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
(Presiding Officer)
Public Utilities Comm.

Cmsr. Kathryn M. Bailey
Public Utilities Comm.

Dir. Craig Wright, Designee
Dept. of Enrivon.Serv.

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

(Hearing begun at 9:00 a.m.)

PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to a public meeting of a Subcommittee of the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee. The Subcommittee in front of you is hearing the application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC, and Public Service Company of New Hampshire which does business as Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility. It's SEC Docket 2015-06.

Before turning to our agenda, I'd like the Members of the Subcommittee to introduce themselves, starting to my far left.

MR. OLDENBURG: William Oldenburg representing the Department of Transportation.

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

COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Kathryn Bailey with the Public Utilities Commission.

PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Martin Honigberg from the Public Utilities Commission.

MS. WEATHERSBY: Patricia Weathersby, Public Member.
MR. WAY: Christopher Way, Department of Resources and Economic Development.

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

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

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

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

The purpose of the meeting today is to take oral statements from members of the public on the Northern Pass proposal. This is one of three meetings that are scheduled currently to accept public comments during the Adjudicative Hearings. The other two meetings will take place on June 22nd and July 20. Each meeting, including today's, will be from 9 a.m. to noon.
For background, regarding public comment and public participation, the Subcommittee has already conducted a number of public hearings for the purpose of receiving public comment. Specifically, the Subcommittee received comments during public hearings that were conducted on March 1st, 2016, in Meredith; March 7th, 2016, in Colebrook; March 10th, 2016, in Concord; March 14th, 2016, in Holderness; March 16th, 2016, in Deerfield.

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

ADMINISTRATOR MONROE: Plymouth.

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

ADMINISTRATOR MONROE: Okay.

PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Was there not?

MR. ROTH: Yes. At Loon.

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

In total, the Subcommittee has heard 28 hours and 30 minutes of public oral comments,
and it's possible that the list I'm looking at, since it doesn't include these additional meetings, the number may be higher than that.

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

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

Given the amount of comments we've received and the process that's gone on to date, we're going to ask you to keep your neighbors in mind today. We want to make sure everyone who wishes to speak has a chance to do so. We do not have unlimited time, however. Therefore, as we put in the Notice, we are asking people to limit
their comments today to 3 minutes, and we will have a clock that you should be able to see so that you'll know where you are in the time.

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

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

We'll call for speakers in the order on which they appear on the list. The list is displayed on most of the screens around you. So we're going to ask that you be ready to speak when it is your turn so we can keep this process moving, and we can get all, I think it's roughly
40 people in and out in the time period we have allotted, and we will probably need to take a 10-minute break in there for the stenographer, if no one else. Her fingers and her machine will start to smoke if we don't.

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

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

I am here today to speak in favor of Northern Pass Transmission Project. I believe that Northern Pass has only a few vocal opponents in the North Country. Most supporters are afraid to speak out. At earlier public hearings, speakers were booed. They were heckled when they spoke in favor. In Colebrook, small businesses were threatened with boycott if they supported Northern Pass. In Lancaster, a
contractor was denied work based on his support for Northern Pass.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to
speak to the SEC here today and would urge you
to support the proposed Northern Pass Project.

Thank you.

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

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

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

The most economically distressed region of New Hampshire is the North Country. The tourism industry employs many of our people and has a ripple effect which in turn supports other
businesses that provide goods and services to this sector.

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

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

The Northern Pass will create jobs, but they'll be fleeting. However, the visual impact on the tourism industry will not vanish. It
will be a scar on the region that will be
lasting. This Project will negatively impact us
and negative impact the livelihoods of our
citizens who rely on these jobs to feed their
families and pay their bills.

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

This Project will also be a blow to real
estate values. Let me explain. Say you're
interested in purchasing a home in the North
Country. You have a choice between a beautiful
home with a pristine view. Another home equally
attractive has a view, too, but it has a huge
power line cutting through this otherwise
picturesque location. If the only difference is
the view, which house would you buy? Think of
how Northern Pass will drive down real estate
values for many of our people along the route
who wish to sell their homes some day. For many
up where we live, their homes are the only
equity that they have.

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

PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG:
Representative Bailey, could you give your
written comments to Ms. Monroe, please?

REP. BAILEY: Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is
Harry Brown, to be followed by Tom Farrelly and
Mike Skelton.

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

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

One of the opposition's positions against the power line is that it will affect the White Mountain National Forest. However, the proposed line will be buried from Bethlehem to Ashland on a DOT right-of-way which is inclusive of the forest. Their position doesn't make sense.
People are just jumping on a band wagon that they really know nothing about.

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

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

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

Over 6 years ago, we voted in the town of Stewartstown to oppose the Project as presented. Since then, we have not been asked to reaffirm that vote, even though there have been significant changes made to the Project. We now know that if the latest route is accepted, this will afford me a reduction of $1,756 in my property taxes. Many of my fellow citizens in Stewartstown are very, very, very economically
challenged. This will provide significant tax relief for them. Our Grand List would increase by almost $70 million. Northern Pass would pay huge property taxes annually without any buildings, and, in addition, we won't have to provide EMS, fire, police, and no kids. No bigger schools. These are examples of the positive side of the Project from a resident's perspective.

