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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

September 25, 2017 - 9:09 a.m. DAY 39
49 Donovan Street MORNING Session ONLY
Concord, New Hampshire

{Electronically filed with SEC on 10-10-17}

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

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

Cmsr. Kathryn M. Bailey Public Utilities Comm.
Dir. Craig Wright, Designee Dept. of Environ. Serv.
Christopher Way, Designee Dept. of Resources &
Economic Development
William Oldenburg, Designee Dept. of Transportation
Patricia Weathersby Public Member

ALSO PRESENT FOR THE SEC:
Michael J. Iacopino, Esq., Counsel to the SEC
Iryna Dore, Esquire
(Brennan, Caron, Lenehan & Iacopino)

Pamela G. Monroe, SEC Administrator
(No Appearances Taken)

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

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WITNESS PANEL: TILER EATON

JOSEPH CASEY

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

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Good
3 morning, everyone. It's Day 39. We're
4 continuing with Mr. Varney this morning.

5 Ms. Crane, you may continue.

6 CROSS-EXAMINATION

7 BY MS. CRANE:

8 Q. When we began last Friday -- can you hear me
9 now?

10 Okay. I am Charlotte Crane. Good
11 morning, Mr. Varney.

12 A. Good morning.

13 Q. When we began on Friday, I think we had
14 established Bridgewater would like to market
15 itself as a place in which, quote, "Its
16 residents and property owners value the rural
17 qualities of the town and value the forest,
18 pastoral scenes, open spaces and water
19 bodies, its location for outdoor recreation
20 and for the scenic beauty they provide." I'm
21 quoting from their web site.

22 MS. CRANE: Are we up somewhere?
23 Anything? Unless somebody's got the Bare Earth
24 visibility screening maps that I have asked

1 Counsel for the Public to try to be able to
2 project for me, when I tried to project them
3 last week everybody complained that the
4 resolution wasn't good enough.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
6 Let's go off the record.

7 (Discussion off the record)

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: We're back
9 on the record.

10 MS. CRANE: Thank you.

11 BY MS. CRANE:

12 Q. We had also talked about the fact that
13 Bridgewater --

14 MS. CRANE: I'd like to be on
15 the record. I have tried to get a map with the
16 proper resolution projected. That's what we're
17 waiting for. I don't know whether we've found
18 it yet.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I was happy
20 to wait for this -- stop talking. We can get
21 that up. If there's something you can do
22 without it, that's fine, too. But just figure
23 out what you want and then let's do it.

24 MS. CRANE: Okay.

1 BY MS. CRANE:

2 Q. So we had also established that Bridgewater
3 has one of the lowest tax rates in the state,
4 and it's quite proud of it. That's what we
5 see I think when we look at this web page
6 from a realtor in the Lakes Region area.

7 And this is another screen capture from
8 the Bridgewater town web page. It offers
9 visitors to the page instead of photographs
10 to view.

11 In the course of preparing your report
12 about the effect of the Northern Pass Project
13 on orderly development in Bridgewater, did
14 you have -- did you look at this web page?

15 A. Did I look at the town's web page?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did you look -- did you scroll through these
19 photos?

20 A. I believe so. It's been quite some time
21 since I looked at their web page.

22 Q. I'm sorry. This is still the wrong section.

23 MS. CRANE: I need... that's the
24 only one we have? Then we'll make do without

1 it. Okay. If as I get near the end it's
2 available, what I need is the section that
3 includes Ashland and Bridgewater. Thank you.

4 BY MS. CRANE:

5 Q. Okay. So I know that we're not talking about
6 particular properties here, but I wanted to
7 talk about trends in property transactions
8 and, in general, what the folks on
9 Bridgewater Hill think of their properties.
10 And that's the kind of topic that's covered
11 in your report.

12 A. No, Dr. James Chalmers covered property
13 values --

14 Q. But you relied on his --

15 A. -- in his testimony.

16 Q. But you relied on his report about property
17 values to make assumptions about how
18 anything -- about the run-on effects of those
19 changes in value perhaps in orderly
20 development; is that fair?

21 A. I reviewed his prefiled testimony and report
22 very carefully and feel that it was a very
23 informative, balanced report that was of
24 significant value in terms of understanding

1 the issues.

2 Q. Okay. And I actually don't want to talk
3 about anything more than to use this as an
4 example of a property and talk about why it's
5 as valuable as it is.

6 This house was purchased in 1994 or so
7 for \$235,000. It is listed on the
8 Bridgewater tax list now at about \$406,000,
9 but an assessed base, reduced to \$326,000 as
10 a result of recreational current use. Does
11 that seem plausible to you?

12 A. Perhaps. I don't have those statistics in
13 front of me.

14 Q. Okay. And are you aware that in Bridgewater,
15 the town does not maintain all of the roads
16 during the winter? It does not plow many
17 miles of road?

18 A. That's very common in communities across New
19 Hampshire.

20 Q. And so you'll accept when I suggest that this
21 house is on an unplowed portion of a road
22 called Poole Hill Road? Indeed, this is the
23 Poole Hill Farm on Poole Hill Road.

24 A. Okay.

1 Q. Okay. So why would someone pay this much
2 money for a house which is inaccessible
3 except by snowshoe, snowmobile and maybe a
4 little bit of trudging?

5 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection.
6 Relevance. Calls for speculation.

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Crane,
8 why is this relevant and why does this not call
9 for speculation?

10 MS. CRANE: It may call for
11 speculation, so I suppose I will withdraw the
12 question. But I'd like -- I'll continue.

13 BY MS. CRANE:

14 Q. Is it possible that this view is part of what
15 the purchaser of a home like this on
16 Bridgewater Hill is looking for and --

17 MS. CRANE: I'm sorry. I don't
18 know what you all can see. And when you flip
19 back --

20 MR. PAPPAS: Whatever is on
21 that --

22 MS. CRANE: I have never seen
23 anything on this.

24 MR. OLDENBURG: Neither have we.

1 MS. CRANE: All right. Sorry.

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Crane,
3 stop for just a second, please. Let's go off
4 the record for a minute, okay.

5 (Discussion off the record)

6 MS. CRANE: My apologies. I
7 just wanted to get my bearings about the
8 terrain that we are talking about when we talk
9 about the community of Bridgewater and what's
10 important to its real estate development and to
11 its community in general when they go about
12 their regular economic activity.

13 BY MS. CRANE:

14 Q. So, finally we are looking at Bridgewater.
15 Is everybody looking at Bridgewater? And do
16 you see, Mr. Varney, where it says
17 Bridgewater?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And do you see why you might not quite be
20 able to see Bridgewater?

21 A. I see it clearly.

22 Q. Okay. This is the Bare Earth Study that was
23 prepared as one of the screening tests in
24 connection with Mr. DeWan's study. I was

1 told, and I believe that it is a -- and I
2 read in his report that it is done by taking
3 the topographical data and not putting any
4 overlay of vegetation on it. And if there is
5 a dark place, it means there would be a view
6 of the Project. This is Applicant's No. 93.
7 And that doesn't mean anything about whether
8 it's a bad view or a good view. It just
9 means there is a view. It's a view that
10 might be evaluated if Bare Earth were
11 relevant. Is that your understanding of this
12 map?

13 A. Yes, but I didn't rely on this mapping for my
14 assessment of prevailing land uses along the
15 right-of-way.

16 Q. But you relied on Mr. DeWan's assessment of
17 prevailing land uses; is that correct?

18 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection. He
19 already testified he did not.

20 MS. CRANE: He didn't rely on
21 Mr. DeWan's reliance on this map? I thought he
22 said he did.

23 A. No, I indicated that it was not within the
24 scope of my review, that Mr. DeWan reviewed

1 visual issues subject to and consistent with
2 the SEC requirements.

3 BY MS. CRANE:

4 Q. And I understand that. But you relied on Mr.
5 DeWan's conclusions, which were in turn based
6 on this -- or you relied on the information
7 that he gleaned and included in his report in
8 part by relying on this map.

9 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Same objection.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Crane.

