

1 STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
2 SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

3
4 June 22, 2017 - 9:04 a.m. PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING
5 49 Donovan Street
6 Concord, New Hampshire

7 {Electronically filed with SEC on 07-20-17}

8 IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06
9 Joint Application of Northern
10 Pass Transmission, LLC, and
11 Public Service Company of
12 New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource
13 Energy for a Certificate
14 of Site and Facility.
15 (Hearing on the merits)

16 PRESENT FOR SUBCOMMITTEE/SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:
17 Chrmn. Martin P. Honigberg Public Utilities Comm.
18 (Presiding as Presiding Officer)

19 Cmsr. Kathryn M. Bailey Public Utilities Comm.
20 Dir. Craig Wright, Designee Dept. of Environ. Serv.
21 Christopher Way, Designee Dept. of Resources &
22 Economic Development
23 William Oldenburg, Designee Dept. of Transportation
24 Patricia Weathersby Public Member
Rachel (Whitaker) Dandeneau Alternate Public Member

ALSO PRESENT FOR THE SEC:

Michael J. Iacopino, Esq., Counsel to the SEC
(Brennan, Caron, Lenehan & Iacopino)
Pamela G. Monroe, SEC Administrator

(No Appearances Taken)

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

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13 **SPEAKERS SIGNED UP BUT NOT PRESENT:**

14 Robin Tyner

15 Aaron Joos

16 Carlton Cronin

17 Angel King

18 Keith Rayeski

19 William Cleveland

20 Sally Ann Baker

21 James Mason

22

23

24

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Good
3 morning. Welcome to a public meeting of the
4 Subcommittee of the New Hampshire Site
5 Evaluation Committee that is considering the
6 Application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC
7 and Public Service Company of New Hampshire,
8 which does business as Eversource Energy, for a
9 Certificate of Site and Facility, generally
10 known as the Northern Pass Project, which is
11 SEC Docket 15-106.

12 Before turning to business
13 this morning, I'd like to ask the
14 Subcommittee members to introduce themselves,
15 starting from my far left.

16 MR. OLDENBURG: William
17 Oldenburg, Department of Transportation.

18 DIR. WRIGHT: Craig Wright,
19 Department of Environmental Services.

20 CMSR. BAILEY: Kathryn Bailey
21 Public Utilities Commission.

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

24 MS. WEATHERSBY: Patricia

1 Weathersby, public member.

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

5 MS. DANDENEAU: Rachel
6 Dandeneau, alternate public member.

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: There are
8 three other people I'd like to be identified:
9 The Site Evaluation Committee's Administrator,
10 Pam Monroe, she's sitting up here in the front
11 row; to my right is Mike Iacopino, who is
12 Counsel to the Site Evaluation Committee; and
13 sitting in the front row over here is Peter
14 Roth from the Attorney General's Office. The
15 Attorney General has a very specific statutory
16 role Site Evaluation Committee proceedings as
17 Counsel for the Public.

18 The purpose of the meeting
19 today is to take oral statements from members
20 of the public on the Northern Pass Project.
21 It is one of three meetings that have been
22 scheduled for the purpose of accepting public
23 comment. We expect to schedule a fourth
24 sometime later in the summer. The first took

1 place a week ago. The third is scheduled for
2 July 20th. Each meeting, including today's,
3 is scheduled to go from 9 a.m. to noon and is
4 going to be transcribed by a court reporter,
5 sitting down to my left.

6 As a matter of background, the
7 Subcommittee has already conducted a number
8 of public hearings for the purpose of
9 receiving public comment. Specifically, the
10 Subcommittee has received comments during
11 public hearings that were conducted in 2016
12 on March 1st in Meredith, March 7th in
13 Colbrook, March 10th in Concord, March 14th
14 in Holderness, March 16th in Deerfield,
15 March 19th in Whitefield, and June 23rd in
16 Plymouth. During those seven meetings there
17 were over 28 hours of public oral comments
18 provided to the Subcommittee. A week ago we
19 heard about two and a half additional hours.

20 In addition, the Committee has
21 reviewed transcripts of the public comments
22 provided during sessions that were conducted
23 outside the presence of the Subcommittee in
24 2016, in January, in Franklin, Londonderry,

1 Laconia, Whitefield and Lincoln. Finally,
2 the Subcommittee has received and reviewed
3 written comments that have been provided.
4 The number is over 1300, just a rough
5 ballpark, running between 10 and 11 to 1
6 against the Project in its current form in
7 one way or another.

8 All right. Considering the
9 number of comments we've already received and
10 the number of people who wish to provide
11 comment, we ask that you keep your neighbors
12 in mind. We want to make sure everyone who
13 wishes speak has a chance to do so; however,
14 our available time in the larger scheme of
15 things and today does not allow everyone to
16 speak for as long as they would like. To
17 accommodate the number of people who wish to
18 provide public comments, each speaker will be
19 asked to limit their remarks to three
20 minutes. I will tell you that last week, in
21 general, people came in between three and a
22 half and four minutes. If you go much longer
23 than that, I will ask you to wrap things up.

24 Please try not to repeat

1 things that others have said. If one of the
2 speakers has already made a point, please
3 feel free to say, I agree with my neighbor
4 Mr. Smith on that particular issue.

5 Specific instructions about
6 speaking, coming up to the lecturn and
7 speaking into the microphone: Please speak
8 as clearly as possible and make sure that
9 your mouth is close enough to the microphone
10 so that it's picked up and projected into the
11 system. Please remember that the
12 stenographer is taking down every word, so
13 speak slowly enough that she can follow and
14 that everyone can understand what you're
15 saying. Mr. Iacopino likes to say "We're
16 trying to make a record, not break one" when
17 we do this. If you're reading something and
18 you have a piece of paper from which you're
19 reading, please give a copy to Ms. Monroe
20 when you're done, and that will become part
21 of the record.

22 We have projected on the
23 screens the order in which people will speak.
24 I'll read the names as well. But please try

1 to be ready when it's your turn so that we
2 don't lose time in the transition from one
3 person to another. You'll see next to you
4 and projected around various places a screen
5 with a countdown clock that'll show you where
6 you are in relation to the minutes. It'll
7 start at three minutes and then disappear and
8 reappear when there's two minutes left and
9 then disappear and reappear when there's one
10 minute left and then count down for you.
11 When you get to zero, it'll start counting
12 up. We're just trying to give you a sense of
13 where you are in terms of time so that nobody
14 has to wave at you or speak to you in this
15 regard.

16 I think that is all of the
17 preliminaries that I need to deal with. Mr.
18 Iacopino, did I miss anything?

19 MR. IACOPINO: No.

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
21 So the speaker that we have lined up first was
22 not able to be here, so we'll start with No. 2,
23 Tom Mullen from Campton, to be followed by
24 Barbara Mullen, then Kelly Wieser.

1 MR. MULLEN: Thank you, Mr.
2 Chairman, Members of the Site Evaluation
3 Committee. Thank you for being here today.
4 Mr. Iacopino's doing his good job as always.

5 MR. IACOPINO: Thank you.

6 MR. MULLEN: And especially Ms.
7 Monroe, who keeps everybody in order, I
8 believe.

9 I'm going to partially read
10 and partially be extemporaneous. And if the
11 Chair would indulge me, my wife Barbara is
12 not feeling well, and she would like to cede
13 her time to me. I don't need to take all of
14 her time. I've learned a long time ago not
15 to take all of her time. So is that
16 acceptable to you, Mr. Chairman?

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Understand-
18 ing that your wife is not feeling well, yes,
19 you may do it that way.

20 MR. MULLEN: Thank you, sir.
21 Appreciate that.

22 So, Members of the Site
23 Evaluation Committee, in October 2010, which
24 was a little over seven years ago, I was

1 working on additional development plans for
2 my golf course project in Campton and
3 Thornton, called Owl's Nest, when an engineer
4 for what was known then as PSNH, who I had
5 contacted to discuss burial of the existing
6 line that ran through Owl's Nest, told me
7 that I had "a lot bigger problems than the
8 existing line," is what he said. He said,
9 "Look up Northern Pass." Little did I know
10 that my family and my life were about to
11 change radically in a rather rude and violent
12 manner.

13 By late 2010, my firm, Owl
14 Street Associates, had built a stunning
15 community of homes and condominiums around a
16 highly regarded golf course with spectacular
17 views of the White Mountains in almost every
18 direction. Our clubhouse enjoyed views to
19 the west for sunsets, views to the east
20 towards Waterville Valley. Even though the
21 general real estate market in the area was
22 trending downward at that time, Owl's Nest
23 had continued to be strong in sales and in
24 pricing. Our marketing focused on second

1 home and vacation home buyers, and those
2 markets were still fairly brisk. But this
3 state of affairs for us was about to change,
4 and not in a particularly positive manner.

5 What I learned in October of
6 2010 was that Northern Pass and PSNH were
7 planning on installing massively tall, steel
8 towers and thick, dangling power cables right
9 through the middle of our development at
10 Owl's Nest over a right-of-way that was
11 originally conveyed to Public Service Company
12 of New Hampshire for much shorter wooden
13 poles, 38 feet tall, to deliver power from
14 the south to the north to power up North
15 Country that did not have reliable power at
16 the time.

17 From that day in October of
18 2010 until roughly four years later, in
19 November of 2014, when Owl's Nest was
20 foreclosed upon by our lender, my staff, my
21 family and I poured our life's savings into
22 trying to stay alive financially and
23 emotionally while we simultaneously fought
24 the Northern Pass Project with every ounce of

1 strength and resources we had available in an
2 effort to defeat this ill-conceived project,
3 a project that has been trying to mislead you
4 all into thinking that the Northern Pass is
5 somehow good for the Granite State. During
6 the four-year period that Owl's Nest was
7 under siege from Northern Pass, we were
8 unable to interest anyone in purchasing
9 property at our complex. My firm still had
10 mortgage payments. We had taxes to pay. We
11 had staff payrolls to meet. We lowered our
12 land and condo prices dramatically, but still
13 no one would buy. We tried to find partners,
14 but the shadow of the Northern Pass hung
15 heavily over our golf course and no one was
16 willing to step up to the plate. So much for
17 the Northern Pass's claim that its towers and
18 cables wouldn't dampen values of abutting
19 properties. In the case of Owl's Nest, our
20 values weren't just damaged, there was no
21 value left to our properties. We couldn't
22 sell our properties to anyone, at any price.
23 Our resources were quickly consumed, to the
24 point that corporately and personally we were

1 all in debt beyond what we could ever have
2 imagined. Our bank lender was merciful.
3 They gave us time, more than four years, to
4 try to find a way out of the fix we found
5 ourselves in. But finally it couldn't hold
6 on any longer, and ownership of what had once
7 been my proudest professional achievement was
8 terminated on the worst day of my
9 professional and personal life. The weight
10 of failure hung heavily over my life
11 post-foreclosure. Not only was I facing
12 corporate bankruptcy, but personally, all of
13 my and my family's assets were depleted. How
14 to survive going forward at the age of 70
15 with no liquid assets was more than a downer.
16 The only thing that kept me from taking
17 drastic steps, including contemplating ending
18 my own life, was the enduring love and
19 affection of my wife Barbara and my family.

20 One of my daughters is here
21 today. Little did I know there was even more
22 to come. Six months after we had lost our
23 Owl's Nest and gained an \$8 million personal
24 deficit to our lender, Northern Pass suddenly

1 changed its mind about routing his project
2 through Owl's Nest, and they announced that
3 instead it would put the Project underground
4 elsewhere through Campton and Thornton along
5 Route 3. The irony of this announcement was
6 crushing, but it also awakened me to the
7 realization that I had to go to work to help
8 others who were being hung to dry by this
9 project that had proven it cared about no one
10 other than its own bottom line. This is why
11 I'm here today.

12 You members of the Site
13 Evaluation Committee are in a position to end
14 this tyranny over the people that live along,
15 near or within this right-of-way and within
16 site of this 192-mile-long line of terror. I
17 believe the facts that you need to rely upon
18 to determine this project is not worthy of
19 approval have been placed before you. If
20 Eversource is to be believed, each home in
21 New Hampshire will probably save \$1.50 per
22 month on our residential power bills. With
23 an average of 3.8 residents in each home to
24 be served by Northern Pass, that's a savings

1 of 39-1/2 cents per person per month, or 1.3
2 cents per person per day. This is a bad deal
3 for New Hampshire.

