

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

June 15, 2017 - 9:00 a.m.
49 Donovan Street
Concord, New Hampshire

{Electronically filed with SEC 06-21-17}

IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06
NORTHERN PASS TRANSMISSION -
EVERSOURCE; Joint Application of
Northern Pass Transmission LLC and
Public Service of New Hampshire d/b/a
Eversource Energy for a
Certificate of Site and Facility
(Hearing to Receive Public Comments)

PRESENT FOR SUBCOMMITTEE/SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:

Chmn. Martin Honigberg <i>(Presiding Officer)</i>	Public Utilities Comm.
Cmsr. Kathryn M. Bailey	Public Utilities Comm.
Dir. Craig Wright, Designee	Dept. of Enrивon.Serv.
Christoper Way, Designee	Dept. of Resources & Economic Development
William Oldenburg, Designee	Dept. of Transportation
Patricia Weathersby	Public Member

ALSO PRESENT FOR THE SEC:

Michael J. Iacopino, Esq. Counsel for SEC
(Brennan, Caron, Lenehan & Iacopino)

Pamela G. Monroe, SEC Administrator

COURT REPORTER: Cynthia Foster, LCR No. 14

1 MR. WAY: Christopher Way, Department of
2 Resources and Economic Development.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: The 7th
4 member of our Subcommittee, Rachel Whitaker,
5 can't be here today.

6 There are three other people I'd like to
7 identify. The first sitting in the first row to
8 my left is Pam Monroe, the Administrator of the
9 Site Evaluation Committee.

10 Seated in the first row is Peter Roth from
11 the Attorney General's office. He has a
12 specific title in this proceeding by statute.
13 He is called Counsel for the Public.

14 Sitting to my immediate right is Mike
15 Iacopino who is Counsel to the Site Evaluation
16 Committee.

17 The purpose of the meeting today is to take
18 oral statements from members of the public on
19 the Northern Pass proposal. This is one of
20 three meetings that are scheduled currently to
21 accept public comments during the Adjudicative
22 Hearings. The other two meetings will take
23 place on June 22nd and July 20. Each meeting,
24 including today's, will be from 9 a.m. to noon.

1 For background, regarding public comment
2 and public participation, the Subcommittee has
3 already conducted a number of public hearings
4 for the purpose of receiving public comment.
5 Specifically, the Subcommittee received comments
6 during public hearings that were conducted on
7 March 1st, 2016, in Meredith; March 7th, 2016,
8 in Colebrook; March 10th, 2016, in Concord;
9 March 14th, 2016, in Holderness; March 16th,
10 2016, in Deerfield.

11 There were two additional hearings that
12 took place, one in Whitefield and one in --

13 ADMINISTRATOR MONROE: Plymouth.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERGZ: Pam, there
15 was one in Lincoln as well at Loon.

16 ADMINISTRATOR MONROE: Okay.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Was there
18 not?

19 MR. ROTH: Yes. At Loon.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I don't
21 recall off of top of my head, but it was at Loon
22 Mountain, and it went on for many hours.

23 In total, the Subcommittee has heard 28
24 hours and 30 minutes of public oral comments,

1 and it's possible that the list I'm looking at,
2 since it doesn't include these additional
3 meetings, the number may be higher than that.

4 The Subcommittee also has also transcripts
5 of the public comments that were provided during
6 Information Sessions. Seven of them. In
7 January, 2016, in Franklin, Londonderry,
8 Laconia, Whitefield and Lincoln. And here are
9 the dates of the Whitefield. The Whitefield was
10 May 19th. And there was June 23rd. I think
11 that was Lincoln.

12 Finally, the Subcommittee has received
13 written comments. The approximate number is
14 1300 written comments. If you want a breakdown
15 of opposed versus support, they run between 10
16 and 11 to 1 against the Project in its current
17 form.

18 Given the amount of comments we've received
19 and the process that's gone on to date, we're
20 going to ask you to keep your neighbors in mind
21 today. We want to make sure everyone who wishes
22 to speak has a chance to do so. We do not have
23 unlimited time, however. Therefore, as we put
24 in the Notice, we are asking people to limit

1 their comments today to 3 minutes, and we will
2 have a clock that you should be able to see so
3 that you'll know where you are in the time.

4 Please try not to repeat the arguments made
5 by others. If someone has made a point with
6 which you agree, you can say I agree with my
7 neighbor, Mr. Smith, on whatever issue Mr. Smith
8 spoke.

9 A little bit of mechanics. Please speak as
10 clearly as possible into the microphone that is
11 at the lectern. If you have written remarks,
12 please give them to Ms. Monroe who will be off
13 to your right. Please remember that the
14 stenographer is down here in front of us taking
15 everything down. So please speak slowly enough
16 so that she can get down what you're saying. As
17 Mr. Iacopino likes to say, we're trying to make
18 a record, not break one.

19 We'll call for speakers in the order on
20 which they appear on the list. The list is
21 displayed on most of the screens around you. So
22 we're going to ask that you be ready to speak
23 when it is your turn so we can keep this process
24 moving, and we can get all, I think it's roughly

1 40 people in and out in the time period we have
2 allotted, and we will probably need to take a
3 10-minute break in there for the stenographer,
4 if no one else. Her fingers and her machine
5 will start to smoke if we don't.

6 I think that's all the housekeeping we need
7 to do. The first speaker we've going to be
8 hearing from is Representative Herb Richardson,
9 to be followed by Representative Brad Bailey and
10 Harry Brown.

11 REP. HERB RICHARDSON: Thank you very much.
12 For the record, my name is Herb Richardson. I
13 have been a State Rep for 17 years. I am
14 currently Vice Chairman of the House Science,
15 Technology and Energy Committee.

16 I am here today to speak in favor of
17 Northern Pass Transmission Project. I believe
18 that Northern Pass has only a few vocal
19 opponents in the North Country. Most supporters
20 are afraid to speak out. At earlier public
21 hearings, speakers were booed. They were
22 heckled when they spoke in favor. In Colebrook,
23 small businesses were threatened with boycott if
24 they supported Northern Pass. In Lancaster, a

1 contractor was denied work based on his support
2 for Northern Pass.

3 Of all the State and County elected
4 officials in Coos, only one Commissioner opposes
5 the Balsams redevelopment. He did not have any
6 issues with the Balsams until they received
7 Forward NH Funding from Northern Pass. He is
8 now working with the opponents of NPT and to
9 block state funding that would help the Balsams
10 succeed.

11 I personally have been targeted but cannot
12 be intimidated. Here today after winning
13 reelection handily voicing my opinion for the
14 silent majority. Our Governor ran as a
15 pro-Northern Pass candidate and won the North
16 Country handily. An anti-Northern Pass
17 candidate for State Senate lost her election bid
18 and was soundly defeated.

19 Anti-Northern Pass people believe we have
20 no energy problems. After visiting and talking
21 with the management team of ISO New England a
22 couple of weeks ago, these people have been
23 really misinformed. ISO New England is very
24 nervous. The power supply is very limited with

1 the possibility of six power plants retiring and
2 with the closure of Vermont Yankee. I ask all
3 of you to meet with ISO New England and hear the
4 true facts.

5 Northern Pass will provide 2600 New
6 Hampshire construction jobs, add new needed tax
7 revenues for our town and a \$200 million Forward
8 NH Fund that will be used for community
9 betterment, help the tourism industry and
10 economic development in our state, all while
11 assuring a reliable supply of clean, affordable
12 energy for many years.

13 Northern Pass will go down existing
14 rights-of-way and will have no more effect on
15 our state's beauty than the existing lines or
16 the windmills scattered across our mountaintops
17 or the cell towers or the solar panels on our
18 roadways, and, definitely, the attractiveness of
19 large orange and black signs along Route 3 in
20 Coos County that read, and I quote, "Kiss my
21 ass, Northern Pass." Boy, what a great, great
22 attraction for our tourists.

23 Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to
24 speak to the SEC here today and would urge you

1 to support the proposed Northern Pass Project.
2 Thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is
4 Representative Brad Bailey, to be followed by
5 Harry Brown and Tom Farrelly.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BRAD BAILEY: Thank for
7 allowing me to speak today. My name is
8 Representative Brad Bailey. My District is
9 Grafton 14, encompassing the towns of Bethlehem,
10 Franconia, Littleton, Lisbon, Lyman, Monroe and
11 Sugar Hill.

12 Today you'll hear from many speakers who
13 will cite statistics, projections and studies in
14 relation to the Northern Pass Project, all of
15 which you'll take into consideration. What I'd
16 like to do is with is you paint a picture, a
17 realistic picture of what impact the Northern
18 Pass will have on those of us who live in the
19 North Country. It all surrounds the long-term
20 economic impact above the Notches.

21 The most economically distressed region of
22 New Hampshire is the North Country. The tourism
23 industry employs many of our people and has a
24 ripple effect which in turn supports other

1 businesses that provide goods and services to
2 this sector.

3 The median household income of Coos County
4 is \$42,000, with Northern Grafton County not far
5 behind. In comparison, the median household
6 income of Hillsborough County is over \$71,000.
7 And Rockingham, 81,000.

8 I tell you this so you can get an idea of
9 how economically challenged we are. Many of
10 these people work in the tourism industry, and
11 tourism is very important to northern New
12 Hampshire's economy. Fishermen, hikers,
13 snowmobilers, ATV riders, kayak enthusiasts, and
14 parents who take their children to our region to
15 enjoy Santa's Village, ride the zipline at
16 Bretton Woods, have breakfast at Polly's Pancake
17 Parlor, or stop in at Chutter's, the world's
18 longest candy counter, enjoy the pristine
19 environment that is northern New Hampshire. All
20 these businesses and hundreds more provide many
21 jobs for our people.

22 The Northern Pass will create jobs, but
23 they'll be fleeting. However, the visual impact
24 on the tourism industry will not vanish. It

1 will be a scar on the region that will be
2 lasting. This Project will negatively impact us
3 and negative impact the livelihoods of our
4 citizens who rely on these jobs to feed their
5 families and pay their bills.

6 Tourism is the third largest industry in
7 our state. To the North Country, it's vital.
8 The views that will be forever changed by this
9 Project will have a negative impact economically
10 on our land and, ultimately, on our citizens. I
11 doubt that tourists will look forward to driving
12 up north to view power lines from their cabin
13 windows, fishing streams or favorite ski trail.

14 This Project will also be a blow to real
15 estate values. Let me explain. Say you're
16 interested in purchasing a home in the North
17 Country. You have a choice between a beautiful
18 home with a pristine view. Another home equally
19 attractive has a view, too, but it has a huge
20 power line cutting through this otherwise
21 picturesque location. If the only difference is
22 the view, which house would you buy? Think of
23 how Northern Pass will drive down real estate
24 values for many of our people along the route

1 who wish to sell their homes some day. For many
2 up where we live, their homes are the only
3 equity that they have.

4 In closing, as you know, we have some of
5 the highest electric rates in the nation, but
6 what seems to get lost in the debate is that
7 this Project will not lower rates in any
8 significant way for my constituents. If you
9 feel a Project like this is warranted, then I
10 believe you have an option that you are all
11 aware of: Granite State Power Link. It uses
12 existing rights-of-way and will cause the least
13 amount of disturbance to the environment while
14 providing more power than the current proposal
15 you are looking at. There's your compromise.
16 This Project, if it should go forward, will not
17 leave a lasting positive legacy for the North
18 Country. Thank you very much.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG:

20 Representative Bailey, could you give your
21 written comments to Ms. Monroe, please?

22 REP. BAILEY: Yes.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is
24 Harry Brown, to be followed by Tom Farrelly and

1 Mike Skelton.

2 HARRY BROWN: Good morning. My name is
3 Harry Brown. I live in Stewartstown. This
4 statement is in addition to my testimony of
5 March 7th, 2016, in Colebrook.

6 I have not taken a position pro or con on
7 the Project, but I feel the majority of
8 testimony given to date has skewed individual
9 judgment. Concerning the portion of the
10 proposed power line from the Canadian border to
11 Bethlehem, the line will utilize a combination
12 of property that Northern Pass has either
13 purchased or obtained rights-of-way or the line
14 will be buried. The public will not be affected
15 in any way because where it will be aboveground,
16 there is very limited public access or it is in
17 a current right-of-way being used by existing
18 power lines.

19 One of the opposition's positions against
20 the power line is that it will affect the White
21 Mountain National Forest. However, the proposed
22 line will be buried from Bethlehem to Ashland on
23 a DOT right-of-way which is inclusive of the
24 forest. Their position doesn't make sense.

