

In Re:
SEC 2015-06
NORTHERN PASS, LLC AND PUBLIC SERVICE CO. OF NH

PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING
May 19, 2016

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

May 19, 2016 - 6:05 p.m.
Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa
101 Mountain View Road
Whitefield, New Hampshire

IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06
JOINT APPLICATION OF NORTHERN
PASS LLC AND PUBLIC SERVICE
COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a
EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY
(Public Comment Hearing)

PRESENT FOR SUBCOMMITTEE	SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE
Chairman Martin Honigberg (Presiding Officer)	Public Utilities Comm.
Cmsr. Kathryn M. Bailey	Public Utilities Comm.
Dir. Craig Wright, Designee	Dept. of Environ. Svs.
Christopher Way, Designee	Dept. of Resources & Economic Dev.
Patricia Weathersby	Public Member
Rachel Whitaker	Public Member

ALSO: Michael J. Iacopino, Esq. - Counsel for SEC
Pamela G. Monroe - SEC Administrator

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

1 NOTED AS PRESENT:

2 Counsel for the Applicant: Barry Needleman, Esq.
3 Thomas B. Getz, Esq.
4 (McLane Middleton)
5 Marvin P. Bellis, Esq.
6 Elizabeth Maldonado,
7 (Eversource Energy)

8 Counsel for the Public: Peter C.L. Roth, Esq.
9 Sr. Asst. Atty. Gen.
10 N.H. Dept. of Justice
11 Thomas Pappas, Esq.
12 Elijah Emerson, Esq.
13 (Primmer Piper...)

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16 (Further appearances as noted on

17 sign-in sheets provided at hearing)

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Good evening,
3 everyone. Welcome to a public comment hearing
4 of the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee.
5 We have one docket before us this evening; it
6 is the Application of Northern Pass
7 Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of
8 New Hampshire, which does business as
9 Eversource Energy, for a Certificate of Site
10 and Facility.

11 Before I make the opening
12 comments, I'll ask the Subcommittee members to
13 introduce themselves.

14 MR. WAY: I'm Christopher Way. I
15 represent the Department of Resources and
16 Economic Development.

17 MR. WRIGHT: Craig Wright, with the
18 Department of Environmental Services.

19 CMSR. BAILEY: Kate Bailey from the
20 Public Utilities Commission.

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

24 MS. WEATHERSBY: Patricia Weathersby,

1 public member.

2 MS. WHITAKER: I'm Rachel Whitaker.
3 I'm the other public member.

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Sitting to my
5 right is Mike Iacopino, who is counsel to the
6 Site Evaluation Committee.

7 MR. IACOPINO: Good afternoon.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Out in the
9 entryway there's the SEC administrator, Pam
10 Monroe, one of the people greeting you when you
11 came in. There's one other person with special
12 status by New Hampshire statute here this
13 evening, Counsel for the Public, Peter Roth,
14 who is seated in the first row. Peter, if you
15 could identify yourself.

16 All right. We'll now open the
17 public comment hearing. And unfortunately, I'm
18 going to read for just a few seconds out loud.

19 On November -- I'm sorry --
20 October 19, 2015, Northern Pass Transmission,
21 LLC and Public Service Company of New
22 Hampshire, which does business as Eversource
23 Energy, submitted an application to the New
24 Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee for

1 Certificate of Site and Facility to construct a
2 192-mile transmission line running from the
3 border in Pittsburg down to Deerfield.

4 On November 2nd of 2015,
5 pursuant to RSA 162-H:4-a, the Chair of the
6 Committee appointed a Subcommittee. The state
7 officials -- or some of the state officials who
8 were named to the Subcommittee exercised their
9 statutory authority to designate senior members
10 of their agencies to serve on the Subcommittee.

11 On December 7th of 2015, the
12 Subcommittee reviewed the Application and
13 determined that the Application contained
14 sufficient information to satisfy the
15 Application requirements of each state agency
16 having jurisdiction under state or federal law
17 to regulate any aspect of the construction or
18 operation of the proposed facility. The
19 Subcommittee also made an independent
20 determination that the Application contained
21 sufficient information to carry out the
22 purposes of RSA 162-H.

23 In January, the Committee
24 conducted five public information sessions:

1 Franklin, Londonderry, Laconia, Whitefield and
2 Lincoln.

3 Back in December, the Committee
4 had readopted its administrative rules with
5 certain amendments. Those rules are in the New
6 Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Site
7 100, 200 and 300. The readoption of the rules
8 was required by New Hampshire law.

9 On December 28 of 2015, the SEC
10 Administrator asked the Applicant to supplement
11 the Application, to the extent that it was
12 needed, to comply with the newly-enacted
13 regulations. The Applicant filed supplemental
14 documentation on February 26th of 2016. Prior
15 to and following the Applicant's submission of
16 supplemental documentation, the Subcommittee
17 received a number of motions asking the
18 Subcommittee to postpone or suspend the public
19 hearings in this docket that were scheduled to
20 take place in March.

21 On March 1st, I, as Chair of the
22 Subcommittee, issued an order denying the
23 request to postpone or suspend the scheduled
24 public hearing. However, in that same order,

1 requests to conduct additional public hearings
2 were granted, and it was ordered that two
3 additional hearings would be conducted to allow
4 the public to address the supplemental
5 documentation that was submitted by the
6 Applicant in late February. The public
7 hearings that were already scheduled to be held
8 in March, the five of them, were held in
9 Meredith, Colebrook, Concord, Holderness and
10 Deerfield.

11 The order and notice of
12 tonight's public hearing was issued on May 4th,
13 2016. I want to note specifically and remind
14 people that the purpose of the hearing this
15 evening is to receive public comments on the
16 additional information that was filed by the
17 Applicant on February 26th, 2016. We would
18 request that members of the public limit their
19 comments to the issues raised in the
20 supplemental documentation filed by the
21 Applicant. Also, the people who were granted
22 status of intervenors in this docket, we would
23 ask them to consider whether it is necessary
24 for them to comment during this hearing. As

1 intervenors, you have other opportunities to
2 make your arguments, present evidence,
3 testimony, and to cross-examine the Applicant's
4 witnesses as part of the upcoming adjudicative
5 proceedings.