4 As SEC members, you have the
5 ability, the power, and I believe the
6 obligation to do the right thing for our
7 state and its citizens to positively
8 influence the course of events. Please be
9 sure you listen to your consciences when it
10 comes time for you to vote on this project.

11 Thank you for your time and
12 for your attention.

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up we
14 have Kelly Wieser, to be followed by Thomas
15 Moulis and Edward Jeffrey.

16 MS. WIESER: Good morning. I'm
17 Kelly Wieser. I'm from Campton, New Hampshire.
18 Happens all the time.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And I
20 should have known that because you and I have
21 actually spoken on the phone, but many years
22 ago, and I should have known that.

23 MS. WIESER: Yes. No problem.

24 Born and raised in Campton,

1 New Hampshire. Tom is my father. So you
2 know our story.

3 MR. MULLEN: And Barbara's your
4 mother.

5 MS. WIESER: Well, obviously.

6 So, I think for me, and just
7 to tell you a quick little bit about myself,
8 I left a corporate legal job in Massachusetts
9 when I came back to New Hampshire to live
10 near my parents and help run the family
11 business. And what I had done before that
12 was siting for Verizon Wireless. So I'm no
13 stranger to working on controversial
14 projects. But I'm really proud that every
15 single tower and building and rooftop, at
16 least that I attempted to enter into on
17 behalf of Verizon Wireless, was successful.
18 So I know what it's like to be before people
19 who are in opposition to what you're working
20 on.

21 I think the most important
22 point that I can make today is one I believe
23 I've made before. And I don't want to beat
24 it to death, but the way this project was

1 planned and presented and has been managed
2 has been so poor, it's why we're still here
3 almost seven years after it was originally
4 presented to us.

5 I first testified at the state
6 house up the street over six years ago. And
7 I predicted what would happen to Owl's Nest,
8 and it did. After that, I started recording
9 myself at some of the lowest points during
10 our Northern Pass story. And the best thing
11 I can do, if you'd allow me to, is share with
12 you one of those recordings I made of own my
13 voice by myself with no one else present.
14 And it may be a little bit difficult to
15 listen to, but I feel it's really important
16 for people to understand what it's like to be
17 at the mercy of a project that is presented
18 and handled like this. Northern Pass had
19 plenty of opportunity to work with my family,
20 and they never took advantage of any of those
21 opportunities, in my perspective. So here's
22 what I have to share.

23 (Voice recording played. Written
24 transcript to be provided by Ms. Wieser

1 post-meeting.)

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Wieser,
3 is it possible to get a transcript of that?

4 MS. WIESER: Yes, I'll be happy
5 to provide it to you.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thank you.

7 MS. WIESER: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up we
9 have Thomas Moulis, to be followed by Edward
10 Jeffrey and Ken Mosedale.

11 MR. MOULIS: Good morning. My
12 name is Thomas Moulis. I live in Ashland, New
13 Hampshire. I want to thank the Site Evaluation
14 Committee for giving me this opportunity to
15 speak today.

16 I have here an article from
17 The New Hampshire Union Leader, came in last
18 week, stating that an economist for the
19 Northern Pass Project predicts the annual
20 savings for an Eversource customer using 300
21 kilowatts of power per month would save \$18 a
22 year between the years 2020 and 2030. That
23 means for 10 years a residential customer
24 would save a \$180. Really? \$180 for 10

1 years? Is that the value that we are willing
2 to sacrifice the natural beauty of New
3 Hampshire for?

4 For generations our state has
5 been blessed with unparalleled scenery from
6 the Seacoast to the Lakes Region the grandeur
7 of the White Mountains to the majesty of the
8 Great North Woods. We have it all. Do all
9 of us here remember what the motto on our
10 license plate used to say in the 1950s before
11 it became "Live Free Or Die"? It was
12 "Scenic." What better advertising could we
13 get for our tourism when residents from other
14 states saw our plates. They got into their
15 cars and came to the state of New Hampshire,
16 and they came by the millions each year,
17 spent millions of dollars helping us to
18 become a prosperous state. And we want to
19 jeopardize this for \$18 a year?

20 When the textile factories
21 left New Hampshire in the early '60s for
22 cheaper labor, what was still bringing
23 revenue to our state? Tourism. When the
24 shoe factories moved their manufacturing

1 overseas, it was New Hampshire's natural
2 beauty that was still coming through for us.
3 When the paper mills in the North Country
4 were forced to close because of foreign
5 competition, it's the beauty of that area
6 that's been faithfully supporting its
7 economy. And we're going to give that all up
8 to have a permanent scar run through the
9 center of our state so we can save \$180 over
10 the next 10 years? Talk about a lousy deal.

11 If Eversource wants its
12 project completed so badly, then bury the
13 entire thing. But they say it would be too
14 expensive. Perhaps what they should say is
15 they want to give their shareholders more of
16 a dividend than the paltry \$18 that we're
17 going to get. Remember, our license plates
18 didn't say the best textiles, the best shoes
19 or the best paper towels. All those
20 companies left us long ago for greater
21 profits because it's always about the dollar.
22 Our license plates said "Scenic" because we
23 meant it. The beauty of this state has never
24 failed us, and we should never allow

1 ourselves to give up on something that God
2 has blessed us with and can never be
3 replaced, for some things are priceless.

4 Just as a footnote, I was
5 reading the paper this morning, Union Leader,
6 and in it it says that Eversource has covered
7 all its bases and its financial PAC has
8 donated money to every state senator. In
9 fact, it has given \$5,000 to the Friends of
10 Chris Sununu. How convenient, what timing,
11 with a decision about to be made shortly.
12 They're just doing what they think is
13 possible. Again, it's always about the
14 dollar.

15 When you do make your
16 decision, please consider what the state of
17 New Hampshire's beauty has given us over
18 decades and what it will continue to give us
19 if we just think carefully before we do
20 something rash. Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next is
22 Edward Jeffrey, to be followed by Ken Mosedale
23 and Robin Tyner.

24 MR. JEFFREY: Good morning, Mr.

1 Chairman, Committee Members. Edward W.
2 Jeffrey, President and Chief Operating Officer
3 of the New Hampshire Central Railroad. We have
4 been in business for 25 years operating
5 railroads in northern New Hampshire,
6 state-owned lines for the past 24 years. We
7 support this project.

8 The Northern Pass will pay an
9 estimated \$35 to \$40 million in New Hampshire
10 property taxes, approximately \$21 to
11 \$26 million in municipal and local property
12 taxes; in Coos County, \$4 million to \$3
13 million in municipal and local taxes, and
14 approximately \$1.6 million to Coos in county
15 taxes, and \$10 million in state utility
16 property taxes.

17 Over the past 10 years, our
18 tax base in the North Country is shrinking
19 every year, more and more. People are forced
20 to put their property -- conservation
21 easements on the property, sell their
22 property. This will help. It's tough up
23 there. We have -- we still have not yet
24 recovered from the recession, and I don't see

1 it happening too soon. We're blessed with
2 the Balsams coming online and the tourism,
3 the four-wheeling. But this will help the
4 state and help the county and help the
5 residents.

6 I know a lot of folks don't
7 like the towers. That's, you know, one of
8 those things, I guess, you know, next to
9 burying it. But I understand it costs too
10 much money to bury it. And so thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is
12 Ken Mosedale, to be followed by Robin Tyner and
13 Hannah Schmitt.

14 MR. MOSEDALE: Good morning. My
15 name is Ken Mosedale. I live in Franconia, and
16 I have been in the real estate business for
17 about 40 years. I am the owner of 30 acres of
18 land on Route 116 in Franconia. It's about a
19 half-mile from the center of town. This land
20 has over 2,000 feet of frontage on Route 116.
21 It is also right where Northern Pass proposes
22 to put this underground conduit. The lots on
23 this land have been improved. The driveways
24 have been installed. Underground conduits have

1 been put in for utilities. House sites have
2 been dedicated and picked out. And right now
3 these lots are unmarketable. They cannot be
4 offered to the marketplace because of the
5 uncertainties of what's going to happen with
6 this underground utility work. And there's a
7 good possibility that if this utility work
8 proceeds, at least one of the lots will have
9 its value decreased appreciably because of the
10 wreck of the view that it's going to create.
11 So, instead of having this lot and house site
12 look at the mountains, this underground work
13 will probably result in cutting the buffer of
14 trees along 116, and the house site will all of
15 a sudden be looking at lots of traffic and have
16 lots of noise. I'm not alone in this
17 situation. There's hundreds of people that
18 have property along 116, 112, Route 3 that are
19 going to be affected by this underground work.
20 It is really a nightmare. There is another way
21 to deal with this. And I have a minute, so...

22 The Environmental Impact

23 Statement came out in May of 2014. And its
24 recommendation, one of its recommendations

1 was that the route that had the least
2 environmental impact and would create the
3 most jobs was Option 4A, which basically
4 meant taking this underground power and
5 putting it all the way down the interstate.
6 So I want to show you... thank you.

7 The way this proposal is set
8 up now is that this underground power is
9 going to go underground in Bethlehem at a
10 place called Baker Brook. And Baker Brook is
11 right up here. And it's going to go
12 underground on Route 302 for about a half a
13 mile, and then it's going to hit Route 18 and
14 go left under Route 18 by Profile School into
15 the center of Franconia, and in Franconia
16 it's going to take a right and go down Route
17 116. So, right here, right at the beginning
18 of this undergrounding, if they went another
19 2- or 300 yards and bored underneath the
20 northbound of I-93, they would be on a median
21 strip between the two lanes of I-93, north
22 and south lanes of I-93. The width of this
23 median strip is 75 feet, and 75 feet is
24 plenty of land area to put this, bury this

1 conduit.

2 Heading south from this point,
3 you hit Franconia, Exit 38, at about 5 miles.
4 The median strip narrows to 30 feet at that
5 point. Go down 9 miles, and you hit -- this
6 is where it gets a little tricky -- you hit
7 Exit 34C of the parkway. Once you're in the
8 parkway, the median strip narrows. So if you
9 go to the left and bear under -- bore under
10 the northbound lane of I-93 and went
11 underground from that point for about
12 5 miles, you would hit 34A Exit, go to the
13 right and bore underground that north lane
14 again and you will be back on the median
15 strip. The median strip there is over a
16 100 feet wide. From there to Plymouth,
17 49 miles, it's clear sailing.

18 So my hope is that you end
19 this nightmare for us. But if it's going to
20 continue, at least, at least have Eversource
21 look at this option. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up we
23 have Robin Tyner, to be followed by Hannah
24 Schmitt and Aaron Joos. No Tyner?

1 [No verbal response]

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: How about
3 Hannah Schmitt?

4 MS. SCHMITT: Good morning. My
5 name is Hannah Schmitt. I'm a resident of New
6 Haven, Connecticut. I'm here because I'm a
7 rising senior at Yale University, which is
8 currently facilitating Northern Pass by leasing
9 24 miles of land held by Bayroot, LLC, which is
10 in turn 98.8 percent owned by Yale.

11 Yale is a school that claims
12 that it makes the world better. It's
13 representatives emphasize that it achieves
14 this by teaching certain values to its
15 students: Dialogue, fairness,
16 responsibility, stuff like that. Every Earth
17 Day we get an e-mail that encourages us to
18 value sustainability and describes the
19 University's top-notch researchers and green
20 facilities. Yale also encourages us to be
21 engaged, intentional members of our
22 communities -- that is, to talk to the people
23 we live and work with and take them seriously
24 so that we can create solutions together.

1 These are all good values. I like the idea
2 of the world it can create. And I'd be proud
3 to attend a school that really was a part of
4 creating it. Yet, if Yale supports these
5 values, how can it justify making so much
6 money by facilitating a project that is
7 opposed by nearly every city it impacts, all
8 while trying to keep its involvement a
9 secret?

10 On May 2nd and 3rd, I traveled
11 to Coos County with a group from Yale and the
12 broader New Haven community. I've lived in
13 small cities like New Haven my whole life,
14 and one of the more striking things about
15 driving into New Hampshire was the huge
16 expanses of forest. Another remarkable
17 aspect of Northern New Hampshire is the
18 communities and individuals who have lived
19 and worked in this region for generations,
20 many of whose members we met. These
21 community members have been fighting to
22 preserve their culture and environment
23 against the potential destruction of Northern
24 Pass for the past seven years. We have

1 learned that while Northern Pass imposes many
2 costs on the North Country and New Hampshire,
3 the benefits are actually minimal. Northern
4 Pass will permanently scar what is currently
5 an undisrupted patchwork of farmland and
6 forests.