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

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

MR. BROWN: I already have.

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

TOM FARRELLY: Hi. Chairman Honigberg and Honorable Members of the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee, I appreciate the offer to
speak before you. My name is Tom Farrelly, and
just to establish my street cred with the group
here, I'm a native and resident of New
Hampshire. I actually went to Plymouth State
College. I chose to go to Plymouth because I
love the North Country.

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

We have consummated in excess of 34 million
square feet of leases and sales to companies
that are either here or looking to come here.
And all I can tell you is that no company is
going to grow here or no company is going to
come here when the giant risk factor of one of
the most key components of their technology is
power. It's not only the cost; it's the supply,
the availability, but also the quality of power.

There are high-tech advanced manufacturing
companies here that are in locations where the
power supply is not as consistent as it needs to
be. They find themselves throwing out product
that they manufacture because it doesn't meet
the spec.

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

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

We support Northern Pass because it will
bring clean and abundant Canadian hydropower
into our region and help drive down energy costs through increased supply. And Northern Pass has committed that New Hampshire will not pay any of the costs of the construction.

From a business perspective, this is an unbelievably great deal for our state. Businesses expanding or relocating to New Hampshire also value the high quality of life, including the scenic vistas, and I appreciate the steps that Northern Pass has taken to locate this Project primarily in existing rights-of-way underground through the entire White Mountain region.

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

PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next we have
Mike Skelton to be followed by Theodore Bosen and Richard Widhu. And I'm sure you'll give me a correct pronunciation when you get up here.

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

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

In the years since that we've advocated on this issue, we've submitted testimony on a number of occasions, letters to the legislature, spoke publicly, submitted OpEds to the media, and I think through all this effort, our organization has reached three conclusions that
we wanted to share today.

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

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

Northern Pass will bring a new source of energy to our regional energy grid that will lower our energy costs. There was just an article in the paper the other day about that
that I found very interesting. It focused on the lowering of cost for residential customers, but, of course, when you consider the impact that the lowering of cost will have on the businesses, particularly the manufacturing businesses, it is quite significant, and I hear every day from those businesses what even a small change in energy costs means to their bottom line and their ability to grow and expand. It will also lower carbon emissions, help meet our environmental goals, create thousands of jobs and millions in tax revenue.

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

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

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

PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is
Theodore Bosen, followed by Richard Widhu and Colin Novick.

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

ADMINISTRATOR MONROE: I'll take it.

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

I'm passing out the picture and a card. The card is to show you what it is I'm selling. I am selling northern New Hampshire. I'm selling the view of the White Mountains. That's what people come to my inn for. That's what I am betting on and that's what I did bet on. I sold my home, and I left my practice. I now
raise the goats, and I am an innkeeper. I'm 40 miles away from the site, the proposed site of these towers. That's the view I have. You can see exactly where the Millsfield wind turbines are in that picture. They are a blemish on my view, but they're fairly insignificant. If these towers come, they will string through most of that view. If I can see that 40 miles away, and that's what my guests will see, then everybody within that circumference who does what I do will have a similar view.

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

There's no alternative to the White Mountain's pristine view. There's no alternative east of the Rockies to this kind of connection with nature. This is what people come to northern New Hampshire for. This is why I have gambled everything on the tourist industry. I am business coming to New Hampshire. I am producing economic activity.
It's betting on the future of the economics of New Hampshire which is the tourist industry.

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

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

They're not going to come to see a string
of blinking red lights at night from these
towers. I guarantee that won't happen. Please
consider that. I'm sure there are many out
there like me, and we are going to be devastated
by this choice of energy. Thank you very much
for listening.

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

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

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

The proposal by Northern Pass for 80- to
155-foot high towers and widened transmission
towers will scar views in the landscape, hurting
tourism and cutting property values. Many
communities in New Hampshire depend upon their
natural undeveloped and pastoral scenic beauty
as a critical asset for their economic survival.
Tourism is the second or third largest industry
in New Hampshire.
A report from Return on Investment for New Hampshire in 2014 states that for every dollar spent conserving land, it returns $11, and supports thousands of people in tourism, recreation, agriculture, forestry and fishing. Residents and visitors spend $4.2 billion a year on outdoor recreation which directly supports about 49,000 jobs in the state.

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

A November 2015 Department of Energy Environmental Impact report says that full
burial would produce 10,687 construction jobs over three years versus 6,921 for the aboveground proposal. And 1,518 permanent jobs versus 974 for the aboveground.