6 For all of those who wish to
7 speak this evening, we would ask you to fill
8 out one of the yellow forms that are outside in
9 the entryway, get it to Ms. Monroe or Mr.
10 Iacopino, and we'll call everyone in turn. If
11 you wish to submit a written comment, all
12 written comments are reproduced on our web
13 site. The written comment form is -- I think
14 it's blue.

15 MS. MONROE: Blue, yeah.

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Blue. So if
17 that's what you want to do, fill out a blue
18 form.

19 I will remind everyone that the
20 public comment period in Site Evaluation
21 Committee proceedings is extensive. We receive
22 and consider written comments, statements and
23 reports from the public throughout the pendency
24 of our proceedings up and until the time the

1 record is closed just before deliberations
2 begin.

3 Mr. Iacopino, is there anything
4 I forgot? Is there anything else I need to do?

5 MR. IACOPINO: No. Just one
6 correction, though. The previous public
7 hearings were in Colebrook, Plymouth, Concord,
8 Deerfield and Londonderry. The list that you
9 read were the prehearing information sessions.
10 And that's my error. I'm sorry.

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Londonderry,
12 however, is not correct for the hearings that
13 took place in March.

14 MR. IACOPINO: Oh, I'm sorry. You're
15 right.

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: It was in
17 Meredith.

18 MR. IACOPINO: Yeah, okay. You're
19 right.

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: It does happen.

21 MR. IACOPINO: Yes, we have had a lot
22 of public hearings.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. I
24 think we're ready to call on the first

1 commenter. You all will be happy to know I
2 think we have fewer than 15 people signed up.
3 We'll ask you to be concise and to the point.
4 We'll ask you to keep your remarks limited to
5 four minutes, if possible. If you need to go
6 over, we're not going to cut you off. But once
7 you've gone 4 minutes 30 seconds, I'll raise my
8 hand to let you know where you are, and a few
9 seconds after that I'll probably ask you how
10 much longer you have to go. If you have
11 something written, please provide a copy to the
12 stenographer up front so she can get a good
13 transcription of what you say. If you intend
14 to read, please read relatively slowly so that
15 the transcript reflects what you actually say.
16 I think those are the best ground rules I can
17 give you for now.

18 And I will call the first
19 speaker, Roger Hinds, I believe is the name,
20 and he will be followed by Katie Rose and Frank
21 Lombardi.

22 MR. HINDS: Roger Hinds from
23 Bethlehem. I made the display out in the
24 lobby. This is what we don't want. If you

1 were here, you would be this tall, roughly.
2 And these things are so big, standing beside it
3 for the first time would probably scare you.
4 And I know that for a fact because I stood at
5 big towers in the Boston area as a youngster
6 just to -- it actually even looks like it's
7 falling down. It's an illusion, you know, when
8 you look at it.

9 Anyway, I feel the people
10 constructing these, they're not going to be
11 from New Hampshire. A few may be. But they're
12 going to be from Canada, the majority of them.
13 After it's built, the employee ratio is going
14 to drop to net of zero. There's certain people
15 that travel just to inspect it once in a while.
16 And I haven't heard there will be any monetary
17 gain for New Hampshire. I have seen -- oh,
18 they also have the same tower in Great Britain.
19 It looks just like this. A lot more wires are
20 projected more than likely, and each cable is
21 going to be minimum 4 inches in diameter,
22 probably a lot larger. We'll find out later.

23 Anyway, can you imagine -- oh,
24 and in Monroe, New Hampshire, most of you know

1 of the cable -- the towers down there, the
2 small ones. People got leukemia from the
3 radiation. I have an in-law that died from
4 radiation because she lived near the tower.
5 This was what the doctor said. But they
6 couldn't prove it, of course.

7 But anyway, what I was trying to
8 express with this, with the display out here,
9 was the enormity of just one tower. When
10 this -- if this project goes through, from
11 every single mountaintop in the state you'll be
12 able to see it. There may be an exception, but
13 from the majority of the mountaintops you'll be
14 able to see it, and it won't be a pretty sight.
15 And I can't understand why anybody would
16 approve this. There's no advantage to the
17 state. And I'll bet any taxes they pay will be
18 way below what the minimum should be. Can
19 almost guarantee that from experience with the
20 landfill in Bethlehem. That's another
21 disaster.

22 I think it will be wise to say
23 "No."

24 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Katie Rose,

1 followed by Frank Lombardi and David Holmander.

2 (Presentation sung by Ms. Rose and lyrics
3 provided.)

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Frank Lombardi,
5 to be followed by David Holmander and Linda
6 Upham-Bornstein. That's a bit of a tough act
7 to follow, Mr. Lombardi.

8 MR. LOMBARDI: My name is Frank
9 Lombardi. And I live in Whitefield, where over
10 10 miles, 10.4 miles of above-ground towers are
11 proposed to be built in a horseshoe around our
12 village and through our most beautiful scenic
13 views. I, along with the Town of Whitefield
14 and many other Whitefield residents, am an
15 intervenor in the SEC evaluation. We filed as
16 intervenors because we want to protect our
17 residents, our views, and the value of our town
18 through taking part in the SEC process.