7 On our trip, our host, John
8 Harrigan, described Northern Pass as
9 "treating the North Country as a doormat."
10 Many have argued that it will not
11 significantly lower energy prices and it will
12 create jobs that are primarily temporary;
13 yet, the North Country will pay a high price
14 for this transmission line. Speaking of Coos
15 County, Harrigan observed, "This place is now
16 someplace, but after Northern Pass, it will
17 be just any place."

18 Many community members
19 testifying today and last week have described
20 how Northern Pass will harm the New Hampshire
21 environment and their communities. Yale can
22 stop Northern Pass by refusing to allow the
23 transmission line to cross its property. But
24 so far Yale has abdicated its responsibility

1 by making the absurd claim that it does not
2 control the actions of a company that is
3 98.8 percent owned by Yale. That's not
4 acceptable. Yale can't teach anyone to be a
5 responsible member of their community until
6 it acts like a responsible member of its own
7 communities.

8 I urge Yale to engage Coos
9 County residents directly and stop this
10 transmission line from crossing its property.
11 I also urge the SEC to listen to the
12 overwhelming opposition to this project and
13 deny its permit. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Aaron Joos,
15 followed by Jeff Nickless and J.J. Smith.

16 I'm told no Joos. Is that
17 right? Jeff Nickless.

18 MR. NICKLESS: Good morning. My
19 name is Jeff Nickless. I was born and raised
20 in New Hampshire, and I currently reside in
21 Middleton. I'm an apprentice lineman with
22 Local Union 104. I would love to continue to
23 work in New Hampshire instead of having to go
24 to other states and work and have my money be

1 taxed that I'm making and not get it back in
2 return.

3 Other than that, I'd like to
4 just touch briefly on some environmental
5 issues that may be of concern with some
6 people. With projects of this size, or any
7 size for that matter, these things are
8 planned out. I've been only projects where
9 we've been shut down due to specific turtle
10 species, breeding seasons, snake, specific
11 flowers that grow in these areas. They're
12 roped off. Sometimes we do sweeps, where a
13 person will walk ahead of equipment and make
14 sure there's nothing in the way. If there
15 is, we stop and wait for these animals to
16 move along, or you try to shoo them out of
17 the way. As with erosion issues, things of
18 that nature, these areas are typical and will
19 be fixed. They're seeded and mulched to
20 prevent erosion. Sometimes this happens as
21 certain sections of the job are completed.
22 Most of the time we've had to do it before
23 you go home at the end of the day to prevent
24 anything from happening overnight.

1 So, in short, you know,
2 environmental issues aren't overlooked. So I
3 don't want to people to think that companies
4 are going to go in and tear up the
5 countryside and just leave it with what
6 you're going to see at the end. That's not
7 the case. There's a lot more planning
8 involved. So, any issues that people have
9 with that, you know, it is taken care of and
10 those things are thought of in the long run,
11 too. We don't want to leave our state
12 looking terrible at the end, either. So,
13 thank you for your time today.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: J.J. Smith,
15 to be followed by Carlton Cronin and Angel
16 King.

17 I will also note we're going
18 to take a break sometime after 10:00, largely
19 so the court reporter can get a break and her
20 machine doesn't spontaneously combust.

21 DR. SMITH: Good morning. Thank
22 you very much for taking my testimony.

23 I live in Pembroke. But, in
24 fact, my opposition is not based on siting of

1 towers that will go through parts of
2 Pembroke. I don't live or travel much in
3 that area that would be affected. I'm also
4 not in favor of everything coming down to
5 just the "not in my back yard" reason for not
6 doing things --

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Wait, wait
8 just one second. Can you move the microphone?

9 DR. SMITH: Sure.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thank you.

11 DR. SMITH: So, broader
12 perspectives on benefits versus negative
13 impacts need to be the rule when it comes to
14 what is best for most of the people most of the
15 time, which is part of your job. In fact, you
16 might think I would be in favor of Northern
17 Pass. I'm a retired primary-care doctor. I
18 have a public health degree. For the last two
19 and a half years I've served as a volunteer
20 state public health policy lead, mostly working
21 to help legislators understand health
22 implications of proposed legislation. One of
23 the many issues we care about is the increasing
24 threats to health from climate change and the

1 longstanding problems of health consequences
2 from extracting and burning fossil fuels. You
3 think hydropower, well, that's pretty
4 environmentally friendly compared to that.
5 However, I'm not persuaded that those benefits
6 are as great as the proponents portray them for
7 a number of important reasons. And if this
8 huge infrastructure project moves forward, it
9 will supply enough electric power to dampen the
10 prospects for better means of addressing the
11 challenges we face. Managing our electric
12 demand better and the ongoing development of
13 renewables and storage capacity are things that
14 many of us believe can meet all of the eventual
15 need after New Hampshire stops generating and
16 exporting surplus power which it currently does
17 with the Seabrook plant.

18 Aside from that, you can't
19 discount the negatives involved. First, more
20 use of electricity imported from Quebec will
21 lead to continued building of new dams that
22 will permanently destroy habitat, including
23 carbon-sequestering vegetation, and will lead
24 to short-term increases in methane that are

1 approximately equal to four years of the same
2 electricity from a combined-cycle natural gas
3 plant. Checkcheck.

4 Second, the massive amounts of
5 concrete and steel for the dams and for the
6 many hundreds of miles of towers have an
7 embedded carbon cost that cannot be ignored.
8 Sure, there are embedded costs for solar PV
9 and wind power as well, but neither requires
10 such large and lengthy transmission lines to
11 be built. Comparisons of environmental
12 impact need to be made before anyone accepts
13 the idea that this is a wonderful, clean
14 power source.

15 In terms of the jobs that the
16 Project could create, do not forget the solar
17 and wind energy and energy storage jobs that
18 are coming, because that's becoming a real
19 possibility. Those are major alternatives
20 that will also create many highly skilled,
21 well-paid jobs.

22 And lastly, the way
23 Hydro-Quebec and the utilities would use this
24 resource is highly damaging to the riparian

1 environment below the dams. This is a known
2 consequence of Hydro-Quebec's current
3 practice of using them as if they were
4 peaking power plants. The daily fluctuations
5 in water flow destroy the spawning grounds of
6 salmon. This already creates huge problems
7 for the indigenous people there. More dams
8 on more rivers in the region will compound
9 the issue for the Pessamit Innu, the major
10 indigenous group there. Perhaps the people
11 of New England do not think that this ignored
12 injustice of the Quebec government, because
13 they own Hydro-Quebec, to its native people
14 should count for anything. Even if that
15 attitude were not immoral, we should care
16 because the assertion of indigenous rights
17 might in the future lead to a situation where
18 Hydro-Quebec could no longer continue this
19 practice. If we in New England have invested
20 in this rather than better solutions, where
21 will that leave us? Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is
23 Carlton Cronin, to be followed by Angel King
24 and Anastasia Park.

1 No Cronin? Angel King? No.
2 Anastasia Park? Feeling optimistic about
3 that one.

4 MS. PARK: Good morning, Mr.
5 Chairman, Site Committee. Thank you for
6 hearing me speak today.

7 My name is Anastasia Park. I
8 currently reside in Lee, New Hampshire.

9 Yeah, don't feel bad about the
10 mispronunciation. No one ever gets it right.

11 But I am in favor of the
12 Northern Pass. I am an iron worker by trade.
13 I'm a journeyman, actually. Just turned out
14 probably three weeks ago. So one thing I
15 realized I'm very tired of doing is
16 constantly traveling to Massachusetts to do
17 my work. I think in the four years I've been
18 working as an iron worker, I've had two jobs
19 in this beautiful state. And it kills me
20 every time. They don't last long. That's
21 kind of the point of construction; they're
22 temporary. So, yes, this will create
23 temporary jobs, but it will also create
24 permanent ones by bringing businesses to New

1 Hampshire, because what no one is mentioning
2 is that businesses will save the money on the
3 electric. Yes, residential won't save much
4 over time, but we're losing businesses to the
5 high cost of electricity in the state. No
6 one wants to build here because they can't
7 afford to stay here. By allowing Northern
8 Pass to continue, we might find ourselves
9 building many more buildings and many more
10 projects in this state. The construction
11 jobs really are the backbone of this economy.
12 And when we build it, we can spend our money
13 back in here. Sorry. Lost my place.

14 Yes, this is hydropower. So
15 obviously fossil fuel use is a benefit that
16 we could all live without. Everyone, I would
17 think, would support climate change and
18 realizing that it's better for everyone. The
19 transmission lines are frustrating and
20 annoying, but everyone said the same thing
21 about Texas and their wind turbines. And
22 eyesores only are eyesores for so long. You
23 suddenly become enthralled when you drive --
24 like I just drove through Texas, and it was

1 beautiful to me to see all those wind
2 turbines. So, yes, it might be annoying for
3 a little bit.

4 But I guess to wrap up, you
5 are losing your young, highly educated and
6 skilled work force. I'm potentially having
7 to look into moving to Massachusetts. I
8 really don't want to. I love it here, but I
9 can't afford to be so far from work. I would
10 love to build more places here. And the
11 younger generation that's come up is going to
12 face the same things I am. You do have a lot
13 skilled labor who would like to be here. So
14 I would just ask that you take into
15 consideration the future that we have, not
16 just the past. Everyone keeps talking about
17 the past. We're losing our future as well.
18 Thank you so much.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Harriet
20 Cady, to be followed by Janice Kaufman and
21 Kenneth Rhodes.

22 No Harriet Cady? Janice
23 Kaufman. While Ms. Kaufman is coming up, I
24 think I'll note that, given that we have a

1 number of people who aren't here, if there
2 are people who did not pre-register and came
3 as walk-ins and want to have the opportunity
4 to speak, it looks like we're going to have
5 time for that.

6 You may proceed.

7 MS. KAUFMAN: According to a New
8 Hampshire state document, projects such as
9 Northern Pass should not interfere with the
10 normal development of the affected community.

11 In 1981, I, my husband and our
12 eight-year-old son moved from New York City
13 to Stewartstown. We have lived in a farming
14 community, which over the past seven years
15 has become distorted in a depressing way by
16 Northern Pass. And unless we get help from
17 the Site Evaluation Committee, it will only
18 get worse. Where we had neighbors with
19 families and children, now we have Northern
20 Pass, which owns Holden Hill and Paul Hill,
21 hundreds of acres that share a boundary with
22 our property. We have met with Northern
23 Pass, and they said, essentially, not to
24 worry.

1 We, our neighbor and our
2 horses depend on spring water that is
3 gravity-fed along a mile-long buried line
4 from Holden Hill, where we own the water but
5 not the land; that's owned by Northern Pass.
6 And we know that we are threatened by this
7 project. Instead of the future normal
8 development of this area with families,
9 Northern Pass is creating a dead zone with
10 barbed wire fences surrounding a transition
11 area below our spring and above our
12 neighbor's spring, threatening both. The
13 cabins now deserted next to hay fields are in
14 that dead zone with HVDC lines passing
15 overhead. Northern Pass proposes to bury the
16 line under our one dirt road, the year-round
17 road leading to our and our neighbor's homes.

18 When an ambulance had to come
19 to our house one snowy early morning,
20 strangers showed up, having heard on their
21 scanners, and plowed us out and accompanied
22 us down Bear Rock Road. It's that kind of
23 neighborhood.

24 The proposed construction

1 along that road will interfere with my
2 husband going to work, myself going about my
3 chores, our neighbor who transports milk
4 every other day, as well as emergency
5 vehicles, all for the purpose of transporting
6 electricity along a zigzagging combination of
7 overhead and underground wires along an
8 illogical, intrusive route, helping this
9 company improve its bottom line.

10 What does it mean, not to
11 interfere with the normal development of a
12 community when that community is so small and
13 comes up against the behemoth of Hydro-Quebec
14 and Northern Pass? It means that our elected
15 officials must represent our interests and
16 protect us. What I say is this: The past
17 seven years have not been easy because of
18 this issue, but I would be willing to spend
19 the next seven years helping figure out the
20 right way rather than this bizarre plan.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is
22 Kenneth Rhodes.

23 Off the record.

24 (Discussion off the record)

1 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay.
2 We're going to skip over Mr. Doughty, who's
3 next on the list. Following Mr. Rhodes will be
4 Glenn Della-Monica.

