

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

June 23, 2016 - 6:06 p.m.
Plymouth High School
86 Old Ward Bridge Road
Plymouth, New Hampshire

NHPUC 20DEC'16AM11:47

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.
Christopher Way, Designee	DRED
William Oldenburg, Designee	Dept. of Transportation
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 (McLane Middleton)

4 Counsel for the Public:

5 Peter Roth, Esq. (Sr. Asst. Atty. Gen.)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Public Comment Hearing of the Site Evaluation Committee. We have one matter before us this evening; it's the Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC, and Public Service Company of New Hampshire, which does business as Eversource Energy, for a Certificate of Site and Facility, which is SEC Docket 2015-06. After the public hearing this evening, we will also have a meeting of the Subcommittee to discuss certain motions for reconsideration related to interventions.

Before turning to the public comment hearing agenda, I will ask the Subcommittee members to introduce themselves, starting to my left.

MR. OLDENBURG: William Oldenburg, Department of Transmission.

CMSR. BAILEY: Kate Bailey from the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Martin Honigberg from the New Hampshire Public

1 Utilities Commission.

2 MR. WAY: Christopher Way from
3 the Department of Resources and Economic
4 Development.

5 MS. WHITAKER: Rachel Whitaker,
6 public member.

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Sitting to
8 my right -- I'm sorry, Patty.

9 MS. WEATHERSBY: Last, but not
10 least, Patricia Weathersby, public member.

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Sorry about
12 that.

13 Not present this evening is
14 Craig Wright from the Department of
15 Environmental Services.

16 Sitting to my right is Michael
17 Iacopino, who is counsel to the Site
18 Evaluation Committee. Sitting in the front
19 row to my right in the beautiful light blue
20 jacket is Pam Monroe, the SEC Administrator.

21 All right. We will now open
22 the public comment hearing. I have to read,
23 unfortunately, a short explanation of why
24 we're here.

1 On October 19th, 2015,
2 Northern Pass Transmission, LLC, and Public
3 Service Company of New Hampshire submitted an
4 application to the New Hampshire Site
5 Evaluation Committee for a Certificate of
6 Site and Facility to construct a 192-mile
7 transmission line. The line is proposed to
8 have a capacity rating of up to 1,090
9 megawatts, which will run through New
10 Hampshire from the Canadian border in
11 Pittsburg to Deerfield.

12 On November 2nd, pursuant to
13 R.S.A. 162-H:4(A), the Chair of the Committee
14 appointed a Subcommittee.

15 On December 7th, the
16 Subcommittee reviewed the Application and
17 determined that the Application contained
18 sufficient information to satisfy the
19 Application requirements of each state agency
20 having jurisdiction under state or federal
21 law to regulate any aspect of the
22 construction or operation of the proposed
23 facility. The Subcommittee also made an
24 independent determination that the

1 Application contained sufficient information
2 to carry out the purposes of R.S.A. 162-H.

3 On January 11th, 14th, 20th
4 and 21st, the Subcommittee conducted public
5 information sessions in Franklin,
6 Londonderry, Laconia, Whitefield and Lincoln.

7 Back in December, the Site
8 Evaluation Committee readopted its
9 administrative rules with amendments. The
10 readoption of the administrative rules was
11 required by New Hampshire law.

12 On December 28th of 2015, the
13 Committee Administrator asked the Applicant
14 to supplement the Application so that it
15 would comply with the newly-enacted
16 regulations. The Applicant filed
17 supplemental documentation on February 26th,
18 2016. Prior to and following the Applicant's
19 submission of supplemental documentation, the
20 Subcommittee received a number of motions
21 requesting that the Committee -- that the
22 Subcommittee postpone or suspend public
23 hearings in this docket and/or schedule
24 additional public hearings.

1 On March 1st, I issued an
2 order denying the request to postpone or
3 suspend the public hearings, but ordered that
4 two additional hearings would be conducted to
5 allow the public to comment on the
6 supplemental documentation filed by the
7 Applicant on February 26th of 2016. The
8 Subcommittee has already conducted public
9 hearings on March 1st, 7th, 10th, 14th and
10 16th in Meredith, Colebrook, Concord,
11 Holderness and Deerfield. The Subcommittee
12 has also held the first of the two additional
13 public hearings for comment on the
14 supplemental documentation; that took place
15 in Whitefield on May 19th.

16 The Order of Notice of
17 tonight's public comment hearing for the
18 public to comment on the supplemental
19 documentation was issued on May 26th of 2016.
20 Please note that the purpose of this hearing
21 is to receive public comments on the
22 additional information documentation filed by
23 the Applicant on February 26th, 2016;
24 therefore, I would ask members of the public

1 to limit their comments to the issues raised
2 in the supplemental documentation. Also, to
3 the people who have intervenor status in this
4 docket, please carefully consider whether it
5 is necessary for you to comment during this
6 hearing. As intervenors, you have other
7 opportunities to make your arguments, to take
8 discovery and to cross-examine the
9 Applicant's witnesses as part of these
10 adjudicative proceedings.

11 As I indicated, the purpose of
12 tonight's hearing is to hear from the public
13 on the supplemental materials. There will be
14 no presentation by the Applicant and no
15 questions for the Applicant. I will also
16 point out that the public comment period in
17 the Site Evaluation Committee proceedings is
18 extensive. We receive and consider written
19 comments, statements and reports from the
20 public throughout the pendency of our
21 proceeding up until the time that the record
22 is closed just before deliberations begin.

23 If you wish to speak, you
24 should sign up on the forms that were outside

1 and can be provided by Ms. Monroe down in
2 front. Given the number of people who have
3 signed up, we'll ask you to limit your
4 remarks to three minutes. Please understand
5 that when you get to three minutes, we will
6 not stop you. When you get to 3-1/2 minutes,
7 I will raise my hand. About 30 seconds after
8 that, if it looks like you're not finishing
9 up, I will ask you to either finish up or
10 suspend your remarks and wait until everyone
11 else has had a chance to speak for you to
12 complete them.

13 One other comment based on
14 what's gone on at prior public comment
15 hearings. We know that people want to show
16 their support for speakers, and we're not
17 going to stop that. We would ask that
18 comments, whatever you want to make, in the
19 manner of cheering or clapping, be positive.
20 Show your support if you would like to or for
21 the people who have spoken, but please, you
22 do not need to make negative comments about
23 what anybody else has said.

24 The other thing I want to say

1 about that is we need to keep this moving so
2 that people will be able to leave here at a
3 reasonable hour. So when I read names, I'm
4 going to read three names. And each time I
5 read the names, I'm going to identify the
6 next two people to speak. So, after
7 someone's done, I would ask the next person
8 whose turn it is to speak to come to the
9 microphone, so that way we can keep things
10 moving, even if there is a short amount of
11 applause for a prior speaker. Is that a deal
12 that everybody feels they can live with this
13 evening?

14 Good. Thank you all for that,
15 for your cooperation on that.

16 All right. Mr. Iacopino, is
17 there anything else I need to do before
18 calling the first speaker this evening?

19 MR. IACOPINO: No, sir.

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
21 The first three speakers are: Representative
22 Herb Richardson, to be followed by Grafton
23 County Commissioner Martha Richards and
24 Representative Suzanne Smith.

1 The stenographer asked me to
2 remind you that, if you have brought written
3 comments this evening and are reading from
4 something, if you could please leave a copy
5 for the stenographer in the plastic bin on
6 the table in front of me. That will help
7 everyone make this record clear and complete.

8 Representative Richardson.

9 REP. RICHARDSON: Thank you, and
10 thank you very much for allowing me to speak
11 here tonight. For the record, my name is Herb
12 Richardson. I am a state representative for
13 Coos District 4. I represent the communities
14 of Lancaster and Dalton. I'm also the
15 vice-chairman of the Science, Technology and
16 Energy Committee in the New Hampshire House of
17 Representatives.

18 I am here to tell you, the
19 SEC, that I have many local contractors in my
20 district and in my county that are very happy
21 with the Project Labor Agreement portion of
22 the supplemental information that has been
23 filed with you. They feel that Northern Pass
24 is making a concerted effort to hire local

1 contractors as part of this project. We hope
2 that the SEC will hold Northern Pass to this
3 goal and this Project will keep to rekindle
4 the economic well-being of the North Country.

5 The \$200 million Forward New
6 Hampshire Fund is very important to Coos
7 County and the State of New Hampshire. A
8 small amount of these dollars have already
9 been given out, helping in my district alone:
10 An electric car charger at our local
11 campground in Lancaster put in by a local
12 contractor; a simulator for our CTE Program
13 at White Mountain Regional High School; a
14 local child care center just starting out,
15 giving them the opportunity for jobs, and
16 most important, child care to our community.
17 The newest project to get started will be new
18 street lighting in Lancaster, saving energy
19 costs for our residents. And once again,
20 this project will be done by a local
21 contractor, keeping jobs in the North
22 Country.

23 Ladies and gentlemen, last
24 evening I went from Lancaster to West

1 Stewartstown on county business. It once
2 again showed me how much Coos County needs
3 help. Take this trip sometime. It's
4 incredible. It's scary how many homes are up
5 for sale in the North Country. Check how
6 many businesses in Whitefield, Lancaster,
7 Groveton, Colebrook are now no longer in
8 existence. Coos County is hurting. We have
9 the highest unemployment rate in the state.
10 We have the highest under-employment rate in
11 the state, almost 6 percent on Medicaid
12 expansion. The poverty level is low [sic].
13 We pay one of the highest electric rates in
14 the Continental United States here in New
15 Hampshire. Will Northern Pass help lower
16 these electric rates? I believe they will.
17 Will the tax revenues help reduce property
18 taxes? I believe they will. Will Northern
19 Pass and the Forward New Hampshire Fund help
20 bring business and jobs to the North Country?
21 I believe so. We need help. We need jobs so
22 that our families have the ability to live
23 and work where they love.

24 Some say the proposed Coos

1 Loop upgrade will not help Coos County in the
2 North Country. You and I know that is one of
3 the most important projects that is needed in
4 Coos County. Jobs, jobs, jobs, that's what
5 it's all about.

6 I would like to applaud the
7 SEC in its desire to try to get as much
8 public input as possible into the review
9 process for Northern Pass. And there does
10 come a time when re-hearing the same
11 information over and over becomes less about
12 good public input and more about delaying the
13 process. This really needs to be the last
14 public hearing. This is only the second SEC
15 hearing after we, the Legislature, rewrote
16 the SEC process extending it to three months.
17 I would like to encourage the SEC to rethink
18 their plan to add the extra nine months. We
19 had ample time to discuss this time needed
20 during the legislative process.

21 Thank you for your time and
22 your consideration.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: The next
24 speaker is Grafton County Commissioner Martha

1 Richards, to be followed by Representative
2 Suzanne Smith and Franklin City Councilor, Tony
3 Giunta.

4 COMMISSIONER RICHARDS: The
5 2,000-day campaign continues. Good evening.
6 I'm Martha Richards from Holderness, wearing
7 two hats tonight: First, as a private citizen
8 on a right-of-way now moved into downtown
9 Plymouth, who proudly stands with the
10 opposition fighting this project for six long
11 years; and second, as one of the three Grafton
12 County Commissioners who are all in full
13 agreement with total opposition to the Northern
14 Pass Project as currently proposed. As
15 commissioners, we are also intervenors on this
16 project.

17 So, here I stand before you
18 all again tonight with a simple message which
19 Eversource is loathed to keep hearing: Bury
20 the whole project under I-93 and other state
21 transportation corridors. With project plans
22 going through the downtowns of Franconia,
23 Easton, Sugar Hill, Woodstock, Thornton,
24 Campton and Plymouth, do you have any idea of

1 what is being created here? Undoubtedly some
2 businesses will fail during this time of
3 extreme disruption. Our already fragile
4 economy cannot take more losses. With
5 Plymouth State University in Plymouth, I
6 cannot even fathom the disruption on our Main
7 Street. As commissioners, we are very
8 concerned with our county's economic
9 well-being, from tourist attractions and
10 services to the plunging real estate market,
11 to the lasting environmental damage, to
12 probable health concerns. This all for a
13 project that is not needed to keep the lights
14 on.

15 By this point, you have
16 hopefully waded through thousands of pages of
17 documents from many sources and thus have
18 begun to educate yourselves about this
19 project. You're new to this. We have been
20 living with this Black Monster for six years.
21 But we are still here standing strong, like
22 David and Goliath, against those lying,
23 deceitful behemoths, Northern Pass and Hydro
24 Quebec. We are not some backwoods hicks they

1 can roll over and conquer. They couldn't
2 even buy off Plymouth with \$10 million to
3 move the line.