19 In reviewing Northern Pass's
20 supplement to their Application prepared for
21 the Site Evaluation Committee, I have many
22 concerns regarding the Applicant's approach to
23 this process and their transparency to the
24 public. Northern Pass's supplement discusses

1 mitigation measures on Page 10 and 11. The
2 information laid out here is incomplete and
3 inadequate and sets out grossly unfair
4 proposals. Nowhere does the supplement's
5 discussion provide the obvious mitigation
6 measures for our area, which is line burial.
7 Does Northern Pass seriously assert that they
8 didn't consider additional line burial to what
9 they have already proposed? It had been
10 publicly reported that Northern Pass has
11 proposed additional line burial in some towns
12 in our area, and that important information
13 needs to be included in detail in the filing.
14 Additionally, Northern Pass states that their
15 more site-specific mitigation, which can help
16 particular individual properties, will be
17 considered at the final engineering stage.
18 This is completely unfair to those who own
19 property along the right-of-way. Northern Pass
20 should be made to discuss each and every
21 property along the line as part of the full,
22 contested approval process. I insist that the
23 SEC not allow Northern Pass to bury detailed
24 decisions in a hidden final engineering process

1 at the tail end of the approval procedures, but
2 that Northern Pass be made to discuss this now,
3 while the Public has time to fully evaluate the
4 scale of this project.

5 In the top paragraph of Page 12
6 of the supplement, Northern Pass takes a
7 non-helpful and rebellious approach to the SEC
8 process. When discussing how they plan to
9 avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts on
10 historical and archeological resources, their
11 response says nothing, that they provide no
12 detail or discussion. They simply claim
13 they're doing it and totally avoid the issue.
14 It is insulting to the public for Northern Pass
15 to refrain from this discussion. I want to
16 know precisely and in detail how Northern Pass
17 plans to avoid, minimize and mitigate the
18 effects that their towers would have on
19 important areas in our town and in every town
20 along the route. This ignorant approach that
21 Northern Pass takes in this area of the
22 supplement undermines the SEC process and the
23 right of the public to know how Northern Pass
24 will affect their towns. Northern Pass should

1 be directed to start the planning process over,
2 with comprehensive and inclusive information
3 listed in great detail. I ask that the Site
4 Evaluation Committee further review the
5 concerns presented here and grant the requests
6 made in order to maintain a fair and due
7 process for the good of the public and the
8 integrity of the SEC process. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: David Holmander,
10 to be followed by Linda Upham-Bornstein.

11 MR. HOLMANDER: My name is David
12 Holmander, and I live in Whitefield. I operate
13 a new business, North Country Art Gallery. My
14 target customers are tourists. I have some
15 concerns about the Northern Pass Project and
16 how it will affect my customer base. Tonight,
17 I would like to address some questions I have
18 about the supplement to the SEC Application.

19 On Page 4 of the supplement,
20 Northern Pass says that they have the right to
21 build new power lines on existing
22 rights-of-way. I understand that an existing
23 right-of-way is for public transmission lines.
24 The lines which Northern Pass wants to build

1 are private and should not be built on public
2 rights-of-way. Why does Northern Pass say they
3 have the right?

4 Northern Pass has prided their
5 project on providing jobs for the local
6 economy. On page 5, Northern Pass provides a
7 long list of contractors who they say will work
8 on the Project; yet, there are no Coos County
9 contractors listed. With Coos being the
10 poorest New Hampshire county and potentially
11 suffering the most from this project, it seems
12 this supplement should be talking in detail
13 about Coos County. Also on Page 5, it says
14 that Northern Pass will be paid for with debt
15 and equity contributed by Eversource. The
16 supplement fails to describe the three-state
17 RFP, in which Northern Pass filed an
18 application for massive ratepayer subsidies
19 from public ratepayers in Massachusetts,
20 Connecticut and Rhode Island. Northern Pass
21 should include this information and the effects
22 on the financing of the Project if they win the
23 RFP.

24 Page 8 through 10 outlines a

1 scenic resource analysis, photo simulations and
2 a viewshed analysis showing where the lines are
3 visible from 10 miles away. Many people were
4 unable to open these files on their computers,
5 and I doubt that they are the only ones that
6 this has happened to. How can the SEC hold a
7 public hearing on this information when it's
8 not available to the public? The SEC must
9 start over and get the information out in a way
10 the public can access and read it and then set
11 a new hearing.

12 On a greater scale, it seems
13 unfair for Northern Pass and the SEC to expect
14 everyday people to comprehend this supplement
15 and other documents. Many people who are going
16 to be affected by this project are busy working
17 and providing for their families. The results
18 of these hearings will directly impact these
19 people, and it seems to me that the approval
20 process is completely unfair to the greater
21 public concern.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Linda
23 Upham-Bornstein, to be followed by Alan McLain
24 and Robert Heath.

1 MS. UPHAM-BORNSTEIN: It's hard to
2 hear the names over the applause. So, for
3 those of us who have hearing loss, I could not
4 hear my name announced earlier. I appreciate
5 that heads-up.

6 So, I am Linda Upham-Bornstein.
7 I have a Ph.D. in U.S. history, and I live in
8 Lancaster, New Hampshire. I am a non-abutting
9 intervenor. And I know you told us to not make
10 comments; however, I'm extremely frustrated
11 with your process. I believe that you are
12 denying our due-process rights as citizens and
13 residents of New Hampshire. I have sent
14 several requests saying that I cannot open the
15 Applicant's February 26th application on your
16 web site. I have received some very
17 disparaging comments from your site, suggesting
18 that the town had the full documentation, each
19 town on the ROW, and that I should go to my
20 town and read the multiple, multiple pages at
21 the town office, or maybe even ask the town,
22 which has no money, to give me copies. I, as a
23 citizen who will be impacted, have a right to
24 get these documents in a timely manner.