11 MS. CRANE: I don't think it's
12 worth pursuing, so I'll keep going.

13 BY MS. CRANE:

14 Q. And this is the map that is much more useful
15 to rely on because what it shows is what Mr.
16 DeWan's techniques revealed were the
17 increased visibility as a result of the
18 change, as I understand it, from the existing
19 transmission system to the proposed
20 transmission system. I don't suppose it
21 really matters whether that's your
22 understanding. But is it your understanding?

23 A. Yes, I can see the map here.

24 MS. DORE: Ms. Crane, what

1 exhibit number is this?

2 MS. MERRIGAN: That's
3 Applicant's Exhibit 2, Attachment 6.

4 MS. DORE: Thank you.

5 MS. CRANE: Thank you. And if I
6 could have it blown up just a little bit more
7 above where it says Bridgewater. No, way
8 smaller. The inner circle, but the smaller
9 section -- whatever the inside cloud is what I
10 need. Yeah, that's good enough.

11 BY MS. CRANE:

12 Q. So I want to talk in particular today about
13 the places that are north of the line that
14 begins where there's a kink in the
15 transmission line, where it's as close as it
16 gets to the Pemi, in the middle of orange
17 there at the Pemi. And my --

18 A. Hmm-hmm.

19 Q. And there is a gray line which doesn't need
20 to be known. It's known to me as Cass Road.
21 That comes from where the road and the river
22 is down to what is the top of Bridgewater
23 Mountain. Can you see that?

24 A. Not clearly, no.

1 Q. And can you see that there are no markings,
2 either purple or orange, in the area to the
3 left of that squiggle that's identified as
4 Cass Road?

5 MS. CRANE: Is there a way to
6 have a pointer on this at all?

7 BY MS. CRANE:

8 Q. Okay. So the spot that is orange to the
9 right... so, now that we have a better point
10 of reference, the arrow is pointing at an
11 orange spot that is south of Cass Road and
12 identified increased visibility spot. But
13 there is nothing to the north of Cass Road
14 that I can see. Is there anything on your
15 map that you can see?

16 A. No, I don't even see the road labeled on
17 what's --

18 Q. It isn't labeled. I know that it's Cass Road
19 because, for better or worse, I guess I have
20 to confess I own about two thirds of the
21 length of that road. Yeah, I guess I have to
22 admit I do. But I don't own the entire top
23 of the mountain and I don't own the entire
24 length of the river, which is what I'm going

1 to be talking about today, okay.

2 So I want to talk about what the views
3 actually are from the locations where no
4 views are identified -- or where views are
5 identified but have not been considered
6 significant. I have -- my questioning will
7 proceed not as if it were important that they
8 be significant, but that it's important that
9 they be considered. So let's...

10 MS. CRANE: I can go back to my
11 slides now.

12 BY MS. CRANE:

13 Q. This is the slide I'll start with. This is
14 the house that I was mentioning, the Poole
15 Hill Farm, that there was a transaction in
16 1994. And this is the view from Poole Hill
17 Farm. There is no view of the Project in
18 this. The point is how significant in the
19 way they use their lands these views are to
20 the people on Bridgewater Hill.

21 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection.
22 Relevance.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: There isn't
24 a question yet. What's the question?

1 BY MS. CRANE:

2 Q. The question is: Mr. Varney, would a view
3 like this and an effect on a view like this
4 ever make any difference in your evaluation
5 of local land uses and economic development?

6 A. I looked at the totality of information that
7 is along the route and --

8 Q. I think I asked a "Yes" or "No" question.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Can you
10 answer the question "Yes" or "No," Mr. Varney?

11 WITNESS VARNEY: Yes, to a
12 limited extent. Yes.

13 BY MS. CRANE:

14 Q. Okay. And I am talking about things that
15 should be considered, not talking about what
16 the conclusion ought to be. Thank you.

17 And this is a Google Earth map of the
18 top of Bridgewater Hill. The property that
19 we just looked at, if I can assert, is to the
20 west of the red line that may be a little too
21 faint, but I hope you can make it out, where
22 there's a fork in the road and to the north
23 of the other red line across the road where
24 there is a fork up at the top. And that's --

1 I wasn't sure where the line is. As you come
2 down, they've changed it a couple times in
3 the last few years. But everything to the
4 west of the line to the top of the screen and
5 to the north of the line in the middle of the
6 screen. And this is Ashland to Deerfield
7 Non-Abutters Slide 54, Page 6 -- Exhibit 54,
8 Page 6.

9 So the fields there that we can -- I'm
10 sorry. Do you recognize the topography for
11 the areas along the roadside in this aerial
12 view?

13 A. Hmm-hmm.

14 Q. And what would you assume they were?

15 A. I can't assume anything based on what I see
16 before me.

17 Q. So you've never tried to read a Google map
18 before?

19 A. Yes, I have. I'm looking at this map which
20 is -- I'm having difficulty understanding the
21 relevance of this map.

22 Q. This is the land owned by people in
23 Bridgewater at the top of Bridgewater
24 Mountain, and we are talking about how they

1 use that land.

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I think the
3 only question was are you familiar with this
4 map and this area.

5 WITNESS VARNEY: No, I'm not.

6 BY MS. CRANE:

7 Q. Actually, that's not what I asked. I asked
8 if you could identify any of the
9 topographical features.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And since
11 he's not familiar with the map, the answer to
12 that is "No." So let's take the next question.

13 BY MS. CRANE:

14 Q. In general, would you able to identify a hay
15 field on a Google Earth map?

16 A. Generally speaking, yes, depending on the
17 level of clarity. I can see some open areas.
18 I can see some areas where there appears to
19 be some sand and gravel extraction. I see
20 some areas that are heavily forested. I see
21 areas that indicate some wetland areas. And
22 that's about all --

23 Q. Okay. That's fine.

24 A. -- I can see for now based on --

1 Q. That's fine. That will work for me.

2 If we assume that the clearings that we
3 see, or what appear to be clearings -- okay.
4 Running diagonally in the middle of this map
5 are clearings. Would it be logical to assume
6 there are houses next to those clearings?

7 A. Yes, there appear to be some houses at some
8 of the clearings.

9 Q. And the ones that are to the west and north
10 of the red lines are all on roads where an
11 automobile can't travel in the winter, when
12 there's snow in the winter. We established
13 that. Okay. Thank you.

14 I don't have the transcript yet, but I
15 think in our short exchange on Friday morning
16 you indicated that a lot of towns want to
17 market themselves as scenic and pastoral; did
18 you not?

19 A. Yes, almost every master plan in New
20 Hampshire talks about their rural, scenic
21 qualities as a general guiding statement.

22 Q. And Bridgewater does as well. Is that --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. So is it appropriate for me to infer

1 from your remarks that there's nothing
2 special about Bridgewater?

3 A. No. I feel that each town is unique and has
4 unique attributes, which is something that I
5 greatly appreciate about New Hampshire.

6 Q. Okay. Well, let's figure out what
7 Bridgewater's are. Thank you.

8 This house is one that is on the photo
9 tour. It was constructed by its current
10 owner and is now appraised at something over
11 a million dollars. It is on the plowed part
12 of Bridgewater Hill Road. I will skip the
13 pretty slides and simply ask you to -- well,
14 that's not fair, either. I'll assert that
15 there's a view from this building. If you
16 want to agree, fine. If you don't want to
17 agree, that's fine, too.

18 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection. It's
19 testimony.

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Is there a
21 question associated with this?

22 BY MS. CRANE:

23 Q. Mr. Varney, if someone is willing to build a
24 house for more than a million dollars at the

1 end of a dirt road, he is plowed, but it a
2 dirt road where there's very unreliable cell
3 reception, no town water, no town sewer, can
4 you suggest a few reasons why someone might
5 be wanting to pay that much for a house like
6 this?

7 A. I can't speculate the circumstances of this
8 owner's motivations.

9 Q. Okay. Getting you to agree with this is not
10 a make or break for me, so let's keep going.

11 Oh, there's a slide I never found. So
12 let's go back down the hill away from those
13 fancy houses to where some of the features we
14 identified last Friday are. Do you recall
15 looking at this area last Friday?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And in terms of the overall transmission
18 project, do you recall what features are
19 present here?

