STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

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

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

IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06
(Hearing on the merits)

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

Dir. Craig Wright, Designee Dept. of Environ. Serv.
Christopher Way, Designee Dept. of Resources & Economic Development
William Oldenburg, Designee Dept. of Transportation
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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James Mason

{SEC 2015-06} [PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING] {06-22-17}
P R O C E E D I N G S

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

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

MR. OLDENBURG: William Oldenburg, Department of Transportation.

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

CMSR. BAILEY: Kathryn Bailey Public Utilities Commission.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Martin Honigberg from the Public Utilities Commission.

MS. WEATHERSBY: Patricia
Weathersby, public member.

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

MS. DANDENEAU: Rachel Dandeneau, alternate public member.

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

The purpose of the meeting today is to take oral statements from members of the public on the Northern Pass Project. It is one of three meetings that have been scheduled for the purpose of accepting public comment. We expect to schedule a fourth sometime later in the summer. The first took
place a week ago. The third is scheduled for
July 20th. Each meeting, including today's,
is scheduled to go from 9 a.m. to noon and is
going to be transcribed by a court reporter,
sitting down to my left.

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

    In addition, the Committee has
reviewed transcripts of the public comments
provided during sessions that were conducted
outside the presence of the Subcommittee in
2016, in January, in Franklin, Londonderry,
Laconia, Whitefield and Lincoln. Finally, the Subcommittee has received and reviewed written comments that have been provided. The number is over 1300, just a rough ballpark, running between 10 and 11 to 1 against the Project in its current form in one way or another.

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

Please try not to repeat
things that others have said. If one of the
speakers has already made a point, please
feel free to say, I agree with my neighbor
Mr. Smith on that particular issue.

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

We have projected on the
screens the order in which people will speak.
I'll read the names as well. But please try
to be ready when it's your turn so that we
don't lose time in the transition from one
person to another. You'll see next to you
and projected around various places a screen
with a countdown clock that'll show you where
you are in relation to the minutes. It'll
start at three minutes and then disappear and
reappear when there's two minutes left and
then disappear and reappear when there's one
minute left and then count down for you.
When you get to zero, it'll start counting
up. We're just trying to give you a sense of
where you are in terms of time so that nobody
has to wave at you or speak to you in this
regard.

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

MR. IACOPINO: No.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.

So the speaker that we have lined up first was
not able to be here, so we'll start with No. 2,
Tom Mullen from Campton, to be followed by
Barbara Mullen, then Kelly Wieser.
MR. MULLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Site Evaluation Committee. Thank you for being here today. Mr. Iacopino’s doing his good job as always.

MR. IACOPINO: Thank you.

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

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

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Understanding that your wife is not feeling well, yes, you may do it that way.

MR. MULLEN: Thank you, sir.

Appreciate that.

So, Members of the Site Evaluation Committee, in October 2010, which was a little over seven years ago, I was
working on additional development plans for
my golf course project in Campton and
Thornton, called Owl's Nest, when an engineer
for what was known then as PSNH, who I had
contacted to discuss burial of the existing
line that ran through Owl's Nest, told me
that I had "a lot bigger problems than the
existing line," is what he said. He said,
"Look up Northern Pass." Little did I know
that my family and my life were about to
change radically in a rather rude and violent
manner.

By late 2010, my firm, Owl
Street Associates, had built a stunning
community of homes and condominiums around a
highly regarded golf course with spectacular
views of the White Mountains in almost every
direction. Our clubhouse enjoyed views to
the west for sunsets, views to the east
towards Waterville Valley. Even though the
general real estate market in the area was
trending downward at that time, Owl's Nest
had continued to be strong in sales and in
pricing. Our marketing focused on second
home and vacation home buyers, and those
markets were still fairly brisk. But this
state of affairs for us was about to change,
and not in a particularly positive manner.

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

From that day in October of
2010 until roughly four years later, in
November of 2014, when Owl's Nest was
foreclosed upon by our lender, my staff, my
family and I poured our life's savings into
trying to stay alive financially and
emotionally while we simultaneously fought
the Northern Pass Project with every ounce of
strength and resources we had available in an
effort to defeat this ill-conceived project,
a project that has been trying to mislead you
all into thinking that the Northern Pass is
somehow good for the Granite State. During
the four-year period that Owl's Nest was
under siege from Northern Pass, we were
unable to interest anyone in purchasing
property at our complex. My firm still had
mortgage payments. We had taxes to pay. We
had staff payrolls to meet. We lowered our
land and condo prices dramatically, but still
no one would buy. We tried to find partners,
but the shadow of the Northern Pass hung
heavily over our golf course and no one was
willing to step up to the plate. So much for
the Northern Pass's claim that its towers and
cables wouldn't dampen values of abutting
properties. In the case of Owl's Nest, our
values weren't just damaged, there was no
value left to our properties. We couldn't
sell our properties to anyone, at any price.
Our resources were quickly consumed, to the
point that corporately and personally we were
all in debt beyond what we could ever have imagined. Our bank lender was merciful. They gave us time, more than four years, to try to find a way out of the fix we found ourselves in. But finally it couldn't hold on any longer, and ownership of what had once been my proudest professional achievement was terminated on the worst day of my professional and personal life. The weight of failure hung heavily over my life post-foreclosure. Not only was I facing corporate bankruptcy, but personally, all of my and my family's assets were depleted. How to survive going forward at the age of 70 with no liquid assets was more than a downer. The only thing that kept me from taking drastic steps, including contemplating ending my own life, was the enduring love and affection of my wife Barbara and my family. One of my daughters is here today. Little did I know there was even more to come. Six months after we had lost our Owl's Nest and gained an $8 million personal deficit to our lender, Northern Pass suddenly
changed its mind about routing his project through Owl's Nest, and they announced that instead it would put the Project underground elsewhere through Campton and Thornton along Route 3. The irony of this announcement was crushing, but it also awakened me to the realization that I had to go to work to help others who were being hung to dry by this project that had proven it cared about no one other than its own bottom line. This is why I'm here today.

You members of the Site Evaluation Committee are in a position to end this tyranny over the people that live along, near or within this right-of-way and within site of this 192-mile-long line of terror. I believe the facts that you need to rely upon to determine this project is not worthy of approval have been placed before you. If Eversource is to be believed, each home in New Hampshire will probably save $1.50 per month on our residential power bills. With an average of 3.8 residents in each home to be served by Northern Pass, that's a savings
of 39-1/2 cents per person per month, or 1.3
cents per person per day. This is a bad deal
for New Hampshire.