1 That being said, I also have
2 been assigned to a group of a very large number
3 of people as non-abutting intervenors. I was
4 told there was a motion -- there was a decision
5 made to reduce the size of that group. I have
6 not received that decision, so I do not know
7 what group I belong to. I have been told that
8 we have to get data to you by May 23rd, Monday.
9 How can I get data to you when I cannot access
10 the site and I do not know who is in my group?
11 We do not have the ability to select a
12 spokesperson. And basically, we are again
13 prohibited from participating in this process.
14 I did receive information that you extended
15 that date to, wow, June 7th. That does not
16 help us when we don't even know who is in our
17 group. So I specifically ask you to address
18 this situation, to identify the groups and to
19 get us that motion and decision as soon as
20 possible, in a timely manner, and maybe not
21 through your e-mail and web site service, which
22 is now so onerous that we have to send e-mails
23 out three times to get that. And then I
24 received a complaint from one of your members

1 that you do not want to receive all of our
2 e-mails as board members. Am I supposed to go
3 through and hand pick each one of your names
4 out of those e-mails? This is -- I'm a single
5 person. I'm not the Northern Pass. I do not
6 have unlimited resources at my disposal to deal
7 with this. And I wish that you would, as a
8 committee, give me more, as other members,
9 other intervenors, more respect for our efforts
10 and recognize that we cannot access -- I went
11 to Plymouth. I teach at Plymouth State
12 University. We have great fiber optics, great
13 Internet. I could not download your documents
14 from the University. I can't download them
15 from my satellite network either.

16 As two people said before, the Applicants
17 made several claims that we have identified,
18 and I just want to -- I'm not going to
19 reiterate those again, in that they have been
20 so eloquently addressed previously. But we are
21 entitled to know what the Northern Pass
22 intends, not in its final stage, but now. We
23 cannot respond to it. We cannot respond to
24 mitigation.

1 I live in a 200-year-old home affiliated
2 with the Weeks State Park, which is a state
3 monument. It was the Weeks family home, and we
4 preserved -- the Weeks family preserved the
5 White Mountains, the very viewscape that
6 Northern Pass wants to decimate.

7 So we ask that you take all this into
8 consideration. I will give you a copy of my
9 comments rather than read them all. But please
10 disclose as much information ahead of time. By
11 waiting until the end of the process, it's
12 tantamount to closing the barn door after the
13 horse has bolted.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Alan McLain,
15 followed by Robert Heath and Denise Greig.

16 MR. McLAIN: Good afternoon. My name
17 is Alan McLain. I own a construction company
18 in Berlin, New Hampshire, in Coos County, M & L
19 Foundations, and we do cast-in-place concrete.

20 I believe that we can build this
21 cheaper locally using our own manpower. I
22 believe that the Northern Pass people will hire
23 local companies, and I'm in favor of this. And
24 I take them at their word that they will hire

1 us, and I'm in favor of this project. Thank
2 you.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Robert Heath, to
4 be followed by Denise Greig and Cheryl Jensen.

5 MR. HEATH: I'm Robert Heath, and I
6 don't understand this Northern Pass. I live
7 less than 200 yards from Highway 110 to Potter
8 Road. And I'm 80 years old, and I'd like to
9 put some livestock in there for my sole purpose
10 of eating. And there's already gas -- I own
11 the land. It was leased before I bought the
12 land. And I am from Coos County. And we have
13 now two wooden poles and -- just one set. And
14 then, the gas company, when I bought the land,
15 was under contract. We have 13 orange stakes
16 that stand about this high (indicating) in less
17 than two-tenths of a mile. Why do you need
18 this land? Just stop it. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Denise Greig, to
20 be followed by Cheryl Jensen and Dr. Art
21 Hammon.

22 MS. GREIG: Hi, my name is Denise
23 Greig. I'm not a resident from up here. I'm a
24 resident of Deerfield. I am not an intervenor.

1 I have just a concern that I want to share with
2 respect to the emergency response plan that is
3 part of the attachments to the February filing.
4 And the concern relates to what's happening in
5 Deerfield with respect to the expansion of the
6 substation.

7 We have one substation there.
8 We have a great deal of expansion planned
9 through Northern Pass: An additional building,
10 many more additional lines, capacitors and a
11 lot of other things that I couldn't even
12 describe to you. What we have in Deerfield, we
13 have emergency response. We have a town that
14 has 4300 residents. And these emergency
15 responders, if there is an accident or fire at
16 that fire station, we have equipment in our
17 town that dates to the '80s and '90s. We have
18 a couple of new trucks, but we have a lot of
19 older stuff. We have a volunteer fire
20 department. So we are looking at a situation
21 where we have a number of concerns about the
22 safety not only of our emergency responders,
23 but of our residents as well. So I ask that
24 you take that into consideration in your

1 deliberations and as part of this process.

2 And I'd also ask you to consider
3 part of this process about discussion about
4 safety is: What does the utility offer to the
5 town in the way of assistance? First thing you
6 do when you -- and I'm not a firefighter. But,
7 you know, you look at firefighting substations.
8 Where's your electric people? How are they
9 going to get to your town, and how are they
10 going to assist your firefighters? Deerfield
11 is a half-hour from everywhere. So, if a fire
12 happens at our substation, I don't know where
13 the utility response person is and their team.
14 But if it takes them a half-hour to get there,
15 all those contaminants and lots of really nasty
16 things are going to be in the air, blowing into
17 the residences that surround that substation,
18 and a lot of contaminants going into the
19 ground, and, you know, the Hazmat clean-up to
20 follow. So I'd ask that you consider the
21 safety at these substations and the location of
22 these places in your deliberations. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Cheryl Jensen,
24 to be followed by Dr. Art Hammon and

1 Commissioner Rick Samson.

2 MS. JENSEN: I'm taking a pass on
3 speaking. Cheryl Jensen.

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thank you, Ms.
5 Jensen.

6 Dr. Art Hammon, to be followed
7 by Rick Samson and Joseph Keenan.

8 DR. HAMMON: My name is Art Hammon.
9 I'm a retired science educator in the field of
10 physics and chemistry. I have attended several
11 public information sessions concerning the
12 Northern Pass. I'm especially interested in
13 the arguments by project representatives that
14 underground burial is not fiscally feasible.
15 Both Vermont and Maine seem to be able to do
16 this. I have asked at a public session if
17 there were any reasons why New Hampshire's
18 geology or landscape made underground burial
19 more difficult than our neighboring states, but
20 the engineers have not yet been able to
21 articulate a clear response.