20 A. Yes, I believe we were speaking about the
21 industrial nature of the area in which the
22 transition station is proposed to be
23 constructed.

24 Q. And I think you made reference to those ugly

1 storage containers; right?

2 A. I simply indicated they were a bright orange
3 color.

4 Q. Oh, wait. It was me that said they were
5 ugly. Sorry.

6 Okay. And what other industrial
7 features are here?

8 A. There are at least two or three manufacturing
9 facilities between -- to the west of Route 3.
10 There's the Bridgewater power plant.

11 Q. And what is Bridgewater power plant?

12 A. It's an energy facility that burns biomass.
13 It's a biomass facility.

14 Q. And what is your understanding of what
15 "biomass" is when you use it in that sense?

16 A. Typically burning of wood chips.

17 Q. Wood chips. Okay. And do you have any idea
18 where wood chips might be acquired? What's
19 their origin?

20 A. They typically come from various logging
21 operations, timber harvesting operations, and
22 typically is low-value wood that is taken for
23 energy production.

24 Q. And so it's your understanding that being

1 able to make use of a byproduct of lumbering
2 by selling low-energy -- sorry -- low-quality
3 wood to some -- to a facility like a biomass
4 plant actually increases the likelihood that
5 any particular place would be logged and any
6 particular logger would be asked to log. Is
7 that -- let's stop with place. Any
8 particular -- if you've got a market for your
9 byproduct, you're more likely to go after the
10 main product. Does that sound correct?

11 A. It's viewed as a positive from the standpoint
12 of loggers who are trying to increase their
13 profitability by harvesting high-value wood,
14 as well as having a market for low-value wood
15 as well.

16 Q. So it means that the people who are loggers
17 relatively close, because transportation is
18 everybody's biggest cost in this industry at
19 least, I'll assume, unless I'm wrong, and you
20 can correct me, the closer you are to a
21 facility like this, the more profitable your
22 logging is going to be.

23 A. I think -- I don't have information in front
24 of me that looks at the distances that they

1 travel. But I would simply note that this
2 facility is just off the interstate highway,
3 I-93, with an interchange in Ashland just
4 south of the plant, which I'm sure was a
5 factor in the siting of that facility.

6 Q. And when lots of people use it, it means that
7 it's more likely to be profitable for the
8 people who are maintaining the plant and for
9 all the people who are using it, you would
10 assume, right, until it reaches capacity?

11 A. Yeah, I can't comment on the profitability.
12 There are many factors involved in that. But
13 I'm very aware of the facility. It's been
14 there for about -- a long time.

15 Q. Do you remember how long?

16 A. Pardon me?

17 Q. Do you know how long?

18 A. Very long time. I can't remember the date.
19 But it's been there for a long time.

20 Q. So you said you were on the Lakes Region
21 Planning Commission. Was it from that era?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Do you remember my uncle, Jack
24 Townsend? He was one of the big promoters of

1 it.

2 A. Yes --

3 Q. Oh, okay.

4 A. -- I remember Jack.

5 Q. Okay. You remember Jack.

6 A. Great guy.

7 Q. He only died last year.

8 A. Sorry to hear that.

9 Q. So this is another map of essentially the
10 same region. Maybe a little bit less is
11 actually showing. This is Page 10 of
12 Non-abutters Ashland to Deerfield Exhibit 54.
13 And the only thing that is added here is a
14 better label for the biomass plant, a green
15 square, which we're not concerned with today;
16 a yellow square, which I guess I'm never
17 supposed to be concerned with, and an arrow
18 pointing to a road. Can you tell me what the
19 name of that road is, the red arrow
20 pointing --

21 A. John Jenness Road.

22 Q. John Jenness Road. Okay. And John Jenness
23 Road starts at River Road. Can you find the
24 fork in the road where it starts at River

1 Road?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Are you familiar with this area?

4 A. Generally speaking, although most of my
5 travel has been on Route 3 or North Ashland
6 Road.

7 Q. Okay. So, John Jenness Road comes on over to
8 Route 3 pretty -- or without much distance
9 being traveled; right? It's not more than
10 half a mile by the scale to me. Is that
11 probably right?

12 A. Yeah, I'm not sure.

13 Q. Okay. And then John Jenness Road crosses
14 Route 3. Can you see that?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And John Jenness Road crosses the railroad
17 tracks that are located there.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Yes. And do you know what railroad tracks
20 those are?

21 A. They are the line that runs from Concord
22 eventually up to Lincoln, New Hampshire.

23 Q. From Concord to Lincoln. And do you happen
24 to know whether it's used much these days?

1 A. I don't know the current use, but I'm very
2 familiar with the rail line and actually was
3 involved in a study of that rail line many
4 years ago.

5 Q. And what was the result of that study many
6 years ago?

7 A. It found that there was a limited market for
8 the rail line north of the Meredith area.

9 Q. And was this when Peter Gould was trying to
10 resuscitate the rail in Lincoln?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And do you know what happened when
13 Peter Gould was not successful in
14 resuscitating the rail in Lincoln?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay.

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Crane,
18 what was the point of all that? What exactly
19 are you doing here?

20 MS. CRANE: Well, I would like
21 to try to establish that that is the tracks
22 upon which the Hobo Railroad now makes its
23 foliage trips.

24 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So that's a

1 tourism concern. You're worried about the
2 people not enjoying the Hobo Railroad because
3 of new power lines?

4 MS. CRANE: Actually, I think
5 they'll probably be fine. I just think that it
6 wasn't ever put in the record.

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I don't --
8 Ms. Crane, I have to be honest with you. I
9 don't think you have a plan here. I don't
10 think you prepared a cross-examination of this
11 witness, and I think that you're winging it.

12 MS. CRANE: Would you -- I'll
13 give you my notes when I'm done.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Here's what
15 we're going to do. We're going to take a
16 ten-minute break, and you're going to organize
17 your notes. And when we come back, you're
18 going to put on the record what you hope to
19 accomplish with this witness, if you're allowed
20 to continue an examination. There's a rule.
21 It's a common rule throughout state
22 administrative law allowing an administrative
23 body to limit an intervenor's participation to
24 avoid undue delay. I've forgotten exactly the

1 wording, but we can pull it up. And I suspect
2 that's what you're trying to do. You're trying
3 to delay us here this morning, for whatever
4 reason. Now, maybe I'm wrong. Maybe I'm being
5 unfair. And what we're going to do is give you
6 an opportunity in about 15 minutes to come back
7 and explain what it is you would like to
8 accomplish with this witness, the three, four
9 or five points you think are most important for
10 you to make on cross-examination. And if it
11 all makes sense, then we'll allow you to do
12 that. If not, we'll suspend your
13 cross-examination and have the Committee ask
14 its questions of Mr. Varney. And then we may
15 give you a second chance after that to clean it
16 up if 15 minutes wasn't enough. But we're just
17 wasting everyone's time right now.

18 MS. CRANE: Okay. I do not
19 need --

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So we're
21 going to go off the record and adjourn for ten
22 minutes.

23 MS. CRANE: Thank you. I'll be
24 back before that.

1 (Recess was taken at 9:51 a.m., and the
2 hearing resumed at 10:05 a.m.)

3 (Mr. Iacopino joins proceedings.)

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
5 Ms. Crane, what can you tell us?

6 MS. CRANE: I intend to ask the
7 witness about construction impact, primarily at
8 the transition station location that we've been
9 looking at, the impact on traffic and on the
10 local economy, whether he considered that. I
11 am going to return to the importance of views
12 and the way people use their land and make
13 decisions within their greater family units
14 about when and how to dispose of that land.
15 That is doubling back a little bit where I was,
16 but these are all places where the towers are
17 already visible. Okay. The existing --

18 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So you've
19 got construction impact, and you've got views
20 and their effect on people's use or potential
21 sale of their land. What other topics do you
22 want to cover with this witness?

23 MS. CRANE: Very briefly, he
24 reported on the overall terrain in Bridgewater,

1 and that's part of the views. So I was going
2 to spend just a second on where in his report
3 he talks about terrain.

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay. So
5 you're going to have him look at his report,
6 and you're going to ask him a question or two
7 related to that section of the report.