5 Mr. Rhodes.

6 MR. RHODES: Thank you, Mr.
7 Chairman. My name is Kenneth Rhodes. I'm a
8 31-year resident of Auburn, New Hampshire,
9 31-year member of CLD Consulting Engineers,
10 Incorporated, currently an owner and senior
11 vice-president. I've been a registered
12 professional engineer for 34 years, 26 years in
13 the state of New Hampshire. Lucy and I moved
14 to New Hampshire after working construction at
15 the Hope Creek Generating Station in New Jersey
16 for Bechtel Power Corporation.

17 I wholeheartedly support the
18 entire concept of Northern Pass Project and
19 have from when it was first announced. New
20 England is a region -- New England as a
21 region has unique and wonderful qualities
22 that make it a place that our family,
23 particularly our children for their entire
24 lives have called home, even as they may

1 pursue their life adventures geographically
2 elsewhere. But part of this geography also
3 creates logistic challenges and therefore a
4 geographic disadvantage. Essentially, east
5 of the New York state line the region is a
6 national geographic peninsula bordered on the
7 south by seas and on the north and east by
8 the nation of Canada. The logistics
9 disadvantage for that resource is that for
10 resources required for our economy, we
11 essentially import what we need and export
12 our expertise and the products of our citizen
13 innovation. The region has limited
14 capability of being self-sustaining. Energy
15 is the key resource for sustaining economic
16 success. The region needs as much as it can
17 get, as readily as it can get it, and
18 available in the market as at low a
19 production cost as can be achieved. The Law
20 of Supply and Demand is one of the
21 irresistible forces of the universe. Only
22 gravity is more persistent. Our thirst for
23 electrons is only going to grow, and either
24 supply keeps up or costs go up. Unavoidable.

1 In 1967, one-half century ago,
2 I'm a sixth-grade student in Harrisburg,
3 Pennsylvania. In social studies, we learned
4 all about the vast extents of the Canadian
5 Hudson Bay "shield" and the extent of
6 Canadian hydropower. Seems in 2017 our good
7 friends to the north still have plenty of
8 electrons already queued up and ready to use
9 that they'll never get to. As a peninsula
10 region, the opportunity to tap into these
11 resources within distances that other regions
12 of the country would recognize as next door
13 is uniquely offered to address burgeoning
14 supply need.

15 The October surprise: Nearly
16 a foot of wet snow that turned Halloween
17 weekend 2011 white. That Sunday morning, I
18 actually drove in from Auburn to Manchester.
19 WGIR-AM was broadcasting outages. There were
20 over 300,000 customers out not due to failure
21 of supply or within vegetation-free
22 transmission corridors. The biggest question
23 on the radio was, "Call in if you know where
24 there's an open Dunkin' Donuts." The

1 afternoon hit 60 degrees. The weather for
2 the balance of the week was relatively mild.
3 But New Hampshire residents were surprisingly
4 unsettled having no electricity for a couple
5 of days. There was no overt crisis. But the
6 lights off -- but lights out alone has become
7 the definition of "crisis." Make no mistake
8 and don't take eyes off the target.

9 Individuals live their lives as they know it
10 underpinned by nearly a hundred percent
11 reliable, at the lowest achievable cost of
12 electricity and are generally lost when
13 that's not the case.

14 Hurricane Sandy tore up the
15 New York metropolitan area. Some remnants of
16 that event still exist. What do I recall of
17 that event? News stories that one of the
18 biggest challenges area residents had was,
19 wait for it, finding charging stations for
20 their cell phones, the entire metro region in
21 complete distress begging to get their
22 electrons turned back on ASAP.

23 Final overarching history
24 reference. In the United States, economic

1 development of goods and services in the 18th
2 Century was defined by seafaring
3 transportation; 19th Century, by horse-drawn
4 vehicles; after the steam engine, railroads;
5 20th Century by surface streets and highways.
6 The 21st Century economy will be defined by
7 transport of electrons and bits and bytes.
8 The trend is irreversible, and those that
9 don't act locally to keep supply readily at
10 hand to fuel this reality will fall behind
11 globally.

12 New Hampshire is acting late
13 on this project. It should be nearly done
14 and online to bolster the region's energy
15 supply portfolio. Undue wandering through
16 the weeds of "what ifs" and "couldn't we's"
17 has only added to cost and uncertainty, not
18 the needed outcome. Unproductive costs and
19 uncertainty are the true bandits of what will
20 rob this region, and New Hampshire in
21 particular, of future robust economic
22 opportunities. The project when designed and
23 approved to be as simple as it can be to get
24 electrons into our supply chain must be done

1 and done quickly. And if the SEC has
2 anything to say about it, it will be best
3 done, built in New Hampshire, by New
4 Hampshire. That's engraved on a state-shaped
5 piece of granite at the entrance to the
6 River's Edge Urgent Care Center in
7 Manchester, as over 90 percent of all wages
8 paid to design and construct that facility
9 were by checks written to people with Granite
10 State addresses.

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Rhodes,
12 please wrap things up.

13 MR. RHODES: Last sentence.
14 Winston Churchill opined regarding Americans:
15 "You can always count on Americans to do the
16 right thing, after they've tried everything
17 else."

18 I encourage the SEC Committee
19 to take those words to heart. We've tried
20 and looked at everything else. Now let's do
21 the right thing and get this underway. Thank
22 you.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is
24 Glenn Della-Monica, to be followed by Linda

1 McDermott and Steven Binette.

2 No Della-Monica. How about
3 Linda McDermott?

4 Yeah, I'll note that we're
5 actually into the 10:00 grouping, so it's
6 possible that some of those people will come.

7 MS. McDERMOTT: I have a photo
8 that I'd like to put in the --

9 MS. MONROE: I can do it for
10 you.

11 MS. McDERMOTT: Thank you.

12 Hi, I'm Linda McDermott from
13 Franconia, New Hampshire. Before I start,
14 I'd like to say that we --

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: We can't
16 hear you.

17 MS. McDERMOTT: Before I start,
18 I just want to say we almost purchased a
19 vacation and future retirement home at Owl's
20 Nest. And we have friends there, and we
21 decided not to because of the Northern Pass.
22 And now we're in Franconia. So there's that.

23 Okay. On the picture it
24 says -- there's a stone -- here I go -- that

1 says, "'Tis A Wee Bit O Heaven." These words
2 engraved on a boulder at the home we
3 purchased in Franklin confirmed my belief
4 from the time we spent our honeymoon there 24
5 years ago that this is indeed a very special
6 place. Now Northern Pass wants to spoil this
7 heavenly place and many other places I love,
8 like Kilburn Crags in Littleton for the view
9 of the Presidential Range, Rocks Estate and
10 Bethlehem, and Grand Mountain View Resort in
11 Whitefield for their views, just to name a
12 few. A long drive to Dixville this past fall
13 ended in disappointment when I saw a windmill
14 farm on the Notch. And what's next? The
15 Northern Pass.

16 I'm confounded that Franconia
17 is being considered as a Northern Pass route.
18 The blasting, digging and widening of roads
19 in Franconia would be a painful disruption to
20 the historic homes, businesses, schools,
21 bucolic farms that literally sit on the edges
22 of Main Street and Easton Road. And being
23 close enough to the route, the well at our
24 home could be affected from blasting. We

1 come up here often to escape the busy life in
2 Rhode Island.

3 Two construction seasons would
4 create a miserable experience for us and our
5 family, and clearly for the full-time
6 residents. The many outdoor recreational
7 activities we enjoy right on the route would
8 be placed on hold: Swimming in the river,
9 fishing, bike riding, horseback riding,
10 tennis, hiking Kinsman and Coppermine Trails,
11 kayaking, shopping at the local farm stands
12 and attending events on the Dow. From open
13 windows, will we breathe clean or dirty air?
14 Will we wake to sounds of songbirds or
15 blasting, digging, heavy construction
16 equipment and helicopters? I read on the web
17 site, a helicopter pad could be built in the
18 quiet town nearby of Easton. Really?

19 With creativity, Littleton and
20 Bethlehem are enjoying a revival through art,
21 culture, heritage, music, farmers markets and
22 craft beer, and without the Northern Pass.
23 Our towns -- other towns can do the same,
24 especially if they're lucky enough to use our

1 greatest resource, the forest, to attract
2 visitors.

3 Do we want to risk having an
4 unsightly, unwarranted transmission line in
5 the North Country? If the North Country
6 character is changed for the worse, I won't
7 retire here. Would others? That's a big
8 chunk of money in this area that this area
9 cannot afford to lose.

10 Please don't let Northern Pass
11 decimate New Hampshire to leave us with
12 unfulfilled mitigation promises. The
13 Northern Pass name sounds like a harmless
14 trail, but it would be 192 miles of misery.
15 It's time to close this trail. Winter is
16 coming, and I hope it's the longest winter
17 ever. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Steven
19 Binette, to be followed by Claude Levesque.
20 And after Levesque we'll take a break.

21 MR. BINETTE: Good morning.
22 I'm Steven Binette. I'm from Berlin, New
23 Hampshire. Just to let you know about
24 Berlin, New Hampshire, we used to have a

1 population of about 30,000 people. Now we've
2 declined down to about 10,000, and that's
3 including with the state and federal prison.

4 I am the President and
5 co-owner of Ray's Electric and a general
6 contractor from Berlin. Berlin, New
7 Hampshire. Our business has been
8 family-operated for over 60 years, and we are
9 the second generation. Over the last decade
10 we have seen a large decline in commercial
11 and industrial electrical projects. And in
12 order to compensate for the lack of
13 electrical work, we had to expand into
14 general contracting and excavation.

15 Northern Pass, including
16 Eversource New Hampshire's President, Bill
17 Quinlan, has reached out to many of the local
18 contractors to keep us updated on the
19 construction opportunities so that we can be
20 a part of this great project which the North
21 Country desperately needs. Money spent
22 locally during this project will likely stay
23 local and impact communities along the
24 Northern Pass route in a positive way.

1 Last year our company was
2 selected to install LED lighting, street
3 lighting, in the town of Lancaster, which was
4 one of the early projects funded by the
5 Forward NH Fund. Over the next 20 years,
6 this \$20 million investment initiative will
7 benefit our communities with projects
8 associated with community betterment, clean
9 energy innovation, economic development and
10 tourism long after the construction of
11 Northern Pass is completed.

12 I would like to thank
13 Eversource New Hampshire's Bill Quinlan and
14 Paul Ramsey who have been instrumental in
15 helping us stay informed of future work for
16 our company in regards to the Northern Pass
17 Project. Ray's Electric General Contracting,
18 Incorporated has been following the progress
19 of the Northern Pass Project since its
20 interception [sic], and we understand how
21 important Northern Pass is to the future of
22 the local economic improvement and job
23 creation. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Claude

1 Levesque?

2 MR. LEVESQUE: Good morning. My
3 name is Claude Levesque. I been a resident of
4 Deerfield for 14 years, 27 in Candia and about
5 45 years in Rockingham County. I came around
6 in the area working on the first 345s that were
7 built in the late '60s, early '70s, and I've
8 since stayed. I like the area. It has grown.
9 And with my experience in the power line trade,
10 I feel that we need another hydro power that's
11 clean and, you know, hopefully don't get away
12 with a lot of the...(inaudible) from the
13 coal-fired plants and some oil plants.

14 Now, the job will be creating
15 jobs, temporary jobs for two or three years,
16 and then after there'll be permanent jobs in
17 the substations and maintenance. The taxes
18 for the town of Deerfield are going to be --
19 will be a benefit of over \$2 million.

20 Now, we are losing power
21 plants at a fast rate. We lost Maine Yankee,
22 Vermont Yankee. Pilgrim is in the process of
23 decommissioning. And we're also losing
24 fossil fuel power plants that are shutting

1 down because they're too expensive to
2 refurbish. Now, we need this project.

3 As far as tourism, in the '70s
4 there was a big hoopla about the nuke plant
5 in Seabrook being built. It was going to
6 ruin the areas, the beach industry. If you
7 go down there now, it's just, you know, as
8 busy as it was before Seabrook, you know.