1 People are just jumping on a band wagon that
2 they really know nothing about.

3 Recent public statements by Rick Samson
4 continue to concern me. The Coos County
5 Commissioners have never taken a vote for or
6 against the Northern Pass Project. However,
7 Mr. Samson continues to identify himself as a
8 Coos County Commissioner when he is speaking or
9 writing publicly concerning the Project, and he
10 is vehemently against it. This is a gross
11 misrepresentation, attempting to utilize his
12 position and is a ruse.

13 Recently, he decided to take on a
14 significant Coos County landowner that has
15 agreed to a right-of-way for the Project.
16 Bayroot, LLC, and their land manager, Wagner
17 Forest Management. They are the most user
18 friendly landowner we have in Coos County. They
19 allow every type of recreation imagined to be
20 partaken on their property, including both
21 motorized and nonmotorized types of recreation.
22 They also operate an extremely well-managed
23 logging operation that employs many logging
24 companies and their employees, once a mainstay

1 of Coos County.

2 He stated that he did not know about Yale
3 University's involvement until recently.
4 However, NPR did a show on November 21st, 2012,
5 concerning the subject. Hopefully, this attack
6 by the anti-Northern Pass group does not push
7 this landowner to either not allow the public's
8 use or, worse yet, they sell it to a
9 conservation group or something of the like.
10 What this landowner does with their property
11 within the rules or regulations that exist is no
12 business of anybody's, especially Mr. Samson's.
13 All his testimony should be disallowed or at the
14 very least on weighted because he's only
15 speaking for himself.

16 Over 6 years ago, we voted in the town of
17 Stewartstown to oppose the Project as presented.
18 Since then, we have not been asked to reaffirm
19 that vote, even though there have been
20 significant changes made to the Project. We now
21 know that if the latest route is accepted, this
22 will afford me a reduction of \$1,756 in my
23 property taxes. Many of my fellow citizens in
24 Stewartstown are very, very, very economically

1 challenged. This will provide significant tax
2 relief for them. Our Grand List would increase
3 by almost \$70 million. Northern Pass would pay
4 huge property taxes annually without any
5 buildings, and, in addition, we won't have to
6 provide EMS, fire, police, and no kids. No
7 bigger schools. These are examples of the
8 positive side of the Project from a resident's
9 perspective.

10 We hope that the SEC can deliberate wholly
11 on the facts, and we remain neutral on the
12 Project, but we just want to make sure that all
13 the facts are generated and brought to you.
14 Thank you very much.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr. Brown,
16 could you give your written statement to Ms.
17 Monroe, Please?

18 MR. BROWN: I already have.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Thank you.
20 Tom Farrelly to be followed by Mike Skelton and
21 Theodore Bosen.

22 TOM FARRELLY: Hi. Chairman Honigberg and
23 Honorable Members of the New Hampshire Site
24 Evaluation Committee, I appreciate the offer to

1 speak before you. My name is Tom Farrelly, and
2 just to establish my street cred with the group
3 here, I'm a native and resident of New
4 Hampshire. I actually went to Plymouth State
5 College. I chose to go to Plymouth because I
6 love the North Country.

7 I worked in Massachusetts for four years
8 after I graduated and looked for the first
9 opportunity to move back here, and I opened an
10 office for a global corporate real estate
11 services firm. So I work with the private
12 sector trying to attract companies to the State
13 of New Hampshire, and I speak to you from that
14 perspective.

15 We have consummated in excess of 34 million
16 square feet of leases and sales to companies
17 that are either here or looking to come here.
18 And all I can tell you is that no company is
19 going to grow here or no company is going to
20 come here when the giant risk factor of one of
21 the most key components of their technology is
22 power. It's not only the cost; it's the supply,
23 the availability, but also the quality of power.
24 There are high-tech advanced manufacturing

1 companies here that are in locations where the
2 power supply is not as consistent as it needs to
3 be. They find themselves throwing out product
4 that they manufacture because it doesn't meet
5 the spec.

6 The cost of power is a hugely large driving
7 factor for companies looking to come here. The
8 high cost of energy in this region has been a
9 competitive disadvantage. I cannot tell you how
10 many deals that have gone to other states
11 because of the cost of power in New Hampshire.
12 And we all know, too, that the high cost of
13 energy and the volatility of the supply in our
14 region has also got some of the current
15 companies that are here looking to expand
16 elsewhere, and you guys all know the names.

17 One of the things that, even as it sits
18 today, it's a high risk environment for the cost
19 and supply and quality of the power, but the
20 other risk factor is obviously the planned
21 closure of so many other power supply generators
22 which just adds to the story.

23 We support Northern Pass because it will
24 bring clean and abundant Canadian hydropower

1 into our region and help drive down energy costs
2 through increased supply. And Northern Pass has
3 committed that New Hampshire will not pay any of
4 the costs of the construction.

5 From a business perspective, this is an
6 unbelievably great deal for our state.

7 Businesses expanding or relocating to New
8 Hampshire also value the high quality of life,
9 including the scenic vistas, and I appreciate
10 the steps that Northern Pass has taken to locate
11 this Project primarily in existing rights-of-way
12 underground through the entire White Mountain
13 region.

14 There's no perfect solution when it comes
15 to building out our energy infrastructure, but
16 it seems to be that Northern Pass has struck the
17 optimal balance. For all these reasons, I
18 support Northern Pass and the benefits that will
19 come to the State of New Hampshire and its
20 economy, and it will at least give you us a
21 leg-up on future opportunities to compete for
22 large companies to come here. Thank you very
23 much.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next we have

1 Mike Skelton to be followed by Theodore Bosen
2 and Richard Widhu. And I'm sure you'll give me
3 a correct pronunciation when you get up here.

4 MIKE SKELTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
5 Members of the Committee for the opportunity to
6 be here this morning. My name is Mike Skelton.
7 I'm the CEO of the Greater Manchester Chamber of
8 Commerce. We're a business advocacy
9 organization. We represent about 800 businesses
10 across the greater Manchester region.

11 Our Chamber first endorsed Northern Pass in
12 2012. We reaffirmed our support in 2015 after
13 the Forward NH Plan was announced and several
14 changes to the Project were announced. And our
15 support, of course, is rooted in our belief in
16 the need to lower and stabilize the cost of
17 energy in New Hampshire and in New England and
18 the impact that has on our economy.

19 In the years since that we've advocated on
20 this issue, we've submitted testimony on a
21 number of occasions, letters to the legislature,
22 spoke publicly, submitted OpEds to the media,
23 and I think through all this effort, our
24 organization has reached three conclusions that

1 we wanted to share today.

2 The first is that there is no perfect
3 source of energy. All forms of energy
4 production come with both positive benefits and
5 potential impacts, and whether it's a power
6 plant, a transmission line, a wind farm, a solar
7 installation, they all will deliver varying
8 amounts of benefits, whether it's energy
9 benefits, environmental benefits, economic
10 benefits, and they'll also include potential
11 impacts.

12 And the key question we believe that this
13 Committee should be considering for Northern
14 Pass or any energy project for that matter is do
15 the benefits ultimately outweigh the potential
16 impacts. And in our view, after looking at this
17 issue for many, many years, is that Northern
18 Pass and the way the Project has evolved is that
19 the benefits unquestionably, yes, outweigh the
20 costs or the potential impacts.

21 Northern Pass will bring a new source of
22 energy to our regional energy grid that will
23 lower our energy costs. There was just an
24 article in the paper the other day about that

1 that I found very interesting. It focused on
2 the lowering of cost for residential customers,
3 but, of course, when you consider the impact
4 that the lowering of cost will have on the
5 businesses, particularly the manufacturing
6 businesses, it is quite significant, and I hear
7 every day from those businesses what even a
8 small change in energy costs means to their
9 bottom line and their ability to grow and
10 expand. It will also lower carbon emissions,
11 help meet our environmental goals, create
12 thousands of jobs and millions in tax revenue.

13 So the reason the Chamber thinks it's
14 important that we consider the net benefits of a
15 Project like this is that the stakes are high in
16 terms of us needing new energy sources in the
17 future. As has been widely reported many times
18 before and discussed, New Hampshire's energy
19 costs are already 40 percent higher than the
20 national average, and we're facing retirements
21 from a number of power production sources in the
22 future.

23 So the question is, where do we want our
24 new sources of energy to come from. On balance,

1 what choices do we want to make from all those
2 different options that are out there. And our
3 organization has looked at this very carefully.
4 We've heard from many different power producers
5 and projects, whether it's a gas pipeline,
6 different types of energy projects, and we think
7 an all-of-the-above solution is the right
8 approach. But on balance when looking at and
9 considering a project like Northern Pass, it's
10 clear that this is the best large-scale option
11 we have before us right now that will make a
12 significant impact on our regional energy grid
13 and also brings real significant tangible
14 benefits to our state that the Project has been
15 compelled to really show and prove will be
16 delivered.

17 So with that, I want to, again, state the
18 Chamber's support for Northern Pass. We
19 appreciate all the work the Committee has put
20 into this and hope you will consider these
21 comments along with the comments of many
22 businesses that weighed in across the State.
23 Thank you.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is

1 Theodore Bosen, followed by Richard Widhu and
2 Colin Novick.

3 THEODORE BOSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
4 and Members of the Committee. I have a picture
5 and a card I'd like to distribute so that you
6 can be looking at it while I'll speak. May I
7 approach and do that?

8 ADMINISTRATOR MONROE: I'll take it.

9 MR. BOSEN: Thank you. My name is Theodore
10 Bosen. I am not a statistic. I'm a real
11 person. I'm a business person. I happen to be
12 an attorney from Massachusetts. Three and a
13 half years ago I moved to Berlin, New Hampshire,
14 and I took a chance on the New Hampshire
15 economy. I bought, purchased a farm, a defunct
16 dairy farm. I now raise goats and the farm is
17 an inn. A bed and breakfast.

18 I'm passing out the picture and a card.
19 The card is to show you what it is I'm selling.
20 I am selling northern New Hampshire. I'm
21 selling the view of the White Mountains. That's
22 what people come to my inn for. That's what I
23 am betting on and that's what I did bet on. I
24 sold my home, and I left my practice. I now

1 raise the goats, and I am an innkeeper.

2 I'm 40 miles away from the site, the
3 proposed site of these towers. That's the view
4 I have. You can see exactly where the
5 Millsfield wind turbines are in that picture.
6 They are a blemish on my view, but they're
7 fairly insignificant. If these towers come,
8 they will string through most of that view. If
9 I can see that 40 miles away, and that's what my
10 guests will see, then everybody within that
11 circumference who does what I do will have a
12 similar view.

13 You know, there are alternatives, and I'm
14 all for renewable energy. I'm kind of an
15 activist for it, but there are alternative
16 energy sources and modes and ventures.

17 There's no alternative to the White
18 Mountain's pristine view. There's no
19 alternative east of the Rockies to this kind of
20 connection with nature. This is what people
21 come to northern New Hampshire for. This is why
22 I have gambled everything on the tourist
23 industry. I am business coming to New
24 Hampshire. I am producing economic activity.

1 It's betting on the future of the economics of
2 New Hampshire which is the tourist industry.

3 There is no significant future for the
4 tourist industry in northern New Hampshire if
5 you're going to string something like this
6 across the view of the White Mountains for
7 people like me who want to attract tourists.
8 You're going to kill it. Just multiply my
9 experience times all those other people who are
10 trying to do what I'm trying to do in the North
11 Country, and you will see the devastation it
12 will cause.

13 The paper mills are closed or closing.
14 There's not much coming. The tourists are
15 coming. They're coming to my inn. I'm having
16 tremendous success. I'm building more bedrooms.
17 I just finished another one yesterday. You can
18 go to my website. It's on the information. You
19 can go to my Facebook page. What do my reviews
20 say? I've got all five-star reviews. Number
21 one for all of them is the spectacular view. My
22 card says, "Come and visit us, we're on top of
23 the world."

24 They're not going to come to see a string

1 of blinking red lights at night from these
2 towers. I guarantee that won't happen. Please
3 consider that. I'm sure there are many out
4 there like me, and we are going to be devastated
5 by this choice of energy. Thank you very much
6 for listening.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Richard
8 Widhu, to be followed by Colin Novick and
9 Vincent Paul Migliore.

10 RICHARD WIDHU: Good morning. I'd like to
11 thank the Committee for the opportunity to speak
12 to you.

13 My name is Richard Widhu from Nashua, and
14 I'd like to speak in favor of full burial of the
15 transmission lines.

16 The proposal by Northern Pass for 80- to
17 155-foot high towers and widened transmission
18 towers will scar views in the landscape, hurting
19 tourism and cutting property values. Many
20 communities in New Hampshire depend upon their
21 natural undeveloped and pastoral scenic beauty
22 as a critical asset for their economic survival.
23 Tourism is the second or third largest industry
24 in New Hampshire.

