

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

**August 30, 2017 - 5:00 p.m.**  
49 Donovan Street  
Concord, New Hampshire

*{Electronically filed with SEC 09-11-17}*

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

**PRESENT FOR SUBCOMMITTEE/SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT FOR THE SEC:**

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

Pamela G. Monroe, SEC Administrator

**COURT REPORTER:** Cynthia Foster, LCR No. 14

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**PEOPLE WHO DID NOT SHOW**

Peter Bosco  
Erica Druke  
Jeanne Dickerman  
Charles S. Garden  
Steve Duprey  
Geoff Daly



1 Economic Affairs.

2 MS. DANDENEAU: Rachel Dandeneau, Alternate  
3 Public Member.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Couple other  
5 people I'd like to identify. Sitting to my  
6 right is Mike Iacopino who is counsel to the  
7 Site Evaluation Committee. And sitting in the  
8 front row over to my left is Pam Monroe who is  
9 the Administrator of the Site Evaluation  
10 Committee.

11 The purpose of the meeting today is to take  
12 oral statements from members of the public on  
13 the Northern Pass Project. This is the last of  
14 four meetings that have been scheduled during  
15 the final phase of this proceeding for the  
16 purposes of accepting public comment. This  
17 meeting like the previous three is scheduled for  
18 three hours.

19 To set the scene, I want to give you a  
20 little bit of background about where we are.  
21 The Subcommittee is currently in the  
22 adjudicative phase of this matter. We have  
23 spent 29 days hearing from witnesses and have a  
24 number of days scheduled to hear from additional

1 witnesses who are questioned by the parties as  
2 we develop a record for the Subcommittee's  
3 consideration.

4 In addition to the public comment that  
5 we've been receiving during this phase, the  
6 three previous meetings and this one, the  
7 Subcommittee conducted a number of public  
8 hearings to receive public comments during prior  
9 phases. Specifically, the Subcommittee received  
10 public comments during hearings that were  
11 conducted in 2016, on March 1st in Meredith,  
12 March 7th in Colebrook, March 10th in Concord,  
13 March 14th in Holderness, March 16th in  
14 Deerfield, May 19th in Whitefield and June 23rd  
15 in Plymouth. In total over 30 hours of public  
16 comments have been made directly to the  
17 Subcommittee during the public hearings that  
18 have been conducted in this docket.

19 In addition, we have transcripts of public  
20 comments that were provided during informal  
21 sessions that were conducted early in 2016.  
22 January 11th in Franklin, January 13th in  
23 Londonderry, January 14th in Laconia, January  
24 20th in Whitefield, and January 21st in Laconia.

1           Finally, the Subcommittee has received  
2           upwards of 1500 written comments. We've not  
3           tracked the positive and negative comments  
4           precisely, but we have generally looked at them,  
5           and they run around 11 to 1 against the proposal  
6           as it was filed.

7           Considering the number of comments the  
8           subcommittee has already received, we ask that  
9           you keep your neighbors in mind here this  
10          evening. We want to make sure that everyone who  
11          wishes to speak has a chance to do so. Our  
12          available time does not allow everyone to speak  
13          for as long as they might like. In order to  
14          accommodate the number of people who wish to  
15          provide public comments, we are asking speakers  
16          to please limit themselves to three minutes.

17          Here's what that means. In prior hearings,  
18          people generally run between 2 minutes and 45  
19          seconds and four minutes. There is a clock, a  
20          countdown clock that is next to you and when  
21          you're at the lectern here. No one is going to  
22          interrupt you until you get over 4 minutes and  
23          30 seconds or so. At that point, we'll probably  
24          ask you to wrap up your comments at that time.

1           Please try not to repeat what someone else  
2           has said. If someone has made the point you  
3           want to make, please feel free to say I agree  
4           with my neighborhood, Mr. Smith, on that point.

5           When you are speaking, please speak as  
6           clearly as possible and use the microphone here  
7           at the lectern. Every word is being transcribed  
8           by the court reporter who is sitting over to my  
9           left. She and her machine can only go so fast,  
10          however. If you go too fast, nothing will end  
11          up being recorded well, despite her heroic  
12          efforts. So I will ask you to slow down if  
13          you're moving too fast. As Mr. Iacopino says  
14          we're trying to make a record, not break one.

15          If you have written remarks, the woman  
16          sitting in the front row will take them from  
17          you, they'll be scanned and put on the website,  
18          and it will also help the stenographer make sure  
19          that the comments are correct in the transcript.

20          We'll call for speakers in the order that  
21          they appear on the screens. I think we have  
22          three sheets of paper. I will probably call at  
23          least three names at a time in case someone has  
24          trouble seeing the screens and please be ready



1 when it is your turn.

2 If we have time at the end, we'll take  
3 folks who did not register in advance.

4 I want to introduce one other person who  
5 I'm not sure was sitting there when I did the  
6 introductions a minute ago, but he's sitting in  
7 the front row. He's from the Attorney General's  
8 office. He has a specific title in this  
9 proceeding called Counsel for the Public. His  
10 name is Chris Aslin. Chris, could you stand up  
11 and wave to people who may not know you who are?  
12 Chris is new to this proceeding. He is  
13 replacing the previous person who has served as  
14 Counsel for the Public.

15 With that, I think we are ready to take our  
16 first speaker who is Councilor Joe Kenney who  
17 represents District 1. He'll be followed by  
18 Howie Wemyss, and I believe Aaron Cockrell  
19 because I think Peter Bosco is not here.  
20 Councilor Kenney.

21 JOSEPH KENNEY: Mr. Chairman, members of  
22 the Site Evaluation Committee, for the record my  
23 name is Joseph Kenney representing Governor  
24 Council District 1 that includes 108 towns, 4

1 cities and 23 unincorporated areas. Of the 31  
2 towns that the Northern Pass Project touches, I  
3 represent 24 of those towns from Pittsburg to  
4 Hill, New Hampshire. This is just to give you  
5 an idea of what it looks like.

6 In the past, my predecessor who served in  
7 my seat for over 30 years, the late Raymond  
8 Burton, was very much opposed to this Project,  
9 and the last time he addressed this topic was in  
10 September of 2013. He made it clear that this  
11 proposal should at no less be buried to provide  
12 a lessened impact to the North Country. His  
13 original position was harsher in 2011 when he  
14 clearly stated, it should not be built and that  
15 New Hampshire should not rely on foreign power  
16 for its energy source.

17 My position has been clear from the  
18 beginning that Northern Pass should not be built  
19 at all or if it is permitted, it should be  
20 buried. And I agree with my predecessor, we  
21 should not rely on a foreign country for our  
22 power, and more recently, the national policy  
23 has been to wean ourselves away from foreign  
24 reliance on energy. I believe this Project is

1 not in the best interest of the public. It  
2 provides more negative than positive aspects to  
3 the region of the State of New Hampshire.

4 Right now in the State of New Hampshire we  
5 have proposed what is called the Granite State  
6 Power Link Project that will bring up 1200  
7 megawatts from Monroe to Londonderry on new and  
8 improved power lines on the National Grid  
9 system. This power potentially could go on line  
10 in 2022, and there appears to be little  
11 opposition to this expanded energy project up to  
12 this point, because the right-of-ways already  
13 exist. Again, no need for Northern Pass.

14 A lot has been discussed on the visual  
15 impact on the Northern Pass Project. This  
16 Project, if built, will have a major visual  
17 impact on my District and will impact tourism  
18 dollars and property values. I've had the  
19 opportunity to fly over central and northern New  
20 Hampshire last Friday as a part of my annual  
21 aviation tour and what struck me was the beauty  
22 of New Hampshire and we must preserve it. I  
23 also saw from the air the one most distinctive  
24 site that was manmade. It looked unnatural.

1 That was National Grid pathway and its towers  
2 starting from Monroe going southward. On Sunday  
3 I climbed Mount Lafayette and encountered many  
4 hikers and international travelers who took  
5 pictures and commented on the beauty of North  
6 Country. And just today I looked at Governor  
7 Judd Gregg's official portrait in the State  
8 House, and it's a picture of a young governor  
9 with a backdrop of the White Mountains without  
10 noticeable towers and manmade structure. It is  
11 clear there is value in natural beauty, whether  
12 it be at Weeks State Park in Lancaster, a  
13 wedding photo along Forest Lake State Park in  
14 Dalton, or a family taking a picture along a  
15 hiking trail in Franconia Notch.

16 The recent discussions on the construction  
17 along small state road right-of-ways along  
18 Routes 116 in Easton, 18 in Bethlehem, and 145  
19 in Clarksville have raised legitimate concerns  
20 about the layout of these roads and whether or  
21 not they have the capacity to take on high  
22 voltage power lines or underground transmission  
23 lines, not to mention construction disruptions.  
24 The downtown of the Plymouth area is not

1 prepared to take on disruption of this type of  
2 major construction of Northern Pass, and no  
3 doubt the university academic year will be  
4 impacted in a major way. Once again, the  
5 negatives outweigh the positives.

6 The interests of this Project should be in  
7 the best interest of the state of New Hampshire.  
8 Understandably the future requires 4000 more  
9 megawatts of power to the New England Grid. It  
10 is a fact that in New Hampshire produces twice  
11 the amount of power that it needs so how does  
12 Northern Pass benefit New Hampshire. It could  
13 benefit New Hampshire if the lines were on the  
14 New Hampshire right-of-ways, the New Hampshire  
15 ratepayers would not have to pay potentially for  
16 the towers and transmission lines placed  
17 underground, and assurances that a major amount  
18 of the employment stay here in New Hampshire.  
19 But at this rate, there are no guarantees other  
20 than a Northern Fund which is not clear how it's  
21 going to be designed and administrated.

22 Finally, my gut instinct is that Northern  
23 Pass is a bad deal for New Hampshire. As the  
24 Site Evaluation Committee, you have been working

1 long and hard on this Application. Taking a  
2 field trip to the North Country, attended  
3 numerous meetings and committed to long hours of  
4 research. In my judgment, you are the jury for  
5 New Hampshire and you must at one point decide  
6 the fate of northern New Hampshire with regards  
7 to this Project. Northern Pass was an uninvited  
8 guest to the North Country, and I quote a former  
9 governor who stated "if the North Country people  
10 don't want Northern Pass, then it shouldn't be  
11 built." While there will always be some people  
12 who approve of this Project, it is my belief  
13 that most in northern New Hampshire do not want  
14 this Application approved on the grounds of  
15 preserving the quality of life and the quality  
16 of lives for generations to come.

17 Finally, as I become familiar to know, what  
18 makes northern New Hampshire unique is that it's  
19 truly what America used to be. Thank you for  
20 your time and your attention.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Howie Wemyss,  
22 to be followed by Peter Bosco if he's here. And  
23 Aaron Cockrell.

24 HOWIE WEMYSS: Good evening. Thank you

1 very much for this opportunity to give my  
2 perspective on Northern Pass and the effects it  
3 will have on the North Country. My name is  
4 Howie Wemyss. I've been involved with the Mt.  
5 Washington Auto Road for around 37 years, the  
6 last 30 of which have been as their General  
7 Manager. I like to think that after all of  
8 these years of working in the tourism business  
9 that I have a fairly decent handle on the  
10 business and what people respond to when making  
11 their travel plans.

12 I been reading with fascination the  
13 testimony of the tourism expert hired by  
14 Eversource and have concluded that he does not  
15 understand tourism, at least as it plays out in  
16 northern New Hampshire on a real life basis, not  
17 a theoretical basis.

18 Particularly, I take issue with his  
19 statement on more than one occasion that traffic  
20 or construction delays are part of the traveling  
21 experience and the indication being that they  
22 make no difference. Certainly delays are not a  
23 positive part of the experience, and if agencies  
24 like AAA are warning people of construction

1 delays along the construction corridor, people  
2 are going to change their travel plans to a  
3 location that will not have these predicted  
4 built-in delays. We lived with this at the Auto  
5 Road when the traffic through North Conway was  
6 congested for many, many years, and AAA was  
7 advising people to avoid North Conway all  
8 together which, of course, had a negative affect  
9 on our business.

10 The Final Northern Pass Environmental  
11 Impact Study released in August states that no  
12 study has been conducted to weigh the potential  
13 impacts of transmission lines on tourism. This  
14 alone seems rather odd since tourism plays such  
15 an enormous part in the economy of the North  
16 Country. Wouldn't we want to study the effects  
17 of this transmission project on tourism given  
18 that tourism is New Hampshire's second largest  
19 industry?

20 In that EIS I read that some of the  
21 macroeconomic indicators of the effects on  
22 tourism are the price of gas, the employment  
23 situation, the economy and others. But let's be  
24 clear about one thing. The most important



1 driver of tourism in northern New Hampshire is  
2 our renowned scenic beauty. From the early  
3 1800s when the northern parts of the state were  
4 first being discovered by tourists, it was the  
5 haunting beauty of the mountains, the valleys  
6 and the rivers that drew national attention to  
7 the White Mountains and regions north. With  
8 artists sketching and painting these scenes,  
9 then displaying them in the metropolitan areas  
10 of the date, tourism took off in our northern  
11 regions. It is imperative that we do not  
12 degrade these scenic vistas that have been so  
13 important to us for so long. They've been the  
14 backbone of our tourist economy for many, many  
15 decades.

16 Closer to home, I'm very concerned with the  
17 degradation of the viewshed from Mt. Washington.  
18 As far as I can tell from the volumes of  
19 testimony, there's been no consideration at all  
20 about how this proposed path of deforestation  
21 with steel structures towering over the  
22 surrounding forest will affect the views from  
23 Mt. Washington. I can tell you for certain that  
24 people are not traveling to the summit of Mt.

1 Washington hoping to see Northern Pass.

2 Northern Pass in any of its forms will do  
3 nothing but degrade the experience of visiting  
4 the North Country. It is unnecessary, unwanted  
5 by nearly every community on its route and will  
6 be extremely harmful to the North Country  
7 economy. Please do the right thing. Thank you.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Is Peter  
9 Bosco here? All right. That's a no. So Aaron  
10 Cockrell, to be followed by representative of  
11 the Tamarack Tennis Camp.

12 AARON COCKRELL: Hi. My name is Aaron  
13 Cockrell. I live in Easton, New Hampshire.  
14 Thank you for the opportunity to speak in  
15 opposition to the Project. At the last meeting  
16 my wife Melissa and I had, Melissa  
17 hand-delivered 20,000 signatures of people who  
18 stand in opposition to the Project. While we  
19 were here we only heard from two people who  
20 supported the Project. That's roughly 10,000 to  
21 one. I've read transcripts from past hearings  
22 and noticed mentioning manufacturer companies  
23 viewing New Hampshire's electrical rates as a  
24 deterrent for setting up shop in the state.

1           However, Hitchner Manufacturing, New Hampshire's  
2           16th largest manufacturing company was based in  
3           Littleton, New Hampshire, where they have the  
4           lowest rates in the state and moved out of town  
5           in favor of lower labor costs.