22 I've done a "back of the
23 envelope" calculation regarding the commercial
24 value of the electrons that might pass through

1 the 1,000-megawatt buried line during the
2 expected 40-year lifetime. The calculation
3 begins with physical constants and then applies
4 a rate of 18.7 cents per kilowatt hour, which
5 is the current kilowatt hour rate on my last
6 Eversource bill. It seems that the return on
7 investment of this line, even buried, would be
8 substantial for Eversource.

9 Here are the rough calculations:
10 1,000-megawatt line carries a million kilowatt
11 hours of electricity per hour. Multiplying
12 this by 24 hours in a day, 365 days in a year,
13 and 40 years, the expected lifetime of that, it
14 comes out to be 3.5 times 10 to the 11th
15 kilowatt hours. Given the recent 18.7 cents
16 per kilowatt hour that is being charged, to
17 compute this using the estimates, the net value
18 to the project stakeholders of the electrons
19 sent through the buried Northern Pass line,
20 1,000-megawatt line over 40 years is
21 \$65.5 billion. If, as stated by Northern Pass
22 Project officials at the public hearings, that
23 a buried line might cost as much as \$3 billion,
24 that cost then represents 4.5 percent of the

1 revenues that would be realized from the line
2 over a period of 40 years. Even adjusting for
3 operating expenses, a 95.5 percent return on
4 investment seems more than a reasonable
5 business plan for the Northern Pass Project.
6 Despite story lines by company officials that
7 imply that a buried line is not fiscally
8 feasible, I would remind them that the plural
9 of the word "anecdote" is not "data." As my
10 data show, a buried Northern Pass line, based
11 on company information and applying current
12 electrical rates, is feasible and reasonably
13 profitable for the company. I hope these
14 calculations might prove helpful in the
15 decisions that are to be made. Thank you very
16 much.

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Commissioner
18 Samson, to be followed by Joseph Keenan and
19 Julie Moran.

20 DR. HAMMON: I have copies of my
21 remarks for any members of the press who would
22 like to have them.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Could you please
24 wait and say the names after people are done

1 applauding? It's disrespectful --

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Actually, the
3 applause is disruptive. I appreciate it. I'm
4 happy that people are supportive of the views.
5 But it's the next person's turn when it's the
6 next person's turn, and that's --

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Talk about
8 disrespect.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Commissioner
10 Samson.

11 CMSR. SAMSON: Good evening, members
12 of the Site Evaluation Committee. As you well
13 know, my name is Rick Samson from 804 Piper
14 Hill Road, in Stewartstown. And I am the Coos
15 County Commissioner representing District 3,
16 the largest geographic state in our state, and
17 the district that will be most affected by this
18 proposed Northern Pass Project. I have had to
19 redo some of my remarks following the hearings
20 this afternoon, which I appreciate. And I'd
21 like to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman, members of the Committee and Mr.
23 Iacopino, for the decisions that were made this
24 afternoon concerning the extension of time and

1 also the data request extension. That's much
2 appreciated by all of us.

3 I am an intervenor. I appear
4 here this evening not out of disrespect for
5 this Committee, but out of concern for the
6 impression that has been generated by the
7 actions, requirements and methods that have
8 been placed on the intervenors in this process.

9 I refer to my testimony of
10 April 11th, when I appeared before this
11 Committee. Many of my concerns then are still
12 my concerns tonight. It appears that this
13 Committee was more concerned with the
14 Applicant's ability to have this proposed
15 project approved sooner rather than give our
16 state and our citizens their due process. I
17 have attended almost every hearing since the
18 first DOE hearing in Pembroke and am still
19 under the impression that the Applicant is
20 being favored in this process. The process is
21 geared to the approval of this project, as was
22 the approval of the Coos Wind Park, which is
23 now being sold to a South Korean group.

24 I would respectfully request

1 that this Site Evaluation Committee give strong
2 consideration to all the testimony that has
3 been offered by all New Hampshire residents and
4 groups that are representing the best interests
5 of our entire state and not the interests of
6 Hydro-Quebec, Eversource or Northeast
7 Utilities.

8 The Coos Loop has been mentioned
9 a number of times in relationship to this
10 project. The Coos Loop has nothing to do with
11 the proposed project, other than as a means for
12 more financial gain for other large companies
13 that have no respect for our land and its
14 citizens.

15 This project should not and must
16 not be rushed and approved at the expense of
17 our state and our citizens. Time may be of the
18 essence for the proponents of this proposed
19 project to avoid the proper research and the
20 true benefits or detriment to our state.

21 I respectfully remind this
22 committee that you are charged with the
23 responsibility and the obligations, of which
24 I'm sure you're well aware of and are trying to

1 meet, to make the right decisions that will
2 reflect the character not only of our state,
3 but our citizens.

4 I have also been asked to read
5 a -- ask a question posed to me by the Chairman
6 of the Stewartstown Select Board here tonight,
7 and that question is: How many people here
8 have heard of the Energy Clear River Center
9 [sic], planned for burial in Rhode Island. It
10 is a 900-megawatt natural gas facility, energy
11 that could carry the slogan of "Made in
12 America." And I include it in the bottom of my
13 report, the web site that you could go to, to
14 get that information.

15 And as I stated in Lincoln, and
16 I will state here again tonight, I believe this
17 committee is doing as best they could, but
18 there is still no right way to do the wrong
19 thing. Thank you for your time and your
20 attention.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Joseph Keenan,
22 to be followed by Julie Moran and Will Abbott.

23 MR. KEENAN: I'm sorry. I don't hear
24 very well, so I wasn't sure when my name was

1 being called. I'm just going to start my timer
2 here so I don't go more than four and a half
3 minutes.