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

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

I have to say that I'm not opposed to importing electricity from hydropower sources in Quebec but not at the expense of the beauty of New Hampshire. And just yesterday, I was hiking
up in Millsfield and Errol, and from a fire
tower I could look around 360 degrees and see
very few signs of impacts except for the wind
turbines, and I really appreciate northern New
Hampshire's unique beauty as being undeveloped
in that way. Thank you.

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

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

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

COLIN NOVICK: Thank you for allowing me to
address the Commission. My name is Colin
Novick, and I'm from Worcester, Massachusetts.
New Hampshire is an energy exporter, and this Project is being done in the name of southern New England. This Project is being done in my name, and that is why I am here to testify against this project.

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

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

This is supposed to be about meeting future demands in southern New England and in Massachusetts. This is my second objection. Presently only under legislative mandate will power suppliers begrudgingly allow consumers to have their solars tied into the grids. Right
now the largest factor in getting commercial
solar facilities running in Massachusetts isn't
permitting, it isn't local politics, and it
isn't construction. It's getting the power
suppliers to allow the energy on to the grid. I
can take you to central Massachusetts and bring
you to solar farms that are sitting there
generating power but not allowed to put the
power into the grid because of the power
companies. Beyond this, offshore wind is about
to get going and coming online in southern New
England. There is much more capacity available
if suppliers were not choking it off in southern
New England itself.

Finally, and third, my objection is about
environment and the aesthetics. New Hampshire's
nature is New Hampshire's greatest asset. In
the last month alone, I have been to New
Hampshire three times for the forests, rivers,
mountains, wetlands and bogs. I am bringing my
family up this weekend to hike, to camp, to
spend the weekend and to take in what is unique
in New Hampshire. It's nature. I proposed to
my wife on a New Hampshire mountaintop. This
Project will impact tourism. Period.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I apologize for the pronounciation, Mr. Migliore.

MR. MIGLIORE: No problem.

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

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

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

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

BARBARA MATHEWS: Good morning. Thank you
very much for this opportunity. My name is Barbara Mathews, and I live in Deerfield.

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

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

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

The environment. Fleets of equipment would invade the town during construction with accompanying noise, pollution and traffic, and
afterwards we would be left with the lasting damage, the physical scar across Deerfield.

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

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

    Public health and safety. The substation in town would be doubled in size, and neighbors in a wide radius around the existing building are already adversely affected by the incessant noise and light pollution. Higher voltages
along the new lines would result in greater EMF radiation. A construction accident or fire at the substation complex would quickly overwhelm Deerfield's all-volunteer Emergency Services.

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

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

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

LAURA BONK: First of all, I want to thank
you for serving on this Committee. I'm sure you're all doing it on top of your regular jobs.

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

The proposed high voltage transmission line will pass through a few thousand feet of Bear Brook State Park in Allenstown as well as a thousand feet of land that I own. This proposed Project will create an unreasonable adverse effect on the aesthetics and the natural environment of Bear Brook State Park.

Furthermore, the proposed Northern Pass will violate the original transfer deed from the federal government. For these reasons, I'm opposed to this Project as currently presented.

In 1943, the State of New Hampshire accepted Bear Brook land from the federal government with the following conditions. "Provided always that this deed is made upon the express condition that the State of New
Hampshire shall use this property exclusively for public park, recreational, and conservation purposes."

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

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

The proposed towers will be significantly above the tree line. They will be visible from numerous places in the State Park, including both Catamount and Hall Hills, popular day hikes. They will also be quite ugly to the
people on the trails which pass beneath the towers. The view of these ugly towers will detract from the visitors' experience to this natural environment. Furthermore, they serve no recreation or conservation purpose. They will create an enormous scar across the landscape, in violation of the original transfer deed.

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

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

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

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

The destruction of such iconic forestry areas, wildlife habitat and farmlands is a grab by a greedy group of profiteering companies who will not listen to alternative ideas, such as using a tunnel boring machine better known as a TBM to burrow around 30 to 50 feet below the surface and in a straight line as found feasible from the Canadian border to southern New Hampshire near the seacoast, around 98 miles. Used to TBMs, the Europeans and Japanese do it. The technology is there. So can the US and meet in the middle. This keeps the whole electrical infrastructure system safe from ice storms, and we know what happened a number of years ago when we lost 120 towers on the west side of the
state. Safe from ice storms and severe weather. Could also accommodate telecommunication cables in a ten- to 15-foot diameter enclosed tunnel in the top section and can easily be serviced at any time. The overall maintenance of enclosed tunnel cables is greatly reduced from external weather and weather conditions we know occur here in New Hampshire and will increase as the climate and weather continue to change due to CO2 and other gas emissions.

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

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

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

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

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

New Hampshire residents, taxpayers, should not always be put upon for all these costs just
so they, the Applicants, can put a service system in at the least cost to them and not for everyone's benefit at the end of the day. Such a tunnel system will pay for itself many times over and has been proven elsewhere in the world. Not "if" we have storms that would take out the power line. It is "when." Towers have to be rebuilt at a cost of millions of dollars each time. Any work needed would be in the safety of the tunnel and not affected by the effects of Mother Nature outside.