6           Seems to me most supporters are either  
7           misinformed or will personally benefit  
8           financially and at the expense of others losses.  
9           Will the temporary jobs created offset the  
10          potential damage construction would do to local  
11          economies. Is it realistic to assume these jobs  
12          will actually go to local workers who will  
13          substantially reinvest in New Hampshire's  
14          economy.

15          Are you, the Site Evaluation Committee,  
16          prepared to live with the decision and aftermath  
17          of this Project, knowing that just about the  
18          only benefit will be the financial gain for  
19          shareholders. You have the power to help  
20          preserve the beauty of New Hampshire, to help  
21          allow small businesses and local economies  
22          thrive and keep our environment pure. This is  
23          part of the mission of the SEC, not to preserve  
24          the welfare of corporations.

1           Why is Interstate 93 and existing corridors  
2 not an option. Why would you allow people's  
3 lands, potentially homes and local businesses to  
4 be destroyed. Why is the route with  
5 restrictions that don't even come close to  
6 meeting construction requirements the better  
7 option. Why are governing authorities turning a  
8 blind eye to these restrictions. Why is a DOT  
9 employee removing opposition signs along 116 one  
10 hour before the SEC tour. This is, quite  
11 frankly, a disgusting abuse of power and only  
12 represents where the DOT sides.

13           I want you all to imagine for a minute that  
14 you're not affiliated with the Site Evaluation  
15 Committee. I want you to imagine that you might  
16 not struggle financially to keep and maintain  
17 your home, but it's the most important and  
18 valuable thing you own by far. Imagine that you  
19 all live next to each other on the Main Street  
20 of a very small beautiful little town that you  
21 love. I want you to imagine sitting on your  
22 back porch in the summer enjoying your gorgeous  
23 mountain view with your children and  
24 grandchildren. Just across Main Street is a row

1 of shops. And I'd like you, Mr. Way, to imagine  
2 that you're the owner and operator of a hardware  
3 store that employs members of your family and  
4 has for three generations. I'd like you, Ms.  
5 Weathersby, to imagine that you own a coffee  
6 shop that does most of its business in the  
7 morning and mostly to locals of the town. And  
8 maybe the rest of you have sons who are  
9 electrical linesmen looking for work, but only  
10 one of the them ends up with a job from the  
11 Project.

12 And let's say the Project is approved and  
13 construction begins. Main Street isn't  
14 accessible for weeks. It's hard to put up with  
15 the noise and vibrations and inaccessibility but  
16 somehow you all manage. Local townsfolk have  
17 been forced to shop at Home Depot and Dunkin'  
18 Donuts in neighboring towns, and one day one of  
19 you opens the tap for a glass of water only to  
20 discover that nearby blasting has shifted  
21 bedrock and cut off your well, and now you have  
22 to take out a loan to have a new one drilled.

23 Staging areas on your property has removed  
24 trees that used to shelter noise from the

1 highway. Months of low sales has forced you to  
2 shut down your already barely profitable  
3 businesses and puts dozens of local people out  
4 of work.

5 Next spring you move boxes out of your  
6 stored belongings in your basement away from the  
7 wall for some spring cleaning, only to discover  
8 cracks in the foundation of your  
9 hundred-year-old home where your family has  
10 lived for three generations. You struggle to  
11 prove that it's a product of the construction  
12 but that's fruitless. You find work in another  
13 town, but you can't afford your home and  
14 eventually have to sell. And who benefited.

15 I want you to stop imagining now and  
16 realize that if the current route is approved,  
17 this will be the reality for hundreds, possibly  
18 thousands of people. So I want you to put  
19 yourselves in others' shoes and please do what's  
20 right for the hundreds of thousands of people  
21 who make New Hampshire the great state that it  
22 is and not the few who don't. Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Tamarack  
24 Tennis Camp to be followed by Jennifer Kretovic.

1           CHUCK WEED: Thanks so much for giving us  
2           the time to speak here today. My name is Chuck  
3           Weed, and I am one of the directors of Tamarack  
4           Tennis Camp, a small tennis camp that rests  
5           right along Route 116 where the proposed line  
6           will be dug. Tamarack has been offering a  
7           wonderful summer camp experience to kids for  
8           over 50 years, and to this day we constantly  
9           receive emails and calls that people's time at  
10          the camp was life-changing and incredible.  
11          Tamarack sees anywhere from 80 to 100 kids  
12          throughout the course of the summer, and to  
13          think that their experience in such a beautiful  
14          and pristine area will be completely corrupted  
15          and compromised by the senseless Project is  
16          heartbreaking. It is not a joke that there's  
17          something sacred and uniquely special about  
18          living in that valley. And it is not a joke  
19          that the kids who come to northern New Hampshire  
20          to spend their days on the tennis court  
21          learning, laughing and growing as both athletes  
22          and people are profoundly impacted by the place  
23          and their experience living in it.  
24                 Our biggest goal as a camp is not only to

1 teach kids the wonderful game of tennis but to  
2 provide a community where kids can thrive  
3 without the pressure of the real world on them.  
4 To explore who they are and practice being that  
5 person. We talk about learning how to live your  
6 life as a giver, to put forth your best effort  
7 in all that you do and to think about all areas  
8 of your life as opportunities to give, not to  
9 take.

10 What kind of message are we sending these  
11 kids when we can allow a corporation to get away  
12 with this when all they are thinking about is  
13 taking. What can we gain from this is what they  
14 are saying. Greed is what will inherently  
15 destroy us, and if there's an opportunity to  
16 show that we do not have to succumb to the greed  
17 of corporations, shutting down this proposed  
18 route is the way to do it.

19 Here are some of the nuts and bolts about  
20 the daily impact of this Project. With five  
21 courts, activities, a barn, a climbing wall and  
22 a parking lot across the street from the main  
23 campus, there are serious safety concerns about  
24 our kids going across the street with huge



1           increase in traffic. Can you imagine sending  
2           your kids to a summer camp where there were such  
3           risks? On top of that, how the heck are we  
4           supposed to teach kids the importance of a  
5           strong serve and the fundamentals to achieve  
6           that when trucks are constantly hauling dirt and  
7           materials in and out of the site. It will be  
8           impossible to talk, teach and coach, and that is  
9           our business. It is hard to think that we will  
10          survive such an intrusion.

11                 Finally, when the SEC came through this  
12          summer for their very brief inspection, and one  
13          of the members came out of the bus to say that  
14          she did not want anyone to get hurt as we were  
15          demonstrating against them, I could not help but  
16          think of the irony of the statement. All you  
17          are doing is hurting people and the livelihoods  
18          if you let this route get passed. So please  
19          respect our needs and lives and say no to the  
20          Northern Pass. Thank you.

21                         PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Jennifer  
22          Kretovic to be followed by Daniel Zagic.

23                         JENNIFER KRETOVIC: Members of the  
24          Committee, thank you for allowing me to make

1           this statement before you this evening.

2           On behalf of our community, the City  
3           Council wants you to know that we absolutely do  
4           not believe that the local economic benefits of  
5           the Northern Pass Project are sufficient for you  
6           to determine that its construction is in the  
7           public's best interest if it is built as  
8           proposed through Concord.

9           The scale of this Project will have  
10          significant impacts, both visually and  
11          aesthetically within our city, an 8-mile stretch  
12          of new overhead industrial transmission lines on  
13          towers in a height excess of over 100 feet.  
14          This will bisect Concord. In some areas there  
15          are design concepts for monopoles in excess of  
16          160 feet in height. I ask you to review the  
17          height scale comparison chart that we've  
18          provided.

19          With a population of 42,000 people that  
20          swells to more than 80,000 during the work week,  
21          here in Concord Northern Pass has the potential  
22          to directly impact more people than in any other  
23          location in the state, never mind the fact that  
24          we are the state capital.

1           As part of our Vision 2020 and our master  
2 plan process, the City has taken measures to  
3 conserve land in order to preserve scenic views  
4 and natural vistas in a strategic effort to  
5 protect Concord's rural character and our  
6 quality of life. An aboveground Northern Pass  
7 will severely damage our efforts to accomplish  
8 this.

9           Over the last ten years, we have made  
10 efforts to conserve 2,296 acres of land at a  
11 cost of more than \$3.7 million. As proposed,  
12 these transmission lines will be visible from  
13 many of our conservation and recreational areas,  
14 including Oak Hill Trails. These towers will be  
15 visible from White Park and all the way across  
16 the city at Diamond Hill Farm.

17           These new industrial lines will also be  
18 visible from the second story buildings and  
19 higher along those of our newly constructed Main  
20 Street where, oddly enough, we invested  
21 significant dollars in order to bury utility  
22 lines to preserve the aesthetic character of our  
23 historic downtown core and to boost our  
24 revitalization efforts of our downtown.

1           Likewise, this Project will have major  
2           impacts to the residential areas, the retail and  
3           commercial properties that are adjacent to this  
4           line. We are also highly concerned about the  
5           adverse impacts to the natural resources,  
6           including our precious Karner Blue Butterflies.

7           In sum, Northern Pass is in an elective  
8           project now proposed to transmit electricity  
9           from Quebec through New Hampshire to the urban  
10          Massachusetts market. The overall benefit to  
11          New Hampshire and the public is questionable.  
12          We have heard from our residents. As proposed,  
13          if this line is built, it is perceived that the  
14          impact to Concord's quality of life will be  
15          substantial on both an economic and an  
16          environmental scale.

17          If you do approve this Project, we implore  
18          you to order the lines be buried through Concord  
19          in an effort to balance that scale to the  
20          public's best interest.

21          I submit this to you respectfully, on  
22          behalf of all members of the City Council, and I  
23          have a letter to provide for you that mirror the  
24          comments I've given to you this evening. Thank

1           you.

2           PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Daniel Zajic,  
3           to be followed by Merryl Goldman and Michael  
4           Marino.

5           DANIEL ZAJIC: Hi. Thank you. So I moved  
6           to Whitefield almost two years ago now, and it  
7           was primarily because of the access to outdoor  
8           recreation and scenic beauty. As a remote  
9           worker in the software industry, local jobs were  
10          not a relevant factor to me. It was about this  
11          magical place that I grew up visiting as a  
12          child. I've been lucky enough to travel around  
13          the world, mostly around the country,  
14          extensively, and there's nowhere else I would  
15          rather live. So thank you for giving me the  
16          chance to express my opposition and also to  
17          convey some of the opinions of other Whitefield  
18          residents that couldn't make the trip today.

19          So I have two main reasons for my  
20          opposition to this Project. First, as currently  
21          proposed, I think this Project will do nothing  
22          good for Whitefield or anywhere else in the  
23          North Country. Our community uses an online  
24          network called *NextDoor.com*, and when I asked

1 for comments to pass along today, there was a  
2 clear consensus. This will not do anything for  
3 us and it will hurt the most important asset  
4 that we have: our location, our views, our  
5 environment.

6 Whitefield's town motto is a friendly town  
7 with a beautiful point of view. Whitefield's  
8 almost completely surrounded by this  
9 right-of-way. It's bad enough as it is, but if  
10 this Project goes forward, we're going to need a  
11 new motto, and any existing shred of  
12 desirability to live there will be lost.

13 Whitefield would be getting kicked while it's  
14 already down. This would be very sad for me  
15 because I see the tremendous potential for  
16 capitalizing on many recreational opportunities  
17 there, and I'd love to stay there for the rest  
18 of my life to help make them a reality.

19 If these towers are built, I would have the  
20 luxury to move away, and other people like me  
21 that could bring a huge economic boost to the  
22 North Country will never move there in the first  
23 place. There will be nicer places in Vermont,  
24 Maine and elsewhere. I've been to most of them

1 personally. Even if this Project were to make  
2 power completely free, I wouldn't want it, and I  
3 think a surprising number of people would feel  
4 the same way. Natural beauty is a scarce and  
5 thus valuable commodity and only increasingly  
6 scarce.

7 Second, I think it won't be needed  
8 long-term. A project of this scale and timeline  
9 should be looked at in terms of its impact in  
10 decades. The national trend in energy is  
11 undoubtedly racing towards renewables produced  
12 by large scale wind and solar and residential  
13 solar. Energy production is shifting to be more  
14 local and moving power over long distances will  
15 become less economical, unnecessary and most  
16 importantly undesirable. We can be ahead of the  
17 curve if we prevent this. It just takes  
18 leadership and vision. One of my heroes, Elon  
19 Musk, said you want to have a future where  
20 you're expecting things to be better, not worse.

21 I'm personally going to install enough  
22 rooftop solar next year to offset all of our  
23 household energy, if not produce a surplus. In  
24 the future, combined with backups in the form of

1 home energy storage and electric vehicles which  
2 we already have, we may not need to be on the  
3 grid at all.

4 Make no mistake. This will happen. As  
5 surely as the bulky, inferior and more expensive  
6 cathode televisions were replaced a hundred  
7 percent by flat screen displays within a matter  
8 of a decade or 15 years, home energy production  
9 will not only be the lowest cost source of power  
10 but the most desirable. It might take 20 years  
11 to see a majority adoption, but given this  
12 Project will have negative effects that could  
13 last 100 years or more, 20 years isn't that  
14 much.

15 To conclude, I think sacrificing our most  
16 valuable asset for something that won't even be  
17 needed in a few decades would be, to be blunt,  
18 incredibly foolish and bad economics. No  
19 sensible property owner would ever make that  
20 choice. The only reason it's on the table is  
21 that the people that stand to benefit from it  
22 won't suffer any of the negative consequences  
23 and are going to make money in the short term.

24 One of the rules of government is to think



1 long-term because the market can't and arguably  
2 shouldn't. Government must also protect the  
3 minority that doesn't have a powerful lobby.

4 For the sake of the future of Whitefield  
5 and the entire North Country, please do the  
6 right thing and stop these towers from going up.  
7 Thank you.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Merryl  
9 Goldman, to be followed by Michael Marino and  
10 Kelley Monahan.

11 MERRYL GOLDMAN: Good evening. Thank you  
12 for allowing me to speak. My name is Merryl  
13 Goldman, and I live in the town of Alexandria,  
14 New Hampshire.

15 I've called, I've written, I've emailed.  
16 I've contacted Hassan, Shaheen, Sununu. I've  
17 attended rallies. This is my best last chance  
18 to voice my opposition to Northern Pass. I'm  
19 sure that like most of you who oppose Northern  
20 Pass, I do not have anything original, novel or  
21 unique to say for opposing this Project. I only  
22 have my love of this state, the wildlife,  
23 mountains, farms, trees, rivers, lakes, and way  
24 of life that I speak for. These are not unique

1 to New Hampshire, but they are ours to love,  
2 admire, cherish and preserve.

3 I've come here tonight to oppose Northern  
4 Pass for the children and their children. So  
5 much of what we take for granted in this world  
6 is being destroyed. Once the genie is out of  
7 the bottle, it's too late. The promises that  
8 Eversource has made have all been heard before.  
9 Large corporations do not care about us. The  
10 bottom line is money.