4 Your due diligence is expected
5 as you ask the tough questions. For once,
6 maybe we'll see a government entity work
7 effectively to determine if this project is
8 really something that will or will not
9 benefit New Hampshire, not just line too many
10 corporate pockets with obscene profits,
11 profits garnered at the expense of severely
12 disrupting people's lives perhaps forever by
13 some ivory tower executives who don't give a
14 damn about the hundreds of us living along
15 the 192 miles of the Project. Please
16 continue your reading and absorption of this
17 gargantuan project. We, the opposition, can
18 already tell you it is not needed and not
19 wanted. We offer facts and we offer the
20 truth. In your findings by September 2017 --
21 and thank you for that needed extension --
22 mandate its total burial in the right places
23 and not in the heart of our communities. The
24 Native Americans would plan out seven

1 generations for their actions in the
2 environment. Surely, you can have the vision
3 and foresight to treat the natural beauty of
4 New Hampshire with near equal respect. Thank
5 you.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: The next
7 speaker is Representative Susan Smith, to be
8 followed by Franklin City Councilor, Tony
9 Giunta, and Allen, with a last name I can't
10 really read -- Barthillier? -- who lives in
11 Lancaster.

12 REP. SMITH: Good evening. For
13 the record, my name is Suzanne Smith. I'm a
14 state representative. I represent Grafton
15 County District 8, the towns of Plymouth,
16 Hebron and Holderness.

17 I want to start by thanking
18 the SEC for listening to the concerns of
19 citizens and holding these two additional
20 meetings or hearings. We understand the
21 challenges you, the SEC, face: A lengthy
22 application and an extended review process.
23 But on those long nights when you are up late
24 reading through thousands and thousands of

1 pages of documents from the Applicant and the
2 many, many questions and comments from
3 intervenors of the Northern Pass Project,
4 please do not lose sight of the fact that
5 behind every letter and question is a citizen
6 of New Hampshire who cares deeply about this
7 place we call home, about the natural
8 resources, the scenic beauty, the cultural
9 and historic resources and the strong tourism
10 economy, all of which benefit each and every
11 one of us, no matter what our walk of life;
12 the voices of the people who live adjacent to
13 Routes 3, 116 and 112, whose yards and
14 gardens stand to be disrupted by blasting of
15 ledges and digging in their yards, sometimes
16 within 50 feet of their homes; the voices of
17 people and communities who will be subjected
18 to tall towers and wide swaths of bare land
19 where they will be erected; the voices of the
20 municipalities who are faced with defending
21 their towns against the lure of big bucks
22 from the Forward NH Plan. I could go on. If
23 the Applicant had initially proposed to bury
24 the entire project, it would now, in all

1 likelihood, be built. But instead, millions
2 of dollars have been spent trying to work the
3 system. And now, six years into the Project,
4 the adjudicatory process has not even
5 started. I urge the SEC to seriously listen
6 to people, the people, and recommend burial
7 of the entire project. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is
9 Tony Giunta, to be followed by Allen B., and
10 then Alan McLain. I would note that if you are
11 not sitting somewhere near to where the
12 microphone and the lecturn are set up, there
13 are a couple seats right down in front where
14 you can come down and sit when you're either on
15 deck or in the hold.

16 So, Mr. Giunta.

17 COUNCILOR GIUNTA: Thank you,
18 Mr. Chairman and members of the SEC,
19 Administrator Monroe. Good evening. My name
20 is Tony Giunta, I'm City Councilor for the City
21 of Franklin. And we have been here before, and
22 this is, I believe, the last time we will have
23 a chance to actually speak to the SEC.

24 So, you have heard from our

1 mayor, Ken Merrifield, who has told you of
2 the enormous importance of this project to
3 our city, \$7 million in additional revenue to
4 a tax base that now generates \$10 million.
5 That is a significant influx of funding for
6 our city, desperately needed. You have also
7 heard from our city manager, Elizabeth
8 Dragon, who has told you about diminishing
9 funds that are coming to our city on the
10 state level and on the federal level, which
11 makes it even more difficult to satisfy our
12 requirements as a municipality in the city of
13 Franklin.

14 But one thing I want to stress
15 tonight is something that's near and dear to
16 me, and that's the environmental benefits
17 that come from this project. It is often not
18 talked about. I'd like to spend a moment on
19 it for you.

20 I've spent 15 years of my life
21 with the Department of Environmental Services
22 cleaning up our legacy sites, mainly
23 petroleum sites. And this is what has been
24 part of our civilization. This is how we

1 live. But we are dealing with cleaning it
2 up. We are now looking at Northern Pass, a
3 low carbon-emission source of electricity, to
4 now take the place of that. So when I left
5 the Department in 2007, I started a company
6 called AMENICO, American Energy Independence
7 Company. And the goal of that company was to
8 collect waste vegetable oil from restaurants
9 from all across New England. After nearly a
10 decade, that company now collects about a
11 million gallons a year of what used to either
12 go down the drain or used to be thrown away
13 in a landfill. The EPA has done significant
14 studies and has found that for every gallon
15 of that product that goes and replaces fuel
16 oil or diesel fuel saves 22 pounds of carbon
17 dioxide from getting into our environment.
18 If you calculate it out, essentially what
19 that means is that AMENICO saves the
20 environment about 10,000 tons of CO2
21 emissions every year. Let's compare that
22 with this project. We're talking about
23 3 million tons of CO2 reductions from this
24 one project. That's 300 AMENICOs that can

1 happen with the flick of a switch overnight
2 on this one project. To me, to know the
3 blood, sweat and tears of creating AMENICO
4 over 10 years and to know how awful it is to
5 gather up this material and turn it into a
6 renewable fuel is a staggering statistic for
7 me, and it should be for you as well.

8 The other thing I want to add
9 to you is, as we lose base generation power
10 from nuclear power plants, a zero
11 carbon-emission source, as we lose those
12 units, what will replace them if not Northern
13 Pass? I can tell you what will replace them:
14 Natural gas. Natural gas is a backward step
15 from where we are today. From a
16 zero-emission carbon source now moving to
17 natural gas is a step back for this whole
18 region.

19 With those facts, Mr. Chairman
20 and members of the SEC, I hope you will
21 consider them and come to the same conclusion
22 that I have come to, that this is a very good
23 project and should be approved. Thank you
24 very much.

1 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next
2 speaker is Allen B., who is going to spell and
3 pronounce his name for us, followed by Alan
4 McLain and Roger Hinds.

5 MR. BOUTHILLIER: My name is
6 Allen Bouthillier -- last name is
7 B-O-U-T-H-I-L-L-I-E-R -- from Lancaster, New
8 Hampshire. My sons and I run an excavation and
9 logging business in Lancaster. We have been in
10 business for 32 years and presently have 35
11 employees. I would like to speak to you about
12 how the PPA and this supplement will mean to my
13 company and our employees. It is very
14 important to the growth and viability of my
15 company and our employees that this project be
16 approved. Fundamentally, it is important for
17 you to stop delaying the work so that we can go
18 to work. I don't understand why you would
19 start off with a nine-month delay in the
20 approval process when there is already an
21 agreement in place by legislators in the state
22 to give you a year to decide. I believe the
23 state government should be held to the same
24 standards that they would hold my company to if

1 I don't perform on a project that I'm awarded
2 from the state. If I don't perform in a timely
3 manner, I would be fined severe penalties and
4 have a chance of losing my borrowing
5 capabilities.

6 I'm also concerned that this
7 public counsel has unfairly limited itself to
8 only representing those members of the public
9 that are opposed to the project. I don't
10 believe that this was the legislators' intent
11 when they created the Public Counsel, getting
12 help from the New Hampshire Attorney
13 General's Office be based on whether or not
14 you support the project. I'm not sure it is
15 fair to have the AG support the position that
16 the Seabrook Nuclear and its former owners
17 have taken against my small company and other
18 small companies like mine in Coos County.
19 Looking at the new experts that Public
20 Counsel is hiring, I am very concerned that
21 you are proposing a one-sided study to oppose
22 this project. Are you going to quantify the
23 positives that this brings to New Hampshire?

24 I know that Northern Pass will

1 increase tourism by creating new
2 opportunities for trails for ATVs, snow
3 machines and horseback riding, just like it
4 does in Vermont on the existing DC line.
5 Lowering the electric rates will benefit the
6 ski industry when they're making snow and at
7 full capacity at their hotels. Will this be
8 included in the study?

9 Another thing I would like to
10 share with you is a fact sheet published by
11 the USDA, which I have a bunch of handouts
12 that I will had you for the record.

13 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

14 MR. BOUTHILLIER: These
15 documents speak about the benefits of early
16 successional species habitat to wildlife. They
17 list power line rights-of-way as one of the
18 main sources of this habitat. Northern Pass
19 will create early successional habitat. As a
20 hunter, I would seek out areas like these to
21 hunt. A hunter is just another form of tourist
22 wearing an orange jacket.

23 Please consider all the facts
24 and stop delaying the approval of this

1 project. Thank you for your time.

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next
3 speaker is Alan McLain, followed by Roger Hinds
4 and Jim Page.

5 MR. McLAIN: Good afternoon. My
6 name is Alan McLain. I'd like thank you for
7 letting me speak here again tonight. The
8 letter is to the Site Evaluation Committee.

9 My name is Alan McLain. I'm a
10 business owner. I support the Northern Pass
11 Project. Hydropower is clean and doesn't use
12 up our natural resources. An example is
13 biomass or coal. I believe more supply
14 options will lead to lower prices, as well as
15 lowering the risk of energy shortages in the
16 future. I'm one of the majority of New
17 Hampshire residents that's in favor of this
18 project. I feel the turnout at these
19 meetings have definitely been one-sided and
20 in favor of the opposition of the Northern
21 Pass Project. This group has been very
22 passionate in their beliefs. They arrive at
23 the meetings showing signs against Northern
24 Pass, wearing clothing to signify the same --

1 orange hats, shirts, shovels, etc. They are
2 very, very vocal in these meetings, cheering,
3 clapping and sometimes shouting rude
4 outbursts. When someone speaks in favor of
5 the Northern Pass Project, there is either
6 dead silence or low grumbling in the audience
7 against those of us that have a different
8 opinion. These actions are a form of
9 bullying, making New Hampshire residents in
10 favor of this project afraid to speak up,
11 uncomfortable and unlikely to speak. That is
12 why the silent majority of New Hampshire
13 residents that are in favor of this project
14 stay silent. The moderators at these
15 meetings have tried to keep order, but the
16 outbursts continue. If the moderator were to
17 keep this group quiet, they would cry foul
18 and say they were not allowed to express
19 themselves and that they weren't treated --
20 and that they have been treated unfairly.
21 These actions go far beyond these meetings.
22 This group is vocal in restaurants, coffee
23 shops, churches, and everywhere they go.
24 They are ready to argue and confront anybody

1 who opposes their views. Business owners are
2 afraid to speak up to get lower energy costs
3 that will help their bottom line due to this
4 group's vocal campaign against this project.
5 They fear lower sales if they support this
6 project.

7 Friends of mine in the
8 audience, when I have spoken in favor of this
9 project, have told me they were members in
10 attendance that swore they would never hire
11 my company because I'm in favor of this
12 project. My comment to that is that I share
13 different religious beliefs, as well as
14 different political views, so I should be
15 able to have an opinion on the Northern Pass
16 Project that differs from any of my customers
17 or fellow neighbors. My employees are
18 well-trained, hard-working. And I would ask
19 you to reconsider and give my company a
20 second look. I believe this project serves
21 the public good and should be permitted
22 without delay. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next
24 speaker is Roger Hinds, to be followed by Jim

1 Page and Roberg Clegg.

2 Mr. Hinds, the microphone is
3 there. All right.

4 Well, while Mr. Hinds is
5 getting his prop, the comments that you're
6 making are strongly felt, coming from the
7 heart. We understand the feelings and how
8 significant they are. I want to remind
9 people that this is -- the purpose of this
10 public comment hearing was to provide
11 comments on the supplemental information
12 filed by the Applicant in late February. So
13 far, I've heard one reference to that.

14 Mr. Hinds, please go to the
15 microphone. You may proceed.

16 MR. HINDS: Thank you. Well,
17 let's see. I think I just heard --

18 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Hinds,
19 no one can hear you unless you come to the
20 microphone.

21 MR. HINDS: I heard someone
22 mention something about jobs that this will
23 make for the communities. The construction
24 itself is going to be the bulk of the work.

1 When the job is done, 90 percent of the jobs
2 will be gone. What are those employees going
3 to do then? Now, where do they come from?
4 Probably from Canada, most of them. There was
5 also mention how this power will benefit
6 communities. Where are the communities?
7 Massachusetts. So, what's the benefit for New
8 Hampshire? Nothing. Imagine they'll throw us
9 a bone sooner or later. Nobody mentioned how
10 long it will take to build this system. I'm
11 sure it will be up in the area -- I don't think
12 they can give you a specific figure. And
13 everyone else, it seems, do not want our
14 landscapes spoiled by the view of the
15 monstrosity of those towers ruining our
16 landscapes. Will this ruin the value of our
17 homes or will it affect tourist trade? More
18 than likely. If there is no danger of
19 radiation, then why do they have to build them
20 so high? And what kind of study's on the
21 wildlife, how it's going to affect it? Is
22 there any endangered species at risk? Has the
23 research been done on that? I know legally I
24 believe they're supposed to.