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

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

MR. DALY: Okay. The forest, wildlife and farms will be there for future generation, including the families of Eversource and its contractors and would remain undisturbed and
encourage tourism, generate more local jobs in
the renewable energy industries from biomass
regenerate and increased revenues for New
Hampshire. Thank you very much. Sorry to have
overrun.

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

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

As an alum of Yale University, I'm here
today to oppose the Northern Pass Project. I
have several years of experience as an
environmental advocate, including four years
campaigning for Yale and other universities to
divest their holdings from fossil fuel
companies. Last summer we learned from
stakeholders in Coos County that Yale owns the
overwhelming majority, 98.8 percent, of Bayroot
LLC. As you know, Bayroot owns a large piece of land on which a section of the transmission line would be built.

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

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

The effects of these hydroelectric dams on the climate are also concerning. Bermis-1 is
one of the power stations that will provide power for Northern Pass. An assistant professor at Leiden University in the Netherlands and a greenhouse gas emissions expert estimates that the carbon footprint of one Bermis-1 is 313 kilograms of CO2 per megawatt hour. Although lower than additional fossil fuels, this is higher than the average carbon footprint of a hydropower plant, and it is higher than other types of renewable energy.

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

As this Committee knows from previous testimony today, Northern Pass will also harm New Hampshire's environment. I have worked with strong advocates of renewable energy at Yale's campus including the Yale Student Environmental Coalition. Representatives of this coalition have called on Yale to end its relationship with
Northern Pass, and I hope that the SEC will come
to a similar conclusion and deny the permits for
this Project. Thank you.

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

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

I first learned about Yale's involvement
with the Northern Pass from an article in the
Yale Daily News from a leader of the Yale
Student Environmental Coalition. YSEC, that
collection, had just hosted a seminar at Yale
where members of the Pessamit Innu First Nation,
Coos County residents and policy experts from
the Appalachian Mountain Club discussed the
impacts of Northern Pass, with a particular
focus on devastating environmental and cultural
impacts on the Pessamit Nation.
The article prompted a series of conversations and trips between New Hampshire and Yale's campus in New Haven, culminating in a return trip by residents of Coos County for a teach-in with dozens of participants. As a result, many Yale students and alumni are joining the growing chorus of opposition to Northern Pass. The threats to New Hampshire's scenic beauty and tourist industries posed by 40 miles of new clearcuts with up to 160-foot-tall towers by themselves should be enough to warrant rejection. But the extraordinary harm to the rights and economic well-being of the Pessamit Innu First Nation raised the stakes even higher.

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

Yale's practice of hiding its $25.4 billion worth of investments behind front companies like Bayroot LLC is inappropriate for my University and for the communities that host its...
investments. Our University can and must earn money in the sunlight and be accountable for the environmental and social impact of its investments.

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

Unfortunately, the Yale administration's response has lacked both the courage and the vision of Northern Pass components. I have been so disappointed to hear series of Yale threatening to arrest local political leaders and to read the comments of the Dean of Yale's renowned School of Forestry and Environmental Studies attempting to disavow responsibility for
Northern Pass. Yale students and alumni will press our University with all our energy to abandon this misguided Project, and I urge you on the SEC to reject Northern Pass as proposed. Thank you.

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

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

All right. Mr. Dumais, you may proceed.

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

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

Annually, the food industry in New Hampshire sells over $12 billion in consumable...
food and beverage products to consumers throughout approximately 1500 stores. 78 percent of those stores are small, family-owned businesses. The industry has over 84,000 full-time and part-time employees with wages and benefits exceeding $2 billion annually.

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

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

The typical large supermarket uses approximately 3 million kilowatts of electricity per year, totaling $450,000 in annual costs. These stores average about 60,000
square feet in size. This is the most common
size supermarket, of which currently there are
450 operating in the state. There are many more
larger stores as well as smaller formats which
compose the remaining majority of stores.
What all these stores have in common is the
electrical needs. Lighting, refrigeration,
compressors and computers all consumes huge
amounts of power. Our industry is already doing
what it can to conserve by building more
efficient buildings, minimal consumption HVAC
symptoms, incorporating LED lighting and
installing cost-saving compressors.

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

By shopping for food here, they are
visiting local communities and then other retail
stores. This creates more jobs, more businesses and more revenue for communities in the state. If food prices raise substantially, tourism and related benefits will erode.

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

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

TRAVIS LUKSZA: Hi, there. My name is Travis Luksza. I am proud to say I am a New Hampshire resident and have been most of my life. Once I joined the apprenticeship of Local Union 104, there were not a lot of job opportunities close to home to get the hours I needed to become a journeyman lineman. I moved to Maine and worked on the NPRP Project and other transmission jobs so I could get the hours I needed and move forward at my apprenticeship. Out of the five years I spent in the apprenticeship, I worked a total of about 6 months in my home state.
I knew getting in this trade there was and always will be the possibility I have to travel for work, and there will be times I want to travel. That still doesn't negate the fact that I would like to have the option or ability to live, commute, work and spend the money I earn locally.