4 My name is Joseph Keenan. I'm a
5 doctor and psychologist, child psychologist, at
6 Weeks Medical Center in Lancaster, New
7 Hampshire. I've lived in this town for 20
8 years. I now own 280 acres of land in the Lost
9 Nations area of Northumberland, with an
10 undisturbed view of the western horizon of
11 Vermont. The stretch of land between Paige
12 Hill Road and Northfield Road is visible from
13 my front deck. And there's a current
14 right-of-way through that, that includes
15 low-level towers that I hardly see. I could
16 see them from the top of my property up by the
17 White Mountain National Forest, but I can't see
18 them from my house. So I was naturally,
19 understandably concerned about this when I
20 heard about the Northern Pass Project several
21 years ago. I hadn't heard much about it until
22 a man showed up on my property one day when I
23 was mowing my field, carrying equipment. And
24 he asked me, once he was already on my land

1 probably for 5 or 10 minutes at least, 'cause
2 he had hiked up quite a ways, if he could take
3 some photos and set up his equipment. I had no
4 idea where he was from. But I was generous and
5 took him up to the top of the field where
6 there's that beautiful view of the western
7 horizon. And he set up his equipment. Didn't
8 look like photography equipment. But he set it
9 up there and left it for 5 or 10 minutes while
10 we chatted. And I asked him for his business
11 card. He was from a group called Sewell,
12 S-E-W-E-L-L, in Maine, and his name was Dan
13 Livingstone. And I didn't realize at that time
14 that he might be there for the purpose of
15 taking information for this project. I still
16 don't know if he was there -- there was another
17 fellow who came onto my land as well at one
18 point. I didn't get his business card. He was
19 in a big hurry. He took some photographs.

20 So, in of August 2014, this man
21 showed up on my land, as I said. When I heard
22 about the Northern Pass Project, there was a
23 public information session in Northumberland,
24 in the town of Groveton. I went to the public

1 information session being held by Northern
2 Pass, and I asked two separate representatives,
3 who had their Google Earth laptops set up, the
4 same question. I asked if they were -- 'cause
5 I would be able to see the towers from my
6 property, from my land. And it was peculiar,
7 because they gave the exact same answer, almost
8 as if it had been rehearsed. And to quote,
9 because I recall exactly what they said, they
10 said, "I can't tell you if you'll see them."
11 That seemed a peculiar way to answer the
12 question, "I can't tell you if you'll see
13 them."

14 I then had an appraisal
15 conducted because I was having my property
16 refinanced. And in the appraisal there were
17 two pages dedicated to the Northern Pass as a
18 potential disvaluing factor. So that concerned
19 me as well. I recently had the property
20 reappraised again for refinancing, and the
21 property value has dropped 20 percent since
22 that time.

23 Now, why am I here? I'm here
24 because on Sunday night, late at night, past my

1 bedtime, I just thought that I wanted to see if
2 I can find out whether or not I can see the
3 towers from my land. So I go to the web site,
4 the SEC web site, and I try to download one of
5 the files that purportedly was going to tell me
6 whether or not I could see the towers. I
7 download about 25 percent of it before my
8 screen froze. Now, my job is to help children
9 who have psychological problems. My job is not
10 to stay up all day and all night and go to the
11 town hall and try to find this information. So
12 I still can't find out the answer to the
13 question I had two years ago because the PDF
14 wouldn't load. So I'm a little frustrated, as
15 you might imagine. And this process seems to
16 me to be one where it's obstacle after obstacle
17 for those of us who aren't paid to do this
18 work.

19 And so, frustrated, I thought I
20 was an intervenor. I registered to be an
21 intervenor and then found out when the list
22 came out that I wasn't on it. I asked your
23 person, your representative administrator what
24 had happened. I was one of the first people

1 who registered as an intervenor, I thought, and
2 then found out that I wasn't on the list. I
3 can't go back and prove that I was registered,
4 because every once in a while I empty my Gmail
5 box. So it's just the whole thing is very
6 frustrating, and it just seems to me that you
7 ought to be able to do better than this. I'm
8 sorry.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Julie Moran, to
10 be followed by Will Abbott and Daniel Zajic.

11 MS. MORAN: Thank you, ladies and
12 gentlemen. I appreciate your being here. I
13 also applied to be an intervenor, and I don't
14 know what happened to my application. I looked
15 at the list when it was done and couldn't find
16 it anywhere. I did everything it said on
17 there. So that didn't happen. I'll let it go.

18 But in this new section, there
19 is no additional burial. Why isn't there
20 additional burial in this new section? We have
21 time and time again -- the people have time and
22 time again asked for burial. I mean, we
23 opposed it in Colebrook and in Coos. We
24 opposed it completely, 100 percent. And to

1 compromise, we went and agreed that we would
2 ask for burial. Where is the compromise from
3 Northern Pass? Where is the consideration for
4 the people? Is Northern Pass going to continue
5 be given another tromp over the American people
6 and the people in New Hampshire? I appeal to
7 you, please. You're the SEC. You're the ones
8 that -- you're the last stand we have. There
9 is no other stand between us and this
10 monstrosity that's going to take over for the
11 next hundred years and have these towers on our
12 land. We're asking you, please take it and do
13 the right thing. Tell them to either bury the
14 whole thing or to go away. New Hampshire
15 doesn't need it. And we're begging you, this
16 Committee, to stand between us and stand there
17 for us and represent the people of New
18 Hampshire against this transmission line from
19 Canada. Thank you very much.

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Will Abbott, to
21 followed Daniel Zajic and Eric Meth.

22 MR. ABBOTT: Good evening, Mr.
23 Chairman and members of the Committee. My name
24 is Will Abbott. I'm here on behalf of the

1 Society for the Protection of New Hampshire
2 Forests, and I have three comments. The first
3 relates to the February 26th submission by
4 Northern Pass relative to property rights. In
5 the submission, the Applicant notes that the
6 new rules regarding property rights read, and I
7 quote, "The Applicant must provide evidence
8 that the Applicant has a current right or
9 option or other legal basis to acquire the
10 right to construct, operate and maintain a
11 facility on, over or under the site."