1 Now, since when does a company
2 from a foreign country have any rights to
3 override us when we say no? I don't think
4 the Fair Trade Agreement applies here because
5 they're not benefiting us, at least not the
6 New Hampshire people. Canada offers to build
7 nuclear plant up there to run the power lines
8 to New Hampshire for use. Fair trade, if you
9 want to be fair about it... (inaudible) never
10 see in our lifetimes, probably. They think
11 they can work up at the landfill in
12 Bethlehem... (inaudible) tax breaks from what
13 I hear. Now, tell me if I'm wrong.

14 You are supposed to represent
15 the people of New Hampshire. We are supposed
16 to trust you. That you violate that trust
17 and authority is not acceptable. Since our
18 taxes pay your wages, that makes us your
19 boss. It's our taxes paying you. And if you
20 refuse to work as directed by New Hampshire,
21 perhaps there's a need for a change.

22 Massachusetts is
23 over-populated, and that's made the problem.
24 No longer can they provide enough power for

1 themselves. I'd like to be a good neighbor,
2 but that is really pushing it. There are
3 other ways to get power, and it is cheaper to
4 get someone else to pay for it other than the
5 taxpayer down there. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next
7 speaker is Jim Page, to be followed by Robert
8 Clegg and Susan Seitz.

9 MR. PAGE: Thank you for having
10 me here tonight. I'm responding to Mr. Bowes'
11 testimony regarding construction safety on
12 Northern Pass, Eversource and their
13 contractors' projects.

14 Are there any individuals here
15 tonight trained in construction safety? I
16 see a lot of IBEW workers, so I'm sure you
17 have training. But it really makes me wonder
18 what's really going on on the early prelim
19 work. And I'll start with borings.

20 If you don't know what this
21 is, this is a boring stake. It says on it
22 "B7A, Easton, New Hampshire," about a mile
23 and a half from my home. Somebody left these
24 out. They pulled -- they did the prelim

1 borings late last summer, last fall. The
2 holes were not backfilled properly, collapsed
3 in. And I fell in Boring A8 last winter.
4 This is 7A. About three months ago it was
5 still 18 inches deep on the side of the road.
6 Road races and everything else going on up
7 there, mountain bikers. So that's what
8 happens with bore holes. There's a lot of
9 boring work going on there right now. S. W.
10 Cole is drilling on it. I know that
11 people -- and I went so far as at least
12 pleading with them. I called one of their
13 engineers and said please go back behind you
14 and make sure the holes are competently
15 backfilled so somebody isn't injured or
16 killed. You could have fell into 7A and
17 fallen in the travel lane of the road.

18 So, let's go on to some
19 photographs here. I'll put some on the table
20 for the board to pass around and look at.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Page,
22 Ms. Monroe is going to help you.

23 MR. PAGE: These are recent
24 photographs. This was a preliminary structure

1 just south of the Deerfield substation that's
2 been recently completed in early May. Anybody
3 seen anything like this before? How would you
4 like your child, somebody -- your animals,
5 whatever, to get out and get tangled up in
6 this? This is ground wire that came off a wood
7 pole structure --

8 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

9 MR. PAGE: It was just kind of
10 half-baked, coiled up and left on the ground
11 for people and kids walking around this and
12 everything.

13 If you look in the photographs
14 there, there's also a massive hole. That
15 hole is only about 4 feet off the new steel
16 structure. When I came across it a week and
17 a half ago, that hole was 7 feet deep. It
18 was one of the H-frame holes. Pretty obvious
19 to me whoever backfilled it pushed a couple
20 boulders in and dragged some gravel across
21 the top of it. Mother Nature did the rest
22 and left a 7-foot hole. The wire was left in
23 the school bus turnaround. And Eversource
24 was so grateful, they toppled a wood pole

1 structure and couldn't even take 20 seconds
2 to take the town sign off that said "School
3 Bus Turnaround." So that's what's really
4 going on out there.

5 I really wonder, what is the
6 real integrity of that structure right there
7 without somebody examining it, an engineer
8 who really knows what he's doing and making
9 sure the backfill of both existing legs
10 because it's so close to the new H-frame,
11 whether that structure even has the proper
12 integrity to it.

13 Recently, on a construction
14 site of mine in New Hampshire, and this was
15 only a few weeks ago, I had an Eversource
16 37.5 line arc to ground right outside my
17 office trailer, set fire to everything. Of
18 course, that never happens. It was due to
19 excessive side sway on the middle phase of
20 the line. I'll leave the rest to your
21 conjecture. Anybody like the video, get a
22 hold of me and I'd be happy to provide video.

23 Eversource projects recently
24 have had one death in New Hampshire. There's

1 been a death recently in Connecticut.
2 There's a police officer in Massachusetts who
3 got hit in the side of the head with a
4 backhoe bucket. So, in my opinion, there's a
5 management level clearly missing in
6 construction safety and competence. I
7 present these facts to you. What qualifies
8 me to speak about this? I am an OSHA
9 outreach safety trainer. You can judge a
10 project as to how it would be carried out by
11 how its early work is done. Thank you very
12 much.

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next
14 speaker is Robert Clegg, to be followed by
15 Susan Seitz and Steven, whose last name starts
16 with B and lives Berlin.

17 MR. CLEGG: Members of the
18 Committee, I come here from the southern tier
19 of the state because I've been to a few of
20 these, and I notice that everybody thinks it's
21 all about the North Country. And I have to
22 tell you it's about jobs in the southern tier
23 as well. We see everyday more companies
24 closing shop and moving someplace where power

1 is more affordable. And the only way to fix
2 that is to bring in hydropower. We have to
3 have a mix. I understand that. We need solar.
4 But we can't wait any longer. And to bury the
5 line everywhere we all know adds a billion
6 dollars to the cost, and it would make it the
7 most expensive power in the New England region,
8 so it does us no good.

9 You know, I do a lot of
10 traveling. And I travel to Ireland and
11 Scotland, where you see lines in the view all
12 over the place. Because all of the ones I've
13 been to here, they always talk about their
14 view, the value of their view. So I asked
15 somebody, an old-timer, how he felt about the
16 view there. And he looked at me and said, "I
17 don't know what your problem is." He said,
18 "When I look at those lines across that
19 skyline, I view power to a hospital, power to
20 schools, reading lights and power to an
21 establishment where we share a meal at the
22 end of the day and a couple of pints." He
23 said, "What do you view?" And that's what I
24 want you to understand. That's what those

1 lines mean to everybody in the southern tier.

2 You know, we have all the
3 roads that brings all the economy in the
4 summer and winter to the North Country.
5 We're not asking anybody to bury those or
6 shut them down. We're saying let's play
7 fair. Give us the power that allows us to
8 exist, and we'll continue to give you the
9 people that allows you to exist. We need the
10 power in order to have factories operating.
11 We're not getting any new companies. And as
12 I said, I represent the small business
13 industry, and I also represent a group of
14 people who own an awful lot of commercial
15 industrial property. I can tell you that
16 every day somebody else moves to a place
17 where there is more affordable power to run
18 their company. Please let the Project go
19 forward. And the sooner, the better, because
20 if we wait until it's too long, not everybody
21 can work at McDonald's or mow loans.
22 Eventually the southern tier will look like
23 Coos County. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next

1 speaker is Susan Seitz, to be followed by
2 Steven B. and Phil Bedard.

3 MS. SEITZ: Hi, my name is Susan
4 Seitz, S, as in Sam, E-I-T-Z.

5 Deerfield is a small historic
6 town. We've been chosen at the end of this
7 project because that's where the lines cross.
8 You cannot tell me power lines towering over
9 our historic district, into our historic
10 areas, will not have a negative impact on our
11 town and all the other towns like us up and
12 down this line. Eversource is working in
13 Deerfield right now cutting trees on our main
14 roads and scenic byways. Promises made have
15 been promises broken on a very public
16 project. We are told trees would be tagged,
17 then we were told they ran out of tape and in
18 four weeks couldn't get more. We were told
19 that no trees would be cut without
20 homeowners' permission. Trees keep coming
21 down. We were told we had no right to know
22 who in Deerfield gave permission, it was
23 confidential information. This project
24 compared to Northern Pass is insignificant.

1 What will happen with the Eversource promises
2 then? Eversource tells us we need this power
3 for the grid. What Eversource has not told
4 us is how many truly green projects all over
5 New England will be lost if this project goes
6 through. How many jobs will be lost? How
7 many businesses will be closed because of
8 this project? Instead they say, "Trust us.
9 Put all your energy needs into our and
10 Canada's hands. Nothing will go wrong."

11 As an Eversource customer, I
12 am being told they want to increase my power
13 costs because we didn't use enough
14 electricity this winter. My cost will be
15 double my neighbors who are served by the
16 Co-Op. But they sit here telling us to give
17 them access to destroy the New Hampshire way
18 of life because they know what's best for
19 them. They can help us with more power.
20 They'll lower our costs. Trust them. I say
21 no.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
23 Next speaker is Steve B., who is going to spell
24 and pronounce his last name for us, to be

1 followed by Phil Bedard and Suzanne Steele.

2 MR. BINETTE: Hello, my name is
3 Steven Binette, B-I-N-E-T-T-E. I am the
4 president of Ray's Electric & General
5 Contractors, and we are located in Berlin, New
6 Hampshire. Our business has been
7 family-operated for over 59 years. One of our
8 specialties is underground utilities. One
9 example is that we were part of the first phase
10 of bringing utilities to the top of Mount
11 Washington.

12 Northern Pass, including Bill
13 Quinlan, has reached out many of us
14 contractors in the hope that we can be part
15 of this great project which the North Country
16 desperately needs. As we know, money spent
17 locally usually travels throughout our
18 communities. Our company has been selected
19 to install LED lighting in the town of
20 Lancaster, which is one of the early projects
21 funded by Eversource's Forward New Hampshire
22 Fund. As we understand it, the \$200 million
23 Forward New Hampshire Fund will create jobs
24 for New Hampshire contractors long after the

1 construction of the Northern Pass is
2 completed. We are excited to be -- we are
3 excited to see that the Project Labor
4 Agreement has been added in the supplement
5 filing so that non-union companies like mine
6 can bid on such a project. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is
8 Phil Bedard, to be followed by Suzanne Steele
9 and Richard Hage.

10 MR. BEDARD: Hello. My name is
11 Phil Bedard. I'm a project manager for Ray's
12 Electric. And I really didn't prepare a speech
13 and I signed the slip, so here I am.

14 Anyways, being a project
15 manager for several different companies over
16 the last 10 years, I've seen projects dwindle
17 in the North Country. And I think this
18 project will be great for the North Country
19 and for jobs. And I think Public Service has
20 done -- Eversource has done a good job in
21 changing and going to the burial of lines as
22 much as possible and modifying their towers
23 to make them look a little more aesthetically
24 pleasing. I think we need lower energy costs

1 for industries up here, and I think they're
2 going in the right step. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is
4 Suzanne Steele, to be followed by Richard Hage
5 and Kenneth Kimball.

6 MS. STEELE: Suzanne Steele,
7 Deerfield, New Hampshire.

8 I'd like to read parts of Alan
9 Robert Baker's article in the Commonwealth
10 Magazine. It's titled, "Northern Pass is not
11 a green answer," from June 17th.

12 Well-meaning policymakers in
13 Massachusetts are looking north, seeing in
14 Canadian hydropower a quick solution to the
15 need for more green energy. But one state's
16 environmental solutions may be another
17 state's environmental nightmare, and we
18 should all care about the whole picture, not
19 just our own piece, to achieve the greatest
20 long-term impact. There is nothing 'green'
21 about hydropower emanating from Quebec.
22 Massive hydroelectric dam and reservoir
23 building in Quebec has caused the inundation
24 of millions of acres of boreal forest,

1 destruction of entire river ecosystems and
2 release of mercury poison into the food
3 chain. New reservoirs also emit large
4 amounts of greenhouse gases for several years
5 after they are created. For those of us in
6 New Hampshire, a different form of
7 environmental damage is threatened. In the
8 quest to connect new hydro generation
9 facilities in Canada with consumers in
10 southern New England, Hydro-Quebec and
11 Eversource Energy have proposed construction
12 of a massive new high-voltage transmission
13 corridor that would cut New Hampshire in
14 half.