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

It wasn't until two weeks before the wedding there was a position that opened up working for Eversource in New Hampshire. I ended up taking this position which I still hold to this day and I am extremely grateful for. I never thought working within an hour of my house was even feasible. I just hope that for many
years to come that more job opportunities become available in our home state of New Hampshire for myself and my brothers and sisters.

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

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

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

I know I live in a community that will not be directly impacted by Northern Pass, but as a New Hampshire citizen, I will be affected because I'm a citizen of the entire state. I have grown weary in this political climate of hearing some of my fellow citizens say that if it doesn't affect me, why should I be concerned. Well, I am concerned because this is our state.
And it is my understanding, and I'm not an expert on anything, that we don't have an energy deficit. The jobs created, 90 percent of them will go out of state, and it will be short-term. So I don't see the economic gain.

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

You may not really care about the salutary effects of green spaces and the natural environment on our children's psychological and spiritual development, but surely you must care about the risks of certain kinds of cancers, brain cancer being the most serious among the
risks of living beneath these high tension
wires. My husband happens to be an oncologist
so I guess he is kind of an expert, but it's not
my expertise.

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

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

Supporters of the Pass like to paint those
who oppose it as tree huggers who do not care
about human progress. Nothing could be further
from the truth. Northern Pass doesn't just
destroy the natural environment. It destroys
essential human habitat. Thank you.
PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next is Elizabeth Wyman, to be followed by John O'Brien and Kenneth Evans.

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

Have you ever driven to Montreal and seen the massive steel space alien towers strung through the farmlands outside of the city? It's more than unsightly. It's deeply disturbing. Transposing that industrial landscape onto our state will create a 192-mile scar that will profoundly impact tourism, recreation and property values. Whether the project is built above or below ground, the construction of this
transmission line will disrupt forests, wetlands, wildlife and waterways. Hydro-Quebec energy is not green energy. Their dams have flooded millions of acres of boreal forest, releasing methane and mercury into the environment and compromising the culture and livelihood of the Innu, Quebec's First Nation's people.

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

I have a master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and I was upset to learn that my alma mater is leasing a 24-mile right-of-way to Northern Pass through its endowment lands managed by Bayroot and Wagner. Yale's deal with Northern Pass undermines the sacrifices of North Country landowners who turned down multi-million dollar offers to sell out to Eversource, and the efforts of citizens and conservation groups to block their route through land conservation.
All of our region's major environmental organizations oppose the Project. I along with other stakeholders and Yale students have contacted Yale's Committee on Investor Responsibility and have participated in campus teach-ins, urging Yale to do the right thing and pull out of their deal with Northern Pass. We will hold Yale accountable for the social and ecological destruction that this Project will cause.

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

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

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

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

In 2017, we've turned our attention to the
west side of Livermore Falls to improve the important scenic, historical and geological assets presented there. These improvements include parking, safe access to views, interpretive historical information, all about the importance of the place and the development of our communities.

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

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

We can also relate to the negative
aesthetics of transmission towers as proposed on other parts of the route. The Groton Wind Farm transmission line currently dissects Livermore Falls over the Pumpkin Seed Bridge, and the lines and steel towers create a visual distraction from an otherwise gorgeous scenic view.

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

By the way, the comments that I present today are those of Friends of the Pemi. We're
an independent nonprofit organization, and while
our partnership with the state is very strong,
our views are not necessarily those of either
DRED or the Department of Parks and Recreation.
Again, I thank you for the opportunity to speak
this morning.

PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is
Gail Beaulieu.

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

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

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

I spoke with a local insurance company
along with researching online to find out if
loss of income coverage would be allowed for a Project like Northern Pass. A business owner can only make a loss of income claim if there is physical damage to the business property or if the business owner's utility cannot provide service such as electricity, water or gas and only if it's in their policy or their policy allows it.

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

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

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

Downtown Plymouth is a very vibrant hub for the area. Plymouth hosts many events that take place throughout the year during days and evenings. Events are held at the Silver Arts Center, Flying Monkey, and in Plymouth's quaint historical common. These events need parking and many enjoy eating at our restaurants. Many of the eateries in Plymouth have outside eating seating overlooking our common. Many will avoid these events, and, therefore, will not be dining or shopping in our quaint town. This will have
an economic domino effect and will devastate our community.

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

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

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

PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: First up is Peter Martin, to be followed by Rachel Stuart
and Leslie Dreier.

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

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

The Northern Pass sponsors tell us that they have considered 500 route iterations, but, tellingly, they have steadfastly refused to consider the only one that the people and their government have deemed acceptable, which is to bury the Project down Interstate 93, preferably all the way to where the power is wanted in
southern New England. Why, when offered a viable alternative, would Eversource steadfastly refuse to accept a solution that does not harm our environment, tax code, economy, and aesthetics. Is Eversource being less than candid with this body? I submit to you that they are.