9 Now, I wasn't around when this
10 started. But probably late '50s or '60s, I
11 don't know how controversial it was, but when
12 there was a big spot of land that cut from
13 this, from Salem to north of the mountains to
14 build a four-lane highway, I'm sure there was
15 some bad feelings about it. But I think that
16 today people appreciate that if you want to
17 go up north, that you got a nice, easy ride.
18 And you talk about messing up the
19 environment. You got four lanes of asphalt.
20 To me, I think it's even worse than cutting
21 down a right-of-way to put the power lines
22 because, you know, once you got it, then
23 you'll...(inaudible) it refurbishes the air,
24 oxygen, stuff like that. And it helps the

1 wildlife because you don't have the canopy of
2 big tall trees that create a canopy so that
3 there's no vegetation underneath for the
4 wildlife to feed upon.

5 And I think that people have
6 accepted these changes over a period of time,
7 and I'm sure that if this is built, that
8 after a while people will, you know, forget
9 that it's there. So if we had to set -- we
10 have to accept changes in order to make
11 progress. That's it. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
13 We're going to take a 10-minute break. When we
14 come back, I think we're going to start with
15 Donald Doughty and then Harriet Cady and then
16 pick up with the list from there.

17 (Recess taken at 10:10 a.m., and the
18 hearing resumed at 10:24 a.m.)

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So I
20 understand that some decision has been made to
21 reorder things a little bit. We're going to
22 start with Ms. Cady, and then we're going to
23 take Glenn Della-Monica and then Josh Coderre.
24 So, Ms. Cady.

1 MS. CADY: Thank you for having
2 me. And I am from Deerfield, if you don't know
3 that. I'd like to speak to something that's
4 been happening in communities throughout this
5 state.

6 How would the members of this
7 Committee feel knowing that their town's
8 boards had illegally spoken out against
9 Northern Pass coming to their town? I mean
10 by "illegal," our selectmen's hiring with tax
11 dollars and anonymous donations -- since when
12 can a public body take anonymous donations
13 for a political action -- a lawyer who is to
14 keep Northern Pass from being built, but
15 buried at the least; our conservation
16 commission sending out mailings before
17 elections stating "Keep Northern Pass from
18 coming to Deerfield"; then our planning board
19 members, Kate Hartinett and Fred McGarry
20 coming to testify against Northern Pass, as
21 well as having brought AG Mr. Roth to speak
22 to those working in town against Northern
23 Pass and how they might speak. How is this
24 fair to all the taxpayers who support the

1 town's boards and the costs?

2 Then, in March, three warrant
3 articles that were petitioned were changed at
4 the deliberative session. They would have
5 given a clear vote as to what the voters of
6 Deerfield wanted. Instead of being able to
7 vote, "Yes, I want Northern Pass to come to
8 Deerfield," or, "No, I don't," they changed
9 it to say "to investigate Northern Pass."

10 But to this date, there has been no committee
11 set up to investigate. So what are they
12 investigating? And did they really want it?

13 There have been case law
14 decisions in this country stating that tax
15 dollars may not be used to take political
16 action which a number of citizens in the same
17 community might not agree with, such as
18 Bonner Lyons versus the Boston City School
19 District. Judge Garrity ruled that as
20 compelled speech. Remember, it's not the
21 majority's wishes in our Constitution; it is
22 the right of one citizen as much as a group.
23 You can remember that from Brown versus Board
24 of Education in Alabama, when one child could

1 go to the school even though the majority did
2 not want that one child there.

3 Scare statements, such as
4 "towers destroying views," towers which
5 disappear within minutes of driving past or
6 under. I noticed when I have visited Quebec
7 and seen the towers of Hydro-Quebec, they
8 were gone from my sight in no time. The
9 first time I ever saw them, I marveled at the
10 engineering of them. After that, when I went
11 up to family reunions -- for genealogical
12 reasons, my family's been here for four
13 generations, but one side of them all came
14 from Canada. To my knowledge, it's caused no
15 tourist to stay away because we have power
16 lines now. And believe me, in Deerfield we
17 have some huge power lines crossing the
18 highway. Every year we have Deerfield Fair
19 with up to 130,000 people attending.

20 I ask the Site Evaluation
21 Committee Commission to recognize many
22 citizens who want the clean hydropower in
23 order to help reduce electric rates, to
24 provide industry a reason to come to New

1 Hampshire, and more importantly to replace
2 the power that will be lost when the Bow
3 Power Plant closes and Seabrook's life ends
4 in a very few short years. We will all need
5 the power in years to come that Northern Pass
6 will provide. Thank you for your time and
7 service.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
9 Next is Glenn Della-Monica, to be followed by
10 Josh Coderre and Eric Worthen.

11 MR. DELLA-MONICA: Good morning.
12 Thanks for having me.

13 All power generation systems
14 are pretty ugly. Solar panels are not
15 attractive; yet, my neighbors didn't object
16 when I proposed putting them on my own home.
17 In the summer they produce 60 kilowatt hours
18 a day, and they knew that my home, like
19 others like them, reduce the likelihood of
20 brown-outs just by a few percent, but it
21 helps. Windmills are just as ugly.
22 Everybody loves them until someone wants to
23 put one near you. Even the cleanest fossil
24 fuel plants generate pollution, and so do

1 co-generation plants. Nuclear plants create
2 waste that no one wants. Hydro is still the
3 cleanest mass generation method. Our
4 electric supply pools energy into a regional
5 system -- it's interconnected -- where it
6 gets the power from Northern Pass, reduces
7 their need for existing generation and
8 increases the amount available for everyone
9 else.

10 Some people have said that the
11 jobs that are created are temporary. The
12 guys that built this building, and even those
13 who built your own house, had temporary jobs.
14 It called the construction industry. We have
15 to keep that going. America needs a constant
16 supply of temporary jobs.

17 When Hudson, New Hampshire
18 renovated Benson Park, I volunteered to help
19 clear the trails, knowing that while I didn't
20 plan to use the park much, it was a needed
21 project for my community. I visit the park
22 rarely but have to contend with added costs
23 to my town, higher property taxes to pay for
24 what I don't use for what's now a regional

1 park and added congestion from people who
2 visit it, including people from towns miles
3 away. But it's a needed regional resource.
4 A dog park doesn't help me at all. They have
5 one. If it was next to my house, I'd hate
6 it. But it's a regional resource that's
7 needed. We have to consider that what is --
8 that we need power. Is the Northern Pass
9 sufficiently a greater good that offsets the
10 negatives that some here point out?

11 As an Army combat vet, three
12 tours, I understand that sometimes personal
13 considerations are less important than
14 regional or national ones. I also understand
15 that there are people who can ill-afford high
16 energy costs, with a good proportion of them
17 being veterans. I believe this project has
18 some negative impacts, but over all it's in
19 the interest of the greater good for New
20 Hampshire and New England. If I lived near
21 it, would I desire it? Probably not. But
22 would I understand the need for it? Yes.
23 And yes, I have supported projects like this
24 that were built near where I lived, quite a

1 number of them that made the neighborhood
2 less attractive, but I understood that they
3 were really, really necessary. For instance,
4 when I lived in San Francisco, right behind
5 me they put up Sutro Tower, which is a giant
6 broadcasting system. But it helped
7 television reception all over the San
8 Francisco Bay Area. Did I like it? Well, I
9 would have preferred it be someplace else.
10 But I understood the need for it. Thank you
11 for your time.

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Josh
13 Coderre, to be followed by Eric Worthen and
14 then and Susan Seitz.

15 MR. CODERRE: Hi, I'm Josh
16 Coderre. I was raised in New Hampshire. I
17 currently live in Strafford, New Hampshire.
18 I'm a journeyman lineman in Local 104. I've
19 spent a good part of my career working out of
20 state, work in Maine and Massachusetts, just
21 because that's where the only work was. It be
22 nice to have a job, even temporary for a couple
23 years, in New Hampshire to support our family.

24 One of the things I wanted to

1 touch on was a lot of people complain about
2 how the towers obstruct the views. I hike a
3 lot. I hike in the White Mountains at least
4 a couple weekends a month. So I understand
5 that the views could be better. But, you
6 know, we all have electricity and it's just
7 part of our modern world. We need
8 transmission lines to supply it. I have
9 transmission lines a few hundred yards from
10 my house. We access them. We walk our dog
11 on it every day, ride four-wheelers, bikes,
12 snowmobiles. So I look at them as what
13 humans can do, not as an eyesight -- an
14 eyesore. And I just wanted to raise that
15 point, that they're not just a scar. They're
16 an access point for recreational activities
17 as well after they're completed and to see
18 wildlife. And thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Eric
20 Worthen, to be followed by Susan Seitz and
21 Keith Rayeski.

22 MR. WORTHEN: Good morning. My
23 name's Eric Worthen, and I live on Pinker Hill
24 Road in Bristol, New Hampshire. I have a

1 degree in social science education, with minors
2 in history and geography. And I'm also a
3 combat disabled veteran. I was wounded while
4 serving as a foreign observer in the 101st
5 Airborne Division in Khost Province,
6 Afghanistan, in 2008.

7 After recuperating from my
8 injuries and retiring from the military, I
9 returned home to 35 acres that was passed on
10 to me from my grandfather. I have lived four
11 years now off the grid in a cabin that I
12 built with my own hands. I enjoy raising
13 cattle, specifically Herefords, my
14 grandfather's chosen breed; goats; pigs on my
15 aunt's adjoining property. Like many, I have
16 serious concerns about the Project's impact
17 on my daily life.

18 As a child, I had the
19 opportunity to live in Naples, Italy, for
20 three years, as my father served as NATO
21 Southern European Air Defense Chief. While I
22 was there, I developed a love of history.
23 And I was also taken aback by some of the
24 projects that had been done by the Roman

1 Empire. For 2,000 years there have been
2 aqueducts, roads and various structures that
3 have been operational. 2,000 years, and
4 they're still in use today. I find that
5 stunning. They were constructed not with an
6 eye on the next fiscal quarter, they were
7 constructed with the well-being of their
8 citizenry in mind over the course of time.
9 They understood the importance of their
10 project and took it to heart. They could
11 have taken shortcuts in the process, but they
12 committed themselves to a long-term
13 perspective.

14 I'm not a Xenophobe. And I'm
15 painfully aware of the need to secure
16 domestic energy. But I would encourage all
17 involved to view this project in its
18 historical context. Let us show future
19 generations how much we care for them by
20 doing the right thing, not with quarterly
21 earnings as a motivation, but with our
22 progeny's well-being first and foremost in
23 our actions.

24 This is not a hypothetical

1 issue for me. I will have to live with this
2 project every day for the rest of my life.
3 It will be the first thing I see when I leave
4 my cabin in the morning. I will work
5 underneath these power lines in the fields
6 where my cattle are, and it will be the last
7 thing I see when I go to bed at night before
8 I return to my cabin, where I have no
9 electricity by choice. I can only hope that
10 each day will be an affirmation of our
11 collective commitment to future generations
12 and not for profit and expediency.

13 My grandfather, Sam, was a
14 World War II veteran. He epitomized land
15 stewardship. He placed prime acreage into
16 conservancy and was the man who taught me to
17 take nothing but pictures and leave nothing
18 but footprints, and it is in his loving
19 memory that I speak today.

20 I am painfully aware that it
21 is sometimes easy to pursue a certain route,
22 but the easy route is not always the best.
23 So as you go forward, please take into
24 consideration the future generations of our

1 state and the sacrifices that have been made
2 to date by people who want to support our
3 nation. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Susan
5 Seitz, to be followed by Keith Rayeski and
6 William Cleveland.

7 MS. SEITZ: Hi, my name is Susan
8 Seitz, and I'm from Deerfield.

9 First, I would like to clarify
10 Harriet Cady's position. The selectmen were
11 very clear, extremely clear in following the
12 laws, including speaking to multiple lawyers.
13 She is not happy and refuses to accept
14 anything she does not like. She will sue
15 Deerfield over anything and has lost every
16 single case. There is no investigation
17 because no laws have been broken. The lawyer
18 representing Deerfield is representing our
19 best interests. This is a large corporation
20 going against a small town. He is here to
21 see that Deerfield comes out of this okay.

22 Now to what I planned on
23 saying. I've spent the past few weeks
24 preparing for my testimony, looking up

1 references and statistics and preparing a
2 very factual talk for you today. As I was
3 getting ready to come here today, I realized
4 you've heard it all. So I decided to tell
5 you how this affects me personally, Susan
6 Seitz, a Deerfield resident.

7 My electric bill this past
8 month was \$46; \$25 of that was the cost of
9 bringing electricity to my house. That cost
10 reflects the bad decisions Eversource has
11 made in the past. They do not pay for these
12 as -- they do not pay for these decisions; we
13 as consumers do. So that leaves the portion
14 of the bill I can control to the actual cost
15 of the electric.