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

Thank you for your time and
for your attention.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up we
have Kelly Wieser, to be followed by Thomas
Mouli and Edward Jeffrey.

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

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

MS. WIESER: Yes. No problem.

Born and raised in Campton,
New Hampshire. Tom is my father. So you
know our story.

MR. MULLEN: And Barbara's your
mother.

MS. WIESER: Well, obviously.
So, I think for me, and just
to tell you a quick little bit about myself,
I left a corporate legal job in Massachusetts
when I came back to New Hampshire to live
near my parents and help run the family
business. And what I had done before that
was sitting for Verizon Wireless. So I'm no
stranger to working on controversial
projects. But I'm really proud that every
single tower and building and rooftop, at
least that I attempted to enter into on
behalf of Verizon Wireless, was successful.
So I know what it's like to be before people
who are in opposition to what you're working
on.

I think the most important
point that I can make today is one I believe
I've made before. And I don't want to beat
it to death, but the way this project was
planned and presented and has been managed
has been so poor, it's why we're still here
almost seven years after it was originally
presented to us.

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

(Voice recording played. Written
transcript to be provided by Ms. Wieser
post-meeting.)

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

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

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thank you.

MS. WIESER: Thank you.

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

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

I have here an article from The New Hampshire Union Leader, came in last week, stating that an economist for the Northern Pass Project predicts the annual savings for an Eversource customer using 300 kilowatts of power per month would save $18 a year between the years 2020 and 2030. That means for 10 years a residential customer would save a $180. Really? $180 for 10
years? Is that the value that we are willing
to sacrifice the natural beauty of New
Hampshire for?

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

When the textile factories
left New Hampshire in the early '60s for
cheaper labor, what was still bringing
revenue to our state? Tourism. When the
shoe factories moved their manufacturing
overseas, it was New Hampshire's natural beauty that was still coming through for us.
When the paper mills in the North Country were forced to close because of foreign competition, it's the beauty of that area that's been faithfully supporting its economy. And we're going to give that all up to have a permanent scar run through the center of our state so we can save $180 over the next 10 years? Talk about a lousy deal.

If Eversource wants its project completed so badly, then bury the entire thing. But they say it would be too expensive. Perhaps what they should say is they want to give their shareholders more of a dividend than the paltry $18 that we're going to get. Remember, our license plates didn't say the best textiles, the best shoes or the best paper towels. All those companies left us long ago for greater profits because it's always about the dollar. Our license plates said "Scenic" because we meant it. The beauty of this state has never failed us, and we should never allow
ourselves to give up on something that God has blessed us with and can never be replaced, for some things are priceless.

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

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

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

MR. JEFFREY: Good morning, Mr.
Chairman, Committee Members. Edward W. Jeffrey, President and Chief Operating Officer of the New Hampshire Central Railroad. We have been in business for 25 years operating railroads in northern New Hampshire, state-owned lines for the past 24 years. We support this project.

The Northern Pass will pay an estimated $35 to $40 million in New Hampshire property taxes, approximately $21 to $26 million in municipal and local property taxes; in Coos County, $4 million to $3 million in municipal and local taxes, and approximately $1.6 million to Coos in county taxes, and $10 million in state utility property taxes.

Over the past 10 years, our tax base in the North Country is shrinking every year, more and more. People are forced to put their property -- conservation easements on the property, sell their property. This will help. It's tough up there. We have -- we still have not yet recovered from the recession, and I don't see
it happening too soon. We're blessed with
the Balsams coming online and the tourism,
the four-wheeling. But this will help the
state and help the county and help the
residents.

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

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

MR. MOSEDALE: Good morning. My
name is Ken Mosedale. I live in Franconia, and
I have been in the real estate business for
about 40 years. I am the owner of 30 acres of
land on Route 116 in Franconia. It's about a
half-mile from the center of town. This land
has over 2,000 feet of frontage on Route 116.
It is also right where Northern Pass proposes
to put this underground conduit. The lots on
this land have been improved. The driveways
have been installed. Underground conduits have
been put in for utilities. House sites have been dedicated and picked out. And right now these lots are unmarketable. They cannot be offered to the marketplace because of the uncertainties of what's going to happen with this underground utility work. And there's a good possibility that if this utility work proceeds, at least one of the lots will have its value decreased appreciably because of the wreck of the view that it's going to create. So, instead of having this lot and house site look at the mountains, this underground work will probably result in cutting the buffer of trees along 116, and the house site will all of a sudden be looking at lots of traffic and have lots of noise. I'm not alone in this situation. There's hundreds of people that have property along 116, 112, Route 3 that are going to be affected by this underground work. It is really a nightmare. There is another way to deal with this. And I have a minute, so...

The Environmental Impact Statement came out in May of 2014. And its recommendation, one of its recommendations
was that the route that had the least environmental impact and would create the most jobs was Option 4A, which basically meant taking this underground power and putting it all the way down the interstate. So I want to show you... thank you.

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up we have Robin Tyner, to be followed by Hannah Schmitt and Aaron Joos. No Tyner?
[No verbal response]

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: How about Hannah Schmitt?

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

Yale is a school that claims that it makes the world better. It's representatives emphasize that it achieves this by teaching certain values to its students: Dialogue, fairness, responsibility, stuff like that. Every Earth Day we get an e-mail that encourages us to value sustainability and describes the University's top-notch researchers and green facilities. Yale also encourages us to be engaged, intentional members of our communities -- that is, to talk to the people we live and work with and take them seriously so that we can create solutions together.
These are all good values. I like the idea of the world it can create. And I'd be proud to attend a school that really was a part of creating it. Yet, if Yale supports these values, how can it justify making so much money by facilitating a project that is opposed by nearly every city it impacts, all while trying to keep its involvement a secret?

On May 2nd and 3rd, I traveled to Coos County with a group from Yale and the broader New Haven community. I've lived in small cities like New Haven my whole life, and one of the more striking things about driving into New Hampshire was the huge expanses of forest. Another remarkable aspect of Northern New Hampshire is the communities and individuals who have lived and worked in this region for generations, many of whose members we met. These community members have been fighting to preserve their culture and environment against the potential destruction of Northern Pass for the past seven years. We have
learned that while Northern Pass imposes many costs on the North Country and New Hampshire, the benefits are actually minimal. Northern Pass will permanently scar what is currently an undisrupted patchwork of farmland and forests.

On our trip, our host, John Harrigan, described Northern Pass as "treating the North Country as a doormat."