1 A report from Return on Investment for New
2 Hampshire in 2014 states that for every dollar
3 spent conserving land, it returns \$11, and
4 supports thousands of people in tourism,
5 recreation, agriculture, forestry and fishing.
6 Residents and visitors spend \$4.2 billion a year
7 on outdoor recreation which directly supports
8 about 49,000 jobs in the state.

9 A Department of Energy Environmental Impact
10 Statement reports that the proposed aboveground
11 high voltage DC lines would reduce taxable
12 assessed property values by \$7.1 million.
13 Another Department of Energy Draft EIS reports
14 that fully burying the transmission lines would
15 impose the fewest visual impacts and could use
16 already disturbed roadway corridors and would
17 not affect residential property values. They
18 also released an analysis that full burial would
19 cost \$2.1 billion versus the Northern Pass
20 preferred overhead route cost of \$1.37 billion,
21 not what Northern Pass said full burial would
22 cost of five to ten times the preferred route.

23 A November 2015 Department of Energy
24 Environmental Impact report says that full

1 burial would produce 10,687 construction jobs
2 over three years versus 6,921 for the
3 aboveground proposal. And 1,518 permanent jobs
4 versus 974 for the aboveground.

5 Eversource admits that full burial is
6 technically feasible, and there are two fully
7 permitted and fully buried high voltage AC lines
8 being started in Vermont and New York as well as
9 a proposal in Maine for a 300-mile buried line
10 partially using the median of I-95.

11 The New Hampshire Department of
12 Transportation has identified three existing
13 interstates and Route 101 as appropriate
14 corridors for buried lines. Even where Northern
15 Pass proposes to place transmission towers on
16 their existing right-of-ways, these would need
17 to be widened close to the easement limits on
18 residences and need to be clearcut right up to
19 people's houses, and structures would often need
20 to be built in wetlands where none now exist.

21 I have to say that I'm not opposed to
22 importing electricity from hydropower sources in
23 Quebec but not at the expense of the beauty of
24 New Hampshire. And just yesterday, I was hiking

1 up in Millsfield and Errol, and from a fire
2 tower I could look around 360 degrees and see
3 very few signs of impacts except for the wind
4 turbines, and I really appreciate northern New
5 Hampshire's unique beauty as being undeveloped
6 in that way. Thank you.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is
8 Colin Novick, to be followed by Vincent Paul
9 Migliore and Mason Deshenes.

10 Before you start, Mr. Novick, is there
11 anyone who came not having preregistered and
12 wants to speak today? Okay. I'll ask again
13 because I know people are coming in waves. I'll
14 just say that if we get done early and have time
15 and there are walk-ins, we can take them, but
16 otherwise, we're just to have to go with the
17 people who preregistered, and the people who
18 haven't done so, we'll have to try and get them
19 in at the next session.

20 I'm sorry to interrupt, Mr. Novick. You
21 may proceed.

22 COLIN NOVICK: Thank you for allowing me to
23 address the Commission. My name is Colin
24 Novick, and I'm from Worcester, Massachusetts.

1 New Hampshire is an energy exporter, and this
2 Project is being done in the name of southern
3 New England. This Project is being done in my
4 name, and that is why I am here to testify
5 against this project.

6 I have three major objections. First, this
7 is a 20th-century FDR-era project, a very large
8 dam with very large electric generation. What
9 is fascinating is that large scale, large
10 production, long distance distribution lines
11 with loss of energy along that long line is the
12 past in terms of energy production. It is what
13 we are moving away from.

14 The future of power is taking shape right
15 now in southern New England. It is small scale,
16 it is local production, it is smart metering,
17 and it is dispersed sourcing. This is the
18 future, and this is not Northern Pass.

19 This is supposed to be about meeting future
20 demands in southern New England and in
21 Massachusetts. This is my second objection.
22 Presently only under legislative mandate will
23 power suppliers begrudgingly allow consumers to
24 have their solars tied into the grids. Right

1 now the largest factor in getting commercial
2 solar facilities running in Massachusetts isn't
3 permitting, it isn't local politics, and it
4 isn't construction. It's getting the power
5 suppliers to allow the energy on to the grid. I
6 can take you to central Massachusetts and bring
7 you to solar farms that are sitting there
8 generating power but not allowed to put the
9 power into the grid because of the power
10 companies. Beyond this, offshore wind is about
11 to get going and coming online in southern New
12 England. There is much more capacity available
13 if suppliers were not choking it off in southern
14 New England itself.

15 Finally, and third, my objection is about
16 environment and the aesthetics. New Hampshire's
17 nature is New Hampshire's greatest asset. In
18 the last month alone, I have been to New
19 Hampshire three times for the forests, rivers,
20 mountains, wetlands and bogs. I am bringing my
21 family up this weekend to hike, to camp, to
22 spend the weekend and to take in what is unique
23 in New Hampshire. It's nature. I proposed to
24 my wife on a New Hampshire mountaintop. This

1 Project will impact tourism. Period.

2 I can see power corridors in Worcester
3 right now without leaving. I don't need to
4 drive north for them. This Project requires
5 taking of permanently conserved conservation
6 lands which is unacceptable. This Project
7 requires taking habitats, some of which have
8 been identified by the New Hampshire DES as
9 particularly noteworthy. Taking wetlands,
10 impacting others, taking vernal pools, impacting
11 others, the 132 miles of towers and 60 miles of
12 buried line aren't acceptable.

13 Please consider the very folks this Project
14 is being done in the name of do not support this
15 Project. Thank you very much.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is
17 Vincent Paul Migliore, to be followed by Mason
18 Deschenes and Barbara Matthews.

19 VINCENT PAUL MIGLIORE: My name is Vincent
20 Paul Migliore. I live in Bridgewater, New
21 Hampshire, which is part of Grafton County
22 District 9 Legislative District. I'll be brief
23 since you'll be hearing more eloquent
24 explanations from many others today about what a

1 bad idea this is.

2 I'm actually reminded of award shows that
3 want their winners to keep their remarks as
4 short as possible because many of them are so
5 similar to each other, and it gets a little
6 boring after a while. There's a new one out
7 there that actually gives awards to best
8 internet offerings like software programs and
9 the like, and they actually require the award
10 recipient to use only five words; not three, not
11 four, and certainly not more than that. The
12 recent example was from a winner from a computer
13 password software manager company whose speech
14 consisted of the following: Do something about
15 your passwords.

16 I don't know about you, but this seemed
17 like good advice in more than one way. So I'd
18 simply like everyone to know that I took this
19 winner's advice and decided to do something
20 about Northern Pass. I've decided to run for
21 the State Legislature in Grafton County in a
22 special election on July 18th. It's in Ashland,
23 Alexandria, Bridgewater, Bristol and Grafton,
24 and my five-word speech is pretty simple. I'm

1 opposed to Northern Pass. Thank you.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I apologize
3 for the pronunciation, Mr. Migliore.

4 MR. MIGLIORE: No problem.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up,
6 Mason Deschenes, to be followed by Barbara
7 Mathews and Laura Bonk.

8 MASON DESCHENES: Good morning. My name is
9 Mason Deschenes. I'm an apprentice lineman with
10 Local 104. I'm in support of the Northern Pass
11 because I'd like to see some local work, and I'm
12 just going to keep it that short and leave it at
13 that.

14 EVAN DOBBIE: Good morning. My name is
15 Evan Dobbie, and I'm an apprentice lineman as
16 well through Local Union 104. I am in support
17 of Northern Pass because it's going to bring
18 over 2600 jobs to the state of New Hampshire,
19 and, hopefully, mine will be one of them. Thank
20 you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is
22 Barbara Mathews to be followed up by Laura Bonk
23 and Denys Draper.

24 BARBARA MATHEWS: Good morning. Thank you

1 very much for this opportunity. My name is
2 Barbara Mathews, and I live in Deerfield.

3 The SEC's charge is to issue a Certificate
4 to Northern Pass only if it finds that the
5 issuance of a Certificate will serve the public
6 interest and to consider the welfare of the
7 population, private property, the environment,
8 historic sites, aesthetics and public health and
9 safety. These are precisely the issues that
10 would be adversely impacted in Deerfield.

11 Welfare of the population. Northern Pass
12 is not a Reliability Project. Rather, it is
13 entirely a profit-making venture to enrich a
14 private corporation and its shareholders at the
15 expense of our citizens and our beautiful state.

16 Private property. Our town would become
17 permanent home to 7.3 miles of industrial scale
18 towers marching through fields and forests,
19 parallel to and crossing country roads lined
20 with houses and whose value would be
21 significantly reduced.

22 The environment. Fleets of equipment would
23 invade the town during construction with
24 accompanying noise, pollution and traffic, and

1 afterwards we would be left with the lasting
2 damage, the physical scar across Deerfield.

3 Historic sites. The new towers would be
4 immediately adjacent to and visible from our
5 historic town center. Anyone driving through
6 the center would have to pass under the new
7 expanded lines and massive towers rising above
8 the tree line.

9 Aesthetics. Deerfield is a quiet rural
10 town. There are no factories, malls or even
11 stop lights in town. The historic center has
12 two beautiful old churches, a lovely old Town
13 Hall which is on the Historic Register, the
14 memorial library, a fire station and some
15 antique homes. From hilltops around town, there
16 are panoramic views of woods, fields and sky.
17 This is the community and environment Deerfield
18 residents enjoy each day, and this is what we
19 stand to lose if Northern Pass proceeds.

20 Public health and safety. The substation
21 in town would be doubled in size, and neighbors
22 in a wide radius around the existing building
23 are already adversely affected by the incessant
24 noise and light pollution. Higher voltages

1 along the new lines would result in greater EMF
2 radiation. A construction accident or fire at
3 the substation complex would quickly overwhelm
4 Deerfield's all-volunteer Emergency Services.

5 Every day people from across New Hampshire
6 have given countless hours to advocating against
7 this Project and the threats it poses. Private
8 citizens from Deerfield have taken a very active
9 role in the SEC process, as you know, both
10 representing Town boards and as Intervenors.
11 They have raised private money to fund expert
12 witnesses, and to help pay for an attorney to
13 represent Deerfield in the SEC proceeding.
14 Their dedication and the importance of their
15 efforts cannot be overstated.

16 The people have done their part to stand up
17 for New Hampshire, and we now ask you to defend
18 the Granite State. Northern Pass would not
19 serve the public interest, and, therefore,
20 should not be approved. Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: All right.
22 Next is Laura Bonk to be followed by Denys
23 Draper and Geoff Daly.

24 LAURA BONK: First of all, I want to thank

1 you for serving on this Committee. I'm sure
2 you're al doing it on top of your regular jobs.

3 My name is Laura Bonk, and I live in
4 Concord, New Hampshire. I am opposed to the
5 Northern Pass Project as currently presented.
6 In particular, I will discuss the impacts of
7 this Project as it passes through four miles of
8 Allenstown, New Hampshire.

9 The proposed high voltage transmission line
10 will pass through a few thousand feet of Bear
11 Brook State Park in Allenstown as well as a
12 thousand feet of land that I own. This proposed
13 Project will create an unreasonable adverse
14 effect on the aesthetics and the natural
15 environment of Bear Brook State Park.
16 Furthermore, the proposed Northern Pass will
17 violate the original transfer deed from the
18 federal government. For these reasons, I'm
19 opposed to this Project as currently presented.

20 In 1943, the State of New Hampshire
21 accepted Bear Brook land from the federal
22 government with the following conditions.
23 "Provided always that this deed is made upon the
24 express condition that the State of New

1 Hampshire shall use this property exclusively
2 for public park, recreational, and conservation
3 purposes."

4 The proposed Northern Pass Project is not a
5 recreational or conservation project. It is a
6 project to benefit the shareholders of
7 Eversource Energy. As such, it violates the
8 original deed in which the State of New
9 Hampshire accepted these lands. It also
10 violates the rights of the public who recreate
11 on this beautiful communal resource.

12 Bear Brook State Park is the largest
13 developed State Park in New Hampshire. The park
14 contains ponds, beaches, trails, a campground,
15 group picnic areas and a museum complex. This
16 large State Park lies within 15 miles of
17 Manchester, and 11 miles of Concord, New
18 Hampshire. It provides nearby recreational
19 access to our largest population centers.

20 The proposed towers will be significantly
21 above the tree line. They will be visible from
22 numerous places in the State Park, including
23 both Catamount and Hall Hills, popular day
24 hikes. They will also be quite ugly to the

1 people on the trails which pass beneath the
2 towers. The view of these ugly towers will
3 detract from the visitors' experience to this
4 natural environment. Furthermore, they serve no
5 recreation or conservation purpose. They will
6 create an enormous scar across the landscape, in
7 violation of the original transfer deed.