15 For nearly 200 miles, a path
16 stretching wider than a football field will
17 be home to heavy construction activities.
18 Fully two thirds of that distance will
19 contain over 1100 massive transmission towers
20 up to 15 stories high, spaced every 800 feet.
21 That path will despoil natural forest, state
22 parks, scenic and cultural byways, wetlands,
23 private land, and fish and wildlife refuges.
24 Roads allowing construction and the massive

1 clear-cut pathway will lead to damaging
2 runoff. Thirty-one New Hampshire towns
3 deeply depend on tourism -- hikers, foliage
4 visitors, fishermen, skiers -- will see the
5 heart of the economy threatened. Who travels
6 north to look at metal towers strung with
7 humming wire on every hillside and valley and
8 coursing over pastoral streams and rivers?

9 For five long years we, the
10 people of New Hampshire, have fought the
11 effort to turn our state and its mountains
12 into an extension cord for Massachusetts.
13 Those leading that fight include the Society
14 for Protection of New Hampshire Forests,
15 Appalachian Mountain Club, the Conservation
16 Law Foundation, New Hampshire Audubon, the
17 Sierra Club and other organizations. These
18 groups and their sister organizations in
19 Massachusetts should understand that a
20 crucial component in stopping Northern Pass
21 is preventing Massachusetts from outsourcing
22 a third of its electricity market to
23 subsidize Canadian hydropower. Simply put,
24 there is no artificial-created and subsidized

1 market for Canadian hydropower, and there
2 will be no transmission lines acting as
3 extension cords. But the converse is also
4 true: If Massachusetts, with its deep
5 pockets and enormous energy appetite, does
6 approve paying wildly above-market prices for
7 power supply from Canada, it will be much
8 more difficult to indefinitely fight off the
9 relentless push by Hydro-Quebec and
10 Eversource to build more transmission lines
11 and sell the power to consumers in
12 Massachusetts and other southern New England
13 states. One thing is certain: New Hampshire
14 residents and groups will continue to fight.

15 He goes on to talk about the
16 delays, and he says that this means that
17 whatever legislation Massachusetts passes, it
18 has virtually no chance of helping the state
19 meet 2020 carbon-emission reduction goals
20 mandated by the Global Warming Solution Act.
21 This is an important point, since the 2020
22 mandates are a key argument used by
23 proponents to make the case for Canadian
24 hydropower.

1 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Steele,
2 how much do you have?

3 MS. STEELE: I have another
4 page.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: How many
6 pages have you read so far?

7 MS. STEELE: A page and a half.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Would you,
9 if you would like to finish, perhaps come back
10 at the end, after everyone else has had a
11 chance because now you're well over four
12 minutes?

13 MS. STEELE: Okay. I will come
14 back.

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thank you.
16 Richard Hage, to be followed
17 by Kenneth Kimball and Eric Jones.

18 MR. HAGE: Thank you for
19 providing this opportunity. My name is Dick
20 Hage. I'm a 41-year resident of Plymouth. In
21 late February, the comments that were presented
22 from municipalities that were listed, Plymouth
23 was missing. So I hope you will accept these
24 comments in that vein.

1 Six years ago, our select
2 board honored the will of the constituents
3 registered the town of Plymouth in opposition
4 to the Presidential Permit intervention. At
5 that point, we were one of 30 towns acting in
6 solidarity, all voting overwhelmingly to
7 oppose Northern Pass. As you know, that
8 opposition has only grown larger and stronger
9 across New Hampshire as negative impacts of
10 construction and the deeply unethical
11 behavior of Northern Pass and Eversource has
12 been increasingly exposed. Recently, as you
13 heard Martha comment, Eversource made an
14 offer of \$10 million to Plymouth in exchange
15 for Main Street burial. Our select board
16 scheduled a public meeting, a hearing right
17 here in this room on May 9th. It was
18 jam-packed. Twenty-eight people spoke --
19 chose to speak, and 100 percent were
20 unanimously and staunchly opposed to Northern
21 Pass.

22 Now, I want to read -- there
23 was a petition that was out for the four days
24 preceding that hearing; 778 people signed it,

1 and a fair number of them were non-Plymouth
2 residents, but residents of New Hampshire who
3 seek services, work or shop here in Plymouth.
4 So I just want to read what it said on that
5 petition.

6 We, the undersigned residents,
7 business owners and taxpayers of Plymouth --
8 and then there was one for New Hampshire
9 residents, but not Plymouth -- stand opposed
10 to the Northern Pass Project transmitting
11 energy through the town of Plymouth, overhead
12 or underground. Burial of Northern Pass down
13 I-93 is the only option we will accept. We
14 urge you to say "No" to Northern Pass and
15 Forward New Hampshire and, as intervenors, to
16 fight this project actively.

17 Our board has continued to do
18 exactly that. I will give you those signed
19 petitions right here.

20 In my 43 years as a New
21 Hampshire resident, I have never seen such
22 mass-scale consensus about the values we hold
23 dearly, and I suspect many of the signatures
24 were motivated by those values, that beauty

1 matters, safety matters, property values
2 matter, clean and sustainable matter,
3 home-grown matters, flora and fauna matter,
4 Main Street merchants matter an integrity,
5 integrity matters. And what we as custodians
6 pass on to our children and they to theirs
7 deeply matters. Those precious values to an
8 organization that has the technical ability
9 and the financial resources to completely
10 bury this line, clearly those values do not
11 matter. Plymouth remains staunchly opposed
12 to Northern Pass, either above or below
13 ground, and we remain committed opposition
14 partners with our growing -- thank you.

15 So I respectfully ask you to
16 continue to be good stewards of our
17 collective values, to take the time to read
18 all of the testimony, to reject all forms of
19 Eversource bribery, to see through the facade
20 of Forward New Hampshire -- that is a
21 pittance, \$200 million -- and to refuse to do
22 business with unethical parties. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Kenneth
24 Kimball, to be followed by Eric Jones and Jon

1 Wilkinson.

2 MR. KIMBALL: Thank you, members
3 of the Committee. My name is Kenneth Kimball.
4 I'm director of research for the Appalachian
5 Mountain Club. Tonight we continue this
6 now-almost-six-year debate of whether New
7 Hampshire should certify yesterday's outdated
8 technologies at the expense of New Hampshire's
9 landscape, knowing that Northern Pass's
10 competitors are using full burial technology.
11 Northern Pass continues to work diligently to
12 get to "No" on full burial to protect its
13 expected large profit margins.

14 I'll limit my comments tonight
15 to the supplemental materials that were
16 filed. First, the Visual Assessment,
17 Attachment 6. Under the revised SEC rules,
18 the Applicant was required to increase its
19 visual impact assessment from 3 to 10 miles.
20 Attachment 6 includes required computer model
21 viewshed maps out to 10 miles where the
22 Project and a number of towers were modeled
23 to be visible. Only 4 viewshed maps for the
24 192 miles of the proposed corridor are

1 provided, which are at a map scale of
2 1:250,000. This results in a greatly
3 compromised ability to assess at a localized
4 and site-specific level where the potential
5 visual impacts would occur. With these small
6 map scales, it would be informative for the
7 SEC to also require the Applicant to provide,
8 summarized in tabular form, the full corridor
9 of visual impacts -- for example: Acres
10 visually impacted by visual distance zones --
11 that is, 1 to 3, 3 to 5 and 5 to 10 miles --
12 by resource categories, et cetera, to better
13 understand the overall total visual impact of
14 this project on the state's resources. The
15 maps and information provided are too coarse
16 for such purposes.

17 The selection, No. 2, of the
18 viewpoints for additional photo simulations.
19 The addendum materials at Attachment 8,
20 similar to the original application, fairly
21 clearly indicate how the representative photo
22 simulation sites were selected. For example,
23 of the numerous private residences impacted,
24 60 sites were selected -- or excuse me --

1 were field-visited and 28 were selected for
2 photo simulations. The logic tree used in
3 this winnowing process still remains a black
4 box, making it difficult at best to decipher
5 or understand how these were actually
6 winnowed down. That information needs to be
7 provided on this winnowing process.

8 On the impact avoidance,
9 minimize and mitigation criteria, the
10 Applicant is required to provide a
11 description of the measures planned to avoid,
12 minimize and mitigate potential adverse
13 effects of the proposed facility and the
14 alternative measures considered but rejected
15 by the Applicant.

16 In the additional filing, the
17 Applicant continues to limit itself to
18 avoiding visual impacts by using burial
19 technology only where it has self-determined
20 are the most sensitive landscapes along the
21 route -- that is, the White Mountain National
22 Forest. In reality, these burial decisions
23 were based on the Project's inability to meet
24 visual objectives and permitting challenges

1 within the National Forest or to avoid
2 landowner right-of-way constraints.
3 Otherwise, the Applicant presents relatively
4 ineffective visual impact minimization
5 measures and its Forward NH Plan is bribery
6 in disguise with no serious attempt to
7 provide actual mitigation that has direct
8 nexus to the severe visual impacts.

9 The Applicant should be
10 required to provide detailed cost and
11 modified route information on additional or
12 full project burial avoidance alternatives.
13 Broad brush statements at these public
14 hearings that they've achieved these
15 overused -- that they've achieved their
16 overused term "balance" using
17 back-of-the-envelope calculations and "trust
18 us" on why more full burial is not feasible
19 and does not meet the avoidance alternative
20 criteria.

21 Finally, the request for
22 waivers to the new rule. Northern Pass, as
23 part of its supplemental filing, requested a
24 waiver on the need to file a third-party

1 independent decommissioning plan and meet
2 financial assurance requirements as required
3 by the revised SEC rules. The AMC very much
4 appreciates and strongly endorses the SEC's
5 recent decision and order issued today to
6 deny the Applicants request for a required
7 decommissioning plan and financial assurance
8 waiver. We reserve the right to comment on
9 that plan once filed. Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Eric Jones,
11 to be followed by Jon Wilkinson and Thomas
12 Moulis.

13 MR. JONES: Good evening. My
14 name is Eric Jones. I'm from Glencliff, New
15 Hampshire. I am both an intervenor and a
16 commenter tonight. And you could call me No. 3
17 because this is probably the third thing that
18 pertains to what we're supposed to talk about
19 tonight.

20 When the supplemental
21 information was filed by the attorneys for
22 the Applicants on February 26th, they did so
23 with a cover letter which, among other
24 things, described as follows their wetland

1 obligations: No. 2, identification of
2 wetlands surface waters and archeological
3 sites on property abutting the site that will
4 not be impacted by the Project. That is
5 their decision that it will not be impacted
6 by the Project. I was very disappointed
7 today at 3:30 when the decision relating to
8 these waivers was posted, or at least when I
9 got it, in that the wetland -- the request
10 for the waiver of extended wetland
11 information, the request to not do that was
12 granted.

13 I would like to read to you a
14 paragraph written by Charlie Bridges, the
15 former head of the New Hampshire Fish & Game.

16 Our landscape is heavily
17 populated with wetlands. They are large and
18 they are small, permanent and ephemeral
19 vernal pools, interconnected and apart.
20 Whatever the configuration, wetlands and
21 adjacent uplands are often functionally
22 dependent on one another. When you consider
23 patterns of water flow, both surface and
24 subsurface, and wildlife activity,

1 wetland-associated wildlife view these areas
2 as systems, traveling between them along both
3 water courses and over land through upland
4 areas. Land-use activities, often some
5 distance from the wetland, can dramatically
6 affect water quality and flow as well as
7 wetland wildlife and habitat features.

8 Now, this particular paragraph
9 is in a letter recommending to the
10 Agriculture Department that they include all
11 of the land that my wife and I own in Stark
12 and Northumberland in consideration for a
13 wetland reserve easement. This is currently
14 happening. And the rest of the letter goes
15 on to say that the Jones property provides
16 critical wildlife habitat and an important
17 link between parts of the White Mountain
18 National Forest. Approximately half of the
19 property is in the highest ranked habitat in
20 the state by the Wildlife Action Plan. It
21 contains northern hardwood conifer, blah,
22 blah, blah, on and on about what it contains.
23 These habitats likely support large
24 assemblages of wildlife, including several

1 species of conservation concern, and perhaps
2 some state-listed species as well.
3 State-listed species that would likely
4 benefit from the permanent protection of this
5 property include American Martin, Canadian
6 lynx. And it goes on to outline the various
7 animals, amphibians, plants that will benefit
8 from this conservation easement.

9 So it sort of seems ironic to
10 me that the SEC has gone along with Northern
11 Pass's judgment that water doesn't flow
12 downhill. For instance --

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Jones,
14 how much more do you have?

15 MR. JONES: Very little. I'll
16 be good.

17 The right-of-way is on an
18 upper level relative to the wetland. The
19 wetland is in the right-of-way, but it flows
20 down into a much larger wetland. There's
21 over 2,000 acres of wetland in
22 Northumberland. I'm assuming the same is
23 true there, where if you pool the water here
24 and it goes over there, it doesn't make a lot

1 of sense to only measure the impact right
2 here. I thank you very much.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up, we
4 have Jon Wilkinson, to be followed by Thomas
5 Moulis and Brad Thompson.