Many have argued that it will not significantly lower energy prices and it will create jobs that are primarily temporary; yet, the North Country will pay a high price for this transmission line. Speaking of Coos County, Harrigan observed, "This place is now someplace, but after Northern Pass, it will be just any place."

Many community members testifying today and last week have described how Northern Pass will harm the New Hampshire environment and their communities. Yale can stop Northern Pass by refusing to allow the transmission line to cross its property. But so far Yale has abdicated its responsibility
by making the absurd claim that it does not
countrol the actions of a company that is
98.8 percent owned by Yale. That's not
acceptable. Yale can't teach anyone to be a
responsible member of their community until
it acts like a responsible member of its own
communities.

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

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

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

MR. NICKLESS: Good morning. My
name is Jeff Nickless. I was born and raised
in New Hampshire, and I currently reside in
Middleton. I'm an apprentice lineman with
Local Union 104. I would love to continue to
work in New Hampshire instead of having to go
to other states and work and have my money be
taxed that I'm making and not get it back in return.

Other than that, I'd like to just touch briefly on some environmental issues that may be of concern with some people. With projects of this size, or any size for that matter, these things are planned out. I've been only projects where we've been shut down due to specific turtle species, breeding seasons, snake, specific flowers that grow in these areas. They're roped off. Sometimes we do sweeps, where a person will walk ahead of equipment and make sure there's nothing in the way. If there is, we stop and wait for these animals to move along, or you try to shoo them out of the way. As with erosion issues, things of that nature, these areas are typical and will be fixed. They're seeded and mulched to prevent erosion. Sometimes this happens as certain sections of the job are completed. Most of the time we've had to do it before you go home at the end of the day to prevent anything from happening overnight.
So, in short, you know, environmental issues aren't overlooked. So I don't want to people to think that companies are going to go in and tear up the countryside and just leave it with what you're going to see at the end. That's not the case. There's a lot more planning involved. So, any issues that people have with that, you know, it is taken care of and those things are thought of in the long run, too. We don't want to leave our state looking terrible at the end, either. So, thank you for your time today.

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

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

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

I live in Pembroke. But, in fact, my opposition is not based on siting of
towers that will go through parts of Pembroke. I don't live or travel much in that area that would be affected. I'm also not in favor of everything coming down to just the "not in my back yard" reason for not doing things --

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

DR. SMITH: Sure.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thank you.

DR. SMITH: So, broader perspectives on benefits versus negative impacts need to be the rule when it comes to what is best for most of the people most of the time, which is part of your job. In fact, you might think I would be in favor of Northern Pass. I'm a retired primary-care doctor. I have a public health degree. For the last two and a half years I've served as a volunteer state public health policy lead, mostly working to help legislators understand health implications of proposed legislation. One of the many issues we care about is the increasing threats to health from climate change and the
longstanding problems of health consequences from extracting and burning fossil fuels. You think hydropower, well, that's pretty environmentally friendly compared to that. However, I'm not persuaded that those benefits are as great as the proponents portray them for a number of important reasons. And if this huge infrastructure project moves forward, it will supply enough electric power to dampen the prospects for better means of addressing the challenges we face. Managing our electric demand better and the ongoing development of renewables and storage capacity are things that many of us believe can meet all of the eventual need after New Hampshire stops generating and exporting surplus power which it currently does with the Seabrook plant.

Aside from that, you can't discount the negatives involved. First, more use of electricity imported from Quebec will lead to continued building of new dams that will permanently destroy habitat, including carbon-sequestering vegetation, and will lead to short-term increases in methane that are
approximately equal to four years of the same
electricity from a combined-cycle natural gas
plant. Check check.

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

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

And lastly, the way
Hydro-Quebec and the utilities would use this
resource is highly damaging to the riparian
environment below the dams. This is a known consequence of Hydro-Quebec's current practice of using them as if they were peaking power plants. The daily fluctuations in water flow destroy the spawning grounds of salmon. This already creates huge problems for the indigenous people there. More dams on more rivers in the region will compound the issue for the Pessamit Innu, the major indigenous group there. Perhaps the people of New England do not think that this ignored injustice of the Quebec government, because they own Hydro-Quebec, to its native people should count for anything. Even if that attitude were not immoral, we should care because the assertion of indigenous rights might in the future lead to a situation where Hydro-Quebec could no longer continue this practice. If we in New England have invested in this rather than better solutions, where will that leave us? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is Carlton Cronin, to be followed by Angel King and Anastasia Park.
No Cronin? Angel King? No.

Anastasia Park? Feeling optimistic about that one.

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

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

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

But I am in favor of the Northern Pass. I am an iron worker by trade. I'm a journeyman, actually. Just turned out probably three weeks ago. So one thing I realized I'm very tired of doing is constantly traveling to Massachusetts to do my work. I think in the four years I've been working as an iron worker, I've had two jobs in this beautiful state. And it kills me every time. They don't last long. That's kind of the point of construction; they're temporary. So, yes, this will create temporary jobs, but it will also create permanent ones by bringing businesses to New
Hampshire, because what no one is mentioning is that businesses will save the money on the electric. Yes, residential won't save much over time, but we're losing businesses to the high cost of electricity in the state. No one wants to build here because they can't afford to stay here. By allowing Northern Pass to continue, we might find ourselves building many more buildings and many more projects in this state. The construction jobs really are the backbone of this economy. And when we build it, we can spend our money back in here. Sorry. Lost my place.

Yes, this is hydropower. So obviously fossil fuel use is a benefit that we could all live without. Everyone, I would think, would support climate change and realizing that it's better for everyone. The transmission lines are frustrating and annoying, but everyone said the same thing about Texas and their wind turbines. And eyesores only are eyesores for so long. You suddenly become enthralled when you drive -- like I just drove through Texas, and it was
beautiful to me to see all those wind
turbines. So, yes, it might be annoying for
a little bit.

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

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

No Harriet Cady? Janice
Kaufman. While Ms. Kaufman is coming up, I
think I'll note that, given that we have a
number of people who aren't here, if there
are people who did not pre-register and came
as walk-ins and want to have the opportunity
to speak, it looks like we're going to have
time for that.

You may proceed.

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

In 1981, I, my husband and our
eight-year-old son moved from New York City
to Stewartstown. We have lived in a farming
community, which over the past seven years
has become distorted in a depressing way by
Northern Pass. And unless we get help from
the Site Evaluation Committee, it will only
get worse. Where we had neighbors with
families and children, now we have Northern
Pass, which owns Holden Hill and Paul Hill,
hundreds of acres that share a boundary with
our property. We have met with Northern
Pass, and they said, essentially, not to
worry.
We, our neighbor and our horses depend on spring water that is gravity-fed along a mile-long buried line from Holden Hill, where we own the water but not the land; that's owned by Northern Pass. And we know that we are threatened by this project. Instead of the future normal development of this area with families, Northern Pass is creating a dead zone with barbed wire fences surrounding a transition area below our spring and above our neighbor's spring, threatening both. The cabins now deserted next to hay fields are in that dead zone with HVDC lines passing overhead. Northern Pass proposes to bury the line under our one dirt road, the year-round road leading to our and our neighbor's homes.