11 Yes, we do need energy, but it must be  
12 compatible with our environment and our way of  
13 life. Eversource may tout that it is clean  
14 green energy, but the Pessamit Innu First Nation  
15 will beg to differ with them. Water power is  
16 and can be very destructive. And to our  
17 environment I see the need for solar, wind,  
18 energy that will be less destructive and will  
19 take us into the next century.

20 I recently read an article in the New York  
21 Times. It was dated August 28th, 2017. It said  
22 that due to the Regional Greenhouse Gas  
23 Initiative, RGGI, emissions have come down.  
24 Electricity rates have fallen by an average of

1 3.4 percent. This is according to the Acadia  
2 Center, an energy research and advocacy  
3 organization. We also have the lowest  
4 unemployment in the nation in New Hampshire.

5 Webster's Dictionary defines progress as a  
6 forward or onward movement toward a goal, a  
7 gradual betterment. We must be forward thinkers  
8 but not at the detriment of our state.

9 As a postscript I would like to say I have  
10 been told by numerous sources that Northern Pass  
11 is a done deal, that work has already begun,  
12 that Eversource is assured it will receive the  
13 go-ahead. This is very disturbing considering  
14 the years of hearings and all that has  
15 transpired. I hope these proceedings aren't for  
16 naught, that the public can still count on  
17 integrity and honesty. I say no Northern Pass.  
18 Thank you.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Michael  
20 Marino, to be followed by Kelley Monahan and  
21 Elizabeth Terp.

22 MICHAEL MARINO: Thank you for allowing me  
23 to speak. My name is Michael Marino, and I am  
24 from Holderness, New Hampshire. I may sound

1           like a New Hampshire native, but I assure you I  
2           am not. I was born in Brooklyn, New York. I  
3           have lived most of my life and worked most of my  
4           life in the New York metropolitan area. My wife  
5           and I about 25 years ago visited this beautiful  
6           state and at that point decided that this was  
7           where we wanted to retire to. About 22 years  
8           ago after that one visit we did buy land and we  
9           built a home with a view. We found out shortly  
10          thereafter -- actually, 7 years ago. We retired  
11          ten years ago after building 20 years ago.

12                 About 7 years ago we first heard about the  
13          Northern Pass at a Rotary meeting. We realized  
14          then that it was going to go through our  
15          property which was the proposal at the time and  
16          it would tower over our existing trees and ruin  
17          our view. I was visited by two engineers. I  
18          believe they were from the Northern Pass, and I  
19          asked them where in that view would I appreciate  
20          having towers, steel towers towering over these  
21          beautiful trees. And one fellow said well,  
22          maybe we could move it to the right or to the  
23          left. And so I said well, wouldn't that just  
24          mess up my neighbors then? You expect me to do

1 that to my neighbors? So he said well, you know  
2 what? Bring that up to the federal government.

3 Then the other fellow said well, maybe we  
4 could lower them a little. I says well, how  
5 could you lower them if you know they have to be  
6 separated a certain amount of distance and not  
7 interfere with the existing lines. You're not  
8 putting them taller so to waste money. So he  
9 said well, bring that up to the federal  
10 government.

11 So we basically said, you know, you can't  
12 stop progress, and if our neighbors down there  
13 need it, what are we going to do. We knew we  
14 had the right-of-way, and we'll just live with  
15 it. Shortly thereafter we found out that ABB  
16 Corporation makes the underground cable that is  
17 being used all over the world. At that point we  
18 knew that it was a for-profit project and that  
19 burial was possible but that it was a monetary  
20 reasoning and Northern Pass did not want to use  
21 this.

22 So we decided to go to speak at Rotary  
23 meetings, my wife and I and some friends, in  
24 fact, Kelley Monahan joined us also, and we

1 spoke to about 30 Rotary meetings, political  
2 organizations, probably as least 600 people. We  
3 passed out literature about ABB. We passed out  
4 literature about the Northern Pass. We passed  
5 out literature about Hydro-Quebec. Hydro-Quebec  
6 at the time was saying why don't you people use  
7 an underground burial so your barbecues are not  
8 ruined by existing lines in your yards. We  
9 passed out this literature.

10 Almost to the person people would say well,  
11 why won't they bury it. We said because they  
12 are saying it's going to cost ten times as much.  
13 They basically said well, why do we care how  
14 much they spend if they're going to ruin our  
15 state. And you know what? Now we have found  
16 out that the truth is that it's not five times,  
17 it's not ten times, but it's less than two  
18 times. Why should they be allowed to ruin our  
19 state and our beauty of our state, and it's just  
20 a matter of money and it's money that, you know  
21 what? They should be spending if they're going,  
22 to bury it. Otherwise, they should just go  
23 away. Thank you very much.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Kelley

1 Monahan, to be followed by Elizabeth Terp and  
2 Linda Chappell.

3 KELLEY MOHAHAN: Hello. Thank you for  
4 taking your time to listen to all of us today.  
5 My name is Kelley Jean Monahan. I'm the  
6 Register of Deeds for Grafton County. First  
7 elected when this Project was rolling out 7  
8 years ago. Upon taking office in January, I  
9 experienced a constant stream of shell-shocked  
10 property owners coming to the office to search  
11 their chain of title for the dreaded PSNH  
12 easements, many of which written back to the  
13 1930s and 40s.

14 The intent, the original intent of the  
15 grantor of these easements was to deliver  
16 electricity to their neighbors to the rural  
17 north. I believe that this intent has been  
18 perverted and twisted and that they could have  
19 never imagined what they were getting themselves  
20 and their future owners down the chain into,  
21 allowing a foreign government to then have  
22 right-of-way through our state.

23 In the 7 years since, I've witnessed  
24 countless lives put on hold, plans diverted,

1 sales, businesses, retirement plans wither and  
2 die. As opposition mounted, we sought  
3 compromise. The 93 median Project would have  
4 still been disruptive to our state but it would  
5 have been for the taxpayer and the easements  
6 would have devalued. And our answer from the  
7 corporations was no compromise.

8 I'm going to switch hats here a minute and  
9 go back 20 years. I owned a five-bedroom home  
10 in Manchester, Connecticut, located between two  
11 golf courses. Upwardly middle class  
12 development. We had a large house, large lot,  
13 but far behind the trees was the towers coming  
14 out of Pratt & Whitney down 84. We bought my  
15 in-laws' home.

16 Quick life change and I had to sell that  
17 home. That's quickly. Of the 20 calls I  
18 received, 19 said is it near those towers? And  
19 as I answered, they said no thank you. There  
20 are far fewer emotional purchases than that of a  
21 home and perception is reality, and that was my  
22 reality. I got lucky at the last minute, and  
23 someone relocating from Florida with a large  
24 family needed to do something fast, and I got



1 lucky, and I took my three sons to Orford, New  
2 Hampshire, to escape that skyscape and trade it  
3 for our skyscape and our stars.

4 I'm going to quote my good friend and  
5 colleague Ray Burton and say what he said many  
6 times. It's time for Northern Pass to pack up  
7 their tent and go home. And ladies and  
8 gentlemen, please, it's time for this Committee  
9 to kill this Project for the people of New  
10 Hampshire. Thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Elizabeth  
12 Terp, to be followed by Linda Chappell and David  
13 Chappell.

14 ELIZABETH TERP: Chairman Honigberg and  
15 members of the Committee, my name is Elizabeth  
16 Terp, and I live in Thornton.

17 Tourists continue to exclaim our wonderful  
18 it is to breathe our moist fresh air, provided  
19 so generously by our abundance of trees and  
20 forests. New Hampshire protects one of the last  
21 vital forests remaining in the US where people  
22 can come for respite. The Northern Pass Project  
23 wants to plow up 500 miles of trees to access  
24 their lines rather than use the median down I-93

1           which exists for just such a Project.

2           Hydro-Quebec has been ruthless in their  
3           destruction of Quebec's tourism, First Nation  
4           culture and livelihood. In light of that  
5           destruction -- whoops. And the opposition to  
6           the Northern Pass, the current proposal which is  
7           so destructive to New Hampshire, why does the  
8           Site Evaluation Committee not simply tell the  
9           Northern Pass to come back with a better plan.  
10          Today centralized power lines are considered  
11          archaic. If attacked by war, terrorists or  
12          natural disaster too much is instantly lost for  
13          too many people and survival becomes an  
14          overwhelming problem. Clearly the refusal of  
15          Eversource Hydro-Quebec to even consider  
16          undergrounding their line down the corridor  
17          already in place has to do with their plan to  
18          totally centralize power in New Hampshire.  
19          Northern Pass plans to put the backbone of their  
20          centralized power company right down through  
21          Eversource's existing line. Eversource New  
22          Hampshire's CEO William Quinlan stated, and I  
23          quote, the Northern Pass is just the first of  
24          many planned projects for New Hampshire.

1           Indeed, property has already been purchased  
2           in the North Country. Future plans simply  
3           extend ribs east and west down the Northern Pass  
4           backbone until they smother New Hampshire in a  
5           cobweb of lines, foist an archaic system on New  
6           Hampshire and put every other energy company out  
7           of business, leaving New Hampshire at the mercy  
8           of Hydro-Quebec's central control of energy in  
9           northeast United States.

10           Decentralized energy generates local  
11           control through a variety of energy options,  
12           including those yet to be developed along with  
13           the headway currently made by solar. Local  
14           scroll puts communities in a position to support  
15           surrounding areas that need power should  
16           disaster strike.

17           This Northern Pass Project has already  
18           pitted families against each other, destroyed  
19           property values, and threatened New Hampshire  
20           citizens with more destruction. Hydro-Quebec  
21           does not plan to spend money for construction of  
22           the Project. Why would the Site Evaluation  
23           Committee want to allow any company to bully the  
24           length and breadth of our state with such

1           destruction so Hydro-Quebec Eversource could  
2           make a pile of money providing Massachusetts and  
3           Connecticut with power.

4           My question is: where would we be today if  
5           instead of funding 7 years of protest hearings  
6           those funds had been spent supporting research  
7           into new forms of clean energy, energy that is  
8           not obtained at the cost of a culture,  
9           livelihood, property and health of the people  
10          it's intended to serve. Your support is needed  
11          to stand up for this land, not just for  
12          ourselves, but for all the people who count on  
13          being able to come here to relax, energize, and  
14          breathe.

15          PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Linda  
16          Chappell to be followed by David Chappell and a  
17          representative of the town of Woodstock Board of  
18          Selectmen.

19          It looks like we have a different order for  
20          the Chappell double header.

21          DAVID CHAPPELL: We're just going to flip  
22          around.

23          PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: That's fine.

24          DAVID CHAPPELL: I want to welcome

1 Mr. Chairman and members of the Site Evaluation  
2 Committee and thank you for having this hearing  
3 today.

4 I'm David Chappell. My address is 14 Cedar  
5 Stream Road, used to be formerly 32 Bressette  
6 Road in Clarksville, New Hampshire. 03592.

7 In October I'll be 67 years old. I'm a  
8 resident of Clarksville, and I have been all my  
9 life. My father was a Road Agent for this town  
10 for 25 years, including in the 1960s when Old  
11 County Road had major reconstruction on it. The  
12 road used to be a trough with banks 4 to 6 or  
13 more feet high with three-inch rock walls on  
14 both sides on top of the banks. It was a  
15 trough. It was two cars wide with little to  
16 spare. And had a small ditch on each side.  
17 That was why it was a trough because when it  
18 rained each time, it washed deeper and deeper  
19 and in the springtime it was just a mud hole.

20 The fellow my father hired to cut the trees  
21 was one of the poorer people in town. The wood  
22 from the trees was given to him to burn for the  
23 winter. I remember distinctly when my father  
24 came home after cutting trees one day and he

1 said we have a problem. We found a cemetery on  
2 the side of the road, and we have to go around  
3 it with the road. We cannot disturb it. This  
4 is why today there is such a curve in the road.

5 I did go to look at the cemetery and  
6 remembered seeing the stones standing. I  
7 figured from memory there are at least 5 to 7  
8 stones and maybe more. I remember counting  
9 them, but can't remember exactly how many there  
10 were. My brother who is now 70 years old said  
11 there could be more. About 20 years later, Josh  
12 Young was a Road Agent in the early 1980. He  
13 bulldozed the cemetery over and widened the  
14 road. My brother was Selectman at the time.  
15 This is a quote. He said I remember going and  
16 looking at the mess Josh made. That was a TRA  
17 Project. Town Road Aid was what it was. Donald  
18 McKinnon and Richard Fielding were also  
19 Selectmen with him. And he said, and I went and  
20 looked at it with the, they and I went and  
21 looked at it with the guy from the state before  
22 it was touched. I never could figure out why  
23 Josh had the dozer so far off the highway. Josh  
24 knew the cemetery was there, end of quote.

1           And this is what he sent me in email the  
2           other day when I talked with him. This is why  
3           the curve in the road changed. The curve was  
4           much more distinct in the past. When the road  
5           got widened, it ran right over the cemetery.  
6           This is why the cemetery appearance is almost  
7           totally gone. Northern Pass's marking for the  
8           cemetery on the preliminary plan is not correct.  
9           Is it up on the -- yes. You can see it's marked  
10          in the yellow on the screen. And it's on the  
11          south side of the rock wall. The cemetery  
12          actually is on the north side on Stephen Hodge's  
13          property. It may be where the stones got  
14          bulldozed to is where their location on the map  
15          is. That's the way it looks. But not the  
16          original location. Northern Pass marked the  
17          cemetery north of the stone wall that divided,  
18          north of the stone wall that divided the  
19          property lines so it's on the north side.  
20          Cemetery was all above, was south of what they  
21          have on their plans. So on Steven Hodge's  
22          property it's south of the stone wall.

23                 Now the way the road is widened to the best  
24                 of my recollection the cemetery and some graves

1           could very well be in the gravel portion of the  
2           road. The road went straight up the hill,  
3           turning after the cemetery and now it turns  
4           actually below where Northern Pass has it marked  
5           on their preliminary plan.

6           Please refer to the deed of Stephen Hodge  
7           and the map of where the cemetery is on his,  
8           that his land is on the south side of the stone  
9           wall line. Do you have the copy of the deed?  
10          This deed was 1937. And it was, can't remember  
11          whose name was on it. Whose name is on the  
12          deed? Victor Ferguson. He was one of the  
13          owners of the property. And we have copies of  
14          the deeds here to present that are the deeds  
15          since that time. I don't think that Northern  
16          Pass did a very good job on homework because all  
17          they could have done is just gone to Registry of  
18          Deeds, and that's where we found this  
19          information.

20          In 2009 my wife as a cemetery trustee wrote  
21          a grant to mark this cemetery with an engraved  
22          stone so this cemetery would not get lost. The  
23          day before the stone got engraved the Selectmen  
24          at the time told the engraver not to engrave it



1 or he would not get paid. They wanted to spend  
2 the money on another town cemetery. This is why  
3 there is now only a plain stone on the site  
4 that's unmarked. I would ask that you show more  
5 respect to the families and the people buried  
6 there than they already have. They've been  
7 disturbed enough. Please do this before any  
8 decision about Northern Pass is made. There  
9 should be some clarification on this cemetery as  
10 to where the graves are and if there's room  
11 enough to get, for Northern Pass to get by if  
12 they're allowed to bury the lines. Keep  
13 whatever distance is usually required for burial  
14 grounds. Thank you for your time and thank you  
15 for letting me speak.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Linda  
17 Chappell, to be followed by the town of  
18 Woodstock Board of Selectmen. And Millard  
19 Martin.