6 MR. WILKINSON: My name is Jon
7 Wilkinson, and I'm a resident of Lancaster, New
8 Hampshire. I appreciate you letting me have a
9 few minutes of your time and attention.

10 Over the past six years of
11 hearings conducted about this proposed
12 project, I have spoken many times on various
13 concerns about its possible approval.
14 Tonight I just want to restate one fact that
15 has continually and very quietly been pushed
16 aside by the Applicant about the Northern
17 Pass, and that is the fact that this is a
18 private merchant electrical transmission
19 project, it is not a reliability project,
20 which simply means it's not needed, nor is it
21 essential to New Hampshire. But what is
22 needed and is essential to the Applicant is
23 New Hampshire's permission. Now, after the
24 huge and unwavering public opposition to this

1 project, which includes thousands of New
2 Hampshire citizens, landowners, visitors to
3 New Hampshire, local and state officials,
4 town votings, selectmen votings, signed
5 petitions, demonstrations, and soon to be in
6 front of all of you, intervenors against the
7 Project, I, as one of those many voices in
8 opposition, ask you to deny approval of the
9 Project as it's currently being proposed.
10 But I also offer you might grant approval if
11 the Applicant is finally willing to
12 completely bury the transmission line within
13 the state of New Hampshire's highways and
14 railroad rights-of-way. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next
16 speaker is Thomas Moulis, to be followed by
17 Brad Thompson and Andrew Smith.

18 MR. MOULIS: My name is Thomas
19 Moulis. I live in Ashland, New Hampshire, and
20 I'd like to thank the Site Evaluation Committee
21 for allowing me this time to talk, since we ran
22 out of time the last time you were here in
23 Plymouth.

24 Does everybody remember the

1 motto on our automobile license plates prior
2 to "Live Free or Die"? It was one simple but
3 powerful word, "Scenic." After the second
4 world war, when families became more mobile
5 with own cars and traveled around the
6 country, they traveled the United States with
7 the greatest free advertising for the state
8 of New Hampshire right on their bumpers.
9 Scenic. People came here by the millions to
10 see if the word "scenic" was true. And it
11 was. When all the large textile mills in
12 this state who employed tens of thousands
13 left New Hampshire to find cheaper labor, New
14 Hampshire's beauty faithfully brought revenue
15 to the state. When the shoe factories and
16 paper mills abandoned New Hampshire to
17 satisfy their investors, New Hampshire's
18 scenic vistas never failed us. Now is the
19 time for all who love the beauty of the state
20 to step up and not let another large
21 corporation dictate the direction this state
22 goes. If Eversource wants Northern Pass to
23 go through the state, then bury it along the
24 I-93 corridor, all of it. There should be no

1 debate on anything that threatens New
2 Hampshire's scenic beauty.

3 To all of us here in
4 opposition to the current Northern Pass
5 proposal, I have something to tell you. In
6 May of 1977, when I was a much younger man, I
7 would jog almost daily past the New Hampshire
8 National Guard Amory in Manchester, where I
9 used to live. What I observed amazed me.
10 Hundreds of people were confined within the
11 chain-linked compound of the armory. They
12 were members of protesters of the nuclear
13 power plant that was being built in Seabrook,
14 New Hampshire. Then Governor Meldrim
15 Thompson ordered over 1400 protesters
16 arrested and confined. What resulted from
17 those arrests was even more amazing. Those
18 arrested refused bail and chose to stay
19 confined for what they believed in. Governor
20 Thompson lost his re-election bid, and the
21 largest bankruptcy of a publicly-owned
22 utility since the Great Depression occurred
23 when PSNH forced themselves into bankruptcy.

24 So what I say to all of you

1 here in opposition, stay strong and resolute.
2 Our cause is a righteous one. Thank you very
3 much.

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next
5 speaker is Brad Thompson, to be followed by
6 Andrew Smith and Peter Grote.

7 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.
8 During the Site Evaluation Committee hearing
9 last March in Colebrook, I used my allotted
10 three minutes to try to explain to the
11 Committee why I believe the Northern Pass
12 application submitted to the SEC last October
13 was and is incomplete. One of the very
14 important requirements that the Applicant had
15 to comply with was to show they had the legal
16 access to and control over the site they
17 propose to use for the 192-miles of utility
18 cables being laid from the Canadian border to
19 Deerfield. This certainly would seem to
20 indicate that any town or state permits would
21 have been initiated prior to the completed
22 application submitted to SEC. This has not
23 happened in Clarksville and Stewartstown. The
24 required permits to use municipal roads in

1 these towns have not been applied for, nor have
2 they been issued. Therefore, the Applicant, in
3 my opinion, does not have the ability or
4 permission to use any of our roads for this
5 project. They have apparently completely
6 overlooked the following responsibilities.

7 When you have a chance, and perhaps you already
8 have, I'd ask you to take a look at the State
9 Of New Hampshire Utility Accommodations Manual.
10 It is a public document and reads very clearly.
11 Let me read the first two short paragraphs.

12 Title XX, which is about
13 Transportation, one of the items referred to
14 is R.S.A. 231:161. It states, Any such
15 person, co-partnership or corporation
16 desiring to erect or install any such poles,
17 structures --

18 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Slow down
19 just a little or you're going to leave the
20 stenographer behind.

21 MR. THOMPSON: Any potential
22 co-partnership or corporation desiring to erect
23 or install any such poles, structures, conduits
24 cables or wires in, under or across any such

1 highways shall secure a permit or license
2 therefore in accordance with the following
3 procedures... and this following procedure
4 deals with jurisdiction. One of the three
5 jurisdictions are town-maintained highways.
6 The other two are city-maintained highways and
7 state-maintained highways, State of New
8 Hampshire DOT.

9 Town-maintained highways.

10 Petitioners for such permits or licenses
11 concerning town-maintained highways shall be
12 addressed to the selectmen of the town in
13 which such highway is located, and they're
14 hereby authorized to delegate all or any part
15 of the powers conferred upon them by the
16 provisions of this section to such agents as
17 they may duly appoint. In this case they're
18 referring to Old County Road, which is a town
19 road in Clarksville, and Creampoke, North
20 Hill Road and parts of Bear Rock Road in
21 Stewartstown. As of this afternoon, Northern
22 Pass has not submitted, to our knowledge,
23 submitted any application as required by
24 R.S.A. 231:161 to use municipal roads in

1 Clarksville and Stewartstown as proposed in
2 their -- as they have clearly proposed in
3 their application. The SEC needs to look the
4 Applicants square in the eye and ask them
5 point blank: How do you propose to use
6 municipal roads in Clarksville and
7 Stewartstown when you have not applied to the
8 Board of Selectmen in either town as required
9 by state law?

10 The next very logical move by
11 the SEC would be to stop these proceedings
12 until a proper and completed application is
13 presented to the SEC by the Applicant. The
14 SEC might as well bring this issue to a head
15 now, as it is not going to go away. The
16 Applicant appears totally unaware of this
17 dilemma. I am co-spokesman for the abutters
18 intervention group of Pittsburgh, Clarksville
19 and Stewartstown. We call ourselves the
20 "Middle of the Road Gang of 9." That's
21 another story. We've been in written contact
22 with Jerry Fortier, project manager of the
23 Northern Pass Project Team. He has made --
24 he was made aware of this oversight on their

1 part initially in a May 14th, 2016 letter we
2 sent when we asked him who had given him
3 permission to do geotechnical work on our
4 roads, and then again in a June 13th, 2016
5 letter in which we explained the R.S.A.
6 231:161 rule --

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr.
8 Thompson, how much more do you have?

9 MR. THOMPSON: Ten seconds.

10 To date, we have received no
11 reply to this question. We now propose the
12 question -- we've now asked the question
13 twice: Who, if anyone, has given you
14 permission to use town roads for this project
15 in Clarksville and Stewartstown?

16 Why should the SEC proceed
17 when Northern Pass does not have a clear,
18 defined and approved route? If they're --

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr.
20 Thompson, please wrap up.

21 MR. THOMPSON: Why are all of us
22 here tonight? Please ask these important
23 questions of the Applicant. And if you don't
24 get a satisfactory answer, these proceedings

1 should stop. Thank you very much.

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Andrew
3 Smith, to be followed by Peter Grote and Alex
4 Ritchie.

5 MR. SMITH: Good evening,
6 Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission.
7 Thank you for being here tonight. My name's
8 Andrew Smith. I'm a New Hampshire native, live
9 in Twin Mountain, New Hampshire, and a small
10 businessman that operates in the central lakes
11 and White Mountains of New Hampshire.

12 My business, as many we've
13 heard tonight, uses electricity. We actually
14 like electricity. We like electricity to
15 come on and the lights and the computers to
16 work. I'm in the commercial real estate
17 business, and the high electric rates in New
18 Hampshire do cause concern. For that reason,
19 we have never opposed the import of the
20 Hydro-Quebec hydropower, but we strongly
21 opposed the Project as it's been proposed.
22 We live and work in New Hampshire because we
23 love New Hampshire. We love what it offers
24 us for quality of life, for the scenery and

1 the beauty, and we don't want to see it
2 spoiled. Myself and over 75 other businesses
3 in central and northern New Hampshire, Lakes
4 Region to the Seacoast to Southern New
5 Hampshire have signed a petition which I'd
6 like to just read quickly to you.

7 The following New Hampshire
8 businesses call on Eversource and
9 Hydro-Quebec to bury the northern
10 transmission line along highways and to
11 explore the use of I-93 for that purpose. We
12 believe the adverse impacts of towers and
13 transmission lines, including property value
14 impacts, scenic impacts and wetland impacts,
15 are such that the current Northern Pass
16 proposal involving 132 miles of overhead
17 lines should not be permitted by the SEC.
18 New Hampshire businesses, communities and
19 landowners should not have to subsidize the
20 cost to construct a private construction
21 project like Northern Pass. Do not let this
22 project scar the beautiful scenery and
23 landscape we enjoy and that should be there
24 for future generations to enjoy as well when

1 there are sensible alternatives. To this,
2 there are over 75 businesses, both large and
3 small. There's law firms, there's
4 restaurants, there's tourist attractions,
5 there's real estate companies, there's
6 hospitality properties all signing. These
7 represent over 5,000 employees that say
8 approve this, but approve it correctly. Use
9 the transportation corridors that we have and
10 rail corridors to bury this line. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is
12 Peter Grote, to be followed by Alex Ritchie and
13 Dolly McPhaul.

14 MR. GROTE: Peter Grote,
15 G-R-O-T-E. I represent the Town of Franconia.
16 We very much appreciate that the New Hampshire
17 public has had opportunities to comment and ask
18 questions during this entire long series of
19 hearings, public hearings. During this period
20 we've learned many things about the Applicant,
21 their methods, and recently their revised
22 project. I want to follow up a little bit on
23 what Andy Smith just said.

24 The Town of Franconia stated

1 publicly that it is completely opposed to the
2 method of transportation and delivery that
3 the Applicants have proposed. We intend to
4 ask the Subcommittee to require that the
5 Applicant install its proposed HVDC lines
6 down I-93 right-of-way from Bethlehem to
7 Tilton, in the event that the Committee
8 believes the Application has merit. Any and
9 all impacts, disruptions or issues,
10 short-term or long-term to be encountered on
11 the I-93 right-of-way alternative are nothing
12 compared to the multiple lists of problems
13 that the public, the state and the Applicant
14 will encounter by not burying the Project
15 down the Interstate I-93 corridor.

16 The state of Maine recently
17 has completed a buried line all the way down
18 Interstate I-95. Vermont has Interstate
19 I-91. And recently, Hydro-Quebec II, Phase
20 II, the New England transmission line, used
21 an existing corridor from Quebec to Ayer,
22 Massachusetts. These examples to us indicate
23 that the Applicant has not done its homework.
24 Thank you very much.

1 I have some time remaining, if
2 I'm allowed, Mr. Chairman. I brought a
3 couple visual displays since we're talking
4 about visual impacts. These are not tower
5 displays to scale. These are basically the
6 underground trenches, one that goes
7 underneath the Gale River and also the Baker
8 Brook River and the crossing of Route 3. But
9 the second one really shows a scale model of
10 what these cables will be if you can see them
11 underground. And if you'll permit me, I'll
12 be happy to reveal them.

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I hesitate
14 to do this, but you can show us what you've
15 got. I'm not going to give you legal advice,
16 but it seems like this is the kind of thing you
17 might want to use during the hearing on the
18 merits when we're taking evidence. But if --
19 go ahead.

20 MR. GROTE: Actually, it's taken
21 from the information that was already given to
22 us. All we've done is blow up the diagrams
23 that were provided by Eversource in some of its
24 maps.