8 Bear Brook State Park is of no less
9 importance than the White Mountain National
10 Forest. If the Project proposes to bury the
11 towers there, it should also be buried in and
12 around Bear Brook State Park. The park provides
13 much of the same amenities to our citizens as it
14 is where everyday local people go outside to
15 recreate. Thus Northern Pass should not proceed
16 as currently proposed. Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is
18 Denys Draper to be followed by Geoff Daly and
19 Elias Estabrook.

20 GEOFF DALY: Good morning, Committee
21 members. Thank you. My name is Geoff Daly. I
22 am from Nashua. I am a 71-year-old professional
23 engineer and an environmentalist.

24 I'm here today to comment on the Northern

1 Pass Project. I'm opposing the Project as
2 outlined by Eversource and Quebec as follows.
3 Unless you do not heed my recommendations which
4 will save enormous amounts of dollars when we
5 have weather problems, the proposed Project is
6 an environmental disaster and was never
7 carefully thought out with alternatives or even
8 wanted to be discussed by the Applicant which I
9 have been trying to do for two years.

10 The destruction of such iconic forestry
11 areas, wildlife habitat and farmlands is a grab
12 by a greedy group of profiteering companies who
13 will not listen to alternative ideas, such as
14 using a tunnel boring machine better known as a
15 TBM to burrow around 30 to 50 feet below the
16 surface and in a straight line as found feasible
17 from the Canadian border to southern New
18 Hampshire near the seacoast, around 98 miles.
19 Used to TBMs, the Europeans and Japanese do it.
20 The technology is there. So can the US and meet
21 in the middle. This keeps the whole electrical
22 infrastructure system safe from ice storms, and
23 we know what happened a number of years ago when
24 we lost 120 towers on the west side of the

1 state. Safe from ice storms and severe weather.

2 Could also accommodate telecommunication
3 cables in a ten- to 15-foot diameter enclosed
4 tunnel in the top section and can easily be
5 serviced at any time. The overall maintenance
6 of enclosed tunnel cables is greatly reduced
7 from external weather and weather conditions we
8 know occur here in New Hampshire and will
9 increase as the climate and weather continue to
10 change due to CO2 and other gas emissions.

11 In placing the cables underground instead
12 of destroying the forest and the lands to build
13 unsightly towers, and many people have mentioned
14 that, the tunnel construction will not generate
15 the same emissions of GHG, greenhouse gasses, to
16 aboveground destruction which will never be the
17 same in anyone's lifetime.

18 The proposal that they are recommending in
19 the burial is using outdated technology,
20 nonaccessible, to maintain and inspect the
21 cables. Anything happens, they've got to dig up
22 existing roads, existing forestry areas to get
23 at them.

24 Eversource and the group must look at this

1 as a more environmentally and friendly
2 acceptable way of bringing this Project on line,
3 even if it takes a couple of years to bore the
4 tunnels needed, will generate good New Hampshire
5 jobs which has also been mentioned by various
6 other people and reduce any future storm and
7 maintenance costs to the town as they propose.

8 A tower or wires coming down of the size
9 that they're talking about would cost 2 to 3
10 million dollars in lost income and replacement
11 cost to get back online for each tower lost and
12 hundreds of workers mobilized. That is the
13 truth and will increase in costs as time passes.

14 We the people and the legislators have an
15 implicit duty to ensure the future safety and
16 prosperity of all who live in New Hampshire.
17 This must include those who wish to do business
18 or which to provide services in and through the
19 state. This includes realizing that they pass
20 on stranded costs and infrastructure costs, even
21 though they say not, including storm damage to
22 all who take or buy their services.

23 New Hampshire residents, taxpayers, should
24 not always be put upon for all these costs just

1 so they, the Applicants, can put a service
2 system in at the least cost to them and not for
3 everyone's benefit at the end of the day. Such
4 a tunnel system will pay for itself many times
5 over and has been proven elsewhere in the world.
6 Not "if" we have storms that would take out the
7 power line. It is "when." Towers have to be
8 rebuilt at a cost of millions of dollars each
9 time. Any work needed would be in the safety of
10 the tunnel and not affected by the effects of
11 Mother Nature outside.

12 Eversource and Quebec, Hydro-Quebec, would
13 also have continuous income streams from leasing
14 out the sealing areas to the telecommunication
15 and fiberoptic companies who have cable all
16 through New Hampshire. In fact, that route,
17 AT&T has their main line in and out of Canada to
18 the United States including the government.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr. Daly,
20 please wrap up.

21 MR. DALY: Okay. The forest, wildlife and
22 farms will be there for future generation,
23 including the families of Eversource and its
24 contractors and would remain undisturbed and

1 encourage tourism, generate more local jobs in
2 the renewable energy industries from biomass
3 regenerate and increased revenues for New
4 Hampshire. Thank you very much. Sorry to have
5 overrun.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I'm notified
7 that Denys Draper is not here. So next up is
8 Elias Estabrook to be followed by Aaron
9 Greenberg and Chad Tibbetts.

10 ELIAS ESTABROOK: Good morning. It's good
11 to be back in New Hampshire. Throughout my
12 childhood, I spent time with my relatives in
13 Concord and Dover. I'm now a resident of New
14 Haven, Connecticut. Thanks for the opportunity
15 to speak before you today.

16 As an alum of Yale University, I'm here
17 today to oppose the Northern Pass Project. I
18 have several years of experience as an
19 environmental advocate, including four years
20 campaigning for Yale and other universities to
21 divest their holdings from fossil fuel
22 companies. Last summer we learned from
23 stakeholders in Coos County that Yale owns the
24 overwhelming majority, 98.8 percent, of Bayroot

1 LLC. As you know, Bayroot owns a large piece of
2 land on which a section of the transmission line
3 would be built.

4 For Yale, investing in destructive projects
5 is nothing new. Through research this spring,
6 we found out that hundreds of millions of
7 dollars in Yale investments in oil, gas and coal
8 are contributing to climate change and
9 infringing upon the rights of indigenous peoples
10 all across the world, from Australia to the
11 Province of British Columbia and Canada.

12 Yale's investments in Northern Pass, by
13 leasing land to Eversource, would follow a
14 similar pattern of putting profits over local
15 and global ecosystems and indigenous rights.
16 The operation of Hydro-Quebec's dams harms
17 Quebec's environment. Dams have flooded vast
18 tracts of forests. High volumes of water
19 released to satisfy peak energy demands are
20 harming endangered salmon that are important
21 source for the Pessamit Innu First Nation's
22 people.

23 The effects of these hydroelectric dams on
24 the climate are also concerning. Bermis-1 is

1 one of the power stations that will provide
2 power for Northern Pass. An assistant professor
3 at Leiden University in the Netherlands and a
4 greenhouse gas emissions expert estimates that
5 the carbon footprint of one Bermis-1 is 313
6 kilograms of CO2 per megawatt hour. Although
7 lower than additional fossil fuels, this is
8 higher than the average carbon footprint of a
9 hydropower plant, and it is higher than other
10 types of renewable energy.

11 If Yale allows the transmission line to be
12 built, Yale will be complicit in violating the
13 rights of the Pessamit Indian who have sued
14 Hydro-Quebec for violating two international
15 conventions when it built dams and power
16 stations without any input from or compensation
17 for the Pessamit Nation.

18 As this Committee knows from previous
19 testimony today, Northern Pass will also harm
20 New Hampshire's environment. I have worked with
21 strong advocates of renewable energy at Yale's
22 campus including the Yale Student Environmental
23 Coalition. Representatives of this coalition
24 have called on Yale to end its relationship with

1 Northern Pass, and I hope that the SEC will come
2 to a similar conclusion and deny the permits for
3 this Project. Thank you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is
5 Aaron Greenberg to be followed by Chad Tibbetts
6 and John Dumais.

7 AARON GREENBERG: Good morning. My name is
8 Aaron Greenberg. I also a resident of New
9 Haven, Connecticut. I'm a Ph.D. candidate in
10 the Department of Political Science at Yale
11 University, and I'm the Chair of UNITE HERE
12 Local 33 which is the union for graduate
13 teachers at Yale.

14 I first learned about Yale's involvement
15 with the Northern Pass from an article in the
16 Yale Daily News from a leader of the Yale
17 Student Environmental Coalition. YSEC, that
18 coalition, had just hosted a seminar at Yale
19 where members of the Pessamit Innu First Nation,
20 Coos County residents and policy experts from
21 the Appalachian Mountain Club discussed the
22 impacts of Northern Pass, with a particular
23 focus on devastating environmental and cultural
24 impacts on the Pessamit Nation.

1 The article prompted a series of
2 conversations and trips between New Hampshire
3 and Yale's campus in New Haven, culminating in a
4 return trip by residents of Coos County for a
5 teach-in with dozens of participants. As a
6 result, many Yale students and alumni are
7 joining the growing chorus of opposition to
8 Northern Pass. The threats to New Hampshire's
9 scenic beauty and tourist industries posed by 40
10 miles of new clearcuts with up to 160-foot-tall
11 towers by themselves should be enough to warrant
12 rejection. But the extraordinary harm to the
13 rights and economic well-being of the Pessamit
14 Innu First Nation raised the stakes even higher.

15 The Yale community has a particular
16 responsibility to engage with Northern Pass
17 because Yale University through its endowment
18 owns 98.8 percent of Bayroot, LLC, which has
19 leased its huge land holdings for 24 miles of
20 the proposed Northern Pass route.

21 Yale's practice of hiding its \$25.4 billion
22 worth of investments behind front companies like
23 Bayroot LLC is inappropriate for my University
24 and for the communities that host its

1 investments. Our University can and must earn
2 money in the sunlight and be accountable for the
3 environmental and social impact of its
4 investments.

5 At the teach-in it was immediately clear
6 that the residents who are fighting Northern
7 Pass are doing so not for personal gain, but out
8 of a deep sense of commitment to preserving the
9 natural beauty and economic vitality. Why else
10 would farmers turn down multi-million dollar
11 offers from the developers and grant much lower
12 cost easements that would act as a barrier
13 against the Northern Pass. In an age like ours
14 when so much priority is given to money, people
15 do not easily give up millions of dollars when
16 it's offered to them.

17 Unfortunately, the Yale administration's
18 response has lacked both the courage and the
19 vision of Northern Pass components. I have been
20 so disappointed to hear series of Yale
21 threatening to arrest local political leaders
22 and to read the comments of the Dean of Yale's
23 renowned School of Forestry and Environmental
24 Studies attempting to disavow responsibility for

1 Northern Pass. Yale students and alumni will
2 press our University with all our energy to
3 abandon this misguided Project, and I urge you
4 on the SEC to reject Northern Pass as proposed.
5 Thank you.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: John Dumais,
7 to be followed by Travis Luksza and Kathleen
8 Sims.

9 Just a second. Did I skip Chad Tibbetts?
10 Is Chad Tibbetts here? Apparently not. It was
11 an accident, but apparently I skipped a person
12 who is not here.

13 All right. Mr. Dumais, you may proceed.

14 JOHN DUMAIS: Thank you. Good morning,
15 Members of the Committee, elected officials and
16 fellow presenters.

17 For the record, my name is John Dumais.
18 I'm President and CEO of the New Hampshire
19 Grocers Association. NHGA is the State's only
20 nonprofit trade association specifically
21 representing all retail food formats and sizes.
22 We appear here today in support of the proposal.

23 Annually, the food industry in New
24 Hampshire sells over \$12 billion in consumable

1 food and beverage products to consumers
2 throughout approximately 1500 stores. 78
3 percent of those stores are small, family-owned
4 businesses. The industry has over 84,000
5 full-time and part-time employees with wages and
6 benefits exceeding \$2 billion annually.

7 It's no secret that our out-of-state
8 consumers and tourists also purchase 40 percent
9 of all New Hampshire's food sales. Grocers do
10 this realizing one half of one percent net
11 profit or less.

12 NHGA and its members have been long-time
13 proponents for lowering electric costs. With
14 the announcement of the Northern Pass Project,
15 the majority of the NHGA's membership became
16 advocates for implementation. Our position has
17 always been to encourage any reasonable means to
18 lower electricity costs. However, the only
19 plausible relief in the near future is Northern
20 Pass.

21 The typical large supermarket uses
22 approximately 3 million kilowatts of
23 electricity per year, totaling \$450,000 in
24 annual costs. These stores average about 60,000

1 square feet in size. This is the most common
2 size supermarket, of which currently there are
3 450 operating in the state. There are many more
4 larger stores as well as smaller formats which
5 compose the remaining majority of stores.
6 What all these stores have in common is the
7 electrical needs. Lighting, refrigeration,
8 compressors and computers all consumes huge
9 amounts of power. Our industry is already doing
10 what it can to conserve by building more
11 efficient buildings, minimal consumption HVAC
12 symptoms, incorporating LED lighting and
13 installing cost-saving compressors.