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

Northern Pass/Eversource spokesmen have complained that numerous town officials have refused to discuss mitigation agreements or route details. The towns don't want the Project. They don't want it at all. And, therefore, discussing how to solve construction
and routing issues would be like a burglar asking the home owner to hold the flashlight for him. We don't choose to cooperate in this Project at all because it will harm our communities.

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

Please, if, if this Project should ever go forward, it should be completely buried under Interstate 93. Overhead power lines are 19th-century technology, and as it was pointed out to you earlier today, storm damage is a major cost factor for overhead power lines.

Cost an enormous amount of money to get the system put back together in 1998, and, by the way, the ratepayers had to pay for that.

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

PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next up is Rachel Stuart to followed by Leslie Dreier and
Andrea Bryant.

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

I have a lot to say, but I've tried to sugar it down to a few main points which are related. Point number 1, which you well know, this is not a need-based Project. It has been proposed as an elective transmission upgrade, not a Reliability Project. Much of the Applicant's public relations efforts and expert testimony is focused on promoting potential benefits, and those debatable, I think, potential benefits get conflated with need. With due respect, and to state the obvious, Eversource experts are being paid by Eversource to provide testimony that supports Eversource's claims of benefits. There is a built-in bias.
If you have not done so, I urge you to review, read deeply, a recent report by the Carsey School of Public Policy at UNH, a nationally recognized, non-partisan research center. They're not being paid by the Project supporters. They're not being paid by the opponents. Rather, they are providing rigorous nonbiased analysis that concludes that New England does not need to increase energy use to continue to grow our economy. New Hampshire's electric bills are in line with or below national average, and New England's electric grid has proven itself reliable even during periods of high demand.

Point number 2. What New Hampshire does need to grow its economy is a skilled workforce for 21st century jobs. We need millennials. We need people with 2- and 4-year degrees to fuel that knowledge economy. We need young people to stay. We need young people to come here. And one critical asset, as you have heard and as you know, that attracts people to New Hampshire and allows us to compete with Massachusetts where all that low-cost energy would go are the
environmental, visual and cultural assets, our natural amenities. There's a term for those kind of workers. They're sometimes called amenity seekers or amenity immigrants.

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

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

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

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

LESLIE DREIER: My name is Leslie Dreier,
and my family has been in Bethlehem since the 1940s. My grandparents owned the Maplewood Hotel there, and I've been in business all my life. I think I know a bad deal when I see one. I came from Bethlehem today to ask you to be very skeptical about claims that Eversource and Northern Pass are making about lowering rates and adding jobs.

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

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

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

Instead, the article says, a top state
energy official is now predicting that some time
in 2019, customers who buy their electricity
from Eversource will have paid $100 million
more than necessary because the PUC approved
that deal.

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

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

There is an attempt in the Legislature to
pass Senate Bill 128 which many say would open
the door to having ratepayers fund Northern Pass
and similar projects. On April 6th when this
Committee discussed whether to grant a motion to suspend the proceedings because it was uncertain who would pay for the line, one of the members, Ms. Weathersby, said the Committee would delve heavily into the financial issue at the trial.

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

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

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

ANDREA BRYANT: Good morning. My name is
Andrea Bryant. I've lived in Bethlehem for 37 years, and I taught at the Bethlehem Elementary School for 35. I am President of an organization, Environmental Action for Northern New Hampshire. We were formed about 20 years ago out of concern for the environmental and health impacts of a now 61-acre landfill that's on the eastern side of Bethlehem. Northern Pass will cross on the western side of Bethlehem.

The Northern Pass concerns us because our mission is to protect the North Country's natural resources and the health and well-being of the residents. I drove down here today to call to your attention an article which I will put in the record that exposes grave holes in the testimony of the Northern Pass witness, Dr. William Bailey, on electromagnetic fields, the EMFs, and his denial that there is a threat to the public health and safety. This article's entitled, "Is New Hampshire Getting Hoodwinked on Health and Safety by Northern Pass?" It's by Nancy West, and it appeared Indepth NH.org, which is a watchdog website published by the New Hampshire Center for Public Interest.
Dr. Bailey quoted the World Health Organization as saying evidence does not confirm any health consequences of exposure to low level EMFs. However, the article points out that he neglected to mention that the World Health Organization also confirms that a number of studies suggest that EMFs increase the risk of childhood leukemia.

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

Dr. Dennis Henshaw, a retired professor of Human Radiation Effects at the University of England said that, "The public is being completely hoodwinked. The truth is that EMFs are bad for you. That's what the evidence
Dr. David Carpenter, a public health physician and Director for the Institute of Health and Environment says that studies that do show that there is a link to childhood leukemia and other health risks for EMFs were funded by the government or independent agencies while the ones that have shown that there is no association were paid for, of course, by the electrical industry. So he calls this a blatant conflict of interest.

