 Pass, the developer states that it has a 40-year life,  
11 but really might even be much longer than that.

12 But, unlike most developments that occur  
13 in a community, there is no increase in town spending.  
14 There's no children to educate. There's no extra  
15 police or fire or new roads to plow. There's nothing.  
16 No extra burden to the communities.

17 This, like many taxable investments,  
18 transmission lines do depreciate. But it takes a long  
19 time to fully depreciate a billion dollar investment at  
20 two, two and a half percent per year. This taxable  
21 investment will provide benefits for decades.

22 It is also important to point out that  
23 any billion dollar investment requires maintenance and  
24 upgrades. These will have added value that will fall



1 into future projects and add more tax revenue.

2 We also need to consider the impact of  
3 the increased tax rates on these investments. In many  
4 cases, while the value of the investments depreciates,  
5 the tax rate increases. The net result being that the  
6 owner of this project doesn't see their tax bill go  
7 down at the same rate as their investment depreciates.

8 There are countless examples of various  
9 types of utility infrastructure throughout our state  
10 that provide ongoing, reliable tax benefits to  
11 communities. Northern Pass will be no different, and  
12 our communities and other taxpayers need this type of  
13 investment to keep New Hampshire an affordable place to  
14 live and raise their family.

15 I can tell you, as a business owner in  
16 New Hampshire, my taxes, my property taxes are quite  
17 high. And, I know a lot of businesses are struggling  
18 to pay their taxes. It's a good 15 to 20 percent of  
19 their income every year of their business gross, as  
20 they start their year, they set aside to pay their  
21 property taxes, so they can keep themselves in their  
22 businesses. And, this burden is getting greater and  
23 greater on the landowners.

24 So, I welcome Northern Pass, and I hope

1 it goes through.

2 *[Audience interruption.]*

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Paula Duchano, to  
4 be followed by Maureen Quinn, and Harriet Cady.

5 MS. CARRY-DUCHANO: Hi. My name is  
6 Paula Carry-Duchano, C-a-r-r-y hyphen D-u-c-h-a-n-o.  
7 And, I object to Northern Pass on a number of different  
8 levels.

9 I own land which abuts the existing  
10 substation here in Deerfield, as well as the Deerfield  
11 Dowst-Cate Forest. Both of these properties are under  
12 conservation easement. It is frustrating to think that  
13 a part of the wetlands encompassed on these protected  
14 properties will undergo dredging and filling for the  
15 new Northern Pass substation. The Town of Deerfield  
16 and my family have put a lot of time and energy into  
17 preserving this land. My family owns 342 acres of land  
18 protected by the LCIP program.

19 As far as the promise of new jobs, after  
20 the new transformer was brought in a few years ago, and  
21 again last summer, the additional workforce I was  
22 seeing entering the substation each day all drove  
23 vehicles with Maine license plates.

24 The major upgrading of the access road

1 east of the substation, under the power lines, which  
2 I'm told has nothing to do with Northern Pass, but I  
3 feel like it's an upgrade in anticipation, was all done  
4 by out-of-state contractors. It did not appear that  
5 any of the local contractors benefited from this work.

6 The noise from the substation is  
7 extremely annoying. When I was at the site this  
8 afternoon, at the substation, the humming noise we were  
9 all hearing is audible at our house, which is almost a  
10 mile away. And, it is more annoying during the summer.  
11 Tonight I heard that there would be a sound wall in the  
12 new substation. But how can I trust that statement if  
13 the existing problem has not already been dealt with?

14 Feel that there's a lack of respect and  
15 consideration for the landowners. While my  
16 grandchildren were very excited, I found it a bit  
17 disconcerting when the helicopter, working with the  
18 crews who were working on the transmission line, landed  
19 in our back field, without any prior notice,  
20 permission, or explanation later as to why they were  
21 there.

22 And, so, as the owner of 300 plus  
23 protected, managed woodlands, I oppose Northern Pass.

24 Thank up for your time.

1                                    *[Audience interruption.]*

2                                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Maureen Quinn, to  
3                                   be followed by Harriet Cady, and Kevin Cini, it's  
4                                   C-i-n-i, although that might be an "m".