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is Kenneth Rhodes.

Off the record.

(Discussion off the record)
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay.

We're going to skip over Mr. Doughty, who's next on the list. Following Mr. Rhodes will be Glenn Della-Monica.

Mr. Rhodes.

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

I wholeheartedly support the entire concept of Northern Pass Project and have from when it was first announced. New England is a region -- New England as a region has unique and wonderful qualities that make it a place that our family, particularly our children for their entire lives have called home, even as they may
pursue their life adventures geographically elsewhere. But part of this geography also creates logistic challenges and therefore a geographic disadvantage. Essentially, east of the New York state line the region is a national geographic peninsula bordered on the south by seas and on the north and east by the nation of Canada. The logistics disadvantage for that resource is that for resources required for our economy, we essentially import what we need and export our expertise and the products of our citizen innovation. The region has limited capability of being self-sustaining. Energy is the key resource for sustaining economic success. The region needs as much as it can get, as readily as it can get it, and available in the market as at low a production cost as can be achieved. The Law of Supply and Demand is one of the irresistible forces of the universe. Only gravity is more persistent. Our thirst for electrons is only going to grow, and either supply keeps up or costs go up. Unavoidable.
In 1967, one-half century ago, I'm a sixth-grade student in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. In social studies, we learned all about the vast extents of the Canadian Hudson Bay "shield" and the extent of Canadian hydropower. Seems in 2017 our good friends to the north still have plenty of electrons already queued up and ready to use that they'll never get to. As a peninsula region, the opportunity to tap into these resources within distances that other regions of the country would recognize as next door is uniquely offered to address burgeoning supply need.

The October surprise: Nearly a foot of wet snow that turned Halloween weekend 2011 white. That Sunday morning, I actually drove in from Auburn to Manchester. WGIR-AM was broadcasting outages. There were over 300,000 customers out not due to failure of supply or within vegetation-free transmission corridors. The biggest question on the radio was, "Call in if you know where there's an open Dunkin' Donuts." The
afternoon hit 60 degrees. The weather for
the balance of the week was relatively mild.
But New Hampshire residents were surprisingly
unsettled having no electricity for a couple
of days. There was no overt crisis. But the
lights off -- but lights out alone has become
the definition of "crisis." Make no mistake
and don't take eyes off the target.
Individuals live their lives as they know it
underpinned by nearly a hundred percent
reliable, at the lowest achievable cost of
electricity and are generally lost when
that's not the case.

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

Final overarching history
reference. In the United States, economic
development of goods and services in the 18th Century was defined by seafaring transportation; 19th Century, by horse-drawn vehicles; after the steam engine, railroads; 20th Century by surface streets and highways. The 21st Century economy will be defined by transport of electrons and bits and bytes. The trend is irreversible, and those that don't act locally to keep supply readily at hand to fuel this reality will fall behind globally.

New Hampshire is acting late on this project. It should be nearly done and online to bolster the region's energy supply portfolio. Undue wandering through the weeds of "what ifs" and "couldn't we's" has only added to cost and uncertainty, not the needed outcome. Unproductive costs and uncertainty are the true bandits of what will rob this region, and New Hampshire in particular, of future robust economic opportunities. The project when designed and approved to be as simple as it can be to get electrons into our supply chain must be done
and done quickly. And if the SEC has anything to say about it, it will be best done, built in New Hampshire, by New Hampshire. That's engraved on a state-shaped piece of granite at the entrance to the River's Edge Urgent Care Center in Manchester, as over 90 percent of all wages paid to design and construct that facility were by checks written to people with Granite State addresses.

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

MR. RHODES: Last sentence.

Winston Churchill opined regarding Americans: "You can always count on Americans to do the right thing, after they've tried everything else."

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

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up is Glenn Della-Monica, to be followed by Linda
McDermott and Steven Binette.

No Della-Monica. How about Linda McDermott?

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

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

MS. Monroe: I can do it for you.

MS. McDermott: Thank you.

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

Chairman Honigberg: We can't hear you.

MS. McDermott: Before I start, I just want to say we almost purchased a vacation and future retirement home at Owl's Nest. And we have friends there, and we decided not to because of the Northern Pass. And now we're in Franconia. So there's that. Okay. On the picture it says -- there's a stone -- here I go -- that
"'Tis A Wee Bit O Heaven." These words engraved on a boulder at the home we purchased in Franklin confirmed my belief from the time we spent our honeymoon there 24 years ago that this is indeed a very special place. Now Northern Pass wants to spoil this heavenly place and many other places I love, like Kilburn Crags in Littleton for the view of the Presidential Range, Rocks Estate and Bethlehem, and Grand Mountain View Resort in Whitefield for their views, just to name a few. A long drive to Dixville this past fall ended in disappointment when I saw a windmill farm on the Notch. And what's next? The Northern Pass.

I'm confounded that Franconia is being considered as a Northern Pass route. The blasting, digging and widening of roads in Franconia would be a painful disruption to the historic homes, businesses, schools, bucolic farms that literally sit on the edges of Main Street and Easton Road. And being close enough to the route, the well at our home could be affected from blasting. We
come up here often to escape the busy life in Rhode Island.

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

With creativity, Littleton and Bethlehem are enjoying a revival through art, culture, heritage, music, farmers markets and craft beer, and without the Northern Pass. Our towns -- other towns can do the same, especially if they're lucky enough to use our
greatest resource, the forest, to attract visitors.

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

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

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

MR. BINETTE: Good morning. I'm Steven Binette. I'm from Berlin, New Hampshire. Just to let you know about Berlin, New Hampshire, we used to have a
population of about 30,000 people. Now we've declined down to about 10,000, and that's including with the state and federal prison.

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

Northern Pass, including Eversource New Hampshire's President, Bill Quinlan, has reached out to many of the local contractors to keep us updated on the construction opportunities so that we can be a part of this great project which the North Country desperately needs. Money spent locally during this project will likely stay local and impact communities along the Northern Pass route in a positive way.
Last year our company was selected to install LED lighting, street lighting, in the town of Lancaster, which was one of the early projects funded by the Forward NH Fund. Over the next 20 years, this $20 million investment initiative will benefit our communities with projects associated with community betterment, clean energy innovation, economic development and tourism long after the construction of Northern Pass is completed.