16 I have a 2500-square-foot
17 house. I used \$21 of electricity this past
18 month to run that house. I have gotten it as
19 low as \$17, and I'm hoping to add solar
20 panels soon so that I can bring the cost down
21 even less. But if this project passes, there
22 will no longer be incentives for things that
23 are truly green energy.

24 As a taxpayer in Deerfield, I

1 am scared. When we were casting our votes
2 this spring on the issue of Northern Pass,
3 they sent us a nice letter explaining our
4 future tax revenues. The problem with this
5 was the accounting method. In every meeting
6 I've attended, they disputed the depreciation
7 method. They said it was unfair to them.
8 But when they sent us a flyer telling us what
9 we would get as revenue, they used that
10 accounting method. I want to know why was
11 this used to influence votes, even though
12 they lost.

13 We have been told Eversource
14 will stop taking us to court if we just agree
15 with them about their assessments. Deerfield
16 and every our town will never see the taxes
17 that they are claiming. This is an -- but by
18 the time the towns find out that we are going
19 to get screwed with this Project, as we have
20 with every other project they've ever put in
21 our town, it's going to be too late. We are
22 a small town, where in the early '70s two
23 power lines happened to cross. That's why
24 this project is going to end in Deerfield in

1 the Bilodeaus' back yard, because in the '70s
2 two power lines crossed there. No other
3 reason.

4 We as private citizens raised
5 the money to pay for a lawyer to represent
6 our interests. Despite what you may have
7 heard from other residents, we as Deerfield
8 residents are opposed. When Massachusetts
9 had the opportunity to help themselves with
10 offshore wind farms, they said no. Their
11 views were more important to them than
12 getting more power. We as a state currently
13 export power. We are currently saving power
14 more and more each year through conservation.

15 Please do not sell out New
16 Hampshire with this poorly planned,
17 unnecessary project. If this project was
18 truly good for New Hampshire, would
19 Eversource have to spend the millions it has
20 to convince people? Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Keith
22 Rayeski not here I'm told. William Cleveland,
23 to be followed by Tracy Hatch.

24 No William Cleveland? Tracy

1 Hatch? There we go.

2 MS. HATCH: Mr. Chairman,
3 Members of the Commission, thank you for
4 allowing me to speak with you this morning.

5 On behalf of the 600-plus
6 members of the Greater Nashua Chamber of
7 Commerce and our board of directors, I am
8 here to express our strong support for the
9 Northern Pass Project. We're made up of
10 large and small businesses across a wide
11 breadth of industries, from start-ups to
12 multi-generational companies across Nashua
13 and its surrounding communities. Despite all
14 those surface differences they are -- they
15 all have one common concern: The cost and
16 stable supply of energy.

17 Our member businesses, and in
18 fact, businesses across the state, are
19 directly affected by the ever-increasing
20 upward pressure of rising energy costs.
21 These costs are often unpredictable and
22 shrink the assets available for those
23 companies to grow their businesses, increase
24 salaries and add new employees. Businesses

1 are doing their part to conserve energy.

2 BAE Systems, for example, our
3 largest employer in southern New Hampshire,
4 has reduced its energy usage by over
5 11 percent since 2009, but their costs and
6 all of our costs are still among the highest
7 in the nation. For BAE, that's \$19 million
8 in energy and utilities every single year.
9 Their estimates for the combined impact of
10 energy demand, supply and price changes over
11 the next several years is upwards of \$2.2
12 million a year in additional costs. That's
13 real money going to energy that is not going
14 to building their business, to adding to
15 salaries or hiring new employees.

16 For Southern New Hampshire
17 Health Systems, another large employer in our
18 community, over \$2.6 million each year is
19 spent on electricity alone. And we wonder
20 why healthcare costs are going up? And when
21 supply is at risk in the wintertime when
22 there's great demand and more costly capacity
23 needs to be brought into play, they just
24 can't shut off the lights or pull the plug.

1 We need to increase our supply
2 to help drive down costs for our businesses.
3 Our economy, our businesses, and the men and
4 woman who are employed by those businesses
5 need reliable, stable energy. We believe
6 strongly that Northern Pass will bring that
7 to New Hampshire, and we ask for your
8 thoughtful consideration and support as you
9 come to that vote. Thank you very much for
10 allowing me to speak before you today.

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Richard
12 Hunewill. We're actually in the beginning of
13 the group that has 11 a.m. So I'll call the
14 names, although maybe some people aren't here.
15 But we'll circle back.

16 The next names on the list are
17 Sally Ann Baker and Barbara Lucas.

18 MR. HUNEWILL: My name is
19 Richard Hunewill. I've lived in New Hampton,
20 New Hampshire, for 36 years, where we bought a
21 house. Nine years ago, my wife and I tried to
22 give my daughter a piece of land down the
23 street. It's between my house and Eversource's
24 right-of-way.

1 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Just one
2 second. People can't hear you. Can you bring
3 the microphone closer to your mouth? There we
4 go.

5 MR. HUNEWILL: You want me to
6 start over? No?

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: No. I
8 think you wanted to give your daughter a piece
9 of land. It was between your home and the
10 Eversource right-of-way.

11 MR. HUNEWILL: Right. Her and
12 her husband took two days to think about it,
13 and then they asked me about Northern Pass.
14 And at that point I knew nothing about it, so I
15 had to go looking for some "northern pass."
16 And they looked into it and looked into it, and
17 finally they refused. And to me, that was
18 depressing. I don't -- I bought and paid for
19 this land. I'd like to be able to give it to
20 my daughter and granddaughter. And I'm pretty
21 sure they don't want it because it's going to
22 be useless by the time these towers are in.
23 You're going to be able to see out three sides
24 of my house. You're going to be able to see

1 towers. We're going to be completely
2 surrounded.

3 I've watched my neighbors put
4 houses up for sale, and they stayed for sale.
5 Some of them have been for sale for two and
6 three years, four years. And they're just
7 losing money on them when they do sell. Some
8 of them are still for sale, and they actually
9 look abandoned. This is a country road.
10 This isn't a bustling city. There's no slum.
11 There's no reason for this. I mean, if you
12 bought a house at a reasonable price, you
13 could live there. I have lived in my house
14 for 30 years.

15 So all I can do is say I hope
16 you'll vote your conscience. Northern Pass
17 is not -- it's going to cost New Hampshire
18 big time. It's not going to be cheap. Thank
19 you.

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Sally Ann
21 Baker.

22 [No verbal response]

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: How about
24 Barbara Lucas?

1 MS. LUCAS: Good morning. My
2 name is Barbara Lucas. I'm here today as a
3 resident of Bridgewater.

4 I want to state for the record
5 my vehement objection to the Northern Pass
6 Project as it's presently proposed. The
7 proposed placement of these 80-, 90-, 100-
8 and 125-foot towers above ground, industrial
9 lattice towers through our rural communities
10 and across our natural and beautiful
11 landscape is a travesty. These industrial
12 towers do not belong in New Hampshire, let
13 alone in the Lakes Region of the North
14 Country. They belong in industrial zones and
15 areas that demand this power, not New
16 Hampshire. Just in one section coming from
17 New Hampton into Bridgewater, there will be
18 17 towers -- 17 -- ranging in height from
19 80 feet to 125 feet in less than a mile.
20 This section, I'll point out, also crosses
21 the Pemigewasset River adjacent to a
22 longstanding scenic easement. Granted, they
23 are not in the scenic easement, but adjacent
24 to it, and the towers will be the backdrop to

1 that scenic easement as you look over the
2 scenic vista. This is just one small example
3 in this 192-mile project.

4 I live on this road, River
5 Road. It is a rural road. It has a lot of
6 agricultural fields. I have frontage on the
7 Pemigewasset River. Just from Ashland --
8 Bridgewater, excuse me, to New Hampton and
9 out of New Hampton, there are four crossings
10 of the Pemigewasset River. Unfortunately,
11 most people, I believe, do not realize the
12 impact this project will have on our scenic
13 landscape. They can't visualize what it will
14 look like from their window at their home,
15 their back deck or driving down a rural
16 country road, or heading north through the
17 mountains until they actually are looking at
18 them; then it's too late.

19 If this project does receive
20 your approval, it will be a scar across our
21 beautiful state. It is not worth the
22 supposed savings of a couple of dollars on
23 each of our electric bills, and especially
24 when it's only to satisfy the need for power

1 by the states to our south. If this project
2 goes through as proposed with these
3 industrial lattice towers, the destruction of
4 our viewsapes, the impact to individual
5 property owners' property value will be
6 attributed not just to Northern Pass, but
7 Eversource Public Service of New Hampshire.
8 The public relations successes of the past by
9 Public Service of New Hampshire will be
10 forgotten, and this will be the legacy.

11 SEC members, I implore you, if
12 you grant this permit, that you require
13 Northern Pass to build it by using
14 alternatives other than 80- to 125-foot
15 lattice towers, alternatives such as
16 underground, mounted above ground, will
17 address the concerns of our citizens and
18 taxpayers. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Roger
20 Dennison, to be followed by James Mason and
21 Donna Reardon, I hope.

22 MR. DENNISON: Hello, my name's
23 Roger Dennison. I come from Massachusetts.
24 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to come

1 up here and say a few words.

2 I'm here because I'm
3 passionate about the environment,
4 particularly about the threat of climate
5 change and the effect it can have on our
6 world.

7 I climbed up Mount Cardigan
8 with my children when they were small. I've
9 climbed it more recently with my
10 grandchildren. I hope that when my
11 grandchildren climb it with their
12 grandchildren, it will be as green as it is
13 now. I'm concerned that the effects of
14 climate change are going to have a serious
15 impact on all of New Hampshire's forests.
16 The changing seasons, the warmer winters
17 bringing insects into the area, the storms,
18 the floods, the drought can have a serious
19 impact on the health of trees and on the
20 forests. The impacts of climate change, of
21 course, will be much greater in other parts
22 of the world. Hundreds of millions of people
23 are threatened with losing their homes to
24 sea-level rise. I think that sort of thing

1 has to be considered when making any decision
2 that will impact carbon emissions.

3 Two years ago, the nations of
4 the world gathered together to take urgent
5 action to slow climate change. We need to do
6 our part to support that effort. We need to
7 do everything we can to reduce our own
8 emissions. The Northern Pass people contend
9 that the Project will cut 3.2 billion metric
10 tons per year of carbon emissions. That's a
11 number we can't get our heads around. But
12 consider that that's close to the emissions
13 of 200,000 Americans. That's a huge impact
14 on climate change.

15 However, alternatives have to
16 be considered. I think Northern Pass has to
17 do perhaps a better job justifying that the
18 above-ground towers are necessary for the
19 Project to be cost-effective. I would urge
20 the environmental organizations who oppose
21 this project to make sure that projects like
22 this get completed and focus on seeing that
23 they're done in the most aesthetically
24 acceptable manner. So, with that, I thank

1 you for the chance to speak. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: James
3 Mason, Donna Reardon and John Balch.

4 Okay. No James Mason. How
5 about Donna Reardon?

6 MS. REARDON: Can you hear me?
7 All right. Thank you. I did want to back out,
8 but I think I'm going to go ahead.

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
10 the Board. I am a resident of Concord. And,
11 yes, I do own property on the power line.
12 However, that's not the major reason that I
13 oppose this plan as presented.

14 Have you seen the -- have any
15 of you see the documentary, "The Power of
16 Place"? Came out, I think, 2013. And I
17 highly suggest to the board and actually
18 everybody in the audience opposed or not
19 opposed to the Project to take a few moments,
20 or an hour and a half to actually watch this.
21 You can Google it, "The Power of Place," and
22 you'll be able to find it and watch it. It
23 actually shows New Hampshire and why we
24 probably all live here in New Hampshire and

1 are proud of it. And it can show you some of
2 the ramifications of what could and probably
3 would happen to New Hampshire if this project
4 goes forward as proposed.

5 So, yes, I explained that I am
6 a resident on the power line. But that's not
7 why I oppose the Project the most. Seven
8 years ago -- I've been following this for
9 seven years. And seven years ago, I wasn't
10 as opposed as I am now. But times have
11 changed, as we know, in the past seven years.
12 And if it had been built then, I firmly
13 believe they could have buried it. And I
14 also think that we'd be enjoying -- they
15 would be making the money they want to make,
16 and we would have the power, if that's what
17 we feel. However, in the past seven years
18 there are other options that have come on
19 board which I know you've heard about and you
20 know about.