12 The prefiled testimony of Mr.
13 Kenneth Bowes, in which Mr. Bowes makes certain
14 representations that Northern Pass has all the
15 property rights they need to build the Project,
16 this February 26th submission makes no mention
17 of the fact that our organization has gone to
18 Coos County Superior Court to challenge the
19 right asserted to use our private property in
20 Clarksville without our permission. The
21 prefiled testimony of Mr. Bowes makes the
22 factually incorrect and arguably misleading
23 claim on Page 18, Lines 27 and 28, that
24 24 miles of the new right-of-way in northern

1 Coos County on private land owned by Bayroot,
2 LLC, is subject to an agreement based -- this
3 is quoting from their filing -- "on the lease
4 between Renewable Properties, Inc. and Bayroot,
5 dated October 1, 2012, and recorded at Book
6 1364, Page 456 of the Coos County Registry of
7 Deeds." In fact, the referenced lease is not
8 recorded at the Coos Registry, only a notice of
9 the lease is recorded. The Subcommittee should
10 require the Applicant to produce the entire
11 lease referenced to meet the evidence standards
12 set in the rules.

13 The prefiled testimony of Mr.
14 Bowes describes the intent of the Project to
15 use existing PSNH-owned rights-of-way in
16 Dummer, Stark and Northumberland. No mention
17 is made of an existing right-of-way currently
18 located in the PSNH-owned right-of-way in
19 Dummer and Stark, owned by the Portland Natural
20 Gas Pipeline Company, which I believe Mr. Heath
21 referred to earlier, which confines how
22 Northern Pass can use the existing
23 150-foot-wide right-of-way in these two
24 communities. The Subcommittee should require

1 the Applicant to provide evidence that Portland
2 Natural Gas has been advised of the Northern
3 Pass proposal and that Portland Natural Gas
4 agrees that the Northern Pass Project, as
5 proposed, will not interfere with the PNG
6 property rights and that the new structures
7 Northern Pass proposes to build in the
8 150-foot-wide right-of-way can be built in a
9 way that complies with all safety standards
10 regarding such co-located facilities.

11 I have a brief comment about the
12 London Economics study. I think it's pretty
13 clear that this document, which was filed in
14 redacted form on March 28th by the Applicant,
15 raises one of the most fundamental issues of
16 this entire proceeding and goes to the heart of
17 the new statutory finding that the Subcommittee
18 must make, that the granting of the certificate
19 proposed serves the public interest. This
20 study is the only submission made by the
21 Applicant that addresses the financial benefits
22 of the Project to consumers of electricity in
23 New England and New Hampshire. It's critical
24 that the public have an opportunity to fully

1 review and comment on this study, and I would
2 strongly urge that in the next public hearing,
3 which I understand is yet to be scheduled, that
4 you make it clear that, not only is the
5 February 26th information filing a ripe subject
6 for public comment, but also that the study,
7 the London Economics study, is ripe for public
8 comment.

9 Finally, since the February 28th
10 filing by the Applicant of its supplementary
11 information, and during the five public
12 hearings the SEC held in March, the Applicant
13 has suggested that the Forward NH Fund, a \$200
14 million economic fund bootstrapped to this
15 application, is somehow a part of the way in
16 which the Project serves the public interest.
17 The Subcommittee should reject the notion that
18 it include benefits of the Forward NH Fund in
19 its consideration of whether the Project serves
20 the public interest. The statute clearly
21 suggests, and the rules reinforce this
22 suggestion, that the task before the
23 Subcommittee is to determine whether the
24 intrinsic energy benefits of the Project

1 warrant its approval. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Daniel Zajic, to
3 be followed by Eric Meth and Nancy Martland.

4 MR. ZAJIC: Good evening. As a very
5 new resident of Whitefield and a returning
6 former resident of New Hampshire, I appreciate
7 the chance to comment in public. I'm
8 responding to the rejection of mitigation
9 measures, and I'm here to advocate that every
10 inch of this project be buried. I believe
11 anything less than this represents a very bad
12 deal for the economy of this region. Complete
13 burial, if indeed more expensive as is claimed,
14 would actually generate more local revenue
15 because it would presumably be more
16 labor-intensive and take longer. As far as the
17 long-term benefits, the increase in the high
18 value of tourism and property development are
19 indisputable.

20 I recently purchased a home in
21 Whitefield and will soon be installing enough
22 solar power generation capacity to meet or
23 exceed our entire household use. With
24 available federal and state incentives, this

1 will pay for itself within a decade. And
2 because of low-interest loans available for
3 renewable energy projects, it will cost me
4 nothing up front and a very modest monthly
5 payment until paid off. The growth of
6 household renewable power is exploding across
7 this country, and it's accelerating as costs
8 continue to go down. In the future, there will
9 be less, not more need to import or transmit
10 power across state lines, let alone from
11 outside the country. I'm not at all opposed to
12 having increased power transmission capacity.
13 I think a robust infrastructure is beneficial
14 and would hopefully generate much-needed jobs
15 in the short term. However, complete burial is
16 an achievable way to a win-win solution. We
17 should not and don't need to accept any further
18 damage to what is our most valuable asset,
19 which is the natural beauty of this area.
20 Ideally, we would not only demand burial of the
21 entire project, but removal of existing towers
22 at the same time. If we don't demand it now,
23 it will never happen. We should use whatever
24 authority we have to ensure we can attract

1 sustainable economic growth for not only this,
2 but all future generations. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Eric Meth, to be
4 followed by Nancy Martland and Susan Percy.