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

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Claude
Levesque?

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

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

Now, we are losing power plants at a fast rate. We lost Maine Yankee, Vermont Yankee. Pilgrim is in the process of decommissioning. And we're also losing fossil fuel power plants that are shutting
down because they're too expensive to refurbish. Now, we need this project.

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

Now, I wasn't around when this started. But probably late '50s or '60s, I don't know how controversial it was, but when there was a big spot of land that cut from this, from Salem to north of the mountains to build a four-lane highway, I'm sure there was some bad feelings about it. But I think that today people appreciate that if you want to go up north, that you got a nice, easy ride. And you talk about messing up the environment. You got four lanes of asphalt. To me, I think it's even worse than cutting down a right-of-way to put the power lines because, you know, once you got it, then you'll...(inaudible) it refurbishes the air, oxygen, stuff like that. And it helps the
wildlife because you don't have the canopy of
big tall trees that create a canopy so that
there's no vegetation underneath for the
wildlife to feed upon.

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So I
understand that some decision has been made to
reorder things a little bit. We're going to
start with Ms. Cady, and then we're going to
take Glenn Della-Monica and then Josh Coderre.
So, Ms. Cady.
MS. CADY: Thank you for having me. And I am from Deerfield, if you don't know that. I'd like to speak to something that's been happening in communities throughout this state.

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

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

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

There have been case law decisions in this country stating that tax dollars may not be used to take political action which a number of citizens in the same community might not agree with, such as Bonner Lyons versus the Boston City School District. Judge Garrity ruled that as compelled speech. Remember, it's not the majority's wishes in our Constitution; it is the right of one citizen as much as a group.

You can remember that from Brown versus Board of Education in Alabama, when one child could
go to the school even though the majority did not want that one child there.

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

I ask the Site Evaluation Committee Commission to recognize many citizens who want the clean hydropower in order to help reduce electric rates, to provide industry a reason to come to New
Hampshire, and more importantly to replace the power that will be lost when the Bow Power Plant closes and Seabrook's life ends in a very few short years. We will all need the power in years to come that Northern Pass will provide. Thank you for your time and service.

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

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

All power generation systems are pretty ugly. Solar panels are not attractive; yet, my neighbors didn't object when I proposed putting them on my own home. In the summer they produce 60 kilowatt hours a day, and they knew that my home, like others like them, reduce the likelihood of brown-outs just by a few percent, but it helps. Windmills are just as ugly. Everybody loves them until someone wants to put one near you. Even the cleanest fossil fuel plants generate pollution, and so do
co-generation plants. Nuclear plants create waste that no one wants. Hydro is still the cleanest mass generation method. Our electric supply pools energy into a regional system -- it's interconnected -- where it gets the power from Northern Pass, reduces their need for existing generation and increases the amount available for everyone else.

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

When Hudson, New Hampshire renovated Benson Park, I volunteered to help clear the trails, knowing that while I didn't plan to use the park much, it was a needed project for my community. I visit the park rarely but have to contend with added costs to my town, higher property taxes to pay for what I don't use for what's now a regional
park and added congestion from people who
visit it, including people from towns miles
away. But it's a needed regional resource.
A dog park doesn't help me at all. They have
one. If it was next to my house, I'd hate
it. But it's a regional resource that's
needed. We have to consider that what is --
that we need power. Is the Northern Pass
sufficiently a greater good that offsets the
negatives that some here point out?

As an Army combat vet, three
tours, I understand that sometimes personal
considerations are less important than
regional or national ones. I also understand
that there are people who can ill-afford high
energy costs, with a good proportion of them
being veterans. I believe this project has
some negative impacts, but over all it's in
the interest of the greater good for New
Hampshire and New England. If I lived near
it, would I desire it? Probably not. But
would I understand the need for it? Yes.
And yes, I have supported projects like this
that were built near where I lived, quite a
number of them that made the neighborhood
less attractive, but I understood that they
were really, really necessary. For instance,
when I lived in San Francisco, right behind
me they put up Sutro Tower, which is a giant
broadcasting system. But it helped
television reception all over the San
Francisco Bay Area. Did I like it? Well, I
would have preferred it be someplace else.
But I understood the need for it. Thank you
for your time.

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

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

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

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

MR. WORTHEN: Good morning. My name's Eric Worthen, and I live on Pinker Hill Road in Bristol, New Hampshire. I have a
degree in social science education, with minors in history and geography. And I'm also a combat disabled veteran. I was wounded while serving as a foreign observer in the 101st Airborne Division in Khost Province, Afghanistan, in 2008.

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

As a child, I had the opportunity to live in Naples, Italy, for three years, as my father served as NATO Southern European Air Defense Chief. While I was there, I developed a love of history. And I was also taken aback by some of the projects that had been done by the Roman
Empire. For 2,000 years there have been aqueducts, roads and various structures that have been operational. 2,000 years, and they're still in use today. I find that stunning. They were constructed not with an eye on the next fiscal quarter, they were constructed with the well-being of their citizenry in mind over the course of time. They understood the importance of their project and took it to heart. They could have taken shortcuts in the process, but they committed themselves to a long-term perspective.

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

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

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

I am painfully aware that it is sometimes easy to pursue a certain route, but the easy route is not always the best. So as you go forward, please take into consideration the future generations of our
state and the sacrifices that have been made
to date by people who want to support our
nation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Susan

Seitz, to be followed by Keith Rayeski and
William Cleveland.

MS. SEITZ: Hi, my name is Susan

Seitz, and I'm from Deerfield.

First, I would like to clarify

Harriet Cady's position. The selectmen were
very clear, extremely clear in following the
laws, including speaking to multiple lawyers.
She is not happy and refuses to accept
anything she does not like. She will sue

Deerfield over anything and has lost every
single case. There is no investigation
because no laws have been broken. The lawyer
representing Deerfield is representing our
best interests. This is a large corporation

going against a small town. He is here to
see that Deerfield comes out of this okay.

Now to what I planned on

saying. I've spent the past few weeks

preparing for my testimony, looking up
references and statistics and preparing a very factual talk for you today. As I was getting ready to come here today, I realized you've heard it all. So I decided to tell you how this affects me personally, Susan Seitz, a Deerfield resident.