5                                   MS. QUINN: Good evening. My name is  
6                                   Maureen Quinn, Q-u-i-n-n. And, I'm a resident of 47A  
7                                   Nottingham Road, here in Deerfield. I've been in  
8                                   Deerfield for almost seven years.

9                                   As a former pediatric oncology nurse,  
10                                  I've taken care of many young children, often losing  
11                                  their lives to cancer. And, I'm also a master's  
12                                  prepared public health professional. So, I read the  
13                                  Northern Pass Application with great interest,  
14                                  particularly Appendix 37, addressing exposure to AC and  
15                                  DC electric magnetic fields.

16                                  Despite the analysis and information  
17                                  provided by the Application to minimize concerns in  
18                                  this area, the potential health impacts resulting from  
19                                  the increased electromagnetic exposure this project  
20                                  presents to the residents of this community is of great  
21                                  concern to me.

22                                  There are several places in the  
23                                  Application which state such things as "The WHO report  
24                                  paid particular attention to childhood leukemia because

1 the most consistent epidemiologic association in the  
2 area of low-frequency EMF and the health research has  
3 been reported between this disease and long-term  
4 exposure to higher than average magnetic-field levels."  
5 That's one area that the WHO expressed concerns about  
6 this.

7 "Consistent epidemiological evidence  
8 suggests that chronic low-intensity ELF magnetic field  
9 exposure is associated with an increased risk of  
10 childhood leukemia."

11 "The National Institute on Environmental  
12 Health Services working group classified ELF EMF as  
13 possibly carcinogenic, in a decision that the NIEHS  
14 called "conservative"."

15 "The International Agency for Research  
16 on Cancer, leading" -- "the cancer research agency for  
17 the WHO, and a leading scientific and health authority  
18 on cancer research and cancer causation, reviewed the  
19 literature to evaluate potential carcinogenic effects  
20 of ELF EMF in 2002."

21 "Evidence for all cancers from both  
22 epidemiological studies and laboratory animal studies  
23 was inadequate for ELF electron" -- "electric fields."

24 "The association between childhood

1 leukemia and magnetic fields observed in other studies  
2 remains unexplained. Thus, the results of recent  
3 studies do not change the classification of  
4 epidemiologic data as limited."

5 The situation regarding the existing  
6 scientific evidence as described in this Application is  
7 precisely why the public health concept of the  
8 precautionary principle is appropriate in this  
9 situation. The precautionary principle encourages  
10 policies that protect human health and the environment  
11 in the face of uncertainly risks. I believe this  
12 concept pertains particularly relevantly to the lack of  
13 knowledge regarding prolonged human exposure to  
14 elevated electromagnetic radiation, such as what will  
15 occur in this community, and many others, with the  
16 construction of the Northern Pass transmission lines.

17 Environmental scientists worldwide have  
18 proposed that this precautionary principle concept be  
19 adopted as the standard guideline in environmental  
20 decision-making with regard to policymaking and  
21 scientific inquiry. And, the concept has four central  
22 components: Taking preventative action in the face of  
23 uncertainty, which this data certainly provides;  
24 shifting the burden of proof to the proponents of an

1 activity, which I don't believe is contained in the  
2 Application; exploring a wide range of alternatives to  
3 possibly harmful applications, particularly when this  
4 project is not necessary; and increasing public  
5 participation in decision-making.

6 As my contribution to public  
7 participation in the SEC decision-making, which I am  
8 extremely grateful for, I am not convinced that this  
9 project does not present potential public health risks.

10 I wonder how many Eversource employees  
11 would be enthusiastic about having the transmission  
12 lines and towers placed in their backyard, where their  
13 children and grandchildren play daily.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Quinn, how much  
15 more do you have?

16 MS. QUINN: Two paragraphs.

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And, how many  
18 paragraphs have you done so far?

19 MS. QUINN: I don't know. One big  
20 paragraph.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay.

22 MS. QUINN: Additionally, my decision to  
23 live in Deerfield was based on its historic and rural  
24 character, which are both threatened by this project.