1 MR. IACOPINO: You're going to
2 have to get near the mic.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: You're
4 going to need to be near the microphone or it's
5 not going to happen.

6 MR. GROTE: Okay. Well, I
7 really want the Committee to see this, but --

8 MS. MONROE: Want us to hold
9 them for you here?

10 MR. GROTE: Yeah, yeah, that's
11 great. How's this?

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Here's the
13 thing, Mr. Grote. How long is this going to
14 take?

15 MR. GROTE: Ten seconds.

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay.

17 MR. GROTE: This is -- actually,
18 you can see this on the maps. Sorry. I'll
19 turn it around. Here, how about if we do this.
20 This is the road surface. This is the distance
21 to the concrete protective pad, if that's the
22 correct term. And those are the two cables,
23 the two high-volt DC cables that go
24 underground. And there's a distance of about

1 4 feet along this trench. And I have a safety
2 concern, and others have a safety concern about
3 this. We have frost problems. We have
4 problems with repairs and maintenance. And
5 that's the end of my speech.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay.
7 Thank you.

8 We're going to take two more,
9 and then we need to take a break for the
10 stenographer or her fingers or machine will
11 start smoking.

12 Alex Ritchie is going to be
13 followed by Dolly McPhaul before we break.
14 And before we break, I'll tell you who the
15 speakers will be when we come back.

16 MR. RITCHIE: Good evening and
17 thank you. My name is Alex Ritchie, and I am
18 here as a member of the Balsams team. And
19 along with other businesses and chambers in the
20 area of the state, I am here to express my
21 support of Northern Pass Transmission. You
22 have currently heard a lot tonight about the
23 importance of Northern Pass in regards to lower
24 energy costs and the creation of thousands of

1 new jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars
2 for economic development like tourism. But it
3 is also important to know that Northern Pass
4 will add a significant impact -- will have a
5 significant impact on reducing dangerous
6 emissions created from power generation. And
7 this is a benefit I think should be getting
8 more attention. Reducing greenhouse gas
9 emissions is good for New Hampshire. It could
10 slow down or potentially even stop the effects
11 of climate change. Since 2010, New England has
12 reduced its carbon emissions year after year
13 because of our investment in clean energy
14 efficiency and our commitments to developing
15 clean energy. Clean Canadian hydropower, which
16 currently makes up about 10 percent of New
17 England's energy, has played a major role in
18 lowering emissions. In 2015, renewable
19 Canadian hydropower helped the region offset
20 7.4 million metric tons of greenhouse gasses.
21 However, despite all this process -- all this
22 progress, New England's carbon reduction
23 efforts have slipped backwards as of late
24 according to our grid system administrator.

1 The region's carbon dioxide emission actually
2 rose 5 percent in 2015 largely due to the
3 closure of Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant,
4 which was a major source of carbon-free
5 electricity. Natural gas power plants have
6 been used to make up the capacity lost by the
7 Vermont Yankee closure, and burning natural gas
8 releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
9 To make matters worse, it was recently
10 announced that Pilgrim Nuclear Power station
11 will close in a few years, another major source
12 of carbon-free power in New England's supply
13 system. Further, at the time when we need to
14 be burning less fossil fuels to produce power,
15 approximately 60 percent of the energy projects
16 proposed in New England are natural gas-based.
17 This will make it more difficult for the region
18 to meet and sustain clean energy goals and to
19 further avoid climate change impacts.

20 Northern Pass will bring clean
21 hydropower to the region and lower carbon
22 monoxide [sic] emissions, up to
23 3.3 million tons per year. As a comparison,
24 this is the equivalent to removing 690,000

1 vehicles from the roadways. This project is
2 a game-changing opportunity to ensure that we
3 get back on track in reducing greenhouse gas
4 emissions and more so in diversifying our
5 fuel mix in addition to securing much needed
6 additional energy capacity that is not being
7 replaced as capacity across New England is
8 being lost due to the retiring of many
9 facilities. The time is now to seize this
10 opportunity and move forward expeditiously as
11 time truly is of the essence. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Last
13 speaker before the break is Dolly McPhaul.

14 MS. McPHAUL: Good evening.
15 Since I can't be an intervenor, this is the
16 last opportunity I have to speak. I am not --
17 sorry -- but I wanted to make a rhetorical
18 question and then try to make a point.

19 The rhetorical question is: I
20 worked or attempted to help on the Site
21 Evaluation Committee rule-making process.
22 The rules were made. So I have to ask why
23 were waivers granted? What is the point of
24 making a rule if you allow waivers to be

1 granted? That's my question.

2 The statement I would like to
3 make is that this Committee has to regard
4 public interest in their decision-making
5 progress. So I would like to list Ashland,
6 Bath, Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Campton,
7 Chichester, Clarksville, Colebrook, Columbia,
8 Concord, Dalton, Deerfield, Easton,
9 Effingham, Franconia, Haverhill, Holderness,
10 Jefferson, Lancaster, Landaff, Lincoln,
11 Littleton, New Hampton, Northumberland,
12 Orford, Pembroke, Pittsburg, Stewartstown,
13 Stratford, Sugar Hill, Thornton, Wentworth
14 and Woodstock. I could spend the rest of my
15 time listing for you the various select
16 boards and planning board and conservation
17 commissions that have also objected. I'm not
18 going to take that time. But even the DOE
19 has come up with a route that is more in the
20 public interest than what we have now.

21 And so my point is, when you
22 have all of these towns and a recent WMUR
23 poll that covered the state of New Hampshire,
24 just not along the route, stated that over

1 half of the state opposes the Northern Pass,
2 if you want to know about public interest,
3 this is public interest. There should be no
4 question. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: We're going
6 to take a 10-minute break. And the first three
7 speakers when we come back are Jack Saunders,
8 Pamela Martin and Peter Martin.

9 (Brief recess taken)

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay.
11 We're back on the record. We're ready to get
12 started again. The first three speakers are
13 Jack Saunders, to be followed by Pamela Martin
14 and Peter Martin. Mr. Saunders.

15 MR. SAUNDERS: I have three
16 short questions, and I'll follow it by a final
17 question. My first question is regarding the
18 requirements that the Applicant provide proof
19 that the Northern Pass organization has the
20 adequate financial, technical and managerial
21 capability to assure they're in compliance;
22 also, show that Northern Pass can't afford to
23 bury the high-voltage cables as has been
24 suggested. I was wondering where I could look

1 at these figures that pertain to this. Are
2 they available? That's one question.

3 The other is an old one I
4 brought up at previous meetings, was the
5 concern regarding the electromagnetic waves
6 emanating from the high-voltage table being
7 detrimental to the health of people or
8 animals in the vicinity.

9 And the final, longer question
10 is a little statement. I have not read the
11 entire 27,000 pages of the Northern Pass
12 Application or the 2500 pages of the
13 supplemental materials filed on
14 February 26th, but I have read enough of both
15 to pose a question to the seven of you. If
16 the public interest is what the public says
17 it is, and if the vast majority of the public
18 affected by the Project as proposed believes
19 that the Project is not in the public
20 interest, is it fair to conclude that the
21 Project is not in the public interest? I
22 respectfully suggest that, if after all the
23 evidence is in, if the majority of you can
24 answer this question with an affirmative

1 "yes," then the Project should not be granted
2 the certificate it seeks. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is
4 Pamela Martin, to be followed by Paul Martin
5 and Paul Doucette.

6 MS. MARTIN: My name is Pamela
7 Martin. I live here in Plymouth. And since
8 we're here in Plymouth tonight, I'd like you to
9 know that at the 2012 town meeting, voters here
10 passed a rights-based ordinance for sustainable
11 energy. This ordinance prohibits new,
12 unsustainable energy production, transportation
13 or transmission through Plymouth. Industrial
14 hydroelectricity is considered unsustainable
15 energy because of the enormous environmental
16 and wildlife impact in its production.
17 Hydro-Quebec, Eversource's partner in the
18 Northern Pass Project, has flooded an area the
19 size of New Hampshire and Vermont combined and
20 has dammed all but 3 of its 16 largest rivers.
21 The remaining project which is being
22 constructed right now has flooded over
23 167 square miles of virgin forest. Wildlife
24 habitat and migration routes have been

1 decimated and the flooded forest no longer
2 sequesters carbon. Canada is the largest
3 contributor to deforestation worldwide.

4 The Northern Pass Application
5 states that their project will reduce
6 regional greenhouse gas emissions by more
7 than 3.3 million tons per year. It's not
8 true. Hydro-Quebec reservoirs release
9 methane, a greenhouse gas which is 86 times
10 worse for the environment than CO2. The
11 rivers are now poisoned by dangerously high
12 levels of methyl mercury, which is toxic to
13 wildlife, and the fish are unsafe to eat.
14 Fish is the Innu people's traditional food
15 and fishing is essential to their cultural
16 identity. But when the Innu complained,
17 Hydro-Quebec told them to eat less fish.

18 Their application states,
19 quote, Northern Pass has been designed to
20 effectively avoid and reduce impacts to
21 wildlife and to plant and aquatic species.
22 That is ridiculous.

23 Does Eversource seriously
24 believe that the wildlife plants and aquatic

1 species of northern Quebec don't matter?
2 Shouldn't the permitting process honestly
3 address the entirety of the Project since
4 Eversource states in their SEC application
5 they have partnered with Hydro-Quebec? And
6 if Hydro-Quebec and Eversource are that
7 uncaring about the environment and Innu of
8 Canada, should we have any realistic
9 expectation they will show the slightest
10 regard for New Hampshire's environment,
11 wildlife or people? Eversource can't have it
12 both ways. They can't say they will protect
13 the environment while partnering with a
14 corporation which is actively destroying it.
15 They claim that Northern Pass is clean,
16 renewable energy and that it offers
17 environmental benefits. Actually, it's just
18 the opposite. The federal EPA excludes hydro
19 from its Clean Energy Incentive Program, and
20 New Hampshire does not recognize large-scale
21 hydro as renewable energy. More than 150
22 groups have formed a coalition to oppose
23 large hydro.

24 So, to summarize, contrary to

1 their application, Northern Pass is not clean
2 or renewable. If you doubt what I'm saying,
3 just Google "dirty energy hydro." And read
4 what environmentalists and scientists have to
5 say. This is not something that happened in
6 the long, gone past in a far distant galaxy.
7 This is happening right now just north of us.
8 A complex and undisturbed ecosystem is being
9 ravaged for the profit of Hydro-Quebec and
10 Eversource in order to export energy to New
11 England via Northern Pass. What would it say
12 about us if we approved the destruction of an
13 entire ecosystem for the promise of cheap
14 energy? Approval of this project would make
15 us complicit in its environmental
16 devastation. When the SEC analyzes
17 Eversource and Hydro-Quebec's project from
18 its starting point, not just the New
19 Hampshire portion, the whole project, you
20 must deny a permit for Northern Pass.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next
22 speaker is Peter Martin, to be followed by Paul
23 Doucette and Wayne Charron.

24 MR. MARTIN: I'm Peter Martin,

1 and I live in Plymouth. The real estate tax
2 values in any towns near or in the path of the
3 giant overhead power line would be negatively
4 affected. Eversource claims that Northern Pass
5 will add \$30 million to the local tax coffers,
6 but they fail to admit that they are suing one
7 third of New Hampshire municipalities for tax
8 abatements, mostly all small communities that
9 cannot afford the cost of lengthy court
10 battles. At the same time they trumpet the \$30
11 million in additional taxes, they are busy
12 petitioning the state to allow them a tax
13 status that would cut the taxes they already
14 pay by as much as 50 to 66 percent. In the
15 case of Littleton, it would go from \$22 million
16 down to \$11 million. So, in return for having
17 to host an ugly, economically destructive
18 project, the affected communities would also
19 lose a very significant portion of the
20 municipal income.

21 And another thing.

22 Hydro-Quebec knows full well about the
23 efficacy of burial. Hydro-Quebec's own
24 construction subsidiary, TransEnergie, has

1 testified by FERC in 2004, if you please,
2 that modern burial techniques and advanced
3 cable technology make burial a preferred
4 method of long-line, high-voltage DC
5 transmission. It can be efficiently
6 installed in public corridors, requires less
7 maintenance and overhead and does not suffer
8 storm damage, making it cheaper long term
9 than the 19th Century overhead installation.
10 So, who would actually benefit from the
11 Project as proposed by Eversource while
12 Eversource and investors would get a big, fat
13 paycheck? Massachusetts, Connecticut and
14 Rhode Island would get the energy, and New
15 Hampshire would get the damage forever. To
16 paraphrase an old country music song, "They
17 get the gold mine, we get the shaft."