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

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

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

We have been told Eversource will stop taking us to court if we just agree with them about their assessments. Deerfield and every our town will never see the taxes that they are claiming. This is an -- but by the time the towns find out that we are going to get screwed with this Project, as we have with every other project they've ever put in our town, it's going to be too late. We are a small town, where in the early '70s two power lines happened to cross. That's why this project is going to end in Deerfield in
the Bilodeaus' back yard, because in the '70s
two power lines crossed there. No other
reason.

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

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

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

No William Cleveland? Tracy
Hatch? There we go.

MS. HATCH: Mr. Chairman,

Members of the Commission, thank you for allowing me to speak with you this morning.

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

Our member businesses, and in fact, businesses across the state, are directly affected by the ever-increasing upward pressure of rising energy costs. These costs are often unpredictable and shrink the assets available for those companies to grow their businesses, increase salaries and add new employees. Businesses
are doing their part to conserve energy.

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

For Southern New Hampshire
Health Systems, another large employer in our
community, over $2.6 million each year is
spent on electricity alone. And we wonder
why healthcare costs are going up? And when
supply is at risk in the wintertime when
there's great demand and more costly capacity
needs to be brought into play, they just
can't shut off the lights or pull the plug.
We need to increase our supply
to help drive down costs for our businesses.
Our economy, our businesses, and the men and
woman who are employed by those businesses
need reliable, stable energy. We believe
strongly that Northern Pass will bring that
to New Hampshire, and we ask for your
thoughtful consideration and support as you
come to that vote. Thank you very much for
allowing me to speak before you today.

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

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

MR. HUNEWILL: My name is
Richard Hunewill. I've lived in New Hampton,
New Hampshire, for 36 years, where we bought a
house. Nine years ago, my wife and I tried to
give my daughter a piece of land down the
street. It's between my house and Eversource's
right-of-way.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Just one second. People can't hear you. Can you bring the microphone closer to your mouth? There we go.

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

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

MR. HUNEWILL: Right. Her and her husband took two days to think about it, and then they asked me about Northern Pass. And at that point I knew nothing about it, so I had to go looking for some "northern pass."

And they looked into it and looked into it, and finally they refused. And to me, that was depressing. I don't -- I bought and paid for this land. I'd like to be able to give it to my daughter and granddaughter. And I'm pretty sure they don't want it because it's going to be useless by the time these towers are in. You're going to be able to see out three sides of my house. You're going to be able to see
towers. We're going to be completely surrounded.

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

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

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Sally Ann Baker.

[No verbal response]

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: How about Barbara Lucas?
MS. LUCAS: Good morning. My name is Barbara Lucas. I'm here today as a resident of Bridgewater.

I want to state for the record my vehement objection to the Northern Pass Project as it's presently proposed. The proposed placement of these 80-, 90-, 100- and 125-foot towers above ground, industrial lattice towers through our rural communities and across our natural and beautiful landscape is a travesty. These industrial towers do not belong in New Hampshire, let alone in the Lakes Region of the North Country. They belong in industrial zones and areas that demand this power, not New Hampshire. Just in one section coming from New Hampton into Bridgewater, there will be 17 towers -- 17 -- ranging in height from 80 feet to 125 feet in less than a mile. This section, I'll point out, also crosses the Pemigewasset River adjacent to a longstanding scenic easement. Granted, they are not in the scenic easement, but adjacent to it, and the towers will be the backdrop to
that scenic easement as you look over the
scenic vista. This is just one small example
in this 192-mile project.

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

If this project does receive
your approval, it will be a scar across our
beautiful state. It is not worth the
supposed savings of a couple of dollars on
each of our electric bills, and especially
when it's only to satisfy the need for power
by the states to our south. If this project
goes through as proposed with these
industrial lattice towers, the destruction of
our viewscapes, the impact to individual
property owners' property value will be
attributed not just to Northern Pass, but
Eversource Public Service of New Hampshire.
The public relations successes of the past by
Public Service of New Hampshire will be
forgotten, and this will be the legacy.

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

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

MR. DENNISON: Hello, my name's
Roger Dennison. I come from Massachusetts.
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to come
up here and say a few words.

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

I climbed up Mount Cardigan with my children when they were small. I've climbed it more recently with my grandchildren. I hope that when my grandchildren climb it with their grandchildren, it will be as green as it is now. I'm concerned that the effects of climate change are going to have a serious impact on all of New Hampshire's forests. The changing seasons, the warmer winters bringing insects into the area, the storms, the floods, the drought can have a serious impact on the health of trees and on the forests. The impacts of climate change, of course, will be much greater in other parts of the world. Hundreds of millions of people are threatened with losing their homes to sea-level rise. I think that sort of thing
has to be considered when making any decision that will impact carbon emissions.

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

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

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

Okay. No James Mason. How about Donna Reardon?

MS. REARDON: Can you hear me?

All right. Thank you. I did want to back out, but I think I'm going to go ahead.

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

Have you seen the -- have any of you see the documentary, "The Power of Place"? Came out, I think, 2013. And I highly suggest to the board and actually everybody in the audience opposed or not opposed to the Project to take a few moments, or an hour and a half to actually watch this. You can Google it, "The Power of Place," and you'll be able to find it and watch it. It actually shows New Hampshire and why we probably all live here in New Hampshire and
are proud of it. And it can show you some of
the ramifications of what could and probably
would happen to New Hampshire if this project
goes forward as proposed.

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

Proposed power lines next to
my home do interfere with the orderly
development of the region, with due
consideration to the views of municipal
planning commissions and municipal governing boards. My house has buried lines. The power lines are buried, and it was built before the Northern Pass proposal. There are two houses next to me not on the line but before me that have been built in the last three years. Both of those were required by the City of Concord to have their lines buried. New housing does have to have the lines buried. In fact, the new -- all the work they did downtown, they buried the lines. So I feel that that's not consistent.

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

Two, Northern Pass has proposed -- as proposed will have an unreasonable adverse effect on the aesthetics, the natural environment, and I believe public health and safety and local jobs. The Northern Pass proposal will not serve the public interest. The Northern Pass will cut a path through some of New
Hampshire's most scenic landscapes and jeopardize tourism and local jobs -- these jobs are permanent jobs -- sacrificing the future for a short-term gain.

It's very possible that ratepayers could be asked to pay for part of the Northern Pass Project, and I hope that doesn't come to pass. Eversource is in the business to make profits. Looks like huge profits. Just look at the number of lobbyists and lawyers they have hired over the past seven years. One of the first public meetings that they had scheduled here in Concord that I went to, there was at least 10 to 1 lawyers to the residents and concerned people that were there to get information. And in the years since then, the advertising that they've spent. I actually wonder if somebody could find out -- or I'd like to ask Northern Pass what they did actually spend on all of that over the past years and if they, in fact, couldn't have buried the lines with that money, or a good portion of it. Now we're finding out
Northern Pass will only save $1.50 per month. New Hampshire's natural beauty and tourism and jobs are worth far more than that.