21 Proposed power lines next to
22 my home do interfere with the orderly
23 development of the region, with due
24 consideration to the views of municipal

1 planning commissions and municipal governing
2 boards. My house has buried lines. The
3 power lines are buried, and it was built
4 before the Northern Pass proposal. There are
5 two houses next to me not on the line but
6 before me that have been built in the last
7 three years. Both of those were required by
8 the City of Concord to have their lines
9 buried. New housing does have to have the
10 lines buried. In fact, the new -- all the
11 work they did downtown, they buried the
12 lines. So I feel that that's not consistent.

13 Maine and Vermont are burying
14 their lines. In fact, the other proposal now
15 for a similar power line in New Hampshire has
16 most of the lines buried.

17 Two, Northern Pass has
18 proposed -- as proposed will have an
19 unreasonable adverse effect on the
20 aesthetics, the natural environment, and I
21 believe public health and safety and local
22 jobs. The Northern Pass proposal will not
23 serve the public interest. The Northern Pass
24 will cut a path through some of New

1 Hampshire's most scenic landscapes and
2 jeopardize tourism and local jobs -- these
3 jobs are permanent jobs -- sacrificing the
4 future for a short-term gain.

5 It's very possible that
6 ratepayers could be asked to pay for part of
7 the Northern Pass Project, and I hope that
8 doesn't come to pass. Eversource is in the
9 business to make profits. Looks like huge
10 profits. Just look at the number of
11 lobbyists and lawyers they have hired over
12 the past seven years. One of the first
13 public meetings that they had scheduled here
14 in Concord that I went to, there was at least
15 10 to 1 lawyers to the residents and
16 concerned people that were there to get
17 information. And in the years since then,
18 the advertising that they've spent. I
19 actually wonder if somebody could find out --
20 or I'd like to ask Northern Pass what they
21 did actually spend on all of that over the
22 past years and if they, in fact, couldn't
23 have buried the lines with that money, or a
24 good portion of it. Now we're finding out

1 Northern Pass will only save \$1.50 per month.
2 New Hampshire's natural beauty and tourism
3 and jobs are worth far more than that.

4 Lastly, is there a need?
5 There's been some concern lately about
6 whether there's really a need, as there are
7 other options that may be on the table now or
8 coming in the future.

9 So I'm asking you to -- I'm
10 urging you to protect New Hampshire and tell
11 Northern Pass to bury the lines, or say "No"
12 to Northern Pass. New Hampshire citizens
13 don't want giant overhead towers that we've
14 heard about and hopefully some of you have
15 seen pictures of, and power lines across our
16 beautiful New Hampshire landscapes. New
17 Hampshire cannot afford the cost to tourism
18 and the jobs that we have related to that in
19 New Hampshire.

20 Thank you for the important
21 job that you are doing, and I ask you to
22 consider those things. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: John Balch,
24 and then we'll start circling back to other

1 names and see if there are any walk-ins.

2 MR. BALCH: Good morning. My
3 name's John Balch. Thank you very much for
4 your time this morning.

5 I'm a former science teacher
6 with 40 years of teaching in the state of New
7 Hampshire, as well as in Massachusetts. In
8 1987, I actually began teaching my students
9 about alternative energy as a means of
10 producing needed energy for the future
11 without encroaching on or destroying most of
12 our remaining natural areas, and yet, here we
13 are 30 years later and in a hearing for
14 another project that is a major investment in
15 the current energy infrastructure instead of
16 investing in those green options.

17 There are 37 towns on the
18 route opposed to Northern Pass. One of their
19 major objections focuses on the impact, the
20 site impacts of the proposed project on
21 natural resources and wild areas. Negative
22 environmental impacts of the Northern Pass
23 include towers, rights-of-way, construction
24 both here and also in the Canadian hydro

1 station reservoirs. That construction means
2 the drowning of Canadian forests and the
3 subsequent release of thousands of tons of
4 methane -- methane is about 80 times more
5 potent a greenhouse gas than carbon
6 dioxide -- negative health effects from
7 electromagnetic radiation on people who are
8 living nearby the towers, and also impacts on
9 wildlife.

10 New Hampshire site impacts
11 include federally registered endangered and
12 threatened species: The small whorled
13 pogonia, bald eagle, Indiana bat, gray wolf,
14 Eastern cougar and the Canada lynx.

15 Sensitive plants as evaluated by the United
16 States Forest Service Biological Evaluation
17 of WMNF and environs, a 270-page document --
18 I'm not going to read the whole 270 pages --
19 but it includes species like arnica, white
20 birch, bent-grass, bitter cress, sedge, wood
21 fern, eyebright, fescue, avens, butternut,
22 twayblade, cudweed, rice grass, ginseng,
23 silverling, colts foot, bluegrass,
24 cinquefoils, rattlesnake root, saxifrage,

1 campion, pogonia and blueberries.

2 Animals that are also
3 considered sensitive: White Mountain
4 butterfly, wood turtle, timber rattlesnake,
5 Bicknell's thrush, American peregrine falcon,
6 the loon, the Eastern small-footed bat, the
7 bog lemming and the New England Cottontail
8 rabbit.

9 My point in reading you this
10 list is really simply this: Will
11 Hydro-Quebec, a company that willingly drowns
12 thousands of acres of forest lands in its own
13 homeland, suddenly develop a conscience and a
14 desire to protect our forests and wildlife?
15 Will a company like that, a company that
16 stole land from its First Nations people and
17 built dams and generating plants on it
18 without permission or compensation suddenly
19 become fair-minded? Will the bulldozer
20 operators, the ground workers and the other
21 large machinery operators be trained to
22 recognize the species listed? Will they halt
23 construction in accordance with federal
24 regulations when an unsurveyed group of

1 threatened or endangered species are
2 encountered, or will they plow ahead? And
3 does Eversource, now a Texas-based company
4 seeking profits, really care about our unique
5 state, its wildlife and its people?

6 By voting "No" to Northern
7 Pass, you reduce the impacts on the state of
8 New Hampshire. You also force energy
9 investment to change from current
10 infrastructure to the green options. Thank
11 you for your time.

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
13 I'm going to read the names of those that were
14 not here when they were called originally.
15 Robin Tyner, Aaron Joos, Carlton Cronin, Angel
16 King, Keith Rayeski, William Cleveland, Sally
17 Ann Baker, James Mason.

18 [No verbal response]

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
20 Are there any walk-ins? Anyone who came today
21 who -- I see one, two, three, four, five. All
22 right. Can you folks stand up? I want to get
23 a better view. Okay. Looks like it's five.
24 We'll just bounce from one side of the room to

1 the other. We'll go with the first 33, the one
2 on the aisle, 33 in the orange shirt.

3 MR. DECKER: Good morning,
4 Commissioners.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Please give
6 your name. And if there's any ambiguity about
7 the spelling, spell it.

8 MR. DECKER: My name is Charles
9 Decker, D-E-C-K-E-R. I live in New Haven,
10 Connecticut. I'm a graduate student and
11 teacher in the Political Science Department at
12 Yale. And I hope that a dispatch from
13 elsewhere in New England might be helpful.

14 So I oppose this project for
15 many of the reasons that have been
16 articulated today by others. Communities who
17 are impacted by this project have nearly
18 unanimously stood up against it.
19 Environmental organizations that are weighing
20 in on the Project are against it. The
21 Pessamit Innu who have struggled against the
22 destruction of Hydro-Quebec for years are
23 against it. And now, as individuals who have
24 relationships with Yale University learn

1 about the impact of this project, they are
2 joining these groups in their opposition to
3 Northern Pass. These individuals are
4 particularly opposed to Yale enabling this
5 project by leasing 24 miles of land to the
6 proposed project through a shell corporation,
7 Bayroot --

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Slow down
9 just a little for the stenographer.

10 MR. DECKER: Sure. Sorry.

11 These individuals with
12 relationships with Yale are particularly
13 opposed to the leasing of 24 miles of land to
14 the proposed project through a shell
15 corporation, Bayroot, LLC. Although many in
16 this latter group are not directly affected
17 by Northern Pass, SEC would be well advised
18 to pay close attention to their reaction.
19 When Yale's ownership interest is revealed
20 and these people understand the environmental
21 and social costs of this project, they are
22 outraged enough to do things like attend
23 teach-ins with residents from Coos County,
24 travel five hours to view impacts of the

1 transmission line, write letters to the Yale
2 Corporation urging Yale to abandon the
3 Project, and drive to Concord to testify
4 against it.

5 Yale has reacted to this
6 opposition by trying to distance itself from
7 any responsibility for Northern Pass. They
8 claim that their contracted investment
9 manager calls the shots. This lacks all
10 credibility on our campus. Yale Chief
11 Investment Officer David Swensen is one of
12 the most respected investors in the world,
13 and he's known for unparalleled, rigorous
14 research. According to the New York Times,
15 when Swensen is considering investing with a
16 manager, he has called CEOs of companies in
17 which the manager invests its clients' funds.
18 One Yale money manager told the Times that no
19 other investors do research like that. And
20 yet, Yale insists that it has no control over
21 a 98.8-percent-owned company that could yield
22 millions of dollars.

23 Northern Pass has gambled that
24 it could rely on Yale's ability to hide

1 behind Bayroot, LLC and its land manager to
2 secure nearly 12.5 percent of the entire
3 route. This may be a losing bet. Yale's
4 talking points are not deflecting the
5 concerns of students, alumni and campus
6 organizations that oppose Northern Pass. At
7 some point, Yale may decide that the only way
8 to salvage the University's reputation in New
9 England is by exiting this lease and task its
10 formidable legal counsel to make that happen.
11 Northern Pass would then be left without a
12 viable route. Opposition within the Yale
13 community adds another layer of risk to this
14 project.

15 I respectfully urge the SEC to
16 make the Yale-Bayroot lease public so that
17 Yale's full role can be evaluated and to deny
18 the permits for this project as proposed.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
21 Over to my right we'll go to the person in the
22 back corner over there. Yeah, that's you, sir.

23 So please identify yourself.

24 If there's any ambiguity about the way your

1 name is spelled, please spell it for us.

2 MR. BLACKFORD: Okay. I'm Paul
3 Blackford from Franklin, New Hampshire.
4 B-L-A-C-K-F-O-R-D. Thank you for your time.

5 I was just taking some notes
6 back stage. I didn't mean to say anything
7 this day. I have been struck a couple times
8 by people saying "the electricity we'll
9 enjoy." As I understand it, we will not
10 enjoy any of the electricity. We'll be a
11 conduit going to another state south of us.
12 So the electricity is not for us itself. And
13 we'll only save \$1.50 a month in our electric
14 bill.

15 Also want to bring to your
16 attention the environmental impact. We heard
17 about the methane release caused by this
18 construction, by the construction involved.
19 Also will be a lot deforestation involved.
20 And the trees are essential in converting
21 coal and other elements in the air to clean
22 air, back to air we can breathe. That's a
23 function of the trees. And the deforestation
24 along the 192-mile route will be extensive,

1 as well as the construction along the route
2 itself will produce a great deal of carbon
3 and waste. That was the one or two points
4 that I wanted to make.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thank you.

6 Back over on this side of the
7 room. We'll go to the other, I assume,
8 person associated with the Yale University.

9 MS. MOTE: Good morning, Mr.
10 Chairman and the Board. My name is Kanita
11 Miyedadi Mote. It's K-A-N-I-T-A,
12 M-I-Y-E-D-A-D-I, M-O-T-E.

13 Like I just said, my name is
14 Kanita Miyedadi Mote, and I currently reside
15 in Hamden, Connecticut. My father is a
16 Melanesian South Pacific Islander from West
17 Papua. My middle name, Miyedadi, is a Mee
18 tribal name meaning "Valley of the Mountain
19 Miye." The Miye Mountain stands in front of
20 my village, Mugouda, home to generations of
21 peaceful, indigenous West Papuan hunters and
22 gatherers. For thousands of years, Papuan
23 people existed peacefully, deeply connected
24 to the land. And to many tribes, including

1 my own, the land was home to deities central
2 to the existence of the tribe.