5 SELECTMAN METH: Thank you very much
6 for listening to me. My name is Eric Meth.
7 I'm a select board member from the town of
8 Franconia. We are an intervenor. And I'm not
9 here to touch on any specific issue, topic or
10 subject, but I think it important that you know
11 how much the Northern Pass Transmission Project
12 has upset our town residents and upset the
13 process of governing in our town. As the idea
14 of Northern Pass Transmission comes barreling
15 down our Main Street and right into the heart
16 of Franconia, I've finally come to understand
17 what that overused term "skin in the game"
18 means. And we have lot of skin in the game.
19 We've had to bring all our guns to bear not so
20 much on your process, but our process of
21 governing. Every day is another adventure as
22 this process goes on. We meet with our fire,
23 we meet with our police chief, we meet with our
24 life squad members, we meet with our water

1 commissioners. And thankfully, we also have
2 some really bright and eloquent people who have
3 pitched in and done yeoman's work. And as I
4 said, it really has upset the process of
5 governing our town. I've been a selectman for
6 over -- a little over a year, and I've lived up
7 in Franconia for about 10 years. I came here
8 from -- I grew up in northern New Jersey. I
9 practiced law in Philadelphia. And I question
10 the fairness of this, of your process. I
11 question the fairness of the transparency of
12 your process. And I'm sorry to say that, but
13 that's how I feel. I think today's ruling,
14 that you gave us 10 extra days to submit data
15 questions, I think that was fair, but it's
16 something that shouldn't have come to pass. So
17 I hope and pray that as data questions and
18 discovery goes on, the process becomes a little
19 clearer. So, thank you for your time.
20 Appreciate it.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Nancy Martland,
22 to be followed by Susan Percy.

23 MS. MARTLAND: Good evening. I've
24 spoken to you before. I'll be very brief. I

1 just have one word that I'd like to explore
2 with you. The word is "mitigation." "Avoid,
3 minimize, mitigate," that's the preferred
4 treatment, as I understand it. The "avoid"
5 option is plain. It's as plain as the nose on
6 your face and my face. The New Hampshire DES
7 released what's posted today on the SEC web
8 site, a finding to that effect, highlighting
9 roadside burial as an available, feasible
10 avoidance practice.

11 Mitigation involving, also
12 proposed in the statement released by DES
13 today, involving either direct conservation of
14 land somewhere else or paying in the
15 neighborhood of \$3 million to a conservation
16 fund is simply not acceptable when the "avoid"
17 option is so very plain. Mitigation does
18 nothing. Nothing to relieve the damage to
19 those in the overhead path. Please think hard
20 about this. I'll say it again: Mitigation is
21 unacceptable when avoidance is an available
22 option. Please insist that Northern Pass avoid
23 damage by burying along roadsides as the DES
24 suggests. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Susan Percy.

2 MS. PERCY: Hello. My name is Susan
3 Percy, and I have also been before you before.
4 But I want to speak on one point, and that was
5 a clarification or response on Christine Lake
6 and whether there were any tower viewpoints
7 along that. And I brought a picture so that
8 you can see what I'm talking about. This is
9 Dummer Hill right here at the end of the lake.

10 (Ms. Percy distributes document.)

11 MS. PERCY: On May 10th, 2016,
12 Northern Pass Transmission submitted
13 information from Terrence DeWan, Northern Pass
14 Transmission's expert witness, regarding tower
15 visibility from Christine Lake in Stark. Mr.
16 DeWan stated that no towers would be visible
17 from Christine Lake. He apparently made this
18 assumption on two linear configurations, as
19 detailed in his photo simulation on data
20 obtained from Intermap.

21 Christine Lake is approximately
22 1.6 miles long and over half a mile wide, wider
23 in Kauffmann Bay. On the western shore of
24 Christine Lake, one looks directly at Dummer

1 Hill. The right-of-way traverses Dummer Hill
2 and is clearly visible from the crest of the
3 hill to the bottom of the hill. Towers along
4 that sight line will be visible from the lake?
5 At the eastern shore of Christine Lake, the
6 proposed 95- to 120-foot suggested height,
7 subject to change as noted by Terrence DeWan's
8 VIA report, towers will be visible as they
9 cross the access road and continue along the
10 right-of-way over the ridge. At various
11 points, those variable-foot towers are
12 projected to be well above tree line and
13 visible from multiple points from the west
14 shore of the lake. We recommend that the
15 assertion by Northern Pass on the effects of
16 tower visibility on Christine Lake be reviewed
17 for accuracy.

18 Of further note, in the area
19 surrounding Christine Lake is land protected
20 through easement to the State of New Hampshire
21 and the Society for the Protection of New
22 Hampshire Forests. There are multiple hiking
23 trails with mountain views. Huge numbers of
24 Northern Pass transmission towers will be

1 visible from Victor Head, Bald Mountain, Giants
2 Grave, Potters Ledge, Devil's Slide and many
3 more trails through these protected lands in
4 Stark. Only one mountaintop, Victor Head, was
5 identified by Northern Pass through a photo
6 simulation by Terrence DeWan for Northern Pass
7 in the published documents. The visibility
8 conclusions from this single vantage point are
9 incorrect and should be reviewed. The impact
10 to this entire area should be addressed in a
11 more comprehensive manner.

12 Additionally, when the pipeline
13 was laid by the Portland Gas Transmission
14 Company, federal requirements through FERC
15 required pre and post water-quality testing be
16 completed on existing water supplies, including
17 the lake, streams and wells along Christine
18 Lake and in Stark. I ask that Northern Pass be
19 in compliance with the federal guidelines.
20 Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And Ms. Percy
22 was our last speaker this evening. So, I thank
23 you all. There will be a notice issued soon
24 for an additional public comment hearing to be

1 held, I think in mid-June in Plymouth.

2 MS. MONROE: 23rd.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: The 23rd of June
4 in Plymouth.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Where?

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Excuse me?

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Where?

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Plymouth. I
9 think going to be at the high school.

10 With that, we will adjourn.

11 Thank you all.

12 (Whereupon the Public Comment Hearing was
13 adjourned at 7:10 p.m.)

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**PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING - May 19, 2016
SEC 2015-06 NORTHERN PASS, LLC AND PUBLIC SERVICE CO. OF NH**

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