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: John Balch, and then we'll start circling back to other
names and see if there are any walk-ins.

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

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

There are 37 towns on the route opposed to Northern Pass. One of their major objections focuses on the impact, the site impacts of the proposed project on natural resources and wild areas. Negative environmental impacts of the Northern Pass include towers, rights-of-way, construction both here and also in the Canadian hydro
station reservoirs. That construction means
the drowning of Canadian forests and the
subsequent release of thousands of tons of
methane -- methane is about 80 times more
potent a greenhouse gas than carbon
dioxide -- negative health effects from
electromagnetic radiation on people who are
living nearby the towers, and also impacts on
wildlife.

New Hampshire site impacts
include federally registered endangered and
threatened species: The small whorled
pogonia, bald eagle, Indiana bat, gray wolf,
Eastern cougar and the Canada lynx.
Sensitive plants as evaluated by the United
States Forest Service Biological Evaluation
of WMNF and environs, a 270-page document --
I'm not going to read the whole 270 pages --
but it includes species like arnica, white
birch, bent-grass, bitter cress, sedge, wood
fern, eyebright, fescue, avens, butternut,
twayblade, cudweed, rice grass, ginseng,
silverling, colts foot, bluegrass,
cinquefoils, rattlesnake root, saxifrage,
campion, pogonia and blueberries.

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

   My point in reading you this
list is really simply this: Will
Hydro-Quebec, a company that willingly drowns
thousands of acres of forest lands in its own
homeland, suddenly develop a conscience and a
desire to protect our forests and wildlife?
Will a company like that, a company that
stole land from its First Nations people and
built dams and generating plants on it
without permission or compensation suddenly
become fair-minded? Will the bulldozer
operators, the ground workers and the other
large machinery operators be trained to
recognize the species listed? Will they halt
construction in accordance with federal
regulations when an unsurveyed group of
threatened or endangered species are encountered, or will they plow ahead? And does Eversource, now a Texas-based company seeking profits, really care about our unique state, its wildlife and its people?

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

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

[No verbal response]

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. Are there any walk-ins? Anyone who came today who -- I see one, two, three, four, five. All right. Can you folks stand up? I want to get a better view. Okay. Looks like it's five. We'll just bounce from one side of the room to
the other. We'll go with the first 33, the one on the aisle, 33 in the orange shirt.

MR. DECKER: Good morning, Commissioners.

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

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

So I oppose this project for many of the reasons that have been articulated today by others. Communities who are impacted by this project have nearly unanimously stood up against it. Environmental organizations that are weighing in on the Project are against it. The Pessamit Innu who have struggled against the destruction of Hydro-Quebec for years are against it. And now, as individuals who have relationships with Yale University learn
about the impact of this project, they are
joining these groups in their opposition to
Northern Pass. These individuals are
particularly opposed to Yale enabling this
project by leasing 24 miles of land to the
proposed project through a shell corporation,
Bayroot --

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Slow down

just a little for the stenographer.

MR. DECKER: Sure. Sorry.

These individuals with
relationships with Yale are particularly
opposed to the leasing of 24 miles of land to
the proposed project through a shell
corporation, Bayroot, LLC. Although many in
this latter group are not directly affected
by Northern Pass, SEC would be well advised
to pay close attention to their reaction.

When Yale's ownership interest is revealed
and these people understand the environmental
and social costs of this project, they are
outraged enough to do things like attend
teach-ins with residents from Coos County,
travel five hours to view impacts of the
transmission line, write letters to the Yale Corporation urging Yale to abandon the Project, and drive to Concord to testify against it.

Yale has reacted to this opposition by trying to distance itself from any responsibility for Northern Pass. They claim that their contracted investment manager calls the shots. This lacks all credibility on our campus. Yale Chief Investment Officer David Swensen is one of the most respected investors in the world, and he's known for unparalleled, rigorous research. According to the New York Times, when Swensen is considering investing with a manager, he has called CEOs of companies in which the manager invests its clients' funds. One Yale money manager told the Times that no other investors do research like that. And yet, Yale insists that it has no control over a 98.8-percent-owned company that could yield millions of dollars. Northern Pass has gambled that it could rely on Yale's ability to hide
behind Bayroot, LLC and its land manager to secure nearly 12.5 percent of the entire route. This may be a losing bet. Yale's talking points are not deflecting the concerns of students, alumni and campus organizations that oppose Northern Pass. At some point, Yale may decide that the only way to salvage the University's reputation in New England is by exiting this lease and task its formidable legal counsel to make that happen. Northern Pass would then be left without a viable route. Opposition within the Yale community adds another layer of risk to this project.

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

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. Over to my right we'll go to the person in the back corner over there. Yeah, that's you, sir. So please identify yourself.

If there's any ambiguity about the way your
name is spelled, please spell it for us.

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

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

Also want to bring to your attention the environmental impact. We heard about the methane release caused by this construction, by the construction involved. Also will be a lot deforestation involved. And the trees are essential in converting coal and other elements in the air to clean air, back to air we can breathe. That's a function of the trees. And the deforestation along the 192-mile route will be extensive,
as well as the construction along the route itself will produce a great deal of carbon and waste. That was the one or two points that I wanted to make.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thank you.

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


Like I just said, my name is Kanita Miyedadi Mote, and I currently reside in Hamden, Connecticut. My father is a Melanesian South Pacific Islander from West Papua. My middle name, Miyedadi, is a Mee tribal name meaning "Valley of the Mountain Miye." The Miye Mountain stands in front of my village, Mugouda, home to generations of peaceful, indigenous West Papuan hunters and gatherers. For thousands of years, Papuan people existed peacefully, deeply connected to the land. And to many tribes, including
my own, the land was home to deities central
to the existence of the tribe.

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

I am here to testify that
projects cannot be clean or green when they
displace people and communities who have
lived sustainably in a region for centuries.
Unfortunately, the Hydro-Quebec power
stations have been criticized by
representatives of the Pessamit Innu First
Nation who have sued Hydro-Quebec for precisely this type of displacement.

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

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Slow down.

MS. MOTE: My apologies.

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

This project is also opposed
by individuals in New Hampshire whose families have lived in the region for generations. This project threatens to permanently scar family farms and landscapes that have long provided the backdrop for outdoor recreation and economic activities.