20 LINDA CHAPPELL: Thank you. As my husband  
21 said, I've been a cemetery trustee. I'm a  
22 genealogist, and I want to speak for those that  
23 can't speak for themselves. My family has been  
24 in Clarksville as well as the town of

1           Stewartstown for six generations. The earliest  
2           generations were some that broke the land in the  
3           mid 1800s. This plan as approved would go past  
4           several cemeteries when it comes through  
5           Clarksville and then on down through Old County  
6           Road and into Stewartstown. This is where my  
7           family is buried, and this is where even those  
8           family members from Connecticut want to be  
9           buried. As much as I want to speak about them,  
10          I want to speak particularly about the cemetery  
11          that my husband's just previously spoke about.

12                 Last Friday, a few got together and paid  
13          for Topographic, LLC, to come up and I'll use  
14          the word xray the ground. They have ground  
15          penetrating radar. Jesse Perry, the field  
16          service manager out of Hudson, New Hampshire,  
17          came up, and he used that machine that should be  
18          up on the screen, and he was able to scan the  
19          ground. In doing so there's little red flags.  
20          He found 7 spots in the grass that are within 16  
21          feet of the roadbed. He also found two spots  
22          within the road. These people have had their  
23          resting place disturbed. Now, maybe that's just  
24          their stones, but I would hate to think that

1 their bodies were going to get rolled over. So  
2 not only this cemetery but the others that  
3 follow done through of these early settlers is  
4 very disturbing, and I would like you to very  
5 much consider these people that can't speak for  
6 themselves.

7 And as an added note, the land that one of  
8 these cemeteries is on had belonged to John  
9 Keezer who was a State Representative in the  
10 1800s. So he was one of you. Thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: The town of  
12 Woodstock Selectboard to be followed by Millard  
13 Martin and Jim Rubens.

14 GIL RAND: Good evening, ladies and  
15 gentlemen. My name is Gil Rand. I'm a member  
16 of the Woodstock Board of Selectmen 14 years,  
17 and I'm a junior of the group. We would like to  
18 make the following comments regarding the  
19 proposed Northern Pass Project which is  
20 currently to be buried along 14.3 miles from the  
21 border of Easton over 112 down Route 3 to  
22 Thornton.

23 The Board remains opposed to this Project  
24 despite no longer participating in the SEC

1 process. We withdrew for financial reasons, not  
2 due to any acquiescence to this Project.

3 Much of Woodstock's economy is dependent on  
4 tourism, particularly during April and October.  
5 We have issues with the construction impacts on  
6 delays of the following weekends: Memorial  
7 Weekend, 4th of July, especially getting into  
8 the foliage, and the Clan weekend and again into  
9 Columbus Day weekend, Thursday through the  
10 following Tuesday.

11 The Board would like the SEC to be aware  
12 that typical summer travel can cause severe  
13 delays and backups even without the added  
14 construction impacts of Northern Pass. We are  
15 very concerned about the construction of the  
16 Project with only making traffic delays worse,  
17 push people to take different routes, and to  
18 move them away from our businesses.

19 As a side note here, our Chamber of  
20 Commerce for Lincoln and Woodstock did a study  
21 last year. 30 percent of our workforce is  
22 local. 70 percent of it comes from out of town.  
23 A lot of it from the Vermont border over 112.  
24 And our fear is that the smaller businesses will

1 have trouble staffing their establishments and  
2 possibly go out of business.

3 The Board is also concerned about how  
4 construction will negatively impact the  
5 Emergency Responders. This Project is going  
6 right by our Police Department, our Town Office,  
7 and the UG line runs right in front of our town  
8 Fire Department. The Board understands that the  
9 section of the HDD line will be directly in  
10 front of the Fire Department and a restaurant  
11 and believes the work will negatively impact the  
12 ability to the emergency responders to promptly  
13 and safely reach the people they need to.

14 Also the SEC should be aware that we are  
15 going to be doing a water project on the lower  
16 section in lower Woodstock and Route 3, and with  
17 this down through the middle of it, if it  
18 happens before we're able to do it it would  
19 impact the existing lines and also the  
20 installation and maintenance of the following  
21 line once it's in.

22 As a side note, I live on Route 112. This  
23 will pass 30 feet in front of my front door.  
24 Right in front of Agassiz Basin, Indian Leap and

1 the former site of Gabony's Restaurant. The  
2 thought of this negatively impacting that  
3 beautiful gorge across the street just is  
4 unconscionable to me with the blasting and the  
5 ledge that's going to be down through there it  
6 could destroy it.

7 On behalf of the town of Woodstock, the  
8 Board of Selectmen, we oppose this Project and  
9 ask the SEC to deny this Application. Thank  
10 you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Millard  
12 Martin, to be followed by Jim Rubens and Erica  
13 Druke.

14 MILLARD MARTIN: I'd like to thank the  
15 Committee for listening to my statement. I do  
16 have a quick PS. I think every member of this  
17 Committee should drive New York Interstate 90 to  
18 Erie, Pennsylvania, before they make any  
19 decision, and I think you'll know why.

20 My name is Millard Martin, Jr. We live at  
21 237 North Road, Lancaster. I'm a former teacher  
22 at White Mountain Regional High School in  
23 Whitefield. My wife Diane and I have for 49  
24 years started, managed, and owned Martin's Agway

1 Farm and Garden Center in Lancaster for 39  
2 years. The Martins have owned, operated very  
3 successful family dairy farms in Lancaster and  
4 Guildhall, Vermont, just across the river from  
5 Lancaster for 77 years.

6 The current right-of-way on our property in  
7 Lancaster starts at approximately pole number  
8 376 and ends at pole 391 for a total of  
9 basically 4600 feet which is approximately nine  
10 tenths of a mile. Of the approximately 4600  
11 feet, 2,268 feet are listed as wetlands. A  
12 quote from the deed said 150 feet strip of land  
13 across the above described premises shall extend  
14 75 feet westerly and 75 feet easterly of the  
15 line bounded and described in the deed in Book  
16 359 and Pages 345, 346 and 347 at the Coos  
17 County Register of Deeds office in Lancaster.

18 These wetlands have only increased in years  
19 due primarily but not entirely to beaver  
20 activity. We strongly oppose any and all  
21 increased use of these wetlands by using them as  
22 part of any or all mitigation for the purpose of  
23 the proposed Northern Pass Project.

24 This property was deeded to Public Service

1 Company of New Hampshire on July 29th, 1947, by  
2 Millard Martin, Sr. This property was not  
3 deeded to Eversource, Northeast Utilities,  
4 Northern Pass or Hydro-Quebec. We question the  
5 legality for Public Service to pass this  
6 easement on to widen the roadway and change the  
7 original intent of the easement.

8 As a former very successful business owner,  
9 current landowner, and lifelong resident of  
10 Lancaster, New Hampshire, I respectfully ask  
11 this Site Evaluation Committee to make the right  
12 decision that is in the best interests of my  
13 state, your state, and deny this incomplete  
14 Application for the proposed Northern Pass  
15 Project. Hydro-Quebec has and continues to  
16 destroy land and the Pessamit Innu First  
17 Nation's land to produce this power. This large  
18 scale hydro is not green and not clean.

19 This Project is not needed, will not reduce  
20 our electric rates significantly, nor will it  
21 offset the environmental damage it is and will  
22 continue to do to our land here in the US and  
23 Quebec. This proposed Project is not clean or  
24 green.



1           Our entire state is our backyard as it is  
2           for each and every member of this Committee.  
3           This Committee has an obligation and duty to  
4           listen and consider all the evidence presented  
5           by both sides and make the decision that will  
6           serve the best interests of our entire state and  
7           the environment. Thank you for your time,  
8           attention and making the right decision for our  
9           state by denying this incomplete Application for  
10          the proposed Northern Pass Project.

11          Respectfully, Millard Martin, Jr.

12                 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Jim Rubens,  
13                 to be followed by Erica Druke and Patrick  
14                 Chaloux.

15                 JIM RUBENS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and  
16                 the members of the SEC Committee. I think two  
17                 brief points. First, former State Senator. I  
18                 represented the southern part of Grafton County,  
19                 and back when I was in the State Senate I put in  
20                 the first bill that led to there being  
21                 electricity restructuring competition. I've  
22                 been heavily involved in the issues associated  
23                 with electricity policy as a legislator and as  
24                 an activist for many years.

1           And I'd like you first to reflect upon the  
2 fact that electric rate projections made by  
3 interested parties have always been wrong.  
4 Seabrook, number 1. Promises of electricity too  
5 cheap to meter. Bankruptcy. The restructuring  
6 process leading to competition. Electric  
7 competition and stranded cost. Hundreds of  
8 millions of dollars loaded on to ratepayers.  
9 Broken promise.

10           The Merrimack Station scrubber project,  
11 strongly supported by Public Service Company of  
12 New Hampshire, now Eversource, leading again,  
13 hundreds of millions of dollars of stranded  
14 cost. So, please, with several grains of salt  
15 reflect upon these rate reduction or reliability  
16 promises made by this company that has been  
17 wrong multiply over 40 years in the past.  
18 Reflect upon that carefully.

19           Second point is the legislature has  
20 empowered you and required you in making this  
21 decision to balance a number of points.  
22 Actually four bullet points in the 162-H  
23 legislation. The Applicant's financial,  
24 technical, managerial capability. The Project

1 will not unduly interfere with orderly  
2 development, will not have an unreasonable  
3 impact on aesthetics, historic sites,  
4 environment and water quality and serve the  
5 public interest.

6 So my point is there is a point in here,  
7 aesthetics, which has been labeled by supporters  
8 of this Project as the bastard child of the  
9 indicia, indicators, or criteria by which you  
10 would approve or not approve this Project. The  
11 legislator put the word aesthetic in there. It  
12 is not subsidiary to the number of megawatts  
13 that might be delivered, the rates that might be  
14 generated as a result of the construction of  
15 this Project. It is equally important and must  
16 be balanced in that fashion.

17 And for me, for many others who cherish the  
18 North Country, its breathtaking topography, its  
19 aesthetics are central to the way of life and to  
20 the regional economy, and they draw people to  
21 invest and live in that area and build an  
22 economy there. Aesthetics are central to the  
23 human endeavor. Central to the human endeavor.  
24 In fact, paleontologists have gone back and

1           they've labeled the origins of modern human  
2           beings, the homosapiens, sapiens 82,000 years  
3           ago. The dates are being pushed back to our  
4           first use of ocher or iron oxide to decorate  
5           shells, to adorn ourselves. These are  
6           indicators of the first evidence of what brings  
7           meaning to human beings 82,000 years ago plus.

8           And just because aesthetics cannot be  
9           quantified in megawatts or dollars does not make  
10          it, again, any less important as required by law  
11          in the balancing decision made by you folks.  
12          You've heard unambiguously for years now, 7  
13          solid years this Project as now proposed is  
14          an aesthetic blight on the North Country. Not  
15          just to those who see it from their homes, the  
16          NIMBY people who are deregated for having that  
17          view, but all of us who travel daily through  
18          this area, people who visit it and all of us who  
19          cherish the North Country for its natural  
20          majesty. And as members of this Committee know  
21          perfectly well the market has shown that there  
22          are means to deliver electricity through New  
23          Hampshire, if necessary, that do not disfigure  
24          the North Country and do not require a permanent

1 disfiguring gash across the North Country  
2 landscape.

3 I urge members of this Committee, the SEC,  
4 to reject in Project as now proposed. Thank  
5 you.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Erica Druke  
7 to be followed by Patrick Chaloux and Betsy  
8 Black. Erica Druke? No. Not here I'm told.  
9 Patrick Chaloux. Whose name is actually on this  
10 list twice. We're only going to call him once.

11 PATRICK CHALOUX: Good evening, and thank  
12 you for this opportunity. Hydro-Quebec/Northern  
13 Pass comes out of East Hereford, Quebec, into  
14 New Hampshire on Hall Stream Road in Pittsburg,  
15 and that's right behind my family home and  
16 myself and all my siblings were raised and where  
17 my 84-year-old sister now lives. So I know the  
18 Great North Woods very, very well, and I know  
19 how devastating this will be to their region and  
20 the entire state, in fact. All 192 miles. And  
21 it will include Concord where, ironically, the  
22 Northern Pass high voltage lines that enters  
23 Granite State by my family home in Pittsburg  
24 would now run through the backyard of my condo

1 here in Concord. I can't get away from those  
2 folks.

3 Now, those who think that once a  
4 right-of-way is established that things get a  
5 lot simpler, well, not in this case. My  
6 community's narrow 245 foot right-of-way is  
7 clearly overburdened. Additionally, when  
8 surveyed we were shocked to find that ten of our  
9 buildings are either immediately adjacent to or  
10 actually within the right-of-way. This  
11 right-of-way presently carries three  
12 distribution lines, a natural gas line, an  
13 earthen berm with established tree plantings as  
14 buffer to commercial businesses, plus three  
15 retention ponds.

16 Now we're asked to add a high voltage line  
17 in this narrow 67-year-old right-of-way that was  
18 meant for local distribution lines. And over  
19 the last 6 years, my neighbors and I have met  
20 several times with Northern Pass engineers,  
21 attorneys, lobbyists, PR people, managers, et  
22 cetera. We've walked the right-of-way many  
23 times with these folks, looked at their  
24 proposals, and to say that they're not

1 transparent, it's an understatement.

2 Having been in broadcasting and advertising  
3 for over 40 years, I am very aware that clever  
4 people can take facts and figures and torture  
5 them to say most anything, but as hard as  
6 they've tried, nothing in Northern Pass's  
7 proposal says anything good for the Granite  
8 State and certainly not Concord. In our case,  
9 it is far from clear what they intend to do with  
10 these gas lines and berms and tree plantings and  
11 retention ponds. The fear I have is that with  
12 permits in hand, they will do what they will.

13 Similarly, we hear talk of low rates, low  
14 electric rates and jobs and property tax relief,  
15 payoffs. They're all short on details and  
16 specifics. And I might add, if electricity is  
17 so costly why do big box stores such as our  
18 neighbor Home Depot have 22 high intensity  
19 outside lights burning all night, long after the  
20 store is closed, 365 days a year although I take  
21 that back. Their outside lights are turned off  
22 on Christmas Eve. Why, I don't know. Might  
23 have something to do with Santa. But it's  
24 ridiculous.

1           This exercise brings to mind the quip, the  
2 meek shall inherit the earth when the rich and  
3 powerful are done with it. And over the last  
4 six years, the way Hydro-Quebec/Northern Pass  
5 has been throwing money around and influencing  
6 people in high places, they surely qualify as  
7 the rich and powerful. And all we have is these  
8 orange shirts and the knowledge that we'll have  
9 to live with the scars that this will put on us  
10 for generations.