8 MS. CRANE: I am.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay.

10 MS. CRANE: And again, this is
11 all about the importance of views in this
12 particular part of Grafton County. And then
13 I'm going to ask him, and this may have been
14 covered adequately already, about Bridgewater's
15 position on renewable fuels. I don't know.
16 Some people talked about what the Lakes Region
17 Planning Commission's Report on renewable fuels
18 meant. I can skip that if Bridgewater's views
19 aren't appropriately brought separately. And I
20 also was going to talk about the impacts on
21 agriculture. There are several working farms
22 along the -- no, I shouldn't say working farms.
23 There are agricultural activities along the
24 underground route as it approaches the location

1 we've been talking about, and there are several
2 hay fields on the --

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay. Is
4 there anything else?

5 MS. CRANE: I did want to talk a
6 little bit more about his approach to proper
7 planning in corridors and what these corridors
8 meant to him and how these corridors might end
9 up being defined and redefined over time.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay. That
11 it?

12 MS. CRANE: Yeah.

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So every
14 question that you ask should be to one of those
15 topics that you just outlined for us, and they
16 don't need a lot of introduction. They don't
17 need a lot of commentary from you, frankly. If
18 you need to set the scene for him, you can do
19 that. But every question you ask needs to be
20 directed at one of those topics.

21 MS. CRANE: Yes, sir.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And I just
23 want to put on the record the language from RSA
24 541-A:32,III(b). And it's language that's

1 repeated in Site Evaluation Committee Rule
2 202.11, which is that intervenors can be
3 limited in their use of cross-examination "so
4 as to promote the orderly and prompt conduct of
5 the proceedings." And that's what we're doing
6 here, okay, "orderly and prompt." And hitting
7 the topics that you just outlined can be done
8 in an orderly and prompt fashion, and we'll be
9 looking for you to do that. Okay?

10 MS. CRANE: Am I entitled to put
11 a response into the record?

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I have no
13 idea what you mean. What would you like to
14 say?

15 MS. CRANE: I would like to say
16 that I haven't sat through everything you folks
17 have heard, but I do believe there is more new
18 content in the way I spent the last half-hour,
19 in terms of new places that have not been
20 brought to your attention because they haven't
21 been included in any of the experts' reports.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Oh,
23 Ms. Crane, you don't want to read this
24 transcript. Trust me. I think in the 40

1 minutes or so that you were questioning, you
2 may have asked six questions, at least one of
3 which was about your uncle. So I don't think
4 you want to go there. But you've put your
5 statement on the record. Why don't you ask
6 your next question.

7 BY MS. CRANE:

8 Q. If someone were trying to gain -- I'm sorry.

9 Are you aware that there is or at least
10 was an equipment rental shop along Jenness
11 Road coming toward the transition station?

12 A. Coming, traveling east or west?

13 Q. If you were traveling southwest towards the
14 where the transition station site is -- I'm
15 sorry. I don't know exactly where it's going
16 to be. There is a place called Pemi Rental
17 currently. Are you familiar with that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did you take into account what might happen
20 to it as a result? And I know your job is
21 not to take into account every business. But
22 if you didn't this particular one, then in
23 general?

24 A. No. I reviewed the land uses along the

1 corridor in the vicinity of where the Project
2 is located. And my conclusion is that there
3 would not be any impact, any significant
4 impact post-construction of -- on those land
5 uses. And during the construction phase
6 there may be some temporary, short-term
7 impacts, but beyond that there's no long-term
8 adverse effect.

9 Q. Did you take into account how long it might
10 take to build a transition station when you
11 were thinking about the construction aspect
12 of the disruption?

13 A. There are many construction projects across
14 the state of New Hampshire, building
15 construction, utility construction, that can
16 be done in one year, or sometimes they may
17 take two years.

18 Q. Okay. And this is not a particularly easy
19 traveled road. I am assuming this is the
20 view we were looking at last Friday. This is
21 the speed-reduction zone that was mentioned,
22 but you weren't sure you remembered. Do you
23 remember that?

24 A. Generally speaking, yes.

1 Q. And this speed-reduction zone is as you come
2 off the bridge traveling toward Plymouth on
3 Route 3 from Ashland. Does that look right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And from this picture there appears to be
6 very little choice about extra shoulder or --
7 you got what's there in the picture between
8 the two guardrails and not much other
9 flexibility for large equipment or for safety
10 when the construction is happening
11 immediately around the corner. Would you
12 agree with me about that?

13 A. Yes. It will need to have careful
14 engineering design, and they will need to
15 develop a traffic control plan and traffic
16 management plan subject to DOT approval for
17 that effort.

18 Q. Okay. And I'm going to skip through some
19 slides and then ask you to agree with me that
20 they all represent things that will need to
21 be taken into account with particular caution
22 as you suggest.

23 So here's the turn coming the other way.
24 At this point in time there's no barrier and

1 kind of a soft-looking shoulder. Here is
2 another place where there's no extra room
3 between the roadway and the interval level of
4 the land, I don't know, 25, 30 feet below.
5 This is the view coming the other way, a sign
6 indicating that the road could be a little
7 bit treacherous. I think that's what that
8 sign means. Do you agree that all of these
9 things are things that might need to be taken
10 into account?

11 A. When there are bridges, and particularly
12 bridges with a curve, they can -- during the
13 wintertime there can be icy conditions. And
14 that appears to be a sign that indicates
15 caution while following that curve.

16 Q. Particularly when this bridge is being
17 negotiated by those trucks carrying chips
18 that you were mentioning that just got off
19 I-93. And there's a lot of construction
20 equipment going the other way as well, a lot
21 of commuters going from Plymouth to Ashland
22 and Ashland to Plymouth, and people going to
23 their storage units, not to mention all the
24 tourists that are trying to get off I-93 and

1 get to Plymouth.

2 A. Again, yesterday I indicated I'm very
3 familiar with this roadway. I've traveled it
4 many, many times. And I've never seen a
5 significant amount of traffic on this roadway
6 that would be cause for concern. It needs to
7 be -- the traffic needs to be taken into
8 account, the nature of the traffic, truck
9 traffic, automobile traffic, et cetera. But
10 that's all part of the traffic control plan
11 and traffic management plan that will be
12 developed and eventually approved by New
13 Hampshire DOT according to the way that they
14 want it done.

15 Q. Okay. And this is Page 20. This is a news
16 release from 2007 when the Department of
17 Transportation is warning the commuters in
18 Ashland and Plymouth who use the bridge on a
19 regular basis that the bridge is going to be
20 painted, and there's going to be a meeting to
21 learn of the problems when the bridge is
22 going to be painted. I don't want to ask you
23 to compare the construction traffic problems
24 with the problems involved in painting. All

1 I want to know is has Northern Pass had such
2 a meeting with these affected individuals?
3 Or would it plan to have such a meeting with
4 these -- two questions. Has it had such a
5 meeting?

6 A. Yes, and I believe the construction panel
7 could elaborate further when they return for
8 follow-up testimony in front of the
9 Committee. But as I previously stated with
10 others, the outreach effort includes
11 involvement of local citizens, the local
12 governing body, any interested property
13 owners or business owners along the route to
14 ensure that their input is taken into account
15 and to ensure that they're aware that there
16 will be some temporary work done on that
17 highway. It's a sound practice to do that,
18 and it's typically done across the state.

19 Q. Was the prior meeting done when the route was
20 well-enough defined that the audience could
21 know where the transmission stations -- or
22 where the transition station was going to be
23 and where the towers were in fact going to
24 be?

1 A. This exhibit was simply about a bridge
2 painting and to make people aware that there
3 would be some activity on the bridge. When
4 this project is approved, and with the many
5 conditions involved not only by the SEC, but
6 DOT or others, they will need to adhere to
7 all of those conditions as they carry out the
8 Project. And the Applicant has indicated
9 that they will be developing these traffic
10 control plans that are required and the
11 traffic management plans which, by their very
12 nature and definition, involve involvement --
13 have community involvement and outreach to
14 minimize impacts and to ensure that local
15 citizens are well informed before the
16 construction takes place.