I am dismayed that the University, which dominated a region where I grew up, is facilitating this harm to the Pessamit Innu and the people of Northern New Hampshire by leasing 24 miles for the proposed Northern Pass route through Bayroot, LLC, which is 98.8 percent owned by Yale University. As a member of the New Haven community, and a family that has been displaced by multi-national corporate activity, I am urging Yale to not allow this transmission line to cross this property.

Similarly, the SEC should not provide a permit to a project that is opposed by so many communities that it affects. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Back over on this side of the room. We had one other person. No, we have two, I think. No, I think
I was going here first.

MS. WEBER: Jane Weber from Campton, New Hampshire. Weber with one B.

Good morning.

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

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

And my third point is, as a staff member of Plymouth State University,
I've heard firsthand the decision-making process of students who choose PSU, and the beautiful downtown area is a big factor. A lengthy construction project could adversely affect decisions by prospective students. PSU is a major economic driver in the Plymouth area, and we should support its ability to attract students. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.

Back over on this side of the room, gentleman in the back.

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


I'm Nick Jenkins, 75 Old Stage Road in Bristol, New Hampshire. Eric Worthen spoke a little earlier, took my place. And I was going to get in -- I gave him my spot because he owns part of the -- I'm at the Worthen place, on Pauley's -- Mary Worthen's boyfriend. And the biggest thing to me is bury. Bury all of it. You know, I mean, that makes common sense. Better
transmission, the more efficient wires, no
overhead visual or impact at all. I'm sure
they're going to make a lot of noise with the
humidity and rain. The ones that are there
now are the small ones. They are not going
on top of the big ones. So there's going to
be ground level up to whatever, however tall
those are, which are very tall, are going to
be covered. And right now it's going to be
right in the front yard. One pole is going
to sit right in the middle of the front yard.
That's the plan. And to me, that's pretty
sick. You know, I mean, and that's going
right -- you're going to see it for miles and
miles around crossing the Pemigewasset River,
as some guy talked about earlier. It's going
to be there. And then crossing it again,
it's -- you know, I mean, I know it's a lot
more expensive to bury it, a lot more work
involved, but that does mean more employment.
And the wires they put underground are far
more efficient for power generation and
non-loss of power than the overhead ones.
You know, and this can be, like Eric was
saying -- we can go on for centuries if you
do it correctly instead of going on for 50
years and then scraping it all.

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

You know, and it's also
conservation easement. Pauley's father put
everything into conservation easement except
for this one section, and you're facing the
power lines. There's no place -- you cannot
move the house or pack it up and abandon that
house and build another place because it's
all conservation easement, which is a good
thing. But, I mean, right now there's going
to be power lines. You're not going to be
able to get away from it, you know. Since
that section isn't conservation easement,
maybe you can make a sand pit out of it and
move out all the other and make a sand pit
out of that thing. And, you know, Peaked
Hill Road is a scenic -- I think it's a
designated scenic route.

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

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

And then we're at a wedding
there last year, and it turned out real well.
A friend of mine, the Tamposis, rounded up wedding parties for it. But he said the same thing, that it's not going to happen if the power lines go there. There's no place you can go to get away from them.

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.

And over here. Yup.

DR. WARNER: Dr. Debbie Warner from Littleton. I'm a psychologist, and I serve the North Country, both Grafton and Coos,
and some of Carroll. And I'm sharing with you an important piece of research that I did in the North Country, and I'm going to answer why everyone is so upset about this project. You've heard many facts, but I want to tell you a little bit about the background and the motivation that people have for opposing this project.

On the first page of this handout, you can see I'm describing the market -- the economic markets those are. And the external market, as we know, is where we produce something, send it elsewhere and money comes back to us. As you know, that's a very weak market in the North Country. We have a destination market where people come to us and buy things, services and such, and leave their money with us, which we enjoy. And we also enjoy sharing the North Country with them. The local market is where we spend money amongst ourselves. There's not very much of that. It's a weak market at this point. Many restaurants and other businesses are closing shop and pulling in.
We also have less housing built at this point in time. The drain market is one of great concern. That is where outside businesses come in, use our resources and the money goes elsewhere; there is no gain and no benefit to the local economy or to the local people. That is the category that this Northern Pass is in. And it's a terrible challenge for us.

You'll see on Page 2 I did a research study at the beginning of this project in 2012, where I asked more than a hundred people at public events in Coos County, I asked them the question, "What do you like about the North Country?" And I wrote down their three top answers. As a psychologist, I listened to them, I wrote down everything that they said, and I listened with my clinical ear as well. And I could hear that as they were talking, people said that they were conveying that they don't just like the North Country, they love the North Country. It is a relationship. They talk about it like they were talking about a family member. And I don't think that
happens in other places in the state where people might say, Well, I really, really like Route 101. You know, I mean, it's not necessarily the way people feel in other areas. But we do have a very important, poignant, deep relationship with the land. As you can see in the responses, more than two thirds of the people said it's the mountains and the forests that they love about the North Country. Half of them said it's the people. So they rank higher than even our family members. Nature activities, of course. Maybe not everybody goes out and does them, but we know we could. You can see what the different items are that people said and their popularity.

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

The conclusion is that the overhead towers will harm the pristine nature of the North Country. It will interfere with many people's communing with their prime relationship with the mountains. There are many, many acres affected. An early estimate was 93,000 acres affected. Everyone has their own private, special little place. You can't say, well, we'll just move it over here so we don't get this stream bed. Well, this stream bed over here is somebody else's favorite. The point of it is that's a vast, pristine wilderness. And you can go anywhere there and find nothing. And that wonderful nothing is the beauty of our North Country. And we commune with it. And commune is not just communicate or write a book or make a picture. We are listening very, very clearly and closely to nature. We are absorbing it, taking it in. And it meets our hearts and changes us. And many, many people are affected deeply by living in the North
Country, and that's why they choose to do it, in a place where they would have to travel many hours to go get healthcare. But they love this. And it keeps us healthy, well and good.

So I do recommend that you either decline this permit or that you ensure that it is buried in all localities where there have been objections to the towers.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.

Is there anyone else?

[No verbal response]

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.

Seeing none, we will close this Public Comment Hearing. The next one is in --

MS. MONROE: July 20th.

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

So, with that we'll close this meeting.

(Hearing adjourned at 11:31 a.m.)
CERTIFICATE

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 financially interested in this action.

________________________________________
Susan J. Robidas, LCR/RPR
Licensed Shorthand Court Reporter
Registered Professional Reporter
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(4) Checkcheck - contend

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