14 Why it is so important to all food stores
15 to reduce costs? It's all about economics.
16 With meager profits, higher operating costs
17 cannot be absorbed. The only answer is to pass
18 those extra costs on to the consumer. That,
19 unfortunately, hurts our state residents. Even
20 more important is the 40 percent of New
21 Hampshire food store business derived from
22 surrounding state customers and tourism.

23 By shopping for food here, they are
24 visiting local communities and then other retail

1 stores. This creates more jobs, more businesses
2 and more revenue for communities in the state.
3 If food prices raise substantially, tourism and
4 related benefits will erode.

5 For those reasons and more, New Hampshire's
6 food distribution industry is looking forward to
7 implementation of the Northern Pass. Thank you
8 for your consideration.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Travis
10 Luksza, to be followed by Kathleen Sims and
11 Elizabeth Wyman.

12 TRAVIS LUKSZA: Hi, there. My name is
13 Travis Luksza. I am proud to say I am a New
14 Hampshire resident and have been most of my
15 life. Once I joined the apprenticeship of Local
16 Union 104, there were not a lot of job
17 opportunities close to home to get the hours I
18 needed to become a journeyman lineman. I moved
19 to Maine and worked on the NPRP Project and
20 other transmission jobs so I could get the hours
21 I needed and move forward at my apprenticeship.
22 Out of the five years I spent in the
23 apprenticeship, I worked a total of about 6
24 months in my home state.

1 I knew getting in this trade there was and
2 always will be the possibility I have to travel
3 for work, and there will be times I want to
4 travel. That still doesn't negate the fact that
5 I would like to have the option or ability to
6 live, commute, work and spend the money I earn
7 locally.

8 It wasn't long ago back in December 2015,
9 jobs in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Mass.
10 which my Local covers, jobs became scarce.
11 During this time I became unemployed while my
12 fiancée at the time and I were in the middle of
13 planning and saving for our wedding. In order
14 to make ends meet and have the wedding we
15 planned on having, I chose to go to Long Island,
16 New York. This was the only job available that
17 was taking on guys.

18 It wasn't until two weeks before the
19 wedding there was a position that opened up
20 working for Eversource in New Hampshire. I
21 ended up taking this position which I still hold
22 to this day and I am extremely grateful for. I
23 never thought working within an hour of my house
24 was even feasible. I just hope that for many

1 years to come that more job opportunities become
2 available in our home state of New Hampshire for
3 myself and my brothers and sisters.

4 With this being said, my family and I
5 support the Northern Pass and its ability to
6 provide good paying jobs, better benefits and
7 solid retirement for the community. Thank you.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Kathleen Sims
9 is next, to be followed by Elisabeth Wyman and
10 John O'Brien.

11 KATHLEEN SIMS: Good morning. I'm not,
12 well, I'll introduce myself first. I'm Kathleen
13 Sims. I live in New Boston, New Hampshire. I
14 live on a small farm where my husband and I grow
15 organic produce and where we have a variety of
16 rescue animals.

17 I know I live in a community that will not
18 be directly impacted by Northern Pass, but as a
19 New Hampshire citizen, I will be affected
20 because I'm a citizen of the entire state. I
21 have grown weary in this political climate of
22 hearing some of my fellow citizens say that if
23 it doesn't affect me, why should I be concerned.
24 Well, I am concerned because this is our state.

1 And it is my understanding, and I'm not an
2 expert on anything, that we don't have an energy
3 deficit. The jobs created, 90 percent of them
4 will go out of state, and it will be short-term.
5 So I don't see the economic gain.

6 More important, the threat of harm to all
7 the small historic towns along the proposed grid
8 does affect me because I care for the men and
9 the women and the children who live in its
10 proposed path. They will see their lives
11 forever altered as the construction of these
12 towers destroys historic buildings and plows
13 through the greenscapes surrounding them. The
14 proposed army of giant towers marching across
15 the spines of these towns will cripple tourism,
16 property values, community spaces, and family
17 recreation, not to mention their children's
18 health.

19 You may not really care about the salutary
20 effects of green spaces and the natural
21 environment on our children's psychological and
22 spiritual development, but surely you must care
23 about the risks of certain kinds of cancers,
24 brain cancer being the most serious among the

1 risks of living beneath these high tension
2 wires. My husband happens to be an oncologist
3 so I guess he is kind of an expert, but it's not
4 my expertise.

5 Do we imagine that these towns, the beloved
6 hallmarks of our life here in New England will
7 be the same ever again? Once these towers are
8 here, and the towns are forever altered, we will
9 not be able to undo the damage. We won't be
10 able to reclaim our heritage.

11 The battle over Northern Pass has been
12 defined in the media and by Eversource as a
13 battle between the economy and the environment.
14 But the truth is that the two are not separate.
15 Here in New Hampshire, we rely on the natural
16 beauty of our state, not only for the pleasure
17 and recreation but for our well-being and our
18 livelihood.

19 Supporters of the Pass like to paint those
20 who oppose it as tree huggers who do not care
21 about human progress. Nothing could be further
22 from the truth. Northern Pass doesn't just
23 destroy the natural environment. It destroys
24 essential human habitat. Thank you.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next is
2 Elizabeth Wyman, to be followed by John O'Brien
3 and Kenneth Evans.

4 ELIZABETH WYMAN: My name is Elizabeth
5 Wyman. I live in Lancaster, bordering the White
6 Mountains and the Great North Woods. On summer
7 evenings I love to take a 13-mile bike ride on
8 rural back roads where I often see more moose
9 and bears than cars. But for the past 7 years,
10 each time I ride past the power line on the
11 North Road and Page Hill, I feel a knot in my
12 stomach, a sense of impending doom, a preemptive
13 mourning over all that could be lost, not just
14 for me but for everyone who enjoys this special
15 place.

16 Have you ever driven to Montreal and seen
17 the massive steel space alien towers strung
18 through the farmlands outside of the city? It's
19 more than unsightly. It's deeply disturbing.
20 Transposing that industrial landscape onto our
21 state will create a 192-mile scar that will
22 profoundly impact tourism, recreation and
23 property values. Whether the project is built
24 above or below ground, the construction of this

1 transmission line will disrupt forests,
2 wetlands, wildlife and waterways. Hydro-Quebec
3 energy is not green energy. Their dams have
4 flooded millions of acres of boreal forest,
5 releasing methane and mercury into the
6 environment and compromising the culture and
7 livelihood of the Innu, Quebec's First Nation's
8 people.

9 The carbon emissions from these massive
10 hydro projects are equivalent to emissions from
11 natural gas-fired power plants so they bring no
12 significant benefits in the fight against
13 climate change.

14 I have a master's degree from the Yale
15 School of Forestry and Environmental Studies,
16 and I was upset to learn that my alma mater is
17 leasing a 24-mile right-of-way to Northern Pass
18 through its endowment lands managed by Bayroot
19 and Wagner. Yale's deal with Northern Pass
20 undermines the sacrifices of North Country
21 landowners who turned down multi-million dollar
22 offers to sell out to Eversource, and the
23 efforts of citizens and conservation groups to
24 block their route through land conservation.

1 All of our region's major environmental
2 organizations oppose the Project. I along with
3 other stakeholders and Yale students have
4 contacted Yale's Committee on Investor
5 Responsibility and have participated in campus
6 teach-ins, urging Yale to do the right thing and
7 pull out of their deal with Northern Pass. We
8 will hold Yale accountable for the social and
9 ecological destruction that this Project will
10 cause.

11 What angers me the most is the Northern
12 Pass is not necessary. It is designed solely
13 for the profit of Eversource and Hydro-Quebec
14 and their shareholders. This is simply wrong.
15 The Site Evaluation Committee should not approve
16 a Project in any form that has such tremendous
17 environmental and social impacts, near unanimous
18 opposition and is designed solely for corporate
19 profits. I oppose this Project in its entirety
20 and ask the SEC to support the no-build option.
21 Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is
23 John O'Brien, to be followed by Kenneth Evans
24 and Gail Beaulieu. John O'Brien? All right.

1 How about Kenneth Evans?

2 KENNETH EVANS: Good morning, and thank you
3 for the opportunity to speak with you. My name
4 is Ken Evans, and I am the coordinator for
5 Friends of the Pemi, Livermore Falls Chapter.
6 We're a partner with New Hampshire State Parks
7 Division of DRED with over 100 friends to
8 develop one of New Hampshire's newest state
9 parks at Livermore Falls.

10 Our work began in 2012, and we strive to
11 make that area recognized as having the best
12 combination of education, environment and
13 recreation opportunities in New Hampshire. We
14 have worked with the State to improve the east
15 side of Livermore Falls. It's one of the most
16 scenic falls in New Hampshire and an
17 increasingly popular destination for tourists
18 and locals alike. We now receive over 5,000
19 visitors per summer, and the number of summons
20 for illegal activities has dropped significantly
21 since we began our work. If you've not been
22 there recently, it's only two miles north on
23 Route 3 from Plymouth.

24 In 2017, we've turned our attention to the

1 west side of Livermore Falls to improve the
2 important scenic, historical and geological
3 assets presented there. These improvements
4 include parking, safe access to views,
5 interpretive historical information, all about
6 the importance of the place and the development
7 of our communities.

8 Given our mission and history of
9 commitment, the Friends of the Pemi have serious
10 concerns about the Northern Pass Transmission
11 lines as currently put forward in the SEC
12 Application. The current route for the
13 transmission line closely follows the Pemi River
14 through the park area and will pass immediately
15 next to the Park's western entrance.

16 We have significant concerns with the
17 trenching and possible blasting for this
18 underground segment which, as you know,
19 continues down Route 3 through downtown
20 Plymouth. The construction will occur just as
21 the State and Friends have completed
22 improvements and will undoubtedly discourage
23 safe use by our visitors.

24 We can also relate to the negative

1 aesthetics of transmission towers as proposed on
2 other parts of the route. The Groton Wind Farm
3 transmission line currently dissects Livermore
4 Falls over the Pumpkin Seed Bridge, and the
5 lines and steel towers create a visual
6 distraction from an otherwise gorgeous scenic
7 view.

8 So if alternative power transmission
9 options are available to satisfy the southern
10 New England market, it's our request that these
11 alternative options receive serious
12 consideration. This area, the Livermore Falls
13 area on the Pemi River, is an excellent example
14 of what can be accomplished when concerned
15 citizens work in concert with nonprofits, other
16 organizations, education institutions, state and
17 local governments over what has now been an
18 extended period of time to accomplish goals of
19 mutual benefit. We do not want these
20 accomplishments to be degraded in any way by a
21 Project that may provide little or no local
22 benefit.

23 By the way, the comments that I present
24 today are those of Friends of the Pemi. We're

1 an independent nonprofit organization, and while
2 our partnership with the state is very strong,
3 our views are not necessarily those of either
4 DRED or the Department of Parks and Recreation.
5 Again, I thank you for the opportunity to speak
6 this morning.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is
8 Gail Beaulieu.

9 And what we'll do after Ms. Beaulieu is
10 we'll take a ten-minute break to give the
11 stenographer and everyone else a breather.

12 GAIL BEAULIEU: Yes. I am Gail Beaulieu,
13 and I am a resident of Plymouth, New Hampshire,
14 and I have my concerns with a few misstatements
15 that were said by Project managers during these
16 judicial hearings.

17 A Project manager admitted that the town of
18 Plymouth business owners could have a loss of
19 business income by stating that the business
20 owners should start keeping track of their sales
21 now so that a claim can be made to their
22 insurance company for income loss coverage.

23 I spoke with a local insurance company
24 along with researching online to find out if

1 loss of income coverage would be allowed for a
2 Project like Northern Pass. A business owner
3 can only make a loss of income claim if there is
4 physical damage to the business property or if
5 the business owner's utility cannot provide
6 service such as electricity, water or gas and
7 only if it's in their policy or their policy
8 allows it.

9 A potential known income loss for the
10 planned Northern Pass Project digging up Main
11 Street, Plymouth, for months with no physical
12 damage to the business owner's property is not a
13 legitimate reason for a business owner to submit
14 a claim for income loss.

15 Northern Pass representatives have
16 mentioned that Plymouth is no longer open to
17 discussions with them. Plymouth is not open to
18 discussions now as we are in the middle of these
19 hearings for this ill-conceived problematic
20 route that the Applicant proposed. Any change
21 to the specified route through Plymouth needs to
22 require a new hearing allowing those impacted to
23 be intervenors and have their voices heard.