3 Multi-national corporations have now taken
4 over huge swaths of this sacred land,
5 engaging in illegal and incredibly harmful
6 logging, mining and hunting practices which
7 have turned West Papua, a biological
8 paradise, my home, into barren land. The
9 same Papuan tribes who were masters of their
10 land just 50 years ago are now slain by
11 military or forced to work as migrants on
12 plantations growing non-native crops. In
13 1999, my father, a vocal Papuan human rights
14 activist, was placed on a travel ban, and we
15 were forced to leave our family, our house
16 and the land on which countless members of
17 the tribe had lived and died.

18 I am here to testify that
19 projects cannot be clean or green when they
20 displace people and communities who have
21 lived sustainably in a region for centuries.
22 Unfortunately, the Hydro-Quebec power
23 stations have been criticized by
24 representatives of the Pessamit Innu First

1 Nation who have sued Hydro-Quebec for
2 precisely this type of displacement.

3 In a written statement that
4 was read at a teach-in at Yale University,
5 Chief Simon wrote, "There are 13
6 hydroelectric power stations located and
7 operated illegitimately on Pessamit's
8 traditional territory. They were built
9 without impact assessments, without Pessamit
10 agreements and without compensation.
11 Twenty-nine percent of the electricity that
12 Hydro-Quebec intends to transmit with the
13 proposed Northern Pass Project has been
14 forced illegally upon Pessamit. In fact,
15 Hydro-Quebec has unlawfully appropriated a
16 territory that was the heart of our culture
17 for centuries."

18 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Slow down.

19 MS. MOTE: My apologies.

20 Chief Simon further observes
21 that accommodating Northern Pass will further
22 damage salmon populations that are an
23 important resource for Pessamit.

24 This project is also opposed

1 by individuals in New Hampshire whose
2 families have lived in the region for
3 generations. This project threatens to
4 permanently scar family farms and landscapes
5 that have long provided the backdrop for
6 outdoor recreation and economic activities.

7 I am dismayed that the
8 University, which dominated a region where I
9 grew up, is facilitating this harm to the
10 Pessamit Innu and the people of Northern New
11 Hampshire by leasing 24 miles for the
12 proposed Northern Pass route through Bayroot,
13 LLC, which is 98.8 percent owned by Yale
14 University. As a member of the New Haven
15 community, and a family that has been
16 displaced by multi-national corporate
17 activity, I am urging Yale to not allow this
18 transmission line to cross this property.
19 Similarly, the SEC should not provide a
20 permit to a project that is opposed by so
21 many communities that it affects. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Back over
23 on this side of the room. We had one other
24 person. No, we have two, I think. No, I think

1 I was going here first.

2 MS. WEBER: Jane Weber from
3 Campton, New Hampshire. Weber with one B.
4 Good morning.

5 I oppose Northern Pass
6 overall, and today I wanted to speak
7 specifically about my opposition to the
8 proposed route down Main Street in Plymouth.
9 The Northern Pass proposed route through Main
10 Street in Plymouth will be harmful to New
11 Hampshire -- to Main Street businesses in
12 Plymouth. During -- that's my first point.

13 Second point, during
14 construction, petroleum contamination and
15 pollution that's below main street and which
16 significantly delayed the bridge and rotary
17 construction in 2007, that requires
18 mitigation. It's going to be a long
19 construction process. It would complicate
20 and extend the length of any construction
21 project that involves digging, which would
22 further impact Main Street businesses.

23 And my third point is, as a
24 staff member of Plymouth State University,

1 I've heard firsthand the decision-making
2 process of students who choose PSU, and the
3 beautiful downtown area is a big factor. A
4 lengthy construction project could adversely
5 affect decisions by prospective students.
6 PSU is a major economic driver in the
7 Plymouth area, and we should support its
8 ability to attract students. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
10 Back over on this side of the room, gentleman
11 in the back.

12 He's put a Maxwell Parrish
13 print on the floor in front of us.

14 MR. JENKINS: New Hampshire,
15 land of scenic splendor.

16 I'm Nick Jenkins, 75 Old Stage
17 Road in Bristol, New Hampshire. Eric Worthen
18 spoke a little earlier, took my place. And I
19 was going to get in -- I gave him my spot
20 because he owns part of the -- I'm at the
21 Worthen place, on Pauley's -- Mary Worthen's
22 boyfriend. And the biggest thing to me is
23 bury. Bury all of it. You know, I mean,
24 that makes common sense. Better

1 transmission, the more efficient wires, no
2 overhead visual or impact at all. I'm sure
3 they're going to make a lot of noise with the
4 humidity and rain. The ones that are there
5 now are the small ones. They are not going
6 on top of the big ones. So there's going to
7 be ground level up to whatever, however tall
8 those are, which are very tall, are going to
9 be covered. And right now it's going to be
10 right in the front yard. One pole is going
11 to sit right in the middle of the front yard.
12 That's the plan. And to me, that's pretty
13 sick. You know, I mean, and that's going
14 right -- you're going to see it for miles and
15 miles around crossing the Pemigewasset River,
16 as some guy talked about earlier. It's going
17 to be there. And then crossing it again,
18 it's -- you know, I mean, I know it's a lot
19 more expensive to bury it, a lot more work
20 involved, but that does mean more employment.
21 And the wires they put underground are far
22 more efficient for power generation and
23 non-loss of power than the overhead ones.
24 You know, and this can be, like Eric was

1 saying -- we can go on for centuries if you
2 do it correctly instead of going on for 50
3 years and then scraping it all.

4 And you're going to the --
5 you're going to open the windows and look out
6 the window at the house I'm at, and it's
7 going to be right there. You know, it's --
8 and this is an antique. The barn was built
9 in 1790. The house was built in 1810. It is
10 a farm, Sunny Acres Farm of Peaked Hill, a
11 registered farm. We have cattle. Get the
12 cattle going, the purebred and mini
13 Herefords. Got some goats and chickens
14 coming up. We got 15 laying hens. Pigs we
15 do. You know, and that's going to be --
16 anywhere you go, you're going to be coming
17 back to the farm. And there's going to be
18 Ground Zero, a tower right in the middle of
19 the yard.

20 You know, and it's also
21 conservation easement. Pauley's father put
22 everything into conservation easement except
23 for this one section, and you're facing the
24 power lines. There's no place -- you cannot

1 move the house or pack it up and abandon that
2 house and build another place because it's
3 all conservation easement, which is a good
4 thing. But, I mean, right now there's going
5 to be power lines. You're not going to be
6 able to get away from it, you know. Since
7 that section isn't conservation easement,
8 maybe you can make a sand pit out of it and
9 move out all the other and make a sand pit
10 out of that thing. And, you know, Peaked
11 Hill Road is a scenic -- I think it's a
12 designated scenic route.

13 So, I mean, I don't know what
14 people are thinking. Never mind, you know,
15 the radiation for the health reasons and
16 stuff like that that come from that. And
17 this is forever, too, if this thing goes in.

18 You know, property value, you
19 know, that guy that was up here that talked
20 about the Owl's Nest. You're not going to be
21 able to dump this thing. You won't be able
22 to give it away except for maybe a sand pit.

23 And then we're at a wedding
24 there last year, and it turned out real well.

1 A friend of mine, the Tamposis, rounded up
2 wedding parties for it. But he said the same
3 thing, that it's not going to happen if the
4 power lines go there. There's no place you
5 can go to get away from them.

6 And then finally for national
7 security reasons, this is another target
8 you're putting up. There's plenty of targets
9 around here for terrorists. Don't put any
10 more up. If it's all underground, you know,
11 that's going to be real tough to do something
12 with, you know.

13 And then another final thing
14 is all the steel's probably coming from China
15 on Chinese flag ships. It's a loss all the
16 way around if it goes up in the air.

17 And I hope I made sense. To
18 me, it's bury it all and there will be no
19 problems. Thanks.

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
21 And over here. Yup.

22 DR. WARNER: Dr. Debbie Warner
23 from Littleton. I'm a psychologist, and I
24 serve the North Country, both Grafton and Coos,

1 and some of Carroll. And I'm sharing with you
2 an important piece of research that I did in
3 the North Country, and I'm going to answer why
4 everyone is so upset about this project.
5 You've heard many facts, but I want to tell you
6 a little bit about the background and the
7 motivation that people have for opposing this
8 project.

9 On the first page of this
10 handout, you can see I'm describing the
11 market -- the economic markets those are.
12 And the external market, as we know, is where
13 we produce something, send it elsewhere and
14 money comes back to us. As you know, that's
15 a very weak market in the North Country. We
16 have a destination market where people come
17 to us and buy things, services and such, and
18 leave their money with us, which we enjoy.
19 And we also enjoy sharing the North Country
20 with them. The local market is where we
21 spend money amongst ourselves. There's not
22 very much of that. It's a weak market at
23 this point. Many restaurants and other
24 businesses are closing shop and pulling in.

1 We also have less housing built at this point
2 in time. The drain market is one of great
3 concern. That is where outside businesses
4 come in, use our resources and the money goes
5 elsewhere; there is no gain and no benefit to
6 the local economy or to the local people.
7 That is the category that this Northern Pass
8 is in. And it's a terrible challenge for us.

9 You'll see on Page 2 I did a
10 research study at the beginning of this
11 project in 2012, where I asked more than a
12 hundred people at public events in Coos
13 County, I asked them the question, "What do
14 you like about the North Country?" And I
15 wrote down their three top answers. As a
16 psychologist, I listened to them, I wrote
17 down everything that they said, and I
18 listened with my clinical ear as well. And I
19 could hear that as they were talking, people
20 said that they were conveying that they don't
21 just like the North Country, they love the
22 North Country. It is a relationship. They
23 talk about it like they were talking about a
24 family member. And I don't think that

1 happens in other places in the state where
2 people might say, Well, I really, really like
3 Route 101. You know, I mean, it's not
4 necessarily the way people feel in other
5 areas. But we do have a very important,
6 poignant, deep relationship with the land.
7 As you can see in the responses, more than
8 two thirds of the people said it's the
9 mountains and the forests that they love
10 about the North Country. Half of them said
11 it's the people. So they rank higher than
12 even our family members. Nature activities,
13 of course. Maybe not everybody goes out and
14 does them, but we know we could. You can see
15 what the different items are that people said
16 and their popularity.

17 I want to also turn you to
18 Page 3. There's convergent validity for
19 this. This is a snapshot of the bookstore in
20 Littleton. This entire rack -- there's five
21 different bays in this rack -- is filled with
22 current published books about the North
23 Country. Here's your data right here. You
24 want to read about what's so wonderful in the

1 North Country and what it is about, it's
2 right there.

3 The conclusion is that the
4 overhead towers will harm the pristine nature
5 of the North Country. It will interfere with
6 many people's communing with their prime
7 relationship with the mountains. There are
8 many, many acres affected. An early estimate
9 was 93,000 acres affected. Everyone has
10 their own private, special little place. You
11 can't say, well, we'll just move it over here
12 so we don't get this stream bed. Well, this
13 stream bed over here is somebody else's
14 favorite. The point of it is that's a vast,
15 pristine wilderness. And you can go anywhere
16 there and find nothing. And that wonderful
17 nothing is the beauty of our North Country.
18 And we commune with it. And commune is not
19 just communicate or write a book or make a
20 picture. We are listening very, very clearly
21 and closely to nature. We are absorbing it,
22 taking it in. And it meets our hearts and
23 changes us. And many, many people are
24 affected deeply by living in the North

1 Country, and that's why they choose to do it,
2 in a place where they would have to travel
3 many hours to go get healthcare. But they
4 love this. And it keeps us healthy, well and
5 good.

6 So I do recommend that you
7 either decline this permit or that you ensure
8 that it is buried in all localities where
9 there have been objections to the towers.
10 Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
12 Is there anyone else?

13 [No verbal response]

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
15 Seeing none, we will close this Public Comment
16 Hearing. The next one is in --

17 MS. MONROE: July 20th.

18 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: -- on
19 July 20th back here. The next day of the
20 hearing, the adjudicative hearing, is tomorrow.

21 So, with that we'll close this
22 meeting.

23 (Hearing adjourned at 11:31 a.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed
Shorthand Court Reporter and Notary Public
of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby
certify that the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of my stenographic
notes of these proceedings taken at the
place and on the date hereinbefore set
forth, to the best of my skill and ability
under the conditions present at the time.

I further certify that I am neither
attorney or counsel for, nor related to or
employed by any of the parties to the
action; and further, that I am not a
relative or employee of any attorney or
counsel employed in this case, nor am I
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Licensed Shorthand Court Reporter
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