11           We count on you to see what this will do to  
12 192 miles of our countryside, villages and back  
13 yards for the primary benefit of  
14 Hydro-Quebec/Northern Pass shareholders and  
15 Massachusetts utilities. Please vote no on  
16 Northern Pass. Thank you.

17           PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Betsy Black,  
18 to be followed by Kelly Hughes and Wendy Doran.

19           BETSY BLACK: Good evening, Site Evaluation  
20 Committee members. My name is Betsy Black. I  
21 speak as a citizen who lives in Concord and is  
22 passionate about the city's natural landscape.  
23 I speak in opposition to the Northern Pass.

24           I have many concerns about this Project's



1 overall negative impacts for New Hampshire,  
2 especially in our beautiful small towns and our  
3 magnificent North Country. However, my comments  
4 tonight are limited to its negative effect on  
5 Concord.

6 The proposed Project will have a negative  
7 visual impact on Concord, a small city with an  
8 intact rural character. I have lived in the  
9 area for more than 35 years and I benefit every  
10 day from the conserved land and recreational  
11 trails in the community.

12 There are 81 miles of public trails in the  
13 city. They are well used and well loved by  
14 walkers, runners, skiers, dog walkers. This  
15 remarkable achievement didn't just happen. It  
16 reflects the city's decades-old commitment to  
17 quality of life and is reflected in the current  
18 master plan. Two goals from that are, one, an  
19 extensive rural landscape including preserved  
20 open space, active agricultural land and working  
21 forests; and two, the rural areas of the city  
22 remain rural.

23 What do recreational trails and Concord's  
24 master plan have to do with the proposed

1 Northern Pass? Everything. The proposed  
2 overhead lines and towers will threaten our  
3 longstanding community intention to protect this  
4 beautiful landscape.

5 How? The towers will be significantly  
6 higher than the existing ones, more than double  
7 the current size at 100 to 125 feet, and,  
8 therefore, much more highly visible marring the  
9 land's beauty. There are more than a dozen  
10 areas where the higher towers will be more  
11 visible than currently. The Oak Hill Vista  
12 Trail, Turtle Pond and Broken Ground  
13 Conservation Area to name just a few.

14 When it is time for a city to make a  
15 community improvement, it is fair and reasonable  
16 that those affected pony up and pay their fair  
17 share, but that is not what is proposed here.  
18 Concord is being asked to host an outside  
19 interest's desires to change the landscape while  
20 getting little in return. The economic benefits  
21 of a tiny reduction for property owners isn't  
22 worth it. The number of jobs to be created is  
23 negligible. The energy benefits, they're just  
24 not there. For Concord to pay such a high price

1           isn't fair. It isn't right.

2           In conclusion, I oppose the Northern Pass  
3 because it will visually scar the landscape of  
4 Concord and New Hampshire and the cost is simply  
5 too great. I thank you very much for listening.

6           PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Kelly Hughes,  
7 to be followed by Wendy Doran and Annie  
8 Schneider.

9           KELLY HUGHES: My name is Kelly Hughes. I  
10 live in Hillsborough County, and I oppose  
11 Northern Pass. If we do not learn from our  
12 history, we are doomed to repeat it. The  
13 railroad construction post Civil War that united  
14 our country only provided employment during  
15 construction, very much the way Northern Pass  
16 would do.

17           34 years after the railroad was  
18 constructed, the Wright brothers invented flight  
19 which we all know today is the preferred and  
20 fastest method of transportation and has  
21 resulted in miles of railroads left to decay,  
22 similarly to the way I see the transmission  
23 towers. As it's been mentioned by numerous  
24 people here already, that the towers are

1           archaic, they're an eyesore and they're only  
2           going to provide short-term limited employment  
3           for our people.

4           New Hampshire would be better suited  
5           investing in solar, wind, tidal, even hemp power  
6           here at home which is not only going to create  
7           long-term employment in those niche power  
8           sectors but will also encourage new innovative  
9           business endeavors within New Hampshire while  
10          making our economy stronger.

11          Northern Pass is just a short-term solution  
12          on our energy needs. It's like trying to use a  
13          box of Band-aids to close an open wound instead  
14          of just going to get stitches. We should not be  
15          wasting our time and money on Band-aid  
16          solutions. If we are serious about maintaining  
17          our current energy consumption, we need to  
18          invest in renewable energy which will provide  
19          long-term employment and create a more stronger  
20          economy without negatively impacting our already  
21          limited natural resources. Thank you.

22          PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Wendy Doran,  
23          to be followed by Annie Schneider and Diane  
24          Shores.

1           WENDY DORAN: My name is Wendy Doran, and I  
2 live in Whitefield, Massachusetts, and I oppose  
3 this Project.

4           SPEAKER: New Hampshire.

5           WENDY DORAN: I did say Massachusetts,  
6 didn't I? Probably because they are my enemy.  
7 Good evening.

8           PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: It did  
9 undercut your credibility just a little when you  
10 started that way, I've got to tell you. Do you  
11 want to try again? Start over.

12           WENDY DORAN: Good evening, SEC Committee  
13 members. Thank you for giving me the  
14 opportunity to address you tonight. My husband  
15 and I reside at 91 Twin Mountain Road on a  
16 historic 105-acre farm in Whitefield. Route 3  
17 in Whitefield is currently part of the  
18 Presidential Trail which is a New Hampshire  
19 designated scenic cultural highway.

20           12 years ago while out for a Sunday drive  
21 from Massachusetts, we came across an antique  
22 farm in a deplorable state located on Route 3  
23 north in Whitefield. As we passed by, we  
24 commented to each other how sad it was to see

1           this New Hampshire farmhouse like so many others  
2           in North Country decaying to the point of no  
3           return. We stopped at this abandoned farm to  
4           take pictures of this majestic scenic backdrop.

5           Subsequently, after researching the current  
6           owner, we acquired this historic landmark in  
7           2005. Unfortunately, by the time we took  
8           possession of the farm, the barn was deemed  
9           unsalvageable by the New Hampshire Barn  
10          Preservation Society.

11          The views from our property on Route 3 are  
12          some of the most magnificent views in the State  
13          of New Hampshire. Our view includes Mt. Star,  
14          Mt. Wamback, Mount Prospect, the Weeks State  
15          Park, along with the Mountain View Grand Hotel.  
16          Hundreds of New Hampshire natives as well as  
17          out-of-state tourists stop by to take pictures  
18          of this iconic setting all four seasons.

19          Since 2005, my husband and I have spent  
20          countless hours, including every weekend and  
21          holidays, as well as spending all of our savings  
22          to resurrect this property to where it is today.

23          The proposed Northern Pass is slated to  
24          have the tallest and the greatest number of

1 towers in the town of Whitefield. The towers  
2 that will be visualized from this view will be  
3 80-feet plus above tree line. And I want to  
4 show you where it is. Right along here. And  
5 this is the Mount Prospect right here. And the  
6 Mountainview Grand Hotel is over here.

7 Should the Northern Pass Project go forward  
8 its current proposed plan, the views will  
9 permanently deface the views that brought us  
10 like so many other tourists to visit this  
11 unspoiled wilderness. A prominent realtor from  
12 Salem, New Hampshire, recently stated that our  
13 property would be significantly devalued should  
14 the lines go forward behind our farm.

15 I want you to know that I came back from  
16 Quebec yesterday and I was horrified to see  
17 these horrendous towers towering over Interstate  
18 10 and 15 and how desecrated the whole area of  
19 Quebec has been since Hydro-Quebec has decided  
20 to place these towers.

21 I implore the Site Evaluation Committee to  
22 look deep into your conscience to preserve this  
23 view and the unsoiled mountain scenery for  
24 future generations. At minimum, the 190-mile

1 transmission lines should be placed underground.  
2 At minimum. Preferably the lines should be  
3 scrapped entirely. The legacy you leave behind  
4 impacts us all permanently. Thank you very  
5 much.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Annie  
7 Schneider, to be followed by Diane Shores, and  
8 we're going to take a short break to give  
9 everyone a chance to stretch their legs. Also  
10 to give the stenographer court reporter a chance  
11 to rest her fingers and her machine.

12 ANNIE SCHNEIDER: Hi. My name is Annie  
13 Schneider. I'm from Plymouth, New Hampshire. I  
14 am a Northern Pass opponent.

15 To the SEC and the people attending this  
16 meeting I thank you for the opportunity to  
17 speak. And I want to point out that the people  
18 opposing this Project are extremely well-versed  
19 and well-educated in this subject and in this  
20 Project. We've been learning about it and  
21 fighting it for 7 years now. Despite  
22 Eversource's claims, the ratio is approximately  
23 12 to 1 in opposition to this Project. These  
24 numbers are based on the hearings that you have



1 personally been listening to.

2 Based on upbringing and generation, my  
3 automatic inclination is to apologize for the  
4 repetition of facts and opinions that you have  
5 already heard. However, I will not apologize  
6 for repeating both facts and opinions that my  
7 fellow opponents of Northern Pass have already  
8 expressed. It has become crystal clear that we  
9 cannot share this enough. After 7 years we are  
10 still here. We continue to share facts, both  
11 scientific and cultural, our devotion to the  
12 beautiful State of New Hampshire, our commitment  
13 to our communities, our friends, our businesses,  
14 our environment, our wildlife, our way of life,  
15 property rights, retirement nesteggs and the  
16 irreplaceable fragile gift that is our home and,  
17 yes, our backyard. With any commitment to the  
18 above, why would we agree to permanently scar  
19 this.

20 Northern Pass uses statistics that serve  
21 urban parts of New Jersey to tell us that there  
22 will be insignificant damage to property values  
23 as they invade our vistas. Why would we agree  
24 to this? Because the very structures they

1 propose and the disruption they downplay is not  
2 allowed in the states and towns who are the  
3 consumers of the power they will be selling.  
4 This is not allowed in those areas. That's  
5 okay. Put it in New Hampshire.

6 To allowing this transmission in any form  
7 we give our stamp of approval and we are  
8 complicit in pillaging entire nations of people.  
9 We are partners in the ravaging of people's  
10 homelands, the entire river systems, wildlife,  
11 fish of Northern Quebec. The pollution that  
12 this industrial hydroelectricity has and  
13 continues to cause is catastrophic.

14 I would like to see New Hampshire be a  
15 leader and example in local renewable production  
16 of power and leave Hydro-Quebec to take a swim.  
17 Twelve to one public opinion rails against  
18 Northern Pass coming through our state. 12 to  
19 1. And we are still here fighting. And what is  
20 this about? Why has this insulting Project even  
21 been brought forth, and then entertained.  
22 Clearly, money is the prize. Shareholders,  
23 stockholders. It has become apparent that there  
24 are better, kinder, more technologically

1 up-to-date options for the production and  
2 transmission of electricity, but we are still  
3 talking about this.

4 Northern Pass marketing has expressed how  
5 they have really heard and reached out to the  
6 people of New Hampshire and alleviated our  
7 dissatisfaction by agreeing to bury a portion of  
8 the proposed transmission lines. Yes, right  
9 down through our town centers and along our  
10 country roads. As far as I'm concerned, and the  
11 town of Plymouth is affected, Northern Pass has  
12 added injury to insult.

13 The following -- I will consolidate it --  
14 is a letter from one of our long-time vibrant  
15 Main Street business owners Carol Dunn of  
16 Dressers Unlimited. Carol has been there, I'm  
17 going to paraphrase a bit, and it's printed in  
18 what I've handed you, she's been in business in  
19 the location she's in on Main Street for 17  
20 years. It is a wonderful boutique. If you're  
21 looking for something, if you need a dress for a  
22 wedding, you can't go wrong and she'll help you.  
23 She's awesome.

24 So Carol says there is absolutely no doubt

1 that the construction and disruption proposed  
2 for the Northern Pass Project of our Main Street  
3 will have enormous negative economic impact on  
4 every downtown business, traffic flow and  
5 parking spaces are top priority to maintain  
6 customers and pedestrian visits which she counts  
7 on.

8 During this time many businesses went under  
9 in our previous downtown renovations, but she  
10 was fortunate, and she's a smaller  
11 establishment, and she had no overhead or  
12 payroll at the time, but considering today's  
13 expenses and overhead, there is absolutely no  
14 doubt that this proposal will cause us  
15 devastating loss of business. Every parking  
16 space and its turnover is essential to keep our  
17 business operational.

18 It has taken years of hard work and  
19 community efforts to get our downtown --  
20 Plymouth is adorable, by the way -- landscaped  
21 and full of vital locally owned businesses.  
22 There is no doubt that if the plan for Northern  
23 Pass through our Main Street evolves, we will be  
24 closing shop. There go your dresses. The

1 profit margin here leaves little room for such  
2 an extensive and massive disruption. Thank you,  
3 Carol Dunn.

4 Following months of construction and  
5 disruption and the failing of vital local  
6 businesses, Eversource will forever own our Main  
7 Street. Why should they care if our town loses  
8 businesses, people lose their jobs, our charming  
9 town is never the same. They have their  
10 pipeline to money. They're done.

11 But wait. The statistics provided by  
12 Northern Pass tell us that they'll have no  
13 negative impact on our state. Why? Because the  
14 loss of businesses in Plymouth, Woodstock and  
15 Franconia will not be felt by the people in  
16 Keene, Claremont, Meredith, and Nashua. That is  
17 how they water down the statistics to support  
18 this local devastation.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms.  
20 Schneider, please wrap up.

21 ANNIE SCHNEIDER: Thank you. Yes.

22 The facts, they provide no truth. So this  
23 is about power. It is not about electrical  
24 power. We see no power, no savings, no benefit.

1 This is not about electricity power. This is  
2 about power over people. Power over the people  
3 of New Hampshire. When we talk about inner  
4 power and strength, it's infinite. We have  
5 plenty of it.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Please wrap  
7 up, Ms. Schneider.

8 ANNIE SCHNEIDER: When we talk about power  
9 over people, it's just a piece of the pie. So I  
10 am going to say to the Site Evaluation  
11 Committee, there's no blame, there's no shame.  
12 It's accountability. We need you. We are in  
13 your hands, and you need to take care of our  
14 state, our people; not shareholders, not  
15 stockholders, not campaign funders or promises.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms.  
17 Schneider, please suspend. You're now 8  
18 minutes.

19 ANNIE SCHNEIDER: Thank you respectfully.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Thank you  
21 very much.

22 ANNIE SCHNEIDER: Is that right? How did I  
23 do that? Thank you very much.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Diane Shores

1 to be followed by our break.

2 DIANE SHORES: My name is Diane Shores, and  
3 I live in senior housing at Sherburne Woods in  
4 Deerfield. Just a few feet behind our  
5 six-building development are the current power  
6 lines. I am here today because I have concerns  
7 regarding additional lines to be added if  
8 Northern Pass gets permission to build. What  
9 about the persons living in Sherburne Woods have  
10 pacemakers? They may be in danger due to high  
11 voltage. Some manufacturers give general  
12 cautions about pacemaker patients spending  
13 extended times under overhead high voltage power  
14 transmission lines where the lines carry more  
15 than 100,000 volts. The proposed locations of  
16 the new towers would be moving from the other  
17 side of the right-of-way much closer to our  
18 buildings.