1 I regularly hike in Pawtuckaway State Park, and many  
2 other parts of the state, I take great pleasure in the  
3 aesthetics of the views I experience on those hikes,  
4 and those views will be seriously impacted. And, I am  
5 sure I am not the only one who will choose to hike  
6 elsewhere if these towers are constructed, in Deerfield  
7 and the Pawtuckaway viewshed, as well as many other  
8 parts of the state.

9 I do believe my property values will be  
10 seriously negatively impacted by the proximity of these  
11 towers. No one on the Eversource side can prove this  
12 isn't likely. And, once this state's beauty is  
13 destroyed, it will never come back.

14 Thank you.

15 *[Audience interruption.]*

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Harriet Cady, to be  
17 followed by Kevin Cini, Brian Tilton, and the last card  
18 from Erica Druke.

19 MS. CADY: I would like to say I am a  
20 Deerfield resident. I have lived here since 1984.  
21 And, I would like to make a couple of corrections to  
22 past testimony to begin. Except I put the wrong thing  
23 in.

24 *[Referring to the court reporter's*



1 *document bin.]*

2 MS. CADY: Our selectman said there were  
3 two votes supporting Northern Pass. He neglected to  
4 tell you of the vote last year, where people who had  
5 enthusiastically submitted the first two petitions,  
6 then submitted a petition asking for money, \$10,000 to  
7 fight Northern Pass, for legal fees, and that third  
8 vote was 2-to-1 "no".

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Cady, just to  
10 be clear. I believe his testimony was that the two  
11 votes were "to oppose Northern Pass".

12 MS. CADY: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay.

14 MS. CADY: And this vote was 2-to-1  
15 against giving them money to oppose.

16 I was a member of the Lamprey River  
17 Watershed Association to which Mr. Preston -- to which  
18 Preston testified. And, I watched, as I came down  
19 Church Street every day, the JCR placing mats and huge  
20 planks to go from this side of the road to this side of  
21 the road, through what were wetlands and areas they had  
22 to traverse. So, I do know they did attempt to do  
23 that, which they were asked to do.

24 I keep seeing "More trees, less towers",

1 or "Trees, not towers". Well, there are pictures of  
2 Deerfield where all of Meetinghouse Hill, and where I  
3 live on Old Centre, were pastures. The view to  
4 Pawtuckaway Mountain, from Ridge Road, was clear,  
5 pastures. The days of the farmers are pretty well  
6 gone, and the fields and the pastures are not being  
7 kept up anymore.

8 So, now, I will proceed with testimony.  
9 Oh, by the way, of the Church Street power lines, as I  
10 go home many nights, I see moose, I see deer, I see  
11 fox. So, I don't think that the power lines has hurt  
12 our wildlife.

13 As a Deerfield citizen, I've been  
14 listening to the rhetoric of those who want pristine  
15 environments try to either stop Northern Pass legally  
16 or by making the Company's costs so expensive the  
17 project will become unfeasible. What has bothered me  
18 more and more is the use of my facilities for meetings  
19 by groups opposed, but especially a Town body, such as  
20 Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Selectboard,  
21 Heritage Commission, *etcetera*. If the loudest voices  
22 just happen to be on those bodies and send materials to  
23 the Site Evaluation Committee, but are doing so as if  
24 the whole community is speaking, isn't that called

1 "compelled speech"? The federal courts have determined  
2 public bodies must remain impartial, unless the whole  
3 public body they serve is in agreement, not majority  
4 votes, but all the community must agree. And, as I  
5 speak to you tonight, I prove that not all Deerfield  
6 citizens agree with what has been presented from those  
7 committees.

8 I have a prejudice for hydropower. I  
9 grew up in a town that had hydropower. We swam in the  
10 lake produced by it, we fished from the dams, and it  
11 goes from there.

12 I will leave the rest of this testimony,  
13 hoping you can read it. But, I will say to you, thank  
14 you so much. As a legislator, I have sat behind a  
15 table and taken testimony. And, I am so sorry for you.

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Kevin Cini?

17 *[No verbal response]*

18 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Another ambiguity  
19 we'll never resolve.