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

I hope my testimony and the article in InDepth NH will encourage you to reach the conclusion that electromagnetic fields generated from Northern Pass will have adverse
ramifications to the public health and safety of the people of New Hampshire. Please protect the residents of New Hampshire and do not allow this Project to proceed. Thank you for your time and your dedication.

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

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

Something the SEC seriously needs to consider before making a decision on Northern Pass as presently proposed is the fact that National Grid and New England Clean Power Link will use existing lines and burial. Also New
Hampshire Co-op has started construction on a two megawatt solar system consisting of 8,000 photovoltaic panels in Moultonborough. Now there's a utility thinking about the future.

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

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

Transition stations will be located at each end where the line goes aboveground at Route 3 and again underground when it goes to Wiswell.
Road. Each transition station has a monopole, a lattice tower, and some sort of transmission structure. Whether it's a small metal building, I'm not sure, but this will be enclosed by a chain link fence.

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

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

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

ELIZABETH TERP: I'm Elizabeth Terp. I'm from Thornton. I speak in opposition to
undergrounding the Northern Pass line through Route 3 in Thornton. Route 3 through Thornton is an old road that was straightened in the 1930s when cars came in. Many of the old houses ended up close to the road. These houses have stone foundations, some almost 200 years old. Any drilling near the house risks shaking loose the soil holding the stones in place, destroying the house and its contents, and causing injury or facilities to anyone in the house during the period of the drilling and long-term.

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

Georgia McNamara is a 77-year-old widow who has lived at 3378 Route 3 for 40 years. She raised her children there and is concerned that her house built in 1840 with a stone foundation
is at risk if the Northern Pass line is allowed to go through Route 3. A new foundation would cost several thousand dollars which she cannot afford. Because her house is 15 feet from the center of Route 3, she fears sleeping only inches away from the power line. Selling and moving is not an option because floodplain insurance makes her house virtually unaffordable to potential buyers.

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

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

Twenty-eight school children live in homes on the Route 3 bus route. That means their health and safety are at risk getting on and off the bus during construction. Children will be
spending more time on the bus, driving up transportation costs. People commuting to work from their homes on Route 3 will be stressed, in addition to the tourists who choose to drive down Scenic Route 3.

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

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

So in consideration of the above, the Northern Pass plan is in violation of all ten conditions that the SEC must consider. So my question is why would any corporation that claims to want to bring cheap energy to New Hampshire people create so much hardship for the very people they are to serve when a viable
route down I-93 would avoid bringing so much
pain, expense, and potential injury and forced
relocation to the people they plan to serve.

Thank you for your attention.

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

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

My neighbors and I live on a Scenic Road,
designated by the town. The value of our
property comes from the fact that we have an
intimate and wonderful view of the Presidential
Mountains which will be marred, if not
completely destroyed by this Project, rendering
our homes worth less, forcing us to move, seek
tax abatements from the town or otherwise put up
with this project.
Any tax relief that has been touted in this matter, I have little faith in it. It's in the DNA of these companies to fight paying taxes, fight paying any expenses that they're supposed to pay. I hardly believe that they're going to willfully pay whatever taxes are imposed upon them, and I don't see the benefits of that.

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

Other collateral benefits are shareholders will receive profits from this Project. Doesn't help us here in New Hampshire, does it? This Project when it is built, no one will turn
around and say, you know what? It's not so bad. No one will say that. People will only say, you know, this is worse than what we thought.

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

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

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

BARBARA SPIKE: Thank you very much for
allowing us to be heard on this Project.

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

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

Seven years ago they came into Plymouth with their proposal. We told them no back then. Then they come back last year, and they want to bring in their backhoes and rip up Route 3 going from the police station right straight through.
the commercial area right downtown Plymouth, 
constructing their aerial tower within a mile of 
the deer farm.

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

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

PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Suzanne 
Steele, to be followed by Meredith Briggs and
Wayne Hill. And Ms. Steele has handed out some papers that we have.

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

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

The parking lot was filled with mostly out-of-state cars. That was my first indication that something was wrong. Each table was filled with impressive materials touting the benefits for Deerfield. I asked the same question to each person. Do you live near these types of lines? And do you know our towns and our state? And the answer was no at each table. I left knowing there was endless funding. I needed to get involved, educate myself, and share the truth with the communities and our state.
To me, based on the criteria, this should not be approved. This map was created by T.J. Boyle and produced in discovery by Counsel for the Public. It shows the Project's potential visual impact delineating ten miles either side of the proposed route. Approximately one-third of our entire state could be visually impacted. This would be an unreasonable adverse effect on aesthetics.