17 Q. Well, I'm glad that Eversource has those
18 plans. My question was about what the people
19 who attended the meeting you said already
20 occurred knew about the transition stations
21 and the towers.

22 A. There have been numerous open houses in local
23 communities, as well as informational
24 meetings prior to submission of the

1 Application, and public hearings held by the
2 SEC throughout this proceeding. And the
3 Applicant will continue its effort to have
4 public involvement going forward.

5 Q. Again, my question was how much information
6 did they have so that they could make some
7 kind of a determination. I mean, most of
8 these people -- sorry. How much information
9 did they have?

10 A. Again, any information that's been provided
11 at public meetings, as well as on the web
12 site and, finally, any direct mailing or
13 interactions with local property owners or
14 local business owners that has occurred.

15 Q. So I gather you don't know whether they were
16 told very much about where the transition
17 stations and the towers are because you
18 haven't answered when I've asked that
19 question.

20 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection.
21 Asked and answered.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Sustained.
23 Next question.

24 BY MS. CRANE:

1 Q. Okay. This is a view from the road on
2 Route 3. Have you happened to be up Route 3
3 in the last two weeks? This is not something
4 you should have taken into account. But do
5 you recognize it?

6 A. Is it the restaurant?

7 Q. It is. It is the new wedding pavilion
8 that -- I shouldn't be testifying. Sorry.
9 So tell me what you know about this
10 site.

11 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection.
12 Relevance. Ms. Crane just testified he should
13 not have taken this into account.

14 MS. CRANE: He should not have
15 taken it into account in his report. My point
16 is, in order to fully anticipate, you need to
17 be able to understand things like this. It
18 also goes to the importance of views and land
19 uses. So if he even --

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So the
21 specific question for him is what does he know
22 about this site and this building? Is that the
23 question?

24 MS. CRANE: That's the question.

1 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: You can
2 answer, Mr. Varney.

3 A. Yes, I'm familiar with this property. And it
4 is a restaurant. It has been a restaurant
5 used for many years. And I'm also aware that
6 Eversource's consultant, Louis Karno Company,
7 has reached out to them to sit down and
8 interview them, discussing the Project and
9 soliciting feedback on things that they can
10 do to ensure that they minimize disruption,
11 the temporary disruption of that business.

12 BY MS. CRANE:

13 Q. Okay. And actually, that was only one of the
14 points that I wanted to bring up this
15 particular venue for because -- no reason you
16 would know about destination weddings, so
17 I'll keep going.

18 This is the view from the back of that
19 structure. And I just... would it be
20 likely -- how important -- was this view
21 likely to be important in locating this
22 particular new facility in this particular
23 place?

24 A. I didn't conduct a visual impact assessment

1 at this property.

2 Q. And I didn't ask whether you had. I asked
3 whether it was likely that the views would be
4 important in picking a site.

5 A. I can't answer that. I simply know that it's
6 a restaurant south of downtown Plymouth on
7 the east side of the road, and I don't know
8 anything about any future plans beyond.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Varney,
10 sounds like the answer is "I don't know";
11 right?

12 WITNESS VARNEY: I don't know.
13 Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Then I
15 think just stick with "I don't know" on that
16 one.

17 BY MS. CRANE:

18 Q. So I want to ask a more generalized question.
19 Would this appear to be evidence of the
20 importance of views and land use in this
21 region along the Pemi?

22 A. No.

23 Q. No? Okay.

24 I'm going to read from Page A-60 of your

1 report. I've lost track of what the proper
2 appendix number for his report is.

3 MS. CRANE: Is that
4 Applicant's --

5 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Applicant's 1,
6 Appendix 41.

7 MS. CRANE: Thank you.

8 BY MS. CRANE:

9 Q. So it reads, "Most of Bridgewater is
10 forested, and only a small portion of the
11 town is agricultural. About 65 percent" --

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Slow down
13 just a little.

14 MS. CRANE: Sorry.

15 BY MS. CRANE:

16 Q. "About 65 percent of Bridgewater's land area
17 is in current use. Nearly 20 percent of the
18 forested and undeveloped land is steep with
19 slopes 25 percent or greater. Nearly
20 10 percent of the land area is estimated to
21 be wetlands."

22 So this is a picture looking east from
23 the top of Bridgewater Mountain. Is that
24 consistent with your description of the

1 terrain in Bridgewater?

2 A. Much of Bridgewater is forested, except for
3 areas where there's industrial development.

4 Q. And I don't want to reopen the "current use"
5 can of worms. But under your understanding
6 of current use, if you knew where this view
7 was and you knew it was in recreational
8 current use, given your understanding of what
9 "recreational current use" means, would you
10 have a legal right to walk to this view spot?

11 A. I don't know.

12 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection.
13 Calls for legal speculation.

14 MS. CRANE: It calls for his
15 understanding.

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Varney,
17 do you have an understanding?

18 WITNESS VARNEY: No.

19 BY MS. CRANE:

20 Q. Too bad. You're missing a lot of good views.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Please,
22 Ms. Crane, resist the temptation.

23 MS. CRANE: I have, except
24 for...

1 BY MS. CRANE:

2 Q. And this is a similar view from lower down
3 the hillside. Is this still consistent with
4 your impression of views and the landscape in
5 Bridgewater?

6 A. I don't know.

7 Q. Okay. This was Ashland to Deerfield
8 Non-Abutters Exhibit 54, Page 28. It's a
9 picture looking across at Ashland. There's a
10 cell tower in the way. And we're going back
11 up to the top of the hill. This was the hay
12 field that we started to look at earlier.

13 Do you -- from this topographical map,
14 can you distinguish what might be happening
15 within the blue circle?

16 A. No.

17 Q. If I represented that it was recently cleared
18 land, would you have any reason to disagree?

19 A. Perhaps one side of it to the left of the
20 tree ROW.

21 Q. Yes, to the left of the tree ROW. I'm sorry.
22 The blue circle is a bit too big. It goes
23 into the hay field. You were right. Thank
24 you.

1 And are these photographs consistent
2 with what you would imagine you would see if
3 you were on those clearings?

4 A. Perhaps. These are photos that could be
5 almost anywhere in New Hampshire.

6 Q. They are in fact those fields on the top of
7 Bridgewater Hill, and they're not
8 particularly spectacular unless you turn
9 around, because that's what they look like
10 when you turn around. You are looking
11 over -- this view is looking over the stone
12 wall separating the hay field from the newly
13 cleared lot. Is that consistent with what
14 you would expect to see?

15 A. Again, I'm not -- I don't -- I don't know if
16 I can answer your question. So I guess I'll
17 say no because I don't know enough about this
18 site.

19 Q. And that's fine. This is, again, at the top
20 of Bridgewater Hill. This view happens to be
21 looking northeast.

22 I'm going to go quickly now. This is a
23 view from the end of Bridgewater Hill Road
24 looking across a slight clearing to Ashland.

1 And changing the topic, moving on, this
2 is Page 14 from your report about
3 Bridgewater. I'm reading you the sentence
4 that begins where the blue arrow starts.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And you'll
6 read it slowly enough so that the stenographer
7 can keep up with you.

8 BY MS. CRANE:

9 Q. "A related strategy is to assist the Lakes
10 Region in adjusting to the need for
11 lower-cost and renewable fuels, while
12 considering the impacts of these potential
13 developments on the natural environment.
14 Effectively protect or enhance natural
15 resources through conservation efforts."

16 I want to focus on the need for
17 lower-cost and renewable fuels and their
18 relationship to enhancing natural resources.
19 I'll go quickly.

20 Do you recognize the structure on the
21 left?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And it is?

24 A. Appears to be Bridgewater Power.

1 Q. And are you aware that the town has actually
2 had to invest considerably from time to time
3 in keeping it operating?

4 A. I'm not familiar with that. No, I don't
5 know.

6 Q. Okay. And what do you see on the right-hand
7 side of the screen?

8 A. Appears to be a solar array on the right-hand
9 side of the photograph.

10 Q. And do you have any reason to believe that
11 when Bridgewater endorses renewable energy,
12 this is not the kind of renewable energy that
13 Bridgewater is endorsing?