18 The SEC is faced here with a
19 complete -- with a complex and onerous task.
20 In essence, though, your deliberations boil
21 down to one or two choices: Do you protect
22 the best interests of the people and
23 communities threatened by the Northern Pass
24 proposal, or do you say "Yes" to a

1 not-needed, speculative, harmful project
2 sponsored by the bottom-line-only concerns of
3 a tone-deaf corporation? Eversource should
4 be directed to bury their project down
5 corridors identified by New Hampshire DOT or
6 deny approval to build the Project at all.
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is
9 Paul Doucette, to be followed by Wayne Charron
10 and Carl Lakes. Is Paul Doucette here?

11 (No verbal response)

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: It would
13 seem not. Wayne Charron?

14 (No verbal response)

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All rightie
16 then. Carl Lakes. All right. After Carl
17 Lakes will be Jessica Charan, spelled
18 differently, and Ruth Niven or Neven. I think
19 it's Niven.

20 MR. LAKES: Hello. Thank you
21 for listening to me. I'm Carl Lakes from
22 Easton. I live on 116. And sorry if there's
23 going to be any duplication, but I've heard
24 some of the things I'm going to say, but I feel

1 so strongly about it that I'm just going to say
2 them again.

3 I am opposed to Northern Pass
4 in its entirety and recommend rejection of
5 the entire project. My reasons are as
6 follows: Hydro-Quebec has submerged millions
7 of acres of pristine forests through tree
8 genocide, dammed up 13 of 16 major rivers in
9 Quebec, damaged and destroyed millions of
10 acres of wildlife habitat, contaminated
11 reservoirs with excessive mercury, displaced
12 aboriginal peoples, added millions of tons of
13 CO2 to the atmosphere from decaying reservoir
14 beds and massive construction projects,
15 destroyed pristine recreational areas,
16 contributed to extensive wildlife extinction
17 through wildlife genocide. In 1984, 10,000
18 caribou drowned trying to cross a
19 Hydro-Quebec dammed river. That is
20 unconscionable. All of the above done for
21 money and collusion with the Quebec
22 government, with complete disregard for the
23 environmental and social impact. Opponents
24 in Quebec say that Hydro-Quebec pays off the

1 opposition to get what it wants. Sound
2 familiar? So why is Quebec willing to rip
3 out its heart and soul, the very essence that
4 makes Canada, Canada? Yes, it's for money.
5 But it is so much bigger than that. You see,
6 New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont and New York
7 are pawns in a chess match to bring the
8 provincial government of Quebec billions of
9 dollars from the United States to subsidize
10 lower rates in Quebec, and most
11 importantly -- and this is very important --
12 to become financially self-sufficient in its
13 decades-long desire to break away from Canada
14 and be a sovereign state. And we are a pawn
15 in this game. Yes, mortal men and women, for
16 reasons of nationalism, are destroying their
17 own province in a stealth move to become
18 independent. Do we really want to be party
19 to this massive -- and I mean massive --
20 environmental destruction for self-serving
21 reasons? This electricity is tainted with
22 the blood of millions of creatures, the tears
23 of generations of aboriginal peoples and the
24 snuffing out of photosynthesis from plant

1 life -- stopping the absorption of CO2 and
2 the release of oxygen to combat climate
3 change -- all so millions can play video
4 games and watch television eight hours a day.

5 I do not support the current
6 underground or overground route. I found
7 myself supporting the I-93 opposition until I
8 learned the real truth of destruction and
9 deceit happening in Quebec. Northern Pass
10 must be stopped in its entirety and this
11 boondoggle rejected. I ask Northern Pass to
12 pack your bags and get the hell out of New
13 Hampshire. I ask the SEC Commission to stand
14 up to this wanton desecration of the
15 environment in Canada, which they are now
16 trying to export to the USA, by not allowing
17 our great state to be a facilitator to this
18 great unfolding tragedy. Just say "No."
19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Jessica
21 Charan, to be followed by Ruth Niven and Tares
22 Kucman. I guess Jessica's not here. Ruth --

23 MS. NIVEN: Niven is good.

24 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Every once

1 in a while I get one right -- to be followed by
2 Tares Kucman and Anne Hunnewell.

3 MS. NIVEN: My name is Ruth
4 Niven. I'm from Franklin, New Hampshire.
5 Franklin is located along the proposed and
6 alternate routes for the Northern Pass
7 Transmission. Franklin, at the initial
8 unveiling of the Northern Pass plan, was
9 revealed as the site of a converter station.
10 The Northern Pass Project purchased land on
11 South Main Street in Franklin, the former
12 Thousand Acres Campground. I'd like you to
13 just keep the location of the alleged proposed
14 converter station that may or may not happen
15 there in mind.

16 The New Hampshire SEC asked
17 that all public comments be directed at
18 issues presented by additional information
19 filed by the Applicant. What about
20 information that hasn't been filed? For the
21 past year or two, I've seen Public Service
22 workers replacing and repairing lines
23 throughout the state. Normal maintenance;
24 right? Just more of it.

1 Consider this: On the
2 Franklin, New Hampshire web site, posted
3 6/15/16, Eversource's New Daniel Substation
4 off Webster Lake Road is a proposal by
5 Eversource to build, and I quote, A new
6 distribution substation in close proximity to
7 the existing substations off of Webster Lake
8 Road in Franklin, New Hampshire. The Project
9 need is due to load growth and the Franklin
10 area and in order to enhance customer
11 reliability.

12 If you go up Carr Street in
13 Franklin, you can see the serious upgrades
14 already made to the existing substation.
15 What actually has changed in our city to make
16 this necessary? And of course, the best is
17 the disclaimer, quote, This project is not
18 related to the Northern Pass which currently
19 is in the permitting and review phase with
20 the State of New Hampshire Site Evaluation
21 Committee, unquote.

22 Really? Thank you for letting
23 me bring this unfiled information to your
24 attention.

1 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is
2 Tares Kucman, to be followed by Anne Hunnewell
3 and Linda McDermott.

4 MR. KUCMAN: Good evening. My
5 name is Tares Kucman. I'm an abutting
6 intervenor from Concord, and I want to thank
7 the Committee and the Chairman for allowing me
8 to speak in front you again.

9 In the interest of full
10 disclosure, I'm wearing orange, but I am pro
11 growth, I am pro energy, I am pro
12 manufacturing. And, heck, I don't even have
13 a quarrel with the IBEW because, as far as
14 I'm concerned, 1100 megawatts of buried
15 electricity is every bit as electrical as it
16 is strung up on towers, 1100 megawatts.

17 But if you take exception to
18 your Attachment 10 of New Hampshire
19 Electrical Operating Emergency Response Plan,
20 in light of events that have happened in the
21 last few months to the last couple years, in
22 reviewing that attachment, I found that there
23 was no provision addressing sabotage and/or
24 terrorism, especially in today's climate. I

1 point this out specifically because it was
2 precedent-setting June 9th, 2014, a close
3 ally of the United States was rendered
4 completely blacked out. It's an ally of
5 24 million people in that country were
6 completely blacked out. What is 24 million?
7 Let me put it in context. If you take all of
8 New England, that's only 14 million. You'd
9 have to add New Jersey or Michigan to that
10 count to be 24 million people blacked out. I
11 look at that as a risk, specifically in
12 Concord when I'm looking at 250-foot-wide
13 rights-of-way currently having two
14 115-megawatt services to be crowded within an
15 additional 345-megawatt service.

16 The tacts are becoming more
17 and more obvious. And take for example, last
18 March 31st. It was all over the news. ABC,
19 CBS, NBC and Fox from Massachusetts, as well
20 as WMUR from New Hampshire, were covering in
21 detail an Eversource event where there was an
22 incendiary device tossed by some amateur up
23 on transmission lines also coming from
24 Canada. As I said, reading that document,

1 there was no provision there. The highest
2 level of emergency responses is a Level 1.
3 Level 1 is defined by "any outage which
4 impacts as many as 20 percent of the
5 customers for up to 10 days." I would submit
6 to the Committee that the threat would be
7 much more than 10 days if carried out, say in
8 Concord.

9 In any case, I'd like to close
10 just by saying that I was born in
11 Connecticut, raised, educated in Connecticut,
12 and I've been living in New Hampshire for the
13 last 25 years. I have come to call New
14 Hampshire my home. I just... I can't imagine
15 how -- I come from a long line of peasants --
16 but when I look at this claim that it's going
17 to be an additional \$1 billion to bury it
18 completely, I ask myself: This has been
19 going on for five years. They have set
20 themselves as an \$800 million enterprise for
21 each year in New England. Well, if you take
22 that five years, there's \$4 billion in lost
23 opportunity. And they're not willing to
24 entertain the idea of \$1 billion to bury it

1 entirely. That doesn't make sense.

2 So I'll have to say it again.
3 Repetition is the key to adult learning. And
4 I'll say it again. Bury the Northern Pass
5 entirely. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Anne
7 Hunnewell, to be followed by Linda McDermott
8 hello.

9 MS. HUNNEWELL: Hello. I'm Anne
10 Hunnewell from Holderness, New Hampshire. I
11 want to thank you for letting me talk.

12 I know we've been saying a lot
13 about the environment, and I just wanted to
14 bring your attention to a recent article that
15 was in the National Geographic magazine. As
16 you know, this is the 100th anniversary of
17 the park system. And they have this article
18 where they were showing all these cities
19 throughout our nation and throughout the
20 world that are spending millions and millions
21 of dollars to create a park atmosphere within
22 their cities. And I thought to myself: We
23 already have these beautiful environments.
24 Why would anyone want to spend millions of

1 dollars to deface and to sacrifice this
2 beautiful area? I think it's ironic that
3 some people are willing to destroy nature's
4 beauty for a little gain for a few people,
5 while other people are willing to spend
6 millions to create what we already have. I
7 want to -- oh, what's the word I want? I
8 want to hopefully have you approve this only
9 if it is buried. Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Linda
11 McDermott, to be followed by Harriet Cady and
12 Mark Templeton.

13 MS. McDERMOTT: My printer ran
14 out of ink right before so I'm using this
15 computer.

16 Hi, I'm Linda McDermott of
17 Franconia, New Hampshire. I've previously
18 testified about my opposition to underground
19 lines in historic Franconia. Tonight I will
20 bring another discussion.

21 "Thousands of tired,
22 nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are
23 beginning to find out that going to the
24 mountains is going home, that wildness is a

1 necessity." That's by John Muir, a long time
2 ago.

3 Northern Pass conducted a
4 survey on tourism and found most people come
5 to New Hampshire to visit family. I have
6 been exploring New Hampshire for 16 years as
7 a renter and 12 years -- well, 16 years, both
8 as a renter and 12 years as an owner. When I
9 travel here from Rhode Island, I'm often in
10 heavy traffic. I think most people sitting
11 in that traffic are traveling to visit
12 something else in New Hampshire that's very
13 special, especially when I later see
14 jam-packed parking lots to trail heads, no
15 vacancy signs and long waiting lines in
16 restaurants and so on. Thousands of people
17 travel through the woods and over mountains
18 like ants, I always say, seeking the best
19 scenic views on mountain tops, exhilarated by
20 endless miles of mountains in lush green
21 forests. People speak in amazement and
22 blessings and exclaim how good they feel
23 while in the raw beauty of this land. Now,
24 picture miles of steel pylons and black

1 extension cords cutting a swath through that
2 source of wellness and pristine beauty.
3 They'd be an extreme disappointment in the
4 collective grieving.

5 While doing research, I found
6 a discussion among hunters about dilemmas in
7 Dixville Notch because of hideous wind
8 turbines and trail closings. I wonder if
9 they'll return? Imagine a future of New
10 Hampshire with miles of huge, ugly, noisy
11 power lines, numerous access roads and acres
12 of staging plots obscuring tourist
13 destinations and views. No matter the
14 activity, hiking, hunting, skiing, kayaking,
15 boating, fishing, camping, people won't want
16 to see power lines and will go elsewhere.

17 John Muir also said,
18 "Everybody needs beauty... places to play in
19 and pray in, where nature may heal and cheer
20 and give strength to the body and soul
21 alike." After my daughter was diagnosed with
22 a severe kidney disease, we sought the
23 mountains of New Hampshire even more for what
24 it offers: A healthy break to breathe clean

1 air and boost your immune system. If
2 Northern Pass had existed, the opportunity to
3 restore her body wouldn't have been possible
4 in New Hampshire without a healing landscape.

5 In closing, Vermont is pretty
6 with its farms and rolling hills. Maine is
7 lovely with its coastline and lakes. But New
8 Hampshire is rugged and primal. People
9 escape to the mountains of New Hampshire
10 because it lacks the usual stressors and
11 eyesores in their daily lives. Visitors
12 immerse themselves in deep, dense, untouched,
13 unspoiled wooded forests and emerge renewed.
14 Please have the same foresight as the many
15 conservation groups which are funded by
16 thousands and thousands of people, like
17 myself even, who have been actively
18 preserving New Hampshire's natural resources
19 and precious heritage for future -- for
20 present and future generations. Don't allow
21 this steel giant to trample over New
22 Hampshire, a spectacular natural wonder.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is
24 Harriet Cady, to be followed by Mark Templeton

1 and Tiler Eaton.