19 I grew up in Deerfield and do not want to  
20 see the beauty that is Deerfield ruined by this  
21 horrible Project. There are much better ways to  
22 receive the electric power each town needs.  
23 Solar and wind power are being used more as  
24 people see that those alternatives are much

1 better and safer than projects that ruin the  
2 environment.

3 We are supposed to be taking care of the  
4 earth, not trying to see how fast we can  
5 overcome Mother Nature. Northern Pass is  
6 definitely not good for New Hampshire. I ask  
7 you to please listen to all those, and there are  
8 thousands of us, who are asking for the  
9 reasonable alternative. Do not build Northern  
10 Pass. Save our state, our environment, our  
11 health, and our sanity.

12 Remember, if this Project is put in motion,  
13 we cannot go back. Please say no now so that  
14 there will be no regrets later. Please listen  
15 to your heart and do the right thing. Thank you  
16 for your time and the opportunity to speak  
17 today. There are many more like me that you  
18 won't hear from because they don't feel they can  
19 express themselves adequately. So many also who  
20 do not realize what this Project would do to New  
21 Hampshire until it is too late to turn back.  
22 Keep New Hampshire, the beautiful. Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: We're going  
24 to take a ten-minute break, and when we return



1 the first speakers are Jeanne Dickerman and  
2 Joanne Bates.

3 (Recess taken 6:40 - 6:50 p.m.)

4 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I'm told that  
5 Jeanne Dickerman is not here. So we'll call  
6 Joanne Bates, to be followed by Paul Allard, if  
7 he's here, and Kathleen Corcoran.

8 JOANNE BATES: Good evening. I stand  
9 before you today as a very grateful New  
10 Hampshire resident. Simply put, I love New  
11 Hampshire. My son, my only son, is currently  
12 serving active duty as a combat Army medic. I  
13 am so very proud of him. He serves his country  
14 and New Hampshire with honor. Ironically, he is  
15 proud of me for speaking before you tonight.

16 New Hampshire is frugal, has integrity.  
17 We're weathered. We are strong. we are  
18 different than our sister New England states.  
19 We are better. We hold still and truthful. We  
20 are our landscape. We are not corporate greed.  
21 And we always find a better way to serve our  
22 people and the sacred grounds. We do not sell  
23 out to the highest or quickest bid, and we stand  
24 the test of time. We believe in the old Yankee

1 saying, use it up, wear it out, make it do, or  
2 do without.

3 In our White Mountains, our beautiful White  
4 Mountains, we were graced with the majestic Old  
5 Man up in Franconia. He watched over us, he  
6 protected us and was very patient with us. We  
7 looked to him for guidance and certainty. He's  
8 gone now. Yet we must step up and fill his  
9 shoes. It is our duty to proceed in his manner.  
10 You have the chance to create a legacy to leave  
11 your mark, not a scar, but to leave your New  
12 Hampshire mark. It is the essence that runs  
13 through our veins and through our granite. You  
14 have this opportunity. It's in your hands.  
15 Become the Old Man. Lead by his example.  
16 Protect us. We are New Hampshire. What is done  
17 cannot be undone. Stop this Northern Pass. It  
18 is wrong. Do right action. We are better than  
19 this. Thank you.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Is Paul  
21 Allard here? Come on down. To be followed by  
22 Kathleen Corcoran and Charles Garden if he's  
23 here.

24 PAUL ALLARD: Hello. I'm Paul Allard. I

1 live in Alton, New Hampshire, and I'm the Chief  
2 Operating Officer for Lakeside Life Science.

3 I'm here to speak on two fronts to you:  
4 one, as a person in recovery and two, as a small  
5 business owner. I moved here in October of  
6 2009, and I had nothing. I was beaten up, I was  
7 broken. I had a trail of DUIs and other, you  
8 know, problems in my past, and I couldn't stop  
9 drinking. And I came here to live with my  
10 parents, and I was miserable. I was alone. And  
11 then I found the mountains and the woods and  
12 their beauty has helped heal me. I on countless  
13 occasions times that I've, you know, sincere  
14 desire to use would disappear off into the  
15 mountains and hike and get over that time, and a  
16 state that my President recently referred to as  
17 a drug-infested den, that's not how I see it. I  
18 see it as a beautiful state that has given me a  
19 new opportunity of life.

20 And in that, since I've lived here I've  
21 become a registered nurse, and nurses are in  
22 shortage, so I'm now a part of that industry,  
23 and I am also soon to be part owner of a  
24 business that is unique in this state. We're a

1 contract research organization, and we manage  
2 clinical studies for diagnostics companies and  
3 pharmaceutical companies. A business that does  
4 not exist here in New Hampshire without us, and  
5 we're also working with local hospitals to bring  
6 in revenue.

7 One of the things that I've tried to bring  
8 into our business is my love of the woods. We  
9 recently had clients from Japan that flew to one  
10 of our partners in Massachusetts. They brought  
11 them to our office to see the beauty of where we  
12 are and to show them that, you know, we stand by  
13 what we are and our perception and the way we  
14 sell ourselves is by we're Lakeside Life  
15 Science. We're nice guys who work in the woods.  
16 We're a little bit off the beaten path, but we  
17 do this because we love it just like we love our  
18 state.

19 And if Northern Pass goes through, you  
20 know, when we're driving clients to go to have  
21 meetings at places such as Polly's Pancake  
22 Parlor or those things, they're not going to  
23 want to. You know, they get to see that where  
24 they live. They get to see that in

1           Massachusetts. They don't have that here. And,  
2           you know, we also run many large freezers to  
3           maintain patient blood samples at our site, and  
4           in all honesty, I would rather pay more to keep  
5           Northern Pass from our state than have to pay to  
6           move my company out of a state that clearly  
7           doesn't care for the people of this state. And  
8           people in recovery, you know, Northern Pass  
9           doesn't care about the people and clearly the  
10          people trying to put it through does not care  
11          about small businesses such as ours and the  
12          people who are trying to live in this beautiful  
13          state, and I just really want to thank you guys  
14          for giving me the opportunity to speak here  
15          tonight. So thank you.

16                 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Kathleen  
17                 Corcoran, to be followed by Charles Garden and  
18                 Sue Coviello.

19                 KATHLEEN CORCORAN: Hello. My name is  
20                 Kathleen Corcoran, and I want to thank you for  
21                 letting me speak here today. I decided to come  
22                 up and talk to you today because recently my  
23                 father Tom Corcoran passed away, and it got me  
24                 thinking about the importance of what was

1           happening here.

2           My father was 85 years old, he lived a  
3           great life, most of it in the state of New  
4           Hampshire. He went to high school here, he went  
5           to college here, and then he found his business  
6           here developing the town of Waterville Valley.

7           He was an Olympic skier and in his  
8           development of the valley a lot of people have  
9           come to me, especially in his passing but over  
10          the last 45 years they have come to me and told  
11          me how special Waterville Valley is. They tell  
12          me that they thought my father was a visionary,  
13          and a lot of the times in these conversations  
14          they would mention how incredible it was that my  
15          father had the foresight to put the power lines  
16          coming into Waterville Valley out of sight and  
17          the power lines in the town of Waterville Valley  
18          entirely underground.

19          He did this with the cooperation of the  
20          power company back in the 1960, and it's been  
21          that way ever since, and people continually talk  
22          about the beauty and how different that is and  
23          how special that is. And when they come to the  
24          valley, they begin to feel themselves relax in a

1 different way and they don't see any wires,  
2 power lines or poles the whole time that they're  
3 there. It's exceptional.

4 My father allowed me to grow up there. I  
5 had the good fortune of growing up in this  
6 valley surrounded by the raw natural beauty  
7 there, and maybe for that reason, I'm more  
8 adverse when I do see these big power lines.  
9 They just strike me as being a bit creepy, and I  
10 don't know if it's for that reason that I'm so  
11 opposed to them, that I really didn't grow up  
12 around them that I feel adverse to them, but I  
13 feel that everybody ultimately innately feels  
14 adverse when they see these lines. Something in  
15 our core from our soul shrinks and we become a  
16 different person.

17 When I look at the lines that came off of  
18 the windmills in Rumney and Plymouth more  
19 recently, again, it was a foreign entity that  
20 got permission to put something up to generate  
21 power for the states in the southern part of New  
22 England, not for New Hampshire. It made it look  
23 like a concentration camp when you go by those  
24 power lines. They are big tall power lines.

1           They have Xs on them. And that's where they  
2           resemble the concentration camps. But  
3           regardless, of those lines I also see a lot of  
4           the north to south power lines that come out of  
5           Quebec Hydro and run to the southern states,  
6           again, to furnish cheaper power for those  
7           states. Maybe they're not conserving enough  
8           that they keep needing more and more and more.  
9           I'm not sure what's going on there, but I think  
10          that they need to find their own solution, and  
11          that's really what this starts to come to be  
12          about.

13                 I sell real estate so I'm often crossing  
14          these north to south lines that exist already,  
15          and I feel something physical every time I drive  
16          underneath them. Whether you feel something  
17          physical or not, there is no doubt that they are  
18          not pretty, and they do ruin the landscape. For  
19          that reason alone, those properties along that  
20          line and that are close to that line are  
21          unquestionably depreciated and their values are  
22          not the same.

23                 It's a hard sell selling those properties.  
24          I've been involved with many properties along



1 those lines, and I can tell you it's a constant  
2 concern. I was thankful to just sell a property  
3 on Route 3 in Thornton where this proposed line  
4 is going right underneath. It's a disclosure  
5 that we have to make. We don't know if it's  
6 going to happen, but we have to let you know  
7 that it's a possibility, and the value goes  
8 down. The prices go down. A nice two single  
9 family, two-unit home, two single-family homes  
10 on one property sell for 160,000. It should  
11 have sold for closer to 220 to 250,000. The  
12 sellers suffered.

13 If there is a need for the consumers in the  
14 other states, they really can't conserve, they  
15 can't find out their own solutions to their  
16 problems without putting us at risk for their  
17 problems, I think that it's a shame in that at  
18 the very least if this is an inevitable solution  
19 that we need to have these lines coming down, I  
20 hope that you and other people would see it as  
21 my father saw it, that those lines need to be  
22 out of sight and underground and that there is  
23 no compromise on that for the way that it will  
24 handle economy in the state of New Hampshire and

1 just the natural beauty of wanting to be here.

2 So I hope that you guys decide to do the  
3 right thing for the state of New Hampshire, not  
4 for the big power companies. I want to thank  
5 you for your time in listening to my opposition  
6 for this proposal.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Is Charles  
8 Garden here? Seems not. Sue Coviello? To be  
9 followed by Craig Savage, if he's here.

10 SUE COVIELLO: Good evening. I'm Sue  
11 Coviello, and I live at 43 Dowst Road in  
12 Allenstown, and I'm a home owner along the  
13 proposed route. And I'm here to discuss the  
14 other toll this Project will have and it's a  
15 psychological one. Many years ago we had our  
16 second daughter Amanda, who as we learned has  
17 challenges and continues to do so to this day.  
18 One of her challenges is in an extreme  
19 sensitivity to noise. Granted we all have that,  
20 can have an unexpected reaction, but how many of  
21 us will go running, try to hide, cry and panic  
22 and so -- I'm not a good public speaker.

23 And some examples are when we use to live  
24 more in town, the fire trucks would go by on a

1 regular basis so often she would take off  
2 running and crying before we were even aware of  
3 the noise. Recently helicopters flying over the  
4 house with no advance notice to us. She was  
5 injured in a horse accident and transported to  
6 the hospital, asked the ambulance driver not to  
7 put on the siren because it would scare her too  
8 much, and that was along with having four broken  
9 ribs, but she didn't want that added stress. I  
10 could go on and on about the different  
11 challenges.

12 So when we had the chance to move out to  
13 the woods of Allenstown, about as far out as we  
14 could get without leaving town, we did. We're  
15 in the woods, very little chance of sirens,  
16 helicopters still happen. But thunder storms  
17 and imagine being afraid of the weather to the  
18 point you're hiding or crying. I could go on  
19 and on about all the anxiety that takes place  
20 for her. I'd be here for a while.

21 But here we are 17 years later and now we  
22 will be having to and will be dealing with the  
23 noise issues of the construction if Northern  
24 Pass goes through. Eversource has suggested to

1 us that their answer to our problem is to take  
2 her out of the house. Six days a week,  
3 approximately 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. or later.  
4 One, both my husband and I work. Two, was it  
5 fair to her. That's her home. That's where she  
6 should feel safe.

7 So please do not approve the request, the  
8 request for Northern Pass. It's not in the best  
9 interest of this state and certainly not in the  
10 best interest of our daughter. And imagine if  
11 this was your son or daughter and they had to go  
12 through this and not allowed to be in their own  
13 home. Say no to Northern Pass. Thank you.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Is Craig  
15 Savage here? To be followed by Eric Azriel if  
16 he's here.

17 CRAIG SAVAGE: My name is Craig Savage.  
18 I'm a resident of Concord. Thank you for this  
19 opportunity.

20 I'd like to actually change my talk a  
21 little as I listen to some other people. 45  
22 years ago my wife and I were ski bums in Vail,  
23 Colorado, and that's one of the most beautiful  
24 places in the country, but we needed a place to

1 raise a family and made a conscious choice to  
2 come to New Hampshire. We ended up in Concord  
3 because of what Concord offers in and of itself,  
4 but it's really the beauty and I'd say the  
5 majesty and the opportunity and everything that  
6 Concord and New Hampshire could provide to us in  
7 to our family that brought us here, beauty being  
8 one of the most important things. We're hikers,  
9 skiers, try to be golfers. We love the North  
10 Country.

11 I just spent, I was fortunate to spend the  
12 last two days up in the Mt. Washington region  
13 stayed at the Mt. Washington Hotel. Took the  
14 Cog for the first time in 45 years to the top of  
15 Mt. Washington on a glorious day looking out  
16 over glorious countryside, a place that we love.

17 It had not occurred to me to ask my son's  
18 permission to speak on his behalf as well, but I  
19 called him, and he said oh, yeah, Amanda and I  
20 are against it. We don't get anything out of  
21 it. It's not for New Hampshire, and he's a  
22 cyclist, skier. My grandson is soon to be four,  
23 and we're taking him out on the trails of New  
24 Hampshire already. I can't imagine -- if you've

1           ever taken that ride, I mean I love Canada and I  
2           love Quebec, but when you take that ride across  
3           the border and you see the size of those  
4           transmission stanchions, those, that's huge. I  
5           don't think anybody -- I've heard it written  
6           about in the paper, I don't think you can really  
7           envision it. Until you've seen it you won't  
8           know what it will look like, and for that to go  
9           across the territory of Oak Hill on the northern  
10          part of our city, I can't even imagine that. I  
11          mean, there's beautiful trails out there, we use  
12          that part of Concord all the time. It's a  
13          valuable piece of property.