14 A. I don't know.

15 Q. Okay. Moving on in your report, we are at
16 Page 7, the agricultural effect. And your
17 report says the Project will not have an
18 adverse impact on agricultural uses and will
19 not interfere with ongoing operations. A
20 large portion of the Project is located
21 within or along an established right-of-way,
22 ROW, I should say -- that's what it says --
23 that it is routinely maintained. And the
24 Applicant has indicated that it will continue

1 to coordinate corridor maintenance with
2 agricultural landowners, minimize or mitigate
3 temporary impacts during construction.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. That's what's your -- okay. This is a hay
6 field. It is not in the right-of-way. It's
7 only affected to the extent that the people
8 it sees do see, but we'll skip that.

9 This is a hay field that does have
10 towers, currently has transmission lines.
11 And these transmission lines are the wooden
12 pole kind. And somebody can get their mowing
13 equipment pretty close, probably, to these
14 poles. And except to the extent you have to
15 waste your passes on the mowing machine
16 because you can't quite mow where you would
17 otherwise, it's not that big a deal. You
18 don't lose a very big percentage of your
19 crop. Is that your understanding of what
20 happens?

21 A. Yes, I do have an understanding. And there
22 are many agricultural uses that are located
23 within electric utility rights-of-way, as
24 well as alongside them.

1 Q. Okay. Have you ever been involved in trying
2 to figure out, not necessarily with respect
3 to this particular field because that's not
4 your job, this particular field, but in
5 general, when this kind of tower has an
6 additional set of towers with substantially
7 larger bases, what the impact can be on the
8 farmer and his ability to hay?

9 A. As indicated in the report, my assessment is
10 that there's very little, if any, effect on
11 the farmer. And there are many examples of
12 agricultural uses within electric
13 transmission lines across the state of New
14 Hampshire. And as indicated in the report,
15 the Applicant will work with these
16 agricultural interests to minimize any
17 temporary disruption during construction and
18 make sure that it's restored to its original
19 condition.

20 Q. So let's start at the top. Have you ever
21 tried to figure out what percentage of a
22 field is going to be lost after the
23 construction is over? So, try to compute how
24 big the footprint is and how much you're

1 actually -- there isn't going to be grass
2 there -- and how much less able to mow what
3 there is there because the base of the tower
4 is there?

5 A. It would be only the area where the base is
6 constructed.

7 Q. It wouldn't affect the way he could mow his
8 field?

9 A. Not in any significant way.

10 Q. He wouldn't have to change the path that he
11 would usually do because the tower is now
12 there. And, you know, he can get close to
13 the tower. When he gets close to the tower,
14 he's got to make a different pattern that's
15 going to be less efficient.

16 A. I don't know.

17 Q. You don't mow your own lawn? Withdraw the
18 question.

19 And then during construction, I don't
20 know where the access roads are in any of
21 these particular hay fields. But did you
22 take into account where the access roads were
23 going to be when you made your assessment
24 that there would be no impact?

1 A. The environmental panel addressed the access
2 roads.

3 Q. You addressed the effects on agriculture. So
4 you didn't consider how much, what percentage
5 of a field would be lost.

6 A. Again, there are some potential short-term
7 impacts associated with construction. But
8 there are many, many examples across New
9 Hampshire of agricultural activities
10 occurring with transmission lines crossing
11 the agricultural area. There are many
12 rights-of-way that have agricultural uses,
13 whether it's pasture land or cultivation of
14 crops or even fruit trees that are within the
15 right-of-way and co-exist with the
16 transmission line.

17 Q. And indeed, this particular field and the
18 other fields that now have rights-of-way on
19 them do seem to have sort of found a new
20 equilibrium, and the owner of the field made
21 the decision to keep it a field because it
22 was still worth doing. But that doesn't mean
23 that that same equilibrium will be possible
24 after the construction, does it?

1 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection.

2 Asked and answered.

3 MS. CRANE: That question was
4 not answered.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Do you
6 understand the question, Mr. Varney?

7 WITNESS VARNEY: Yes. I have
8 not seen any information to suggest that this
9 would have any significant adverse effect on
10 the agricultural owner.

11 BY MS. CRANE:

12 Q. Okay. So, no matter how much less hay he's
13 going to get, he's probably going to keep
14 haying?

15 A. If that's what he's doing there, yes.

16 Q. Okay. Right about now is when a farmer who
17 is growing hay for his own beef is deciding
18 how much to slaughter, how much to keep alive
19 for next year. Would the owner of this field
20 know right now where he has to decide how
21 many head he's going to keep through the
22 summer, how many to keep given what he knows
23 about what's going to happen to his hay
24 field?

1 A. As indicated in the report, the Applicant
2 will work with the agricultural owner and
3 operator to coordinate activities with a goal
4 of minimizing any effect on that continuing
5 agricultural operation.

6 Q. But only after he's made the decision that
7 may turn out to be wrong about how many to
8 slaughter right now.

9 A. I can't speculate.

10 Q. Okay. And this is another field that is
11 hayed on the right-of-way. I actually don't
12 think there's anything about the right-of-way
13 that's going to affect the use of the field
14 where the horse in the picture is. This is
15 Non-abutters Exhibit 54, Page 41.

16 And this is just another hay field, but
17 it's on the underground part of the route.
18 Did you think about the impact of the
19 underground part of the route on the ability
20 to maintain a hay field?

21 A. Yes, and I have determined that there would
22 be no impact on the continued use of this
23 parcel for a hay field.

24 Q. Did you take into account the kinds of

1 chemicals that might spill or seep through
2 the ditches and find their way into the hay
3 field?

4 A. No.

5 Q. And did you take into account where the
6 trenching systems were going to have to be
7 put and how much footage was going to be lost
8 because of the trenching equipment and the
9 disruption, probably for more than a season,
10 that the trenching equipment would leave in a
11 hay field that was this close to the road?

12 A. Yes, I did consider the short-term, temporary
13 impacts associated with construction.

14 Q. And what about long term at a place where
15 there's trenches? Is this farmer going to be
16 able to maintain the line of his field the
17 same as it is now after a trench has been put
18 in?

19 A. I'm sure that the existing use will be able
20 to continue as we currently see it.

21 Q. But do you have an opinion about whether it's
22 likely to be a smaller area that will be
23 available?

24 A. I don't know.

1 Q. And back to those hay fields in the
2 out-of-ground -- above-ground part of the
3 right-of-way. What happens to a hay field,
4 would you imagine -- or I'm sorry. Is the
5 large equipment being used to construct the
6 towers likely to compress the earth in a way
7 that will make it difficult to restore the
8 hay field immediately?

9 A. I don't know. But I do know that the
10 Applicant is committed to restoration of land
11 along the right-of-way.

12 Q. But you didn't study in any detail not any
13 particular field, but just in general, what
14 the effect of the techniques that the
15 Applicant was planning to use for the access
16 roads over these hay fields and how quickly
17 they would be restored. I understand that
18 the Applicant will work with the farmer. But
19 the farmer needs to plan.

20 A. Answer is "No." But the construction panel
21 may know more about soil compaction along
22 this stretch of roadway, if that's important.

23 Q. Okay. This is another one of those pictures
24 that had a dual purpose. If you can't make

1 it out, tell me. But on the hillside across
2 the valley, is there anything to be noted
3 besides the forest?

4 A. Are you suggesting the hills that are off in
5 the distance?

6 Q. Yes. Do you see anything besides forest?

7 A. I see forest, I see hills, I see what could
8 be a house up there. I'm not sure.

9 Q. Thank you. It's a little easier to see in
10 this one. Sorry. And this is a little bit
11 further down the road on Route 3. Are you
12 familiar with this establishment?

13 A. It appears to be the deer-raising area.

14 Q. And did you consider the impacts of putting
15 an underground trench across or in the
16 roadway at Route 3 on this enterprise?

17 A. I'm well aware of this enterprise. And there
18 would not be any impact on the continued use
19 of this property as it's currently being
20 used.