24 A year ago there was a well-attended

1 Selectboard meeting about Green Street as an
2 alternative. It was 100 percent opposed.
3 During construction, Main Street will lose
4 significant parking spaces. A Northern Pass
5 Project developer misspoke and said that there
6 is municipal parking on Green Street. The
7 available parking space on Green Street have
8 either restrictions or permit parking only, and
9 it's across the street from a railroad track.
10 The Senior Center is located on Green Street
11 where Meals on Wheels operates. Meals on Wheels
12 provides services for 12 communities in our
13 area.

14 Downtown Plymouth is a very vibrant hub for
15 the area. Plymouth hosts many events that take
16 place throughout the year during days and
17 evenings. Events are held at the Silver Arts
18 Center, Flying Monkey, and in Plymouth's quaint
19 historical common. These events need parking
20 and many enjoy eating at our restaurants. Many
21 of the eateries in Plymouth have outside eating
22 seating overlooking our common. Many will avoid
23 these events, and, therefore, will not be dining
24 or shopping in our quaint town. This will have

1 an economic domino effect and will devastate our
2 community.

3 It has become more evident during these
4 hearings that Eversource has submitted an
5 incomplete, burdensome application, and I hope
6 the SEC sees and understands the many flaws,
7 problems, inaccuracies. I understand that the
8 SEC is required to go through this process but
9 hope in the end you make a decision to end the
10 headaches and heartaches of so many who care
11 about this State and communities by denying the
12 Northern Pass application. There are so many
13 other alternatives that have been proposed that
14 will provide a better solution for New Hampshire
15 and its citizens without destroying our
16 beautiful landscapes, communities and our
17 environment. Thank you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: All right.
19 If you can hand your written remarks to Ms.
20 Monroe. We'll take a ten-minute break, and when
21 we return, Peter Martin will be up.

22 (Recess taken 10:22 - 10:34 a.m.)

23 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: First up is
24 Peter Martin, to be followed by Rachel Stuart

1 and Leslie Dreier.

2 PETER MARTIN: Good morning, and thank you
3 for hearing us. My name is Peter Martin. I
4 live in Plymouth.

5 The extensive procedure that you preside
6 over does not obligate you to find a way to yes
7 for this Project or, for that matter, any other
8 corporate project. Corporate complaints of
9 increased cost to do a responsible and least
10 harmful job should play no part in your
11 decision. It is not incumbent on the public and
12 their government to maximize corporate profit at
13 public expense. In truth, the only time that
14 expense should be considered is when a public
15 need is identified. Corporate bottom line
16 interests should never supersede the best
17 interests of the public.

18 The Northern Pass sponsors tell us that
19 they have considered 500 route iterations, but,
20 tellingly, they have steadfastly refused to
21 consider the only one that the people and their
22 government have deemed acceptable, which is to
23 bury the Project down Interstate 93, preferably
24 all the way to where the power is wanted in

1 southern New England. Why, when offered a
2 viable alternative, would Eversource steadfastly
3 refuse to accept a solution that does not harm
4 our environment, tax code, economy, and
5 aesthetics. Is Eversource being less than
6 candid with this body? I submit to you that
7 they are.

8 According to the ISO New England 2030 Power
9 System Study, which was presented at the New
10 England Governor's Conference in 2009, Northern
11 Pass is the linchpin project for massive
12 buildout of new high voltage corridors that
13 would turn New Hampshire into an industrial
14 power zone. Occasional mention of follow-on
15 projects by power company spokesmen have hinted
16 at this plan, but the full impact to the State
17 has been carefully unacknowledged in their
18 public pronouncements.

19 Northern Pass/Eversource spokesmen have
20 complained that numerous town officials have
21 refused to discuss mitigation agreements or
22 route details. The towns don't want the
23 Project. They don't want it at all. And,
24 therefore, discussing how to solve construction

1 and routing issues would be like a burglar
2 asking the home owner to hold the flashlight for
3 him. We don't choose to cooperate in this
4 Project at all because it will harm our
5 communities.

6 In Plymouth, for example, a special town
7 meeting on the subject concluded that our
8 Selectboard would not negotiate or discuss
9 anything with representatives of Eversource on
10 this issue.

11 Please, if, if this Project should ever go
12 forward, it should be completely buried under
13 Interstate 93. Overhead power lines are
14 19th-century technology, and as it was pointed
15 out to you earlier today, storm damage is a
16 major cost factor for overhead power lines.
17 Cost an enormous amount of money to get the
18 system put back together in 1998, and, by the
19 way, the ratepayers had to pay for that.

20 So I submit to you that it should be
21 burial. That is the new technology. Thank you
22 very much.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is
24 Rachel Stuart to followed by Leslie Dreier and

1 Andrea Bryant.

2 RACHEL STUART: Hi. My name is Rachel
3 Stuart. I've lived in Deerfield since 1998 and
4 also part-time in Berlin since 2005. I've
5 worked in the field of rural development for
6 over 20 years, about half that time in Coos
7 County, and Quebec. I do appreciate the
8 opportunity to share my views, and I appreciate
9 your listening deeply to all of this
10 presentation.

11 I have a lot to say, but I've tried to
12 sugar it down to a few main points which are
13 related. Point number 1, which you well know,
14 this is not a need-based Project. It has been
15 proposed as an elective transmission upgrade,
16 not a Reliability Project. Much of the
17 Applicant's public relations efforts and expert
18 testimony is focused on promoting potential
19 benefits, and those debatable, I think,
20 potential benefits get conflated with need.
21 With due respect, and to state the obvious,
22 Eversource experts are being paid by Eversource
23 to provide testimony that supports Eversource's
24 claims of benefits. There is a built-in bias.

1 If you have not done so, I urge you to
2 review, read deeply, a recent report by the
3 Carsey School of Public Policy at UNH, a
4 nationally recognized, non-partisan research
5 center. They're not being paid by the Project
6 supporters. They're not being paid by the
7 opponents. Rather, they are providing rigorous
8 nonbiased analysis that concludes that New
9 England does not need to increase energy use to
10 continue to grow our economy. New Hampshire's
11 electric bills are in line with or below
12 national average, and New England's electric
13 grid has proven itself reliable even during
14 periods of high demand.

15 Point number 2. What New Hampshire does
16 need to grow its economy is a skilled workforce
17 for 21st century jobs. We need millenials. We
18 need people with 2- and 4-year degrees to fuel
19 that knowledge economy. We need young people to
20 stay. We need young people to come here. And
21 one critical asset, as you have heard and as you
22 know, that attracts people to New Hampshire and
23 allows us to compete with Massachusetts where
24 all that low-cost energy would go are the

1 environmental, visual and cultural assets, our
2 natural amenities. There's a term for those
3 kind of workers. They're sometimes called
4 amenity seekers or amenity immigrants.

5 The Project would over-exploit and
6 permanently damage our natural amenities. It
7 will forever alter New Hampshire's landscape,
8 especially the communities along the Project
9 corridor. It will ensure that any
10 amenity-driven economic development strategy at
11 the local or state level will be less
12 successful.

13 So, in short, there's no need for the
14 Project. It's a revenue-producing Project for
15 Eversource and Hydro-Quebec, and it will
16 permanently endanger future efforts to create
17 what we do need, a diversified economy.

18 I'm opposed to the Northern Pass Project,
19 and I urge you to deny the application. Thank
20 you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next Leslie
22 Dreier, to be followed by Andrea Bryant and
23 Scott Coulombe.

24 LESLIE DREIER: My name is Leslie Dreier,

1 and my family has been in Bethlehem since the
2 1940s. My grandparents owned the Maplewood
3 Hotel there, and I've been in business all my
4 life. I think I know a bad deal when I see one.
5 I came from Bethlehem today to ask you to be
6 very skeptical about claims that Eversource and
7 Northern Pass are making about lowering rates
8 and adding jobs.

9 In testimony on the afternoon of Day 2,
10 Mr. Quinlan was asked whether the Northern Pass
11 energy would be supplied at a lower rate and
12 people would see lower bills. He answered yes.

13 But there are good reasons why you should
14 be very leery of those claims. I refer to an
15 article in the New Hampshire Business Review on
16 May 18th. I'll enter a copy into the record
17 with my comments.

18 It says that in 2011, Eversource got the
19 PUC to approve a contract to buy electricity
20 from a biomass plant in Berlin at fixed rates,
21 even if it was much cheaper on the open market.
22 Eversource said it would be a good thing for
23 ratepayers.

24 Instead, the article says, a top state

1 energy official is now predicting that some time
2 in 2019, customers who buy their electricity
3 from Eversource will have paid \$100 million
4 more than necessary because the PUC approved
5 that deal.

6 So I ask you to seriously consider the cost
7 of this Project to the rest of us versus the
8 benefits to Eversource. In the North Country we
9 are putting our environment at risk, and that is
10 the only asset we have. Why would this
11 Committee acquiesce to such a clearly
12 undesirable project where the major goal is
13 simply profit for Eversource at our expense.

14 Other reasons I think this is a bad deal?
15 Hydro-Quebec has said on the record that it
16 won't pay a cent for the line in the US and that
17 American consumers will pay through their
18 electricity rates. It calls into question if it
19 even makes economic sense to proceed with the
20 Project.

21 There is an attempt in the Legislature to
22 pass Senate Bill 128 which many say would open
23 the door to having ratepayers fund Northern Pass
24 and similar projects. On April 6th when this

1 Committee discussed whether to grant a motion to
2 suspend the proceedings because it was uncertain
3 who would pay for the line, one of the members,
4 Ms. Weathersby, said the Committee would delve
5 heavily into the financial issue at the trial.

6 And on Thursday you heard Julia Frayer say
7 that the jobs and spending would be reduced by
8 around 25 percent. The Union Leader wrote, "A
9 drop in wholesale energy prices means consumers
10 would benefit less from Northern Pass if prices
11 were higher," and they are certainly not on an
12 upward slope.

13 I'm happy they said these things because if
14 you do give proper weight to the financial
15 burdens this Project will place on New Hampshire
16 ratepayers, and you consider all of this in your
17 deliberations, I think you'll find that you must
18 deny this Application. Thank you.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Andrea
20 Bryant, to be followed by Scott Coulombe. Is
21 Scott Coulombe here? Okay. I'm told Scott
22 Coulombe is not here. We'll talk about what to
23 do after Ms. Bryant when she's finished.

24 ANDREA BRYANT: Good morning. My name is

1 Andrea Bryant. I've lived in Bethlehem for 37
2 years, and I taught at the Bethlehem Elementary
3 School for 35. I am President of an
4 organization, Environmental Action for Northern
5 New Hampshire. We were formed about 20 years
6 ago out of concern for the environmental and
7 health impacts of a now 61-acre landfill that's
8 on the eastern side of Bethlehem. Northern Pass
9 will cross on the western side of Bethlehem.

10 The Northern Pass concerns us because our
11 mission is to protect the North Country's
12 natural resources and the health and well-being
13 of the residents. I drove down here today to
14 call to your attention an article which I will
15 put in the record that exposes grave holes in
16 the testimony of the Northern Pass witness, Dr.
17 William Bailey, on electromagnetic fields, the
18 EMFs, and his denial that there is a threat to
19 the public health and safety. This article's
20 entitled, "Is New Hampshire Getting Hoodwinked
21 on Health and Safety by Northern Pass?" It's by
22 Nancy West, and it appeared Indepth NH.org,
23 which is a watchdog website published by the New
24 Hampshire Center for Public Interest.

1 Dr. Bailey quoted the World Health
2 Organization as saying evidence does not confirm
3 any health consequences of exposure to low level
4 EMFs. However, the article points out that he
5 neglected to mention that the World Health
6 Organization also confirms that a number of
7 studies suggest that EMFs increase the risk of
8 childhood leukemia.

9 Dr. Glantz of the University of California
10 which is the Center of Tobacco Control is
11 critical of the company that Dr. Bailey works
12 for. He says that Exponent, Inc., specializes
13 in coming up with scientific looking reports
14 that serve the needs of their clients. In the
15 past, it worked for the tobacco companies, and
16 denied that secondhand smoke was dangerous.
17 It's another reason to disregard Dr. Bailey's
18 testimony because we all know now that
19 secondhand smoke is dangerous.

20 Dr. Dennis Henshaw, a retired professor of
21 Human Radiation Effects at the University of
22 England said that, "The public is being
23 completely hoodwinked. The truth is that EMFs
24 are bad for you. That's what the evidence

1 says." Unquote.

2 Dr. David Carpenter, a public health
3 physician and Director for the Institute of
4 Health and Environment says that studies that do
5 show that there is a link to childhood leukemia
6 and other health risks for EMFs were funded by
7 the government or independent agencies while the
8 ones that have shown that there is no
9 association were paid for, of course, by the
10 electrical industry. So he calls this a blatant
11 conflict of interest.