14                 And for my brethren from the North Country  
15          who will have tourism hurt significantly by  
16          this, my thoughts and prayers go out to them.  
17          This is not a good thing. I don't think we gain  
18          enough. I've done a lot of reading on this, and  
19          what I read tells me that New Hampshire gives  
20          back a lot more than we're going to get from  
21          this effort.

22                 And I made a career in corporate America,  
23          but I think corporate America pushes too far and  
24          especially when it's big corporate America.

1 This is not right for New Hampshire. I'm  
2 vehemently opposed. Thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Eric Azriel,  
4 to be followed by Mike Kenney because I believe  
5 Steve Duprey is not here.

6 ERIC AZRIEL: Good evening. Thank you for  
7 the opportunity to speak. And what I wanted to  
8 talk about tonight is really acting as a  
9 microphone. So this sentiment may have been  
10 expressed earlier. I wasn't able to attend the  
11 entire hearing because I work up in Madison, and  
12 it takes me a while to get here. I work two  
13 jobs. And what I really wanted to talk about is  
14 the effect on the North Country. I'm not in the  
15 North Country, but they're my neighbors. I live  
16 in the White Mountains. It's really important  
17 to our entire area how our landscape looks and  
18 the people who come to the area. And my plea is  
19 that you listen to the people from that area who  
20 have talked to you before, who are able to come  
21 down tonight and made that supreme effort to be  
22 here and to talk because it is a huge barrier  
23 just to get down here and talk. If we take the  
24 people who made it and multiply it probably by

1 many times we'd get a more true figure of how  
2 people are feeling and what is going on.

3 And I also wanted to add on a practical  
4 note, if we talk about the line, and how much it  
5 costs to bury it. It goes from three million  
6 per mile to five million per mile which sounds  
7 like a lot of money. We're also talking about a  
8 \$1.6 billion Project. I think we can find that  
9 money and do what's right for New Hampshire and  
10 do what's right for the people of the North  
11 Country and all the way down New Hampshire.  
12 Thank you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mike Kenney,  
14 to be followed by Geoff Daly.

15 MIKE KENNEY: Hello. I want to thank you  
16 all for taking the time to consider carefully  
17 the impacts of the proposed Northern Pass  
18 Transmission route. My name is Mike Kenney. I  
19 was born in Littleton, New Hampshire, and would  
20 like to add that I oppose burial and overhead  
21 transmission lines. I live in Easton. Been a  
22 resident there my whole life. I want to speak  
23 on behalf of being a businessman, on behalf of  
24 being one who loves mountain landscapes and as a



1 resident. I will go into a little bit of  
2 history of my background first.

3 I've had the privilege of representing the  
4 US in two Olympic cycles with our US Men's  
5 Olympic Team, and we were able to get 7 medals.  
6 I find a lot of inspiration in my life that  
7 comes out of the mountains, and I'm really  
8 fighting hard to protect open landscapes where  
9 they still exist. I've been on five continents  
10 training our athletes in New Zealand, South  
11 America, Portillo. All across Europe from  
12 French Alps to Slovenia. I was in the Sochi  
13 Olympics, and been able to witness through  
14 hundreds and even thousands of hours on mountain  
15 landscapes, and I can tell you honestly, each  
16 one of you, that we have one of the last  
17 treasures really on the planet in northern New  
18 Hampshire. And to think it could be potentially  
19 scarred with towers is just a really  
20 heartbreaking thought to me.

21 But let me go into as a businessman. I  
22 have a tennis court specialty business. We do  
23 clay courts. One of the main concerns during  
24 the proposed two-year construction period

1 includes access to our main transportation  
2 corridors. 93 and 116 to 112. It's a specialty  
3 business, and we have a 60-year-old family  
4 history, and we service summer camps and tennis  
5 clubs in the Northern New England region.

6 So being located in the North Country, we  
7 absolutely depend on unimpeded access to state  
8 and interstate highway systems in order to  
9 remain competitive in our industry. We operate  
10 during a brief 3-month period that coincides  
11 with the proposed construction periods. No one  
12 knows what the actual impacts will be, but a  
13 simple cost analysis of lost time that one-way  
14 traffic with up to five stops on it on the five  
15 miles we travel on Route 116 would indicate the  
16 following: Five stops at two minutes each, ten  
17 minutes a day, et cetera, would result in four  
18 man-hours lost a day due to construction. Over  
19 a two-year season this loss of productivity  
20 would add up to over \$20,000. Doesn't sound  
21 like a lot but for a small business trying to  
22 make a living in a brief three-year period, it's  
23 significant. And I haven't seen that Northern  
24 Pass has reached out to address any of the above

1 issues. Nothing yet anyway.

2 Another concern is that while Northern Pass  
3 may create some temporary jobs, they are really  
4 out of touch with the local jobs market. The  
5 real irony is that at 2.7 percent we have one of  
6 the lowest, if not the lowest, unemployment  
7 rates in the country. Every business in our  
8 area is desperate to find employees who can  
9 work. Northern Pass will be shrinking an  
10 already depleted labor pool. Creating jobs does  
11 not need to be a priority to support at this  
12 time.

13 I hire about 15 people each spring and end  
14 up with 5 to 7 who can actually show up each day  
15 in functional condition and do the work at 14 or  
16 \$15 an hour. I think anybody in New Hampshire  
17 who has hired people recently knows what I'm  
18 talking about. If Northern Pass is going to  
19 produce the jobs it claims it will, this will  
20 not help businesses who have offered employment  
21 opportunities for many years in our area.

22 I also question the need for more  
23 transmission lines at a time when less  
24 controversial transmission options will be

1 coming on line in neighboring states through  
2 Vermont and Maine and even the Granite State  
3 line that goes through Littleton and on existing  
4 power right-of-ways. Solar and wind energy  
5 sources produce locally and sustainably in New  
6 Hampshire will continue to rise and supply more  
7 of our energy needs and the focus should be  
8 placed in those areas.

9 And where I live, we have a set of  
10 circumstances relating to the physical  
11 topography of our property that no one from  
12 Northern Pass team has reached out to us and  
13 addressed. We have underground water lines that  
14 cross the proposed directional drilling  
15 locations that are proposed. What are the  
16 contingency plans for damage to water systems,  
17 what are the risks to landowners locating slurry  
18 pits on their properties 120 feet from our  
19 houses and close to surface well water supplies.  
20 What types of chemical residues are left behind  
21 from the directional boring operations. Will  
22 there be leaching into the aquifer below the  
23 surface in Easton Valley.

24 I recently heard that the backfill used

1 after the cable and splice vaults are buried are  
2 using coal ash. Why has this not been disclosed  
3 before? This would mean that the entire fill  
4 volume from excavating the trenches will have to  
5 be removed and nonnative potentially toxic fill  
6 materials brought in by hundreds of dump trucks  
7 filling in the trenches. If the fill is not  
8 trucked away, where are they putting it? What  
9 about the compaction machinery needed to firm  
10 the soil in and around the trenches and burial  
11 cables? What are the decibel ratings for that  
12 equipment? Do they use vibratory compactors for  
13 this work? What effect might this have on dry  
14 foundations located 30 feet from the underground  
15 splice vaults? What about noise pollution, air  
16 pollution and impacted traffic with cars idling  
17 at work traffic stops? Are they working into  
18 the night with loud generators producing light?  
19 They will be creating an industrial landscape  
20 with monster steel towers in the towns just  
21 north of us and massive burial excavations  
22 through Easton and Pemigewasset Valley all the  
23 way down to Deerfield.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr. Kenney,

1 please wrap up.

2 MIKE KENNEY: Okay. What is the long-term  
3 maintenance or decommissioning plans when our  
4 region's power needs change? Do our property  
5 deeds need to be changed to indicate an 8 by 8  
6 by 30 feet long concrete splice vault that is  
7 located in front of our restored 110-year-old  
8 barn? Will these splice vaults crumble in 30 to  
9 50 years?

10 To sum up my points, we don't need more  
11 jobs. We don't really need more electricity in  
12 New Hampshire from Hydro-Quebec, and we want to  
13 do everything we can to protect our natural  
14 resources and environment and maintain the  
15 undisturbed aesthetic of our great  
16 mountainsides. Thank you very much.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Geoff Daly.  
18 Is Geoff Daly here?

19 We do have some walk-ins. I'm going to say  
20 up front that some of the people who put their  
21 names on the walk-in list have spoken at earlier  
22 comments, and I'm not going to call those  
23 people. You've had many chances to speak  
24 including at earlier public comment hearings

1 within the last two months, and I recognize some  
2 of the names from earlier comments. There's no  
3 limit on the number of written comments people  
4 can submit, and I can tell you that there are  
5 many people who've submitted multiple comments.

6 So the first walk-in is Tristan Glowa.

7 TRISTAN GLOWA: Good evening, and thank you  
8 to the Committee. My name is Tristan Glowa, and  
9 I am a resident of New Haven, Connecticut,  
10 actually where I attend Yale University as an  
11 undergraduate studying energy and environmental  
12 politics. I'm also here representing the Yale  
13 Student Environmental Coalition which actively  
14 opposes Northern Pass.

15 So I've actually come up to here to testify  
16 despite not being a New Hampshire resident  
17 because after learning of my University's role  
18 in facilitating this Project, I've grown  
19 convinced that it's not in the interest of New  
20 Hampshire, the affected communities and  
21 ecosystems or a low carbon sustainable energy  
22 future.

23 I don't know whether this is common  
24 knowledge, but Yale University is in fact

1 directly implicated in the Northern Pass Project  
2 through its role as a key investor behind  
3 Bayroot LLC, which it holds a 98.8 percent  
4 membership interest, a landowner that has  
5 granted a really critical land lease through  
6 lands in New Hampshire, and when students on  
7 campus heard from residents in the North Country  
8 and elsewhere in the state who are telling us  
9 about what was happening and that this route was  
10 looking feasible mostly because of Bayroot's  
11 leasing decisions at this point while other  
12 routes have been blocked due to local concerns  
13 it was really deeply troubling to me that my  
14 University was willing to operate without  
15 consideration of the local impacts.

16 But this actually is not surprising looking  
17 into the history of Bayroot LLC. They have  
18 consistently operated on New Hampshire lands to  
19 earn the most return for Yale's endowment  
20 without regards to ecological or economic  
21 sustainability, being implicated in clearcutting  
22 forests as well as the development of the  
23 Granite Reliable Wind Power Project which has  
24 been criticized for irresponsible environmental



1 and community behavior. The fact that Northern  
2 Pass is relying on Bayroot in order to proceed  
3 raises serious concerns for me that this Project  
4 will not be conducted in a responsible manner.

5 So for this reason we on campus, a  
6 coalition of students and undergraduates,  
7 students of the forestry school and elsewhere,  
8 are actively trying to pressure the University  
9 to stop being involved through their investments  
10 in Bayroot LLC.

11 You know, from other perspectives, you  
12 know, this Project just does not make sense for  
13 a 21st energy system as an installer of energy  
14 systems based on socioeconomic equity and in  
15 terms of sound environmental decisions as we've  
16 heard. I think it's worth noting again these  
17 turbines that have been installed in Quebec were  
18 installed without the consent of the indigenous  
19 Pessamit Innu, and if you support this Project  
20 you are supporting a violation of the UN  
21 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
22 as well as endangering salmon populations.

23 I think, again, also to note that in terms  
24 of whether this would actually be a sustainable

1 and a clean energy option, the Conservation Law  
2 Foundation and others have estimated the impacts  
3 and the methane emissions of large scale  
4 hydropower to be on par with a gas power plant.  
5 So from a climate perspective this is not a  
6 sustainable option either.

7 If you allow this Project to actually go  
8 through, the New England markets will be flooded  
9 with hydropower energy that will displace the  
10 opportunity for true clean energy expansion.

11 So for all these reasons, I really urge you  
12 to not allow the Northern Pass to proceed.

13 And, finally, just on a personal note. My  
14 long-term home is Fairbanks, Alaska. Our  
15 beautiful state has been rated the happiest  
16 state in the country, and I'm sure that this has  
17 a lot to do with our access to wild pristine  
18 lands. New Hampshire has some of the most  
19 beautiful lands on this side of the country, and  
20 I just urge you not to mess that up. Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Next I have a  
22 name that looks like Leehi is the first name.  
23 And first letter of the last name is a Y, I  
24 think.

1           LEEHI YONA: Thank you. No one ever gets  
2 it right. It's Leehi Yona.

3           Good evening. My name is Leehi. I am an  
4 ecologist. I'm a candidate in the Master of  
5 Environmental Science Program at the Yale  
6 University School of Forestry and Environmental  
7 Studies where I study coal carbon storage in  
8 forests as well as climate change, science and  
9 policy.

10           I am from Montreal, Quebec, as well as an  
11 alumna of Dartmouth College. I'd lived in  
12 Hanover, New Hampshire, before moving to  
13 Connecticut for my graduate studies. As a  
14 matter of fact, I actually prepared policy  
15 briefs for the state of New Hampshire for the  
16 House Science, Technology and Energy Committees  
17 looking at electricity grade modernization and  
18 energy challenges.

19           So I would like to express my opposition to  
20 the Northern Pass through all of these lenses as  
21 a biologist and a social scientist, as a  
22 resident of Quebec and formerly New Hampshire,  
23 and as a student of Yale University that as the  
24 person who spoke before me, Tristan Glowa,

1 mentioned has an important role to play in this  
2 Project.

3 Firstly, having grown up in Quebec, I can  
4 speak to the harms that Hydro-Quebec has caused  
5 in the province. Particular alarming is the  
6 impact of Hydro-Quebec's projects on First  
7 Nation's communities. Hydro-Quebec disregards  
8 indigenous rights. In particular, the Pessamit  
9 Innu who did not consent to the damage of  
10 construction on dams on their traditional lands,  
11 dams that would provide the electricity as has  
12 been mentioned for the Northern Pass.

13 This isn't the first time that Hydro-Quebec  
14 has been singled out for its violation of  
15 indigenous rights. As a matter of fact, in the  
16 1990s American universities including  
17 universities in New Hampshire such as Dartmouth  
18 divested from Hydro-Quebec because of its  
19 construction of dams without the consent of  
20 Inuits and Cree First Nations. While the dams  
21 providing electricity for the Northern Pass have  
22 already been built, the increased electricity  
23 generation will quicken ecosystem disruption.

24 Finally, from the perspective of a climate

1 scientist, I know that large-scale hydropower  
2 does not deliver the greenhouse gas emissions  
3 reductions that it promises.

4 As I mentioned I've prepared non-partisan  
5 policy briefs and testified for the New  
6 Hampshire House Science, Technology and Energy  
7 Committee on issues related to electricity and  
8 energy. I am aware of the renewable energy  
9 goals for states participating in the Regional  
10 Greenhouse Gas Initiative. This is what I study  
11 as a researcher. And I believe it is reckless  
12 to consider large-scale Quebec hydropower as a  
13 low carbon alternative. The greenhouse gas  
14 emissions caused by flooding when such dams are  
15 created are significant. In 2010 I actually  
16 spoke to representatives from Hydro-Quebec  
17 voicing my concerns about these emissions, and I  
18 was assured that research is being conducted to  
19 determine the true climate change impact of  
20 these projects. However, Hydro-Quebec has not  
21 released any research on this in at least five  
22 years while a study published in the journal  
23 Environmental Science and Technology in 2014  
24 found that methane emissions from large scale

1 hydropower were significantly underestimated.