21 Q. So is that during construction or after?

22 A. Both.

23 Q. So the deer are right there; right?

24 A. Yes.

1 Q. And the picture was taken from Route 3. So
2 I'm not going to guess, but I'll give you
3 maybe they're 300 yards away. Did you take
4 into account what might happen when the deer
5 have activities that they're not really
6 accustomed to going on in the road right
7 beside them there?

8 A. No, I didn't do a study on the deer
9 specifically. But I'm well aware of this
10 enterprise which is located on a state
11 highway with traffic on the roadway and a
12 rail line as well. So they're accustomed to
13 noise. They're accustomed to disruption.
14 They're accustomed to truck traffic and other
15 noises associated with commerce and
16 transportation in the area.

17 Q. So if this trenching goes on on this side of
18 the road, he's going to have to move his
19 fence?

20 A. If there are any temporary needs to change
21 the fencing, temporarily change the fencing,
22 the Applicant would do that. Again, it's
23 consistent with the principle of working with
24 an agricultural landowner or operator to

1 minimize any short-term impacts during the
2 construction process.

3 Q. Okay. And if the deer got considerably more
4 skittish because of the difference between
5 the traffic that they've become accustomed to
6 and the construction equipment and jump the
7 fence?

8 A. I can't speculate.

9 Q. Okay. Do you see what's in the blue circle?

10 A. Appears to be an empty kiosk or something
11 that contains a brochure perhaps.

12 Q. And so what would your conclusion be about
13 the owner of the establishment's expectations
14 with respect to whether his customers can
15 appreciate his facility as they drive down
16 the road?

17 A. There are many people that see the deer as
18 they're driving up and down Route 3. And I'm
19 sure that occasionally there are people who
20 stop to look at the deer, especially those
21 who are interested in seeing deer that are
22 raised for the purposes as we see here.

23 Q. And will the ability for this sort of thing
24 to happen change during the construction

1 phase?

2 A. Again, I don't know exactly how they will --
3 how the property owner would like to work
4 through partnering, work through the process
5 of working with the Applicant to minimize
6 temporary disruptions.

7 Q. Okay. But the guy raising this venison has
8 got to be able to predict what his market's
9 going to be, and he's got to know how many
10 deer to keep over the season. And if he
11 does -- if he maintains too many and he
12 hasn't got any new customers because nobody
13 can see this sign, that would be an impact,
14 wouldn't it?

15 A. As I've indicated, the Applicant has already
16 been conducting outreach to businesses along
17 the route, and they are committed to working
18 with each landowner and each agricultural
19 interest to ensure that they come up with a
20 plan that minimizes any impacts to that
21 property. And they are committed to full
22 restoration once construction is completed.

23 Q. So these last two instances, and I agree it
24 might not be fair with the deer farm because

1 that is a unique business -- indeed, it's
2 kind of an asset in the touristy nature of
3 this part of the country. Would you agree?

4 A. It's unusual to see deer raised for venison
5 in this kind of a setting.

6 Q. But the hay fields, there's enough of those,
7 that somebody who is worried about the impact
8 of the Project on economic development might
9 actually have tried to present, oh, I don't
10 know what I'd call it, maybe a term sheet,
11 maybe a standard, this is what we will do if
12 our Project affects you in this way; correct?

13 It would be possible to standardize that for
14 some of these fields?

15 A. Again, my understanding is that the Applicant
16 intends to work with each of the agricultural
17 interests along the route to minimize any
18 potential impacts during construction, to
19 ensure full restoration and to have good
20 communication with those landowners along the
21 route.

22 Q. But you have not made -- and I don't mean a
23 specific offer, started specific negotiation.
24 But there's no term sheet. There's no we're

1 going to try to help you with this and this,
2 but this is part of what our rights are
3 because we paid for our rights, too. And
4 there's no this is the way that negotiation
5 might proceed with any of these people. Or
6 is there?

7 A. I'm not sure whether any written agreement
8 has been made with this property owner.

9 Q. That wasn't my question.

10 A. Okay. I'm not aware of any term sheets.
11 That would be a question for the Applicant.

12 Q. Okay. Or anything like a term sheet. Just a
13 couple pages explaining how they'll approach
14 it, approach the problem with the farmer.
15 You're unaware of any such document?

16 A. Only that they're -- I'm unaware of anything
17 specific. But generally I know that they
18 have been preparing an outreach plan with
19 very detailed information about reaching out
20 to property owners along the right-of-way and
21 working cooperatively and collaboratively
22 with them to make this a successful project.

23 Q. But that's generically with the people whose
24 driveways and shrubs are going to be

1 affected. There's nothing more particular
2 for these people whose commercial operations
3 are going to be affected.

4 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection. Mr.
5 Johnson already testified about outreach
6 issues. I think with respect to all these
7 questions, they should have properly been
8 directed to him.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Crane.

10 MS. CRANE: I was hoping that he
11 could assure me that the impacts on these
12 farmers were not going to be adverse because
13 they were able to predict. And the less they
14 can predict, the more adverse the impact is
15 going to be.

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Varney,
17 can you offer her any assurance on this topic
18 beyond what you've already said?

19 WITNESS VARNEY: No.

20 MS. CRANE: I'm done then,
21 thanks. This was just in case we couldn't
22 figure out where it was.

23 BY MS. CRANE:

24 Q. Okay. This is going to be quick, I think.

1 But you relied on Mr. DeWan to some extent in
2 identifying the commercial enterprises that
3 were tied to the visual aspects of things; is
4 that correct?

5 A. No, I did not rely on him for my testimony,
6 but I am aware that he conducted a Visual
7 Impact Assessment consistent with the SEC
8 rules.

9 Q. And there was a separate expert on tourism;
10 is that correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Is it your understanding that both of those
13 reports relied fairly heavily on a road or
14 route or whatever being a designated scenic
15 byway or designated scenic road? And I don't
16 need to -- I'm not worried about what those
17 classifications actually are. I just want
18 your understanding of whether there was a
19 threshold below which they didn't look,
20 because if you weren't designated, you
21 weren't scenic or important to tourism. Is
22 that -- am I summarizing that methodology
23 correctly?

24 A. I don't know.

1 Q. Okay. That's fine. Although, you did take
2 their conclusions into account, and their
3 conclusions were based on that methodology.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. So we're going to go on a real quick
6 road trip down River Road. This is the road
7 that runs right along the Pemi, as it's
8 called the River Road, from, well, it was
9 roughly where we left off with our discussion
10 about construction, and it ends down as it
11 comes into Bristol at Peaked Hill Road.
12 Actually, you're in Bristol by the time you
13 get to Peaked Hill Road. Does that appear to
14 be the route I'm talking about?

15 A. I see River Road, yes.

16 Q. Okay. And will you accept that it is not
17 designated in any way that would make it get
18 onto any of the special treatment parts of
19 the methodologies, either for tourism or for
20 visual impact?

21 A. I don't know.

22 Q. Okay. And I'm just going to show you a bunch
23 of slides and ask you, yes or no, whether
24 what you see in the slide might be taken into

1 account in determining whether a particular
2 route ought to be designated, or you would
3 expect it to be part of the process by which
4 it would be designated to take into account
5 what's in my slides.

6 MR. NEEDLEMAN: I don't
7 understand.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: No, I don't
9 understand. What is it you want him to say
10 about each of the next slides?

11 MS. CRANE: I want him -- I
12 should have laid a better foundation.

13 BY MS. CRANE:

14 Q. Have you ever been involved in determining
15 whether any particular route ought to be
16 designated?

17 A. No.

18 Q. When you were part of the Lakes Region
19 Planning Commission, you were never a party
20 to any discussions about whether the turkey
21 farm was just a mess and -- well, anyway.

22 So you have never been party to a
23 discussion about what it means to be a
24 designated byway.

1 A. I'm aware of the state's designation and
2 designation process for scenic and cultural
3 byways. And the only designated byway that I
4 recall that I may have been somewhat involved
5 in, but not in any great detail, would be the
6 Connecticut River Byway.

7 Q. So you were involved in assessing the merits
8 of designating --

9 A. No, I wasn't involved in the merits of
10 assessing, but I recall working with the
11 organization that was involved in the
12 designations. But I had no direct
13 involvement in that process.

14 Q. So the environmental department that you were
15 part of was never involved in those
16 designations -- or you weren't.