20 Brian Tilton, to be followed by Erica  
21 Druke.

22 MR. TILTON: Good evening. And, thank  
23 you for staying this late hour. It sounds like it was  
24 a long day for you. I do appreciate all of your

1 attention to this matter today. It looks like you're  
2 actively engaged and absorbing information and asking  
3 questions. So, I appreciate it.

4 Brian Tilton, B-r-i-a-n, Tilton,  
5 T-i-l-t-o-n. And, I live in Hooksett.

6 One of the first speakers tonight was my  
7 State Senator David Boutin from my town. And, I just  
8 want to point out that no town in his district, in our  
9 district, would be, you know, directly impacted by  
10 Northern Pass. No towers will be in any of the towns  
11 that he represents, and, certainly, there would be none  
12 of that revenue to the towns coming to my Town of  
13 Hooksett.

14 Also want to point out that Mike  
15 Skelton, who speak earlier, the head of the Manchester  
16 Chamber of Commerce, what he did not disclose to you is  
17 that he was a paid spokesman for Northern Pass prior to  
18 his position at the Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

19 The question has come up many times  
20 about "widening the right-of-way", in the way the  
21 question was presented, the way it was answered. It's  
22 very important to understand two distinctions on the  
23 right-of-way. There's a legal widening of the  
24 right-of-way, meaning you expand the boundaries that

1 are contained in the property deeds on those easements.  
2 Or, you have the appearance of the widening, which is  
3 clearing the trees within the boundary of the  
4 right-of-way. To many people that are going to be  
5 directly impacted, those who are abutters to this  
6 property, they're going to see those trees cleared out  
7 right to the property line.

8 So, while the Applicant may say "we're  
9 not widening the right-of-way", that may be legally and  
10 technically correct, but the visual impact would be  
11 "that right-of-way is being cleared from end-to-end".  
12 And, you've probably heard, in fact, you heard from one  
13 person tonight, and at other hearings, where people are  
14 going to see that tree buffer disappear that currently  
15 exists.

16 I'm still outraged at the London  
17 Economic study being kept from the public. I don't  
18 know how you, as a Committee, can really understand and  
19 grasp what may be in that study that you're able to  
20 see, but we, the people, are not able to see. So, you  
21 will not be able to hear any opposing viewpoints or any  
22 other critical analysis of it. I think that part is  
23 wrong, and I think that study needs to either be  
24 released to the public or you dismiss it, because no

1 one, and I believe Peter Roth even testified that he's  
2 not able to see it, or, not testified, but written in  
3 an earlier objection to the Application being  
4 incomplete.

5 I've heard a lot of the people here  
6 speaking for Northern Pass try to say that there's  
7 great environmental benefits. Very important to note  
8 that not one single organization, environmental  
9 organization, supports Northern Pass, not one.

10 And, as far as energy prices, you want  
11 to talk about lowering energy prices? Look what the  
12 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is doing right now  
13 in investigating Eversource for having the higher  
14 transmission rates in the country, higher than anybody  
15 else, and that is what is driving up our cost of power.

16 I just saved more than 5 percent that  
17 these people are trying to say by trashing our state, I  
18 saved 11 percent just by switching to a competitive  
19 supplier for the electricity portion of this.

20 And, one last point. On tourism, to the  
21 "expert" of Northern Pass, I was wearing this shirt,  
22 which I hope I never have to wear again, I would be  
23 glad not to have to put this on anymore. I talked to  
24 some people years ago at Polar Caves Park with my

1 children, and I was wearing this short that day. And,  
2 I had some people ask me, "What is this Northern Pass?  
3 I see the signs everywhere." I said, "Well, this is,  
4 you know, they're going to build these towers", and I  
5 gave them a quick 30 second rundown. And, they said "I  
6 came here from Brooklyn to visit. I will never be  
7 back, if those towers go up." So, there's your tourism  
8 study right there.

9 Thank you very much for your time.

10 *[Audience interruption.]*

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Erica Druke. Is  
12 Erica Druke here?