Locally, I'm an active member of the Deerfield Community Church which abuts the right-of-way in our historic center. When you visited this fall, the experts said that all of the trees would need to be removed between the right-of-way and our church. So here's the second picture. The photo simulation in our historic center does not depict the removal of trees. I suggest on your next visit walking to the church again, imagining it being framed by wires and 120- to 130-foot towers. This would create an unreasonable adverse effect on our historic center. And the other photo simulations, I'm concerned about the untrue simulations there as well.
At the Deerfield Fair we shared our Ten Truths, and collected 937 opposing signatures, 88 percent from New Hampshire. I was shocked but not surprised at how many came up saying they, family, pets or someone they knew lived near the lines and had or are still battling cancer. That is with existing 115 kV lines. Imagine the bigger impact with three times the power.

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

If this Project was needed, served our communities, and didn't adversely impact our state, I would be in support of it. It boils down to trust. The Project and those of Eversource and HQ are good people. However, their intentions for this Project are not in the
best interests of our state. They are in the best interests, as you've heard before, of profit. I do not trust them to give our state the benefits that they say this Project will give. It will take away from our natural beauty, disrupt our communities for the 2-plus years of construction, create safety concerns during and postconstruction and leave us with a legacy we did not ask for. Please follow the criteria and just say no. Please deny this Certificate. Thank you.

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

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

As I said, my name is Meredith Briggs and I live on South Road in Deerfield, and I am here
in support of the Northern Pass Project. Since 1769, the Brown, Towle, Sanborn and now Briggs roots have grown very deep in Deerfield. My family has long played active, well-respected roles in our community. We have served as Selectmen, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, School Board members, Moderator, Volunteer Firemen and Legislators. My great great grandfather, George Towle was the Town's doctor, and he had his own love/hate relationship with change. Many family members proudly and honorably served in the military.

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

Many opposed to Northern Pass cite their desire to retain Deerfield's New England small town charm, and I'm here to tell you that ship sailed decades ago, and its sister ship sunk in the harbor. When politicians looked at our
fields, they saw house lots instead of farmland, and Deerfield Selectmen have taxed us accordingly. People that owned acres and acres of land sold their land because it was no longer economically feasible for them to retain it. Deerfield's rural charm has turned into overpriced cookie-cutter tract houses every 200 feet. It has destroyed wildlife habitat, and it has destroyed our small town charm, and all these houses require electricity. If you look to the south of us, there isn't one acre left of the farmland that used to be Derry, Londonderry, Windham, Salem. It is all malls and tract housing.

People are concerned about the power poles and power lines. Poles and power lines have been a part of the American landscape since 1830. In 1926 the poles and power lines came to Deerfield. However, in the 1950s I remember going to school and having classmates that still lived in homes without power. I find poles and power lines no less offensive than solar panels mounted on popcicle sticks rotating in the side yard where once flower beds used to be.
Growing up on Birch Road, I played under the power lines that ran across my uncle's farm. His cows grazed there. We went sliding there in the wintertime. We played on the mill pond. We drank the water that went under the power lines, and in the winter time we skated on the mill ponds.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The New Hampshire Community Rights Network has been here to help towns to get educated and
organized and pass local ordinances to protect our towns' health, welfare and protect the rights of nature. Who's there to protect the rights of nature in every town? People in Congress? Washington? They're not in our towns.

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

So Eversource's decision to move forward with the Northern Pass Project reveals their determination to treat our towns as resource colonies at the cost of our rights to protect community health, safety and welfare and the local environment. Their profits come before what's in the best interest of our towns, it seems. The ability of these big businesses to get permits, even when most people are opposed, raise the question, who regulates the
regulators. Our elected officials seem to be often influenced by rich special interests to act against the interests of we the people, our communities and Mother Nature. I think we've seen that over and over again, which is why the world is in the state it's in.

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

So who decides on this Project? The people in the towns or people outside the towns? We think it should be the people in the towns.

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: The gentleman in the back?

DOUGLAS EVELYN: Good morning. My name is Douglas Evelyn. I'm a resident of Sugar Hill. I appreciate your work and the opportunity to come before you this morning. I did not have a
prepared statement, but I want to offer my perspectives. My wife and I moved up here 12 years ago. Her roots go back to Bath and Bath Upper Village, very first settlers there. I have been coming to New Hampshire for close to 60 years, beginning visits with my grandfather on Lake Sunapee, and then later with my wife and coming up here to visit her parents and grandparents, and I have always valued the landscape that we have here and the fact that people preserved it and that I was able to relocate here after retirement, and start a new business myself.

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

And the business we were in was preservation and conservation, and our focus was
on the future. We preserved the legacy that prior generations had brought forward, and in our museums and institutions and parks and other areas, the purpose of our work is to carry forward to the next generations what we've inherited.

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

So the Project that we're here to discuss clearly was disturbing when it came on line and I began to see that what I valued as a national resource and which the National Trust for Historic Preservation later indicated is one of the most important scenic areas of the country was threatened, and because of my own perspective and because we owned property along
the route which is buried now, but it caused me to think about the impacts of this Project, whether it was worthwhile and what the alternatives would be that I find in all three of those I don't think the proposed benefits of it in any way justify the long-term costs to the future.

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

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

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.

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Cynthia Foster, LCR