12 This power line would not only mar the
13 landscape, which many people referred to, but it
14 would pass too closely to residents and schools
15 thus having a detrimental impact on the
16 residents of New Hampshire. It's also most
17 disturbing because this power line is not
18 necessary to the people who it's going to be
19 putting at risk and who were there first,
20 sometimes for generations.

21 I hope my testimony and the article in
22 InDepth NH will encourage you to reach the
23 conclusion that electromagnetic fields generated
24 from Northern Pass will have adverse

1 ramifications to the public health and safety of
2 the people of New Hampshire. Please protect the
3 residents of New Hampshire and do not allow this
4 Project to proceed. Thank you for your time and
5 your dedication.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: All right.
7 We are actually through the 10 o'clock period
8 list with Mr. Coulombe not here. So we can
9 start taking the 11 o'clock people. It's
10 possible that some may still show up, but we'll
11 start with the 11s, and it looks like if there
12 are some walk-ins who did not preregister, we're
13 probably able to take them as well. So the
14 first on the 11 clock list is Donald Bilodeau.
15 Is Mr. Bilodeau here? And I have Elizabeth Terp
16 and Robert Mekeel.

17 DONALD BILODEAU: Donald Bilodeau. I have
18 a home in Clarksville. We built that in 1986 so
19 we've been here for a while.

20 Something the SEC seriously needs to
21 consider before making a decision on Northern
22 Pass as presently proposed is the fact that
23 National Grid and New England Clean Power Link
24 will use existing lines and burial. Also New

1 Hampshire Co-op has started construction on a
2 two megawatt solar system consisting of 8,000
3 photovoltaic panels in Moultonborough. Now
4 there's a utility thinking about the future.

5 Every town from Pittsburg to Groveton has
6 made it known they do not want overhead power
7 lines. At the Canadian border, the line is
8 proposed to go aboveground to Route 3. At Route
9 3 it would be buried approximately a half a
10 mile, plus or minus, under Route 3, and under
11 the Connecticut River. They will then go
12 aboveground for approximately two and a quarter
13 miles aboveground. Then buried again at Wiswell
14 Road in Clarksville. This does not seem
15 logical.

16 As presented, there will be aboveground
17 monopoles and lattice towers, 22 in all, in this
18 two and a quarter miles. From Route 3, they'll
19 be heading east and then heading south to
20 Wiswell Road in Clarksville for the distance of
21 approximately two and a quarter miles.

22 Transition stations will be located at each
23 end where the line goes aboveground at Route 3
24 and again underground when it goes to Wiswell

1 Road. Each transition station has a monopole, a
2 lattice tower, and some sort of transmission
3 structure. Whether it's a small metal building,
4 I'm not sure, but this will be enclosed by a
5 chain link fence.

6 These two transmission stations could be
7 eliminated if the line were to be buried in that
8 two and a quarter miles. Will the cost still be
9 that much more to bury two and a quarter miles?
10 Burying the two and a quarter mile section would
11 save the views from Route 145 which is
12 designated by the State as a Scenic Byway.

13 The SEC has a huge decision to make. If
14 you accept this proposed Project as presented by
15 Northern Pass, I'll guarantee you there will be
16 thousands and thousands of tourists and
17 residents traveling through the North Country,
18 this beautiful state, saying, how could they
19 have let this happen.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next we have
21 Elizabeth Terp to be followed by Robert Mekeel
22 and Jack Vultaggio.

23 ELIZABETH TERP: I'm Elizabeth Terp. I'm
24 from Thornton. I speak in opposition to

1 undergrounding the Northern Pass line through
2 Route 3 in Thornton. Route 3 through Thornton
3 is an old road that was straightened in the
4 1930s when cars came in. Many of the old houses
5 ended up close to the road. These houses have
6 stone foundations, some almost 200 years old.
7 Any drilling near the house risks shaking loose
8 the soil holding the stones in place, destroying
9 the house and its contents, and causing injury
10 or facilities to anyone in the house during the
11 period of the drilling and long-term.

12 Many residents own water rights across the
13 road from their homes and straightening roads
14 often intersected people's property. Those
15 water rights will be threatened with
16 contamination by the power line. People who
17 have relied on sweet water from a source across
18 the road do not want to substitute with an
19 artesian well next to their homes, even if the
20 Northern Pass Project supplied it.

21 Georgia McNamara is a 77-year-old widow who
22 has lived at 3378 Route 3 for 40 years. She
23 raised her children there and is concerned that
24 her house built in 1840 with a stone foundation

1 is at risk if the Northern Pass line is allowed
2 to go through Route 3. A new foundation would
3 cost several thousand dollars which she cannot
4 afford. Because her house is 15 feet from the
5 center of Route 3, she fears sleeping only
6 inches away from the power line. Selling and
7 moving is not an option because floodplain
8 insurance makes her house virtually unaffordable
9 to potential buyers.

10 The Northern Pass test drilling caused a
11 temporary change in water quality from her
12 source across the road which was reported to the
13 town of Thornton. She states that she is not
14 alone. Her neighbors have similar problems.

15 Landscaping for homes along the route risks
16 being destroyed. Homes close to the road would
17 lose their apple trees, rhododendron, and other
18 established shrubs. Limits would be placed on
19 residents' use of their own land with a buried
20 land they must avoid.

21 Twenty-eight school children live in homes
22 on the Route 3 bus route. That means their
23 health and safety are at risk getting on and off
24 the bus during construction. Children will be

1 spending more time on the bus, driving up
2 transportation costs. People commuting to work
3 from their homes on Route 3 will be stressed, in
4 addition to the tourists who choose to drive
5 down Scenic Route 3.

6 Compensation for costs for accidents,
7 injuries, fatalities, home restoration, artesian
8 wells, school transportation costs, clogged
9 commuter and tourist routes and unnecessary
10 disruption of neighborhoods will cost the
11 Northern Pass Project legal fees they carefully
12 avoid adding into their estimates.

13 The Northern Pass Project has consistently
14 refused to consider using undergrounding through
15 I-93 which has a medium that was designed for
16 that purpose. Richard Widhu and Peter Martin
17 have already spoken to that.

18 So in consideration of the above, the
19 Northern Pass plan is in violation of all ten
20 conditions that the SEC must consider. So my
21 question is why would any corporation that
22 claims to want to bring cheap energy to New
23 Hampshire people create so much hardship for the
24 very people they are to serve when a viable

1 route down I-93 would avoid bringing so much
2 pain, expense, and potential injury and forced
3 relocation to the people they plan to serve.
4 Thank you for your attention.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next we have
6 Robert Mekeel to be followed by Jack Vultaggio
7 and Barbara Spike.

8 ROBERT MEKEEL: Good morning. I'm Robert
9 Mekeel. I live in Lancaster, New Hampshire. I
10 was County Attorney up in Coos for two terms. I
11 live in the area between Route 2 and Route 3 in
12 Lancaster, right in the shadow of the John
13 Wingate Weeks State Park which ironically will
14 have its turnout view marred by this Project, if
15 allowed to proceed.

16 My neighbors and I live on a Scenic Road,
17 designated by the town. The value of our
18 property comes from the fact that we have an
19 intimate and wonderful view of the Presidential
20 Mountains which will be marred, if not
21 completely destroyed by this Project, rendering
22 our homes worth less, forcing us to move, seek
23 tax abatements from the town or otherwise put up
24 with this project.

1 Any tax relief that has been touted in this
2 matter, I have little faith in it. It's in the
3 DNA of these companies to fight paying taxes,
4 fight paying any expenses that they're supposed
5 to pay. I hardly believe that they're going to
6 willfully pay whatever taxes are imposed upon
7 them, and I don't see the benefits of that.

8 Reading in the paper the other day, another
9 benefit perhaps would be to lower my electric
10 rate by a dollar and a half a month. No thank
11 you. From what I can see. The benefits to this
12 Project, they should be direct. People from New
13 Hampshire should be receiving a benefit to
14 tolerate this scar on our beautiful landscape,
15 but we're not. The benefits to this Project are
16 collateral. They're collateral in the sense
17 that it gives part-time employment to a bunch of
18 people. Now, that's fine. But they shouldn't
19 be the ones to decide whether this Project gets
20 built or not.

21 Other collateral benefits are shareholders
22 will receive profits from this Project. Doesn't
23 help us here in New Hampshire, does it? This
24 Project when it is built, no one will turn

1 around and say, you know what? It's not so bad.
2 No one will say that. People will only say, you
3 know, this is worse than what we thought.

4 Right up the street from my house is the
5 part where the Pass will cross Route 2. There's
6 a hill there, and there's a pulloff and they've
7 asked, there's one of our state markers, and it
8 asks people to contemplate the existence of Lake
9 Coos, this big vast area that you can see from
10 there. Beautiful valley.

11 Let's hope that in ten years people don't
12 come to contemplate how in the world did anybody
13 who was supposed to protect New Hampshire agree
14 to this Project. The conversation will be how
15 did they do it? And the answer will be, fix
16 must have been in because this is nuts. Thank
17 you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is
19 Jack Vultaggio, to be followed by Barbara Spike
20 and Suzanne Steele. Is Mr. Vultaggio here? It
21 would seem not. Barbara Spike? I just feel
22 like Barbara Spike and Suzanne Steele should be
23 performing together.

24 BARBARA SPIKE: Thank you very much for

1 allowing us to be heard on this Project.

2 Hydro-Quebec is the perpetrator for the
3 Northern Pass. Everybody talks about the
4 Northern Pass, but they're not mentioning an
5 awful lot about Hydro-Quebec. Eversource, who
6 we hear a lot about, is only a contractor.
7 They're an agent to Hydro-Quebec. So please
8 let's keep this in mind.

9 This is an extension cord from Canada to
10 southeastern Massachusetts, Connecticut and
11 Rhode Island. It will serve very little of New
12 Hampshire. What it will do is to damage our
13 environment, constructing aerial towers, hurting
14 health, the health risks, cancer, leukemia, rise
15 in diabetes, potentially altering DNA of people
16 who live near the transmission towers. It also
17 affects the animals and not to mention the
18 natural resources that New Hampshire is so well
19 known for.

20 Seven years ago they came into Plymouth
21 with their proposal. We told them no back then.
22 Then they come back last year, and they want to
23 bring in their backhoes and rip up Route 3 going
24 from the police station right straight through

1 the commercial area right downtown Plymouth,
2 constructing their aerial tower within a mile of
3 the deer farm.

4 Over 20 people got up and spoke on the
5 different aspects of all the crazy facets
6 involved in this kind of a Project, and the
7 decision was a unanimous opposition. We don't
8 want them. There are other options; there's
9 biomass, there's solar, there's methane
10 transmission such as has gone out to University
11 of New Hampshire out in Durham.

12 The legal ramifications, any remedy under
13 the law for defects in materials, workmanship or
14 damage to New Hampshire's natural resources
15 would be fought under Canadian law where the
16 corporation Hydro-Quebec resides. Eversource is
17 only a subcontractor. At the end, New Hampshire
18 should not bear the health risk and destruction
19 of natural resources and result in economic
20 fallout so that we can be part of Hydro-Quebec's
21 profit-making extension cord. Thank you so much
22 for listening and your consideration.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Suzanne
24 Steele, to be followed by Meredith Briggs and

1 Wayne Hill. And Ms. Steele has handed out some
2 papers that we have.

3 SUZANNE STEELE: Yes. I am Woman of
4 Steele. Thank you. Good morning and thank you
5 for the opportunity and your dedication
6 throughout this entire process.

7 I am Suzanne Steele, and I've lived in
8 Deerfield almost 24 years. We moved because of
9 the beauty and history of our town. I had an
10 uneasy feeling on October 8th, 2013, as I drove
11 to the Applicant's open house held at our
12 American Legion Hall. Strange because our town
13 had just voted against Northern Pass in March.

14 The parking lot was filled with mostly
15 out-of-state cars. That was my first indication
16 that something was wrong. Each table was filled
17 with impressive materials touting the benefits
18 for Deerfield. I asked the same question to
19 each person. Do you live near these types of
20 lines? And do you know our towns and our state?
21 And the answer was no at each table. I left
22 knowing there was endless funding. I needed to
23 get involved, educate myself, and share the
24 truth with the communities and our state.

1 To me, based on the criteria, this should
2 not be approved. This map was created by T.J.
3 Boyle and produced in discovery by Counsel for
4 the Public. It shows the Project's potential
5 visual impact delineating ten miles either side
6 of the proposed route. Approximately one-third
7 of our entire state could be visually impacted.
8 This would be an unreasonable adverse effect on
9 aesthetics.