17 A. It's a process that is eventually taken to
18 the New Hampshire DOT for consideration,
19 their consideration for designation.

20 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Mr. Chairman,
21 I'm sorry to interrupt. Can I raise a
22 procedural concern?

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Sure.

24 MR. NEEDLEMAN: We have a number

1 of witnesses who are here to testify later
2 today, and my understanding is that some of
3 them can only be here today. And based on the
4 schedule that Ms. Monroe put out, we are well
5 behind at this point, and I'm just worried
6 about managing this day so that they will be
7 able to testify.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Crane,
9 how much more do you have?

10 MS. CRANE: Actually, not that
11 much, particularly given his answers here.

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Define "not
13 that much."

14 MS. CRANE: I believe that
15 except -- no. These slides are only about the
16 scenic qualities of River Road. I will flash
17 through them as quickly as I can just to get to
18 the next ones.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And then
20 how much do you have?

21 MS. CRANE: I think it's
22 actually only four or five.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.

24 MS. CRANE: When I get there.

1 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr.
2 Needleman, I hear you, and we're going to move
3 as quickly as we can.

4 BY MS. CRANE:

5 Q. So I take it you have no expertise about the
6 qualities of a roadway that might make it
7 appropriate to be designated as scenic.

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. Oh, I'm sorry. Well, we're going down
10 River Road. We've got another bad
11 construction site. I assume that your
12 answers are the same. This is the River Road
13 as it meets John Jenness Road. And we have
14 logging trucks entering. I'm not going to go
15 back and point out where on the maps this is.
16 But this spot is the corner of a triangle,
17 the hypotenuse of which is Route 3, and the
18 short sides are River Road and John Jenness
19 Road. If one were to look at a map that did
20 not have topographical features, one would
21 think that this was a good place to put a
22 construction detour.

23 In taking into account the effect on
24 development and commerce in this area, did

1 you ever look at the available detour routes?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay. But you can assure me that when the
4 appropriate detour routes are taken into
5 account, they will take into account the
6 topography and the road uses here along this
7 stretch of River Road and John Jenness Road.

8 A. They will consider several factors, yes.

9 Q. Okay. This is a picture of the existing
10 right-of-way; is it not?

11 A. It appears to be, yes.

12 Q. And the owner seems to be excavating?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I don't expect you to have any expertise
15 about when Eversource is going to tell him
16 he's dug too far. But did you take into
17 account when you were analyzing the impacts
18 of what an excavator like this might end up
19 doing, knowing that the towers are coming and
20 he might -- sorry. Did you ever try to
21 anticipate how he might behave?

22 A. What was the last question?

23 Q. Did you ever try to anticipate how he might
24 behave when he knows the towers are coming?

1 A. If this activity is occurring within the
2 right-of-way with Eversource, then there
3 would likely be a Joint Use Agreement which
4 would ensure and provide information about
5 the activities that are within the
6 right-of-way, and ensure that any activities
7 will not hamper or affect the ability of
8 Eversource to transmit power along that
9 right-of-way. And it's also common even with
10 other types of uses as well.

11 Q. And he probably hasn't done anything that
12 Eversource is actually going to complain
13 about yet, I would assume, because looks like
14 he's still doing it.

15 But if he knows Eversource is coming,
16 and he knows that after the tower
17 construction begins his agreement with
18 Eversource is going to keep him from
19 excavating, is it possible that he might
20 start excavating faster than he otherwise
21 would have if towers weren't coming?

22 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection.
23 Calls for speculation.

24 MS. CRANE: Well, but it's

1 precisely the kind of speculation that his
2 expertise on making predictions about the
3 economic effects of the right-of-way will be.

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Varney,
5 have an opinion on that?

6 WITNESS VARNEY: Yes, I do. I
7 don't see any effect at all on the continued
8 use of this property, subject to the use
9 agreement that they have -- he has with
10 Eversource.

11 BY MS. CRANE:

12 Q. Actually, that wasn't my question. My
13 question was: Is he likely to be digging out
14 more on this, which I will have to assert,
15 because everybody's tired of my pictures, is
16 in fact the New Hampton right-of-way where
17 we've seen lots of pictures of the other side
18 of the bank?

19 A. No.

20 Q. All right. Thank you.

21 So this is also the existing
22 right-of-way; correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And in case you hadn't recognized it, the red

1 circles are identifying existing towers;
2 correct? And this excavation has been going
3 on for quite a while.

4 Given your history -- no, I won't make
5 you guess. Does it seem right that this
6 excavation started at the time I-93 was --
7 the construction of I-93 began?

8 A. I don't know.

9 Q. Okay. And no reason you would. But they've
10 dug a lot of sand out of here; right?

11 A. Sand and gravel operations are apparent in
12 the photo. I have no idea how much has been
13 excavated.

14 Q. And thank you for reminding. This is Photo
15 66, or Slide 66, Page 66.

16 And as much as some people might wish
17 they didn't have to look at places like this,
18 once the excavation stops, what happens to
19 the land use when the excavation stops?

20 A. In most communities there's a restoration
21 requirement.

22 Q. And so, as ugly as this might be to some
23 eyes, obviously not all, when it's over, when
24 there's no more sand or when nobody needs

1 sand or when the price of transportation is
2 too high, this will revert to the natural, or
3 something as close as we can get it to, or as
4 close as the regulators want it to be to the
5 natural state; is that correct?

6 A. It would be done consistent with town
7 requirements on restoration.

8 Q. Okay. That's fine. And maybe, maybe not, we
9 could get down the existing transmission
10 poles; correct?

11 A. I don't know.

12 Q. Don't know. I don't know either.

13 I believe that the testimony in this
14 docket has suggested that we should be
15 expecting the new towers to last effectively
16 forever. You may not have heard that. What
17 is your understanding about how long the
18 Applicant is predicting these towers will
19 remain in place?

20 A. I assume that they will be in place for their
21 useful life, whatever that happens to be.

22 Q. And so should we or should we not be worried
23 about -- I'm sorry. Should we be worried
24 about whether we're going to be able to take

1 the towers down? You said they have a useful
2 life. Should we worry about whether we're
3 going to be able to take them down at the end
4 of their useful life?

5 A. The structures and the entire project
6 right-of-way is subject to a decommissioning
7 plan which is submitted to the Site
8 Evaluation Committee and is part of their
9 overall evaluation for orderly development.

10 Q. And do you know how far out they expect to
11 need a decommissioning plan?

12 A. I forget the exact number of years.

13 Q. Okay. Enough on decommissioning. But if the
14 towers aren't taken down when they are no
15 longer used, whether people decide it just
16 isn't worth paying for it and the deal gets
17 renegotiated or whether Eversource and
18 Hydro-Quebec are both bankrupt and whatever
19 financial arrangements there might be --

20 A. Again, my assumption -- well, not even an
21 assumption. The decommissioning plan is part
22 of the process here and will be reviewed by
23 the Site Evaluation Committee. So the
24 requirements will be subject to that plan

1 that's been prepared and any conditions that
2 the Committee may impose upon it.

3 Q. Okay. Moving slightly to changing the frame
4 of the question. Would you agree that it's
5 probably going to be a whole lot harder to
6 restore this land to the way it was before
7 when the transmission towers are put here and
8 the concrete bases and whatever excavation?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay. So this was my last topic.

11 This is what the Pemi looks like from
12 just north of the railroad bridge. The
13 railroad bridge isn't in there. And some of
14 the things that we've been talking about
15 appear on this map. Starting from the left,
16 do you see the existing right-of-way?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And can you make out I-93? My arrow is
19 actually in not quite the right place. It
20 comes in a little bit.

21 A. Yes, I see it.

22 Q. And this is Non-abutters Exhibit 54,
23 Slide 68. And coming down the other side,
24 there's the headquarters for -- the power

1 company is still on the river side. And
2 Construx -- do you know what Construx is?

3 A. It's a business in that area.

4 Q. Yeah, a large construction company. I think
5 you said things that make me think you knew
6 the nature of its business.

7 And then there's the line running down
8 the middle appears to be what?

9 A. Are you referring to the rail line?