2 MS. CADY: Good evening. And I
3 want to thank you for sitting in this heat and
4 listening to all of this. It really is
5 something.

6 Having served as a legislator
7 in a hot hall and having served at hearings
8 when I served on the Health Licensing Board
9 for six years, and having served as a
10 Regional Planning Commissioner for nine
11 years, I understand the importance of bodies
12 who work to hear what the citizens say.

13 I am more concerned with the
14 fact that they claim we will hurt the beauty.
15 Well, how do you know if it's beautiful if
16 all you ever see is beauty? Isn't it a fact
17 that when you drive over a new vista and all
18 of a sudden you see it you say, "Oh, my God,
19 that's beautiful"? Because you haven't seen
20 beauty constantly, you more appreciate it in
21 the spaces where you do.

22 I would like to speak to two
23 issues. I am a Vermonter from an
24 eleventh-generation Canada grandfather. I

1 visit Canada as a genealogist when the family
2 has reunions, and I see the high-tension
3 power lines and power poles, and I say, "My
4 God what an engineering feat." And then I
5 drive on and I don't see them anymore after
6 about two miles.

7 Every day in Deerfield I drive
8 under the center of town power lines, and
9 within 50 feet I don't see them anymore. I
10 realize that the towers will be there. But I
11 ask, do you realize, and does anybody here
12 realize what my 91-year-old town historian
13 said to me, "My God, if they blast and dig,
14 they will destroy Deerfield. They will blast
15 over 6 miles. They will dig wetlands. What
16 does that do to the environment? Doesn't
17 that destroy vernal pools? Doesn't that
18 destroy the water that goes through these
19 ledges that ends up in our wells?"

20 So I ask you to think deeply
21 before you make the decision to delay any
22 more what finally comes down to people, even
23 with their high-bred cars, plug into
24 electricity. And we want it there when we

1 want it there. New Hampshire pays the fifth
2 highest tax -- electric rates in the United
3 States. I want my electricity, and I want it
4 reasonably priced so that we can attract
5 industry, we can attract the kind of life
6 that will make our state attractive to people
7 who need jobs and so that there will be jobs.

8 Finally, there is a perception
9 that many are saying all this town voted
10 against Northern Pass. I'm sorry. You can't
11 tell me that because I know that the town
12 doesn't have, never has had a hundred-percent
13 agreement on any warrant article in any town
14 warrant. We're getting compelled speech, and
15 I urge you to look up George Schultz versus
16 the Lake George Water District [sic] and
17 ...(inaudible) versus the Boston City School
18 District. Thank you very much.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is
20 Mark Templeton, to be followed by Tiler Eaton
21 and Margaret Mumford.

22 MR. TEMPLETON: Thank you for
23 your time this evening. I really didn't
24 prepare much of a speech. A lot of people put

1 in a lot of time and effort in what they had to
2 say. And a lot of the talking points that
3 people have expressed are kind of giving me
4 some examples of things to talk about.

5 One of the benefits that
6 people have been touting is that businesses
7 are moving away because of lack of power.
8 Businesses aren't moving away from New
9 Hampshire because of lack of power. They're
10 losing business because of manpower. A lot
11 of business industries are moving further
12 south because of the manpower in the
13 employment pool. They can hire more people
14 at a lesser rate. That's what businesses are
15 looking for is increasing profit. You know,
16 because we supply power, because Northern
17 Pass promises more power, they think
18 businesses will be lured back. That's not
19 going to happen.

20 New Hampshire is a tourism
21 state. The one asset that New Hampshire has
22 is its beauty and its unspoiled resources.
23 Adding more power lines is more of a scar on
24 our environment. Nobody brings up examples

1 of how the power lines look everywhere else
2 in the state. There's one section when I
3 drove through Danbury, through Bristol, along
4 Route 104, and there's a huge section where
5 there's a swath that's gigantic. There's
6 three long, parallel towers that are
7 enormous. They're on par with what Northern
8 Pass is projecting to install. And that's
9 very disturbing. You know, you're right. We
10 drive past it and we don't really see it
11 because it's perpendicular to the road. But
12 if you look at a Google Map of earth and look
13 at our state, you can see these wide paths,
14 like air strips. You know, we're signaling
15 aliens or something with this power line
16 infrastructure. But that's another topic.

17 But once these power lines are
18 in, you can't get rid of them. They're an
19 eyesore forever. And the only thing that
20 Eversource and Northern Pass has promised is
21 they're going to upgrade the existing lines.

22 And I failed to mention I'm
23 from New Hampton. And I don't know if
24 anybody from New Hampton actually spoke, but

1 one of my colleagues is from New Hampton as
2 well. He said that New Hampton selected --
3 at the town clerk's office, we collected 1100
4 signatures opposing Northern Pass, in its
5 current form I guess is the current verbiage.

6 You know, we need power. How
7 we get it, I think the people should have
8 input, and how it's going to affect us. The
9 benefits being touted about businesses aren't
10 really that true. They're not really
11 realistic. New Hampshire is a tourism state.
12 Go to Clark's Trading Post, go through the
13 Franconia Notch. There's no major
14 corporations building manufacturing
15 facilities there. Manufacturing is gone.
16 It's not coming back. We need to invest in
17 the resources that we still have. Once we
18 lose them, they're gone.

19 So, whether we support the
20 Northern Pass, like, burying the whole thing,
21 Eversource, they're is still going to get
22 their investment back even if you deny their
23 project or, you know, they eventually, like,
24 withdraw it. Guess what? They're going to

1 get their money back by raising the
2 ratepayers -- increasing the rates. What did
3 Eversource do when they bought PSNH? They
4 raised everybody's rates. You know, they're
5 going to get their money back one way or the
6 other, either by wearing us out and getting
7 this built, which is going to be over-budget
8 over time, or the whole project is going to
9 be rejected and we're still going to pay for
10 it. So, please, either oppose it as it
11 currently is or highly suggest burying it so
12 it doesn't destroy our state. Please. Thank
13 you.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is
15 Tiler Eaton, to be followed by Margaret Mumford
16 and then Suzanne Steele.

17 MR. EATON: Hi, my name's Tiler
18 Eaton. I'm from Nottingham, New Hampshire. I
19 don't have anything written tonight, but I
20 wanted to, after listening to a lot of the
21 testimony, wanted to hopefully help clear a few
22 things up, and that would be there is no set
23 transmission line that ruins through the entire
24 state of Maine on I-95 that exists, nor is

1 there a underground transmission line that runs
2 up and down I-91 in Vermont. I say this fact,
3 truth, knowing 'cause I've been in the industry
4 for 30-plus years and this is what we do for a
5 living. I'm a journeyman lineman, and there is
6 no set project underway, completed. I just
7 want that for the record. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Margaret
9 Mumford, to be followed by Suzanne Steele.

10 MS. MUMFORD: Hi, I'm Margaret
11 Mumford. And thank you for listening. I'm
12 speaking tonight as a citizen of Plymouth. I
13 am opposed to the Project. I've been nearly a
14 lifelong resident of this town, and I have some
15 specific comments and questions regarding the
16 Applicant's February 26th filing.

17 First, Appendix 7, on the
18 scenic resource identification, the view
19 analysis, I'm wondering how was the list
20 determined? What were the criteria for
21 designating the listed resources as "low,"
22 "medium" or "high" quality? Many of us who
23 live, work and recreate here consider the
24 whole of the Pemigewasset corridor and all

1 forested and open lands in the state as
2 scenic resources. One could also consider
3 Plymouth's Town Common as a great cultural
4 and scenic resource.

5 Regarding the requested
6 archeological info that was redacted, perhaps
7 this is a misreading of R.S.A. 227-C:11 to
8 say that the info must be kept confidential,
9 as the R.S.A. actually states, and I quote,
10 Disclosure for the public for tax assessment,
11 transfer, sale or other consideration of the
12 property shall receive careful consideration
13 to minimize the risk to the resource.

14 Next, regarding Appendix 8,
15 with the photo simulation selections, my
16 opinion is that the sites and perspectives
17 were chosen carefully to minimize the effects
18 of the towers. Two examples: A river
19 crossing with no water in the view at all;
20 then the view from Peaked Hill Road across
21 the right-of-way to over 3 miles away to
22 another section of the right-of-way, but not
23 showing the view down from Peaked Hill itself
24 to its own right-of-way from the houses above

1 that they live with immediately adjacent.

2 The facts are -- that's my
3 opinion. The facts are that there has been a
4 winnowing of sites and the process for doing
5 so is unknown.

6 Regarding Appendix 6, the
7 scale, perspective and colors of the maps
8 which show a site analysis show that sites
9 with towers of less than 10 in number,
10 they're very difficult to view. This number
11 of towers is definitely significant for those
12 living at that site.

13 And finally, regarding Kenneth
14 Bowes' prefiled testimony, he notes the best
15 practices management will be followed in the
16 maintenance of the right-of-way of this
17 project. However, currently along the Pemi
18 in this region, there is evidence of lack of
19 compliance on current rights-of-way. So I
20 question the value of this statement. There
21 is erosion from berms; there are ruts from
22 equipment that is persistent, and there are
23 abandoned poles.

24 In addition, missing from the

1 Project Operations Statement that he makes,
2 there's nothing indicating the frequency of
3 underground monitoring at all. And this is
4 of concern to me as a resident of Plymouth.

5 If I can briefly make two
6 other comments. Plymouth citizens had only
7 10 days of official notice before we had our
8 public hearing, and we had over 200
9 attendees. And I feel I'm part of a vocal
10 local majority.

11 Regarding other recent updates
12 with the recent enactment of RSA 626, I
13 request serious consideration of the option
14 of I-93 burial. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Steele.

16 MS. STEELE: I want to thank you
17 for allowing me to come back, first of all.

18 So, where was I? I was at the
19 point where, for environmentalists, the
20 damage that Northern Pass will cause, and the
21 ongoing delays that make it unlikely that the
22 Project would have any impact by 2020 should
23 be enough to compel opposition to
24 Massachusetts purchase of Canadian hydro.

1 But there are other good green reasons to
2 oppose the Project. Massachusetts, New
3 Hampshire and the rest of New England are
4 home to some of the best and leading
5 developers in the clean energy sector,
6 particularly when it comes to solar, wind,
7 energy efficiency and conservation. If
8 Massachusetts outsources a third of its
9 electricity market to the Canadian
10 hydropower, it will permanently damage its
11 local energy innovation. Crippling the green
12 tech market with a hydropower mandate will
13 reduce competition and suffocate efforts to
14 clean -- to create clean energy regionally.
15 Imagine hiking trails in the White Mountain
16 and the Great North Woods over the next few
17 years and trying to bypass ongoing
18 construction for massive transmission lines.
19 Instead of ridge lines and tree tops, imagine
20 that the New Hampshire forests and mountain
21 vistas were spiked with metal towers and
22 transmission lines. If that seems wrong,
23 then it's time to tell Governor Baker and the
24 Massachusetts Legislature to cut the cord to

1 the Canadian hydropower. Tell them we can
2 solve green energy issues here at home and
3 that the current offering is a bad deal for
4 all of us.

5 I chose to read this article
6 tonight since it does share some of the
7 bigger picture with you, in case you're not
8 aware. New Hampshire didn't ask for this
9 project or ask for the power; therefore, we
10 should not suffer with the potential years of
11 construction, lifetime negative impacts to
12 our natural vistas, wildlife, human life, and
13 hideous, humming, gigantic towers stretched
14 across our state.

15 I thank you in advance for
16 your thoughtful and thorough consideration of
17 how the approval of this project would so
18 negatively impact our beloved state for
19 generations to come. We are the Granite
20 State, and I don't want our motto to change
21 to either the "tower state" or the "extension
22 cord state." Do you? Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Well, thank
24 you all. Ms. Steele gets the last word in the

1 public comment hearing this evening. We're
2 going to adjourn the public comment hearing and
3 break for five minutes or so and then pick up
4 with what should be a relatively short meeting
5 to discuss a few motions for reconsideration or
6 rehearing regarding interventions.

7 (Public Comment Hearing portion was
8 completed at 8:39. A hearing for
9 ruling on motions was held, with
10 transcript provided under separate
11 cover.)
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**PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING - PLYMOUTH - June 23, 2016
SEC 2015-06 NORTHERN PASS, LLC AND PUBLIC SERVICE CO. OF NH**

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\$	accordance (1) 68:2	adequate (1) 82:20	ago (5) 36:4;37:17;38:15; 51:1;101:2	amazing (1) 65:17
\$1 (2) 98:17,24	according (1) 78:24	adjacent (3) 21:12;59:21;113:1	Agreement (6) 13:21;17:13;26:21; 34:4;45:4;106:13	AMC (1) 58:3
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