10 Locally, I'm an active member of the
11 Deerfield Community Church which abuts the
12 right-of-way in our historic center. When you
13 visited this fall, the experts said that all of
14 the trees would need to be removed between the
15 right-of-way and our church. So here's the
16 second picture. The photo simulation in our
17 historic center does not depict the removal of
18 trees. I suggest on your next visit walking to
19 the church again, imagining it being framed by
20 wires and 120- to 130-foot towers. This would
21 create an unreasonable adverse effect on our
22 historic center. And the other photo
23 simulations, I'm concerned about the untrue
24 simulations there as well.

1 At the Deerfield Fair we shared our Ten
2 Truths, and collected 937 opposing signatures,
3 88 percent from New Hampshire. I was shocked
4 but not surprised at how many came up saying
5 they, family, pets or someone they knew lived
6 near the lines and had or are still battling
7 cancer. That is with existing 115 kV lines.
8 Imagine the bigger impact with three times the
9 power.

10 My mother died of cancer at age 48, and I'm
11 a wellness consultant and have been for 21 years
12 so health is extremely important to me. Your
13 role is to protect the public interest and
14 welfare of our state. This would have an
15 unreasonable adverse effect on the natural
16 environment and public health. So the Ten
17 Truths is the last thing that we shared at the
18 Deerfield Fair.

19 If this Project was needed, served our
20 communities, and didn't adversely impact our
21 state, I would be in support of it. It boils
22 down to trust. The Project and those of
23 Eversource and HQ are good people. However,
24 their intentions for this Project are not in the

1 best interests of our state. They are in the
2 best interests, as you've heard before, of
3 profit. I do not trust them to give our state
4 the benefits that they say this Project will
5 give. It will take away from our natural
6 beauty, disrupt our communities for the 2-plus
7 years of construction, create safety concerns
8 during and postconstruction and leave us with a
9 legacy we did not ask for. Please follow the
10 criteria and just say no. Please deny this
11 Certificate. Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next is
13 Meredith Briggs to be followed by Wayne Hill and
14 Rick LeVasseur.

15 MEREDITH BRIGGS: Thank you. In 1769 my
16 ancestors, Enoch and Abigail Brown, made their
17 home on Middle Road in Deerfield. That
18 homestead is the birth place of my grandmother,
19 my father, and his two brothers. I grew up in
20 Deerfield, my children grew up in Deerfield and
21 now, ten generations later, my grandchildren are
22 growing up in Deerfield.

23 As I said, my name is Meredith Briggs and I
24 live on South Road in Deerfield, and I am here

1 in support of the Northern Pass Project. Since
2 1769, the Brown, Towle, Sanborn and now Briggs
3 roots have grown very deep in Deerfield. My
4 family has long played active, well-respected
5 roles in our community. We have served as
6 Selectmen, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, School
7 Board members, Moderator, Volunteer Firemen and
8 Legislators. My great great grandfather, George
9 Towle was the Town's doctor, and he had his own
10 love/hate relationship with change. Many family
11 members proudly and honorably served in the
12 military.

13 I tell you this because I want you to know
14 and I want you to understand I would cut out my
15 tongue and dig out my heart with a spoon before
16 I would come to any conclusions I believe would
17 be injurious to the town I love so much.
18 Deerfield is my past, Deerfield is my present,
19 and Deerfield is my future.

20 Many opposed to Northern Pass cite their
21 desire to retain Deerfield's New England small
22 town charm, and I'm here to tell you that ship
23 sailed decades ago, and its sister ship sunk in
24 the harbor. When politicians looked at our

1 fields, they saw house lots instead of farmland,
2 and Deerfield Selectmen have taxed us
3 accordingly. People that owned acres and acres
4 of land sold their land because it was no longer
5 economically feasible for them to retain it.
6 Deerfield's rural charm has turned into
7 overpriced cookie-cutter tract houses every 200
8 feet. It has destroyed wildlife habitat, and it
9 has destroyed our small town charm, and all
10 these houses require electricity. If you look
11 to the south of us, there isn't one acre left of
12 the farmland that used to be Derry, Londonderry,
13 Windham, Salem. It is all malls and tract
14 housing.

15 People are concerned about the power poles
16 and power lines. Poles and power lines have
17 been a part of the American landscape since
18 1830. In 1926 the poles and power lines came to
19 Deerfield. However, in the 1950s I remember
20 going to school and having classmates that still
21 lived in homes without power. I find poles and
22 power lines no less offensive than solar panels
23 mounted on popcicle sticks rotating in the side
24 yard where once flower beds used to be.

1 Growing up on Birch Road, I played under
2 the power lines that ran across my uncle's farm.
3 His cows grazed there. We went sliding there in
4 the wintertime. We played on the mill pond. We
5 drank the water that went under the power lines,
6 and in the winter time we skated on the mill
7 ponds.

8 I've experienced paying bills by the color
9 of the envelope. PSNH was yellow. Ma Bell was
10 blue. And I've also experienced the
11 heart-stopping moment when I flip a switch and
12 there's no electricity.

13 I need electricity to operate medically
14 necessary equipment. I need electricity to
15 operate a go-lift that brings a wheelchair into
16 my home. I need electricity to operate a window
17 air conditioner to cool a room that is made
18 warmer because of the medically necessary
19 equipment. I need electricity to operate a
20 microwave for warming a bean bag to soothe
21 cramping limbs, and a CD player to bring comfort
22 to what will be an otherwise bad night. I need
23 electricity so we can operate our farm.

24 I resent those that have moved to

1 Deerfield, and before the doors of the U-Haul
2 are closed set about imposing their will and
3 opinions. It sticks in my throat like vomit.
4 Some people come to Deerfield and make it their
5 home. Others only stay for a little while.
6 They return maybe for Thanksgiving to have
7 dinner with a friend. Sometimes they'll come
8 back and visit at Christmastime.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mrs. Briggs,
10 please wrap things up.

11 MEREDITH BRIGGS: I am confident Deerfield
12 will benefit from this Project. I strongly
13 believe in this Project. I believe it will
14 create jobs. I do believe it will create tax
15 relief. And electricity. I believe Eversource
16 has shown a willingness to compromise in order
17 to achieve a workable plan. And if we work
18 together, I am sure we can arrive at a solution
19 we can all live with. We are not willing to
20 discuss it or compromise or anything. And, you
21 know, it's my backyard, too, all 200 and some
22 acres of it. Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next we have
24 Wayne Hill to be followed by Rick LeVasseur and

1 Deborah Warner. No on Wayne Hill? How about
2 Rick LeVasseur? No, I'm told. Deborah Warner.
3 No. Wow. The last three names on the list
4 aren't here.

5 We have walk-ins, I'm told. There's two I
6 see. Why don't we take the gentleman down front
7 and then the gentleman in the back.

8 PETER WHITE: Thank you very much. Guess I
9 got here just in time and fortunately not too
10 late. My name is Peter White. I'm from
11 Nottingham, New Hampshire. I'm a board member
12 of the Nottingham Water Alliance. I'm also on
13 the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire
14 Community Rights Network. We are opposed to the
15 current Northern Pass proposal, and our position
16 is who should decide. Should it be the
17 utilities or should it be the people of the
18 towns to decide what happens in their towns.

19 So the local citizens should have the right
20 to stop any developments that harms their
21 communities, violates their rights and the
22 rights of nature. That's democracy.

23 The New Hampshire Community Rights Network
24 has been here to help towns to get educated and

1 organized and pass local ordinances to protect
2 our towns' health, welfare and protect the
3 rights of nature. Who's there to protect the
4 rights of nature in every town? People in
5 Congress? Washington? They're not in our
6 towns.

7 And we'd like to think the people in
8 Concord are there to protect the rights of
9 nature and help us with our local
10 self-determination, but that hasn't always been
11 the case. So it is really the people that live
12 in every town that is there not only to protect
13 their towns and the future of their towns but to
14 protect the rights of nature in their towns.

15 So Eversource's decision to move forward
16 with the Northern Pass Project reveals their
17 determination to treat our towns as resource
18 colonies at the cost of our rights to protect
19 community health, safety and welfare and the
20 local environment. Their profits come before
21 what's in the best interest of our towns, it
22 seems. The ability of these big businesses to
23 get permits, even when most people are opposed,
24 raise the question, who regulates the

1 regulators. Our elected officials seem to be
2 often influenced by rich special interests to
3 act against the interests of we the people, our
4 communities and Mother Nature. I think we've
5 seen that over and over again, which is why the
6 world is in the state it's in.

7 The silent majority gives their consent to
8 surrender their rights. Democracy is not a
9 spectator sport. If people want to help, they
10 have to get involved, and they have to work
11 within their towns, and they have the right to
12 pass ordinances within their towns to protect
13 their rights and the rights of nature, and
14 that's what we propose they do.

15 So who decides on this Project? The people
16 in the towns or people outside the towns? We
17 think it should be the people in the towns.
18 Thank you.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: The gentleman
20 in the back?

21 DOUGLAS EVELYN: Good morning. My name is
22 Douglas Evelyn. I'm a resident of Sugar Hill.
23 I appreciate your work and the opportunity to
24 come before you this morning. I did not have a

1 prepared statement, but I want to offer my
2 perspectives. My wife and I moved up here 12
3 years ago. Her roots go back to Bath and Bath
4 Upper Village, very first settlers there. I
5 have been coming to New Hampshire for close to
6 60 years, beginning visits with my grandfather
7 on Lake Sunapee, and then later with my wife and
8 coming up here to visit her parents and
9 grandparents, and I have always valued the
10 landscape that we have here and the fact that
11 people preserved it and that I was able to
12 relocate here after retirement, and start a new
13 business myself.

14 And I did that because, my own perspective
15 here, I should tell you, I worked at the
16 Smithsonian for close to 40 years and three
17 different Smithsonian museums, and I was
18 involved with the national organizations that
19 work with museums and history organizations
20 around the country which gave me an opportunity
21 to travel and to see and experience other areas,
22 both in the country and abroad.

23 And the business we were in was
24 preservation and conservation, and our focus was

1 on the future. We preserved the legacy that
2 prior generations had brought forward, and in
3 our museums and institutions and parks and other
4 areas, the purpose of our work is to carry
5 forward to the next generations what we've
6 inherited.

7 So in relocating up here to New Hampshire
8 and making the choice to spend a year up here
9 and go away occasionally for two weeks, after
10 spending a life spending the year getting ready
11 to come up here for two weeks in the summer
12 which we did almost every year for 40 years, it
13 was a choice to come here because of the values
14 that we saw in the environment and the way we
15 could enjoy that and the way other people used
16 it.

17 So the Project that we're here to discuss
18 clearly was disturbing when it came on line and
19 I began to see that what I valued as a national
20 resource and which the National Trust for
21 Historic Preservation later indicated is one of
22 the most important scenic areas of the country
23 was threatened, and because of my own
24 perspective and because we owned property along

1 the route which is buried now, but it caused me
2 to think about the impacts of this Project,
3 whether it was worthwhile and what the
4 alternatives would be that I find in all three
5 of those I don't think the proposed benefits of
6 it in any way justify the long-term costs to the
7 future.

8 I think there are alternatives and
9 renewable energy developments that are rapidly
10 coming on line that would serve the needs of the
11 people requiring the power. I think we should
12 look at local and regional solutions to our
13 energy needs and the diverse needs. I think
14 there are jobs related to those areas, and I
15 urge you to consider those as you make your
16 decision about this Project. Thank you very
17 much for the opportunity.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: All right.
19 Are there any other walk-ins? Is there anyone
20 here who was scheduled for one of the later two
21 sessions that are scheduled who would like to go
22 now? All right. I think we are ready to wrap
23 up today's Public Statement Hearing, and the
24 Adjudicative Hearings resume tomorrow morning at

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9 o'clock. The next Public Statement Hearing is
June 22nd here at 9 a.m. Thank you all. We are
adjourned.

(Public hearing adjourned at 11:26 a.m.)

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PEOPLE ON THE LIST WHO DID NOT SHOW

Michael Bennett, Hampton, NH

Denys Draper, Easton, NH

Chad Tibbetts, Manchester, NH

John O'Brien, Hudson, NH

Scott Coulombe, Chester, NH

Jack Vultaggio, Jr., Groton, MA

Wayne Hill, Nashua, NH

Rick LeVasseur, Hudson, NH

Deborah Warner, Littleton, NH

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Cynthia Foster, Registered Professional Reporter and Licensed Court Reporter, duly authorized to practice Shorthand Court Reporting in the State of New Hampshire, hereby certify that the foregoing pages are a true and accurate transcription of my stenographic notes of the hearing for use in the matter indicated on the title sheet, as to which a transcript was duly ordered;

I further certify that I am neither attorney nor counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the action in which this transcript was produced, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed in this case, nor am I financially interested in this action.

Dated at West Lebanon, New Hampshire, this 19th day of June, 2017.

Cynthia Foster, LCR