2           Meanwhile, research at Stanford University  
3 found that all 50 states, including New  
4 Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut could  
5 transition to 100 percent renewable energy by  
6 2050 without using large-scale hydropower and at  
7 the same time while saving money. It is clear  
8 to me as a climate scientist that the argument  
9 that the Northern Pass will provide greenhouse  
10 gas emissions reduction is false. At best it is  
11 a distraction from the just transition to  
12 renewable energy that New England states lead.

13           Finally, as a student Yale's Forestry  
14 school, I can assure you that the practices that  
15 Yale is engaging with through Bayroot LLC are  
16 antithetical to everything we are taught about  
17 sustainable forest management. As a matter of  
18 fact, Yale's role as a key investor in Bayroot  
19 is in direct opposition to the University's  
20 ethical investing principles.

21           It is for these reasons, indigenous rights  
22 and climate action, that I express my opposition  
23 to this project. I have a love for New  
24 Hampshire from my time spent here, and I've

1 experienced the impacts of hydropower in Quebec.  
2 I am studying at a university in a state that  
3 would utilize electricity from the Northern  
4 Pass, and I am a scientist who studies climate  
5 change, and I am telling you that this Project  
6 is a bad idea. Thank you.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Robin  
8 Canavan.

9 ROBIN CANAVAN: Hello. Good evening.  
10 Thank you for letting me speak with you tonight.  
11 My name is Robin Canavan, and I am a resident of  
12 New Haven, Connecticut. I'm a Ph.D. candidate  
13 in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at  
14 Yale University, and I am also a climate  
15 scientist. I study greenhouse climates in the  
16 geologic past.

17 On July 8th the New York Times reported  
18 that utility companies are running a concerted  
19 and well-funded lobbying campaign for laws to  
20 prevent private solar customers from selling  
21 their excess power back to the grid. In several  
22 states they've convinced legislators to pass  
23 laws drafted by oil-industry-funded nonprofits  
24 which kill incentives that motivate private

1 consumers to install truly green energy sources.

2 Eversource Energy is a member of the Edison  
3 Electric Institute, the utility industry trade  
4 association that is leading this lobbying  
5 campaign. At the same time, Eversource's  
6 representatives tell the SEC that Northern Pass  
7 will transmit clean energy. It is part of a  
8 trade association that is lobbying to kill or at  
9 least curb the boom in solar development,  
10 especially solar development, that isn't  
11 profitable for utilities.

12 Eversource's trade association warned its  
13 members a few years ago that letting solar  
14 customers sell the excess power their houses  
15 generate will create irreparable damages to  
16 revenues and growth for utility companies.  
17 Small site solar development may not generate  
18 revenue for utility companies, but it also does  
19 not create a kind of irreparable damage that  
20 Northern Pass claims, slashing huge cuts through  
21 New Hampshire's forests, cluttering the state's  
22 breathtaking views with massive towers, hurting  
23 the state's tourism industry and leading to  
24 expansion of massive hydropower projects that



1           decimate the lands and livelihoods of First  
2           Nation's people.

3           We are entering an era of climate crisis.  
4           Organizations with capital and scientific  
5           expertise must be leaders in the transformation  
6           of electric power systems. As a scientist, I'm  
7           disappointed that two organizations who could be  
8           bringing those resources to bear in a  
9           constructive fashion have teamed up to support a  
10          misguided proposal. When it comes to Northern  
11          Pass, green energy seems to be more of a framing  
12          designed to sell a project for profit than the  
13          goal of two organizations committed to  
14          protecting earth's climate through scientific  
15          innovation and smart investment.

16          Eversource's support of the Edison Electric  
17          Institute's campaign to undermine residential  
18          solar power and its determination to build  
19          Northern Pass suggest a lack of seriousness  
20          about climate change.

21          My University, Yale, is allowing Northern  
22          Pass to cross 24 miles of land it owns through a  
23          front company called Bayroot LLC. With its \$25  
24          billion endowment and unparalleled academic

1 resources, Yale could be pushing the nation and  
2 the world towards policies to combat climate  
3 change. Instead it has chosen to join  
4 Eversource in building Northern Pass while  
5 trying to hide behind a secret lease and a shell  
6 corporation, actions that make it impossible for  
7 the Yale community to even have a constructive  
8 dialogue, let alone give input into a critical  
9 policy decision.

10 I urge my University to stop Northern Pass  
11 from crossing its lands, and I urge the SEC to  
12 deny the Northern Pass Project as proposed.

13 Thank you.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Jeff Steele.  
15 Is Jeff Steele here?

16 JEFF STEELE: I had one of the seats in the  
17 back.

18 Good evening. This won't take very long,  
19 folks, but I'm Jeff Steele from Deerfield, New  
20 Hampshire, and I'm opposed to Northern Pass in  
21 any configuration, aboveground, below ground,  
22 whatever, for many reasons, but mostly because  
23 it's a for-profit, not need-based Project. So  
24 speaking for a lot of the residents of Deerfield

1 I implore you to do what's right for the state  
2 of New Hampshire and the Town of Deerfield.  
3 Please deny this Application. Thank you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Jackie  
5 Colthart?

6 JACKIE COLTHART: Married name.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I just read  
8 what I see.

9 JACKIE COLTHART: Thank you. I hadn't  
10 planned to say this tonight because I'm very  
11 surprised, but as the mother of a Yaley, and the  
12 wife of a Yaley who's here, I am thrilled to see  
13 these young people here, and I hope you have  
14 really listened well to them because they are  
15 the voice of the future.

16 Now, I'm here myself to represent a group  
17 that I think is seriously underrepresented here,  
18 and that is a group known to New Hampshireites as  
19 the dreaded summer people. My husband and I  
20 moved here 21 years ago from Texas. We were  
21 looking for a beautiful place to have a summer  
22 home. We found it in the New Hampshire Lakes  
23 District.

24 About this business of being a summer

1 person, I have two points to make. I don't know  
2 exactly how much summer people and tourists  
3 contribute to the New Hampshire economy, but  
4 I've been told and hear over and over again  
5 tonight that it's something like number one or  
6 number two income-producing industry in the  
7 state.

8 We didn't come here so that we could look  
9 at wires. If we wanted to look at electrical  
10 wires, we could go to New Jersey. We spend  
11 money here. We don't just clog up the roads.  
12 And we're here not for just a couple of nights  
13 or maybe a week. My husband and I live here for  
14 six months of the year. We pay our taxes. We  
15 buy stuff for those second homes. We employ  
16 local people. We contribute our share to the  
17 economy. And we don't come here to look at  
18 wires.

19 Now, as to that second point I wanted to  
20 make. I don't want anyone here to misunderstand  
21 me. My husband and I will never see Northern  
22 Pass towers from our home. I'm not here because  
23 our personal view is going to be impacted. We  
24 are here because like the people who are lucky

1           enough to be born in New Hampshire we love this  
2           place, we love the mountains and the peace that  
3           just looking at them, even on the way to the  
4           grocery store, just looking at these mountains  
5           brings something into our lives. To see the  
6           White Mountains to be taken into another sphere  
7           spiritually, and it's a better place. To change  
8           the face of these mountains is a sacrilege. To  
9           do it for the profit of a few people is even  
10          worse. It's not necessary. It is not  
11          economically helpful. And it's not wanted. I  
12          hope you've heard us all. It is not wanted.  
13          Thank you.

14                 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: JoAnn Lytle.

15                 JOANN LYTTLE: Hi. Good evening, and I'll  
16          be really quick. Thank you for letting me  
17          speak. My name is JoAnn Lytle Lydall, and I'm a  
18          resident of Concord. I was a former Masshole or  
19          Massachusetts tourist for many years. My  
20          husband and I worked really hard so that we  
21          could save money and buy a home in New  
22          Hampshire. I grew up in the Boston area so I am  
23          more than familiar with close spaces, lots of  
24          wires, lots of noises, and we bought our home

1 and we picked you out where we wanted to live.  
2 We live in Concord. We live off of Oak Hill. I  
3 walk the conservation property right near my  
4 house. I hike Oak Hill. We moved here so that  
5 we could raise a family, I could buy a horse  
6 which I ride all over the country. I ski at  
7 Waterville. I ski all over New Hampshire and  
8 other states, but I'm fondest of New Hampshire.

9 I don't know how else to say it except  
10 really, really pay attention to what people are  
11 saying. You know the statistics, you know all  
12 the stuff that people have been saying all night  
13 long, but I'm a regular person, I work hard, I  
14 pay taxes. I moved here because I chose to move  
15 here. I was a Children's Hospital nurse in  
16 Boston, and I had all the good perks and stuff  
17 in Boston. I moved so that I can have open  
18 spaces. I can have beautiful countryside. We  
19 can ride our motorcycles, I can ride my horse.  
20 We hike. We've got grandkids utilizing,  
21 learning about nation. Open spaces, the air,  
22 the environment, the good things in life. That  
23 it's not sitting. It's not, it's being out and  
24 it's being in the countryside that's beautiful.

1           If the Pass passes, it's not going to a  
2 beautiful countryside, and as a nurse, once  
3 something's scarred up, you really can't fix it.  
4 If you scar up this state, you won't ever get to  
5 take it back. So I urge you to vote no and  
6 thank you for listening to me.

7           PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Nancy Goebel.

8           NANCY GOEBEL: Hi. My name is Nancy  
9 Goebel. I, too, am a Masshole. But I met a boy  
10 at Cannon Mountain, and he persuaded me to move  
11 to New Hampshire, and it was the right thing to  
12 do. I live half-time in Pembroke, New  
13 Hampshire, and half-time in Franconia, New  
14 Hampshire, so I'm getting it coming and going  
15 with this thing.

16           I'm against the towers and I'm against them  
17 being buried on moral, environmental and  
18 economic terms. I won't go into the moral terms  
19 associated with what Hydro-Quebec has done in  
20 its own country. Environmentally, it's just too  
21 big of a pot to stir tonight. So I'll just  
22 focus on a couple of the economic things that I  
23 see.

24           I know this Project has already damaged the

1 bottom line of my North Country. In my recent  
2 search for a new home in the  
3 Franconia/Easton/Sugar Hill area, there were  
4 many, many, many times where my real estate  
5 agent would not even show me a home because it  
6 had, as we began to call it, the Northern Pass  
7 stain. So the homeowners of that particular  
8 home have already lost. They've already lost  
9 value and for what?

10 I work in health care and we do a lot of  
11 risk/benefit weighing to give a patient a drug.  
12 What's the good it's going to do and what's the  
13 bad it's going to do over and over again. And  
14 that's the other way I look at this Northern  
15 Pass.

16 I adore my mountains. They sustain me.  
17 They thrill me. I hike. I bike. I ski. I  
18 paddle. I'm out there all the time. Every  
19 possible minute. And I'm out there with all the  
20 other people who come here to do the exact same  
21 thing. And some of them end up living here like  
22 I have and the last woman who spoke. But they  
23 also pay the bills for many of my neighbors and  
24 friends. And Northern Pass will not help the



1 state's overall economy enough to make up for  
2 the damages to the businesses that depend on  
3 these tourists. The benefits of this Project  
4 accrue to a giant private foreign company, but  
5 the costs are going to be borne by the little  
6 guy and gal in the mountain trying to carve out  
7 a living in a very tough environment, and that  
8 is not fair, that is not right and that is not  
9 New Hampshire. Northern Pass is wrong for far  
10 too many people in this state and right for no  
11 one in New Hampshire. The only fair and  
12 balanced answer can be no to Northern Pass and I  
13 ask you to say no.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: All right.  
15 Is there anyone else here who has not spoken who  
16 would like to speak? Yes, sir. Why don't you  
17 come forward. Please tell us who you are.

18 WALTER CARLSON: I am Walter Carlson, and I  
19 live in Concord.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr. Carlson,  
21 you spoke before us the last time we were here  
22 as I recall, did you not?

23 WALTER CARLSON: Can I be very brief?

24 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I don't know.

1 I don't know if that's appropriate. I don't  
2 know if that's fair to a whole slew of people  
3 who would have come if they had known they could  
4 speak multiple times. What is it you would want  
5 to say?

6 WALTER CARLSON: I have only one thing to  
7 point out, and nobody else has gone to this  
8 thing. TDI.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: We've heard  
10 all about the TDI line, sir.

11 WALTER CARLSON: Okay. Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Thank you  
13 very much. Is there anyone who has not spoken  
14 at one of the public comment hearings who would  
15 like to speak? Yes, sir. Why don't you come  
16 forward.

17 PATRICK BARTLEY: Good evening, and thank  
18 you for the opportunity to speak. My name is  
19 Patrick Bartley. I live in South Hampton, and  
20 I'm an organizer for Protect the Granite State.

21 As part of our organizing effort, we've  
22 collected 734 written comments from individuals  
23 all over the state talking about their  
24 opposition to the Northern Pass. I'm here to

1 share their feelings.

2 Their opposition is widespread, and it  
3 ranges from concern about the permanent damage  
4 being done to New Hampshire's landscapes and way  
5 of life to the realization that electric rates  
6 will not be appreciably reduced by the Northern  
7 Pass to understanding that building the Northern  
8 Pass will cause enormous disruption and harm to  
9 their small businesses and communities.

10 Whatever their reason for opposing the  
11 Northern Pass, these comments reflect a firm  
12 belief that this Project will have massive  
13 negative impacts on our state, communities, and  
14 livelihoods. They reflect a hope that the SEC  
15 will listen. And this opposition is not just  
16 limited to people who live along the proposed  
17 transmission route. We've collected comments  
18 from people living in 184 towns across the  
19 state, and these comments are still coming in.

20 On behalf of these people, the thousands of  
21 other New Hampshire residents, businesses and  
22 municipalities who oppose the Northern Pass and  
23 myself, I urge you to reject this Application.  
24 Thank you.

1                   PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Is there  
2 anyone else who has not spoken at one of the  
3 public comment hearings in the last couple of  
4 months who would like to say something?

5                   All right. Thank you. We will adjourn  
6 this public comment hearing.

7                   (Hearing adjourned at 7:43 p.m.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2 I, Cynthia Foster, Registered Professional  
3 Reporter and Licensed Court Reporter, duly authorized  
4 to practice Shorthand Court Reporting in the State of  
5 New Hampshire, hereby certify that the foregoing  
6 pages are a true and accurate transcription of my  
7 stenographic notes of the hearing for use in the  
8 matter indicated on the title sheet, as to which a  
9 transcript was duly ordered;

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

17 Dated at West Lebanon, New Hampshire, this 9th  
18 day of September, 2017.

19  
20 \_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Foster, LCR