13 MS. DRUKE: I'm Erica Druke. I'm  
14 against Northern Pass for multiple ethical reasons. If  
15 Northern Pass is approved, there needs to be a minimum  
16 of three conditions met: All 190 miles of electric  
17 lines must be buried, towers are not necessary; New  
18 Hampshire needs to be incentivized to develop their  
19 own independent, clean and renewable competitive  
20 sources of electrical power to feed into the grid; New  
21 Hampshire communities need to be allowed to do net  
22 metering at wholesale rates.

23 It may be true that Northern Pass will  
24 conjure a thousand jobs, but Northern Pass has never

1 said those jobs are going to New Hampshire residents.  
2 Maybe there should be a fourth condition: All 1,000  
3 jobs will go to New Hampshire residents, not Canadians  
4 and not out-of-staters.

5 This project will be completed as  
6 quickly as possible to minimize costs, liability  
7 exposure, and maximize profits to investors. Who are  
8 these investors? Can the Northern Pass investors and  
9 shareholders be made public knowledge? It makes me  
10 very curious as to how who is really behind these major  
11 industrial energy projects in Canada. Is it just  
12 Canada following the "American dream" model of get rich  
13 quick or is it something else?

14 We've gone beyond the realm of nation  
15 states to the world of elitism, big business, and big  
16 money. We have a global economy that revolves around  
17 the billionaires boys club, who are irresponsibly  
18 exploiting the natural resources of the world for  
19 profit. These Canadian energy ventures, whether it be  
20 Tar Sands or Northern Pass, it's more than just about  
21 Canada trying to grow their own economy. Northern Pass  
22 is a cash cow for Canada and its investors.

23 Everyone needs energy, but what's in it  
24 for the U.S. except high electrical rates? Canada



1 wants to use New Hampshire as a bridge with a network  
2 of towers to connect into the U.S. energy system. Once  
3 this bridge of towers is built, there is nothing  
4 stopping Canada from damming up their whole countryside  
5 and sending higher and higher payloads of electricity,  
6 and adding more transmission lines over time. New  
7 Hampshire could become, in essence, an electrical  
8 highway or gateway to the U.S.

9 New Hampshire is not known for  
10 skyscrapers, but New Hampshire will be known for  
11 monster towers of steel carrying Canadian power south  
12 to the lower New England states and beyond. They will  
13 be impossible to miss. People won't be asking "what  
14 exit", like New Jersey, they'll be asking "what tower  
15 number do you live by?" These gigantic new towers will  
16 become the most prominent feature of New Hampshire's  
17 landscape, and they can't be erased; they'll be  
18 permanent.

19 The energy industry has a monopoly on  
20 the supply of power to consumers, and the public has a  
21 right to be a part of the equation. The public  
22 interest demands truly clean and renewable energy  
23 sources, not just the ones that private enterprises  
24 dream up to maximize their profits.

1           The public needs equal input in the  
2           entire process. It's the public that should be  
3           considered the true stakeholders here, not just the  
4           investors. New Hampshire says "no" to Northern Pass.

5           *[Audience interruption.]*

6           CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Druke, do you  
7           have a written copy for the stenographer?

8           *[Document handed to Mr. Patnaude.]*

9           CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. Is  
10          there anything else we need to do this evening? I'm  
11          looking at Ms. Monroe.

12          ADMINISTRATOR MONROE: You can just  
13          announce the time. The prehearing conference will  
14          start at 10:00 a.m. on Monday.

15          CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: The prehearing  
16          conference will start at 10:00 a.m. on Monday.

17          MR. ROTH: Pardon me.

18          CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Just a minute,  
19          Peter. That will be at the Holiday Inn, in Concord.

20          Yes, Mr. Roth.

21          MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, I don't wish to  
22          make a public comment at this point, I don't do that.  
23          But I just want to clarify something. Mr. Tilton  
24          suggested that we do -- that Counsel for the Public

1 does not have the London Economics study in an  
2 unredacted form. While that was true when we wrote the  
3 letter back in December, we subsequently received a  
4 copy of those documents in an unredacted form.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Roth.

8 Anything else we need to do?

9 *[No verbal response]*

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. If  
11 there is nothing, we will adjourn. Thank you all.

12 ***(Whereupon the Joint Public Hearing was***  
13 ***adjourned at 10:43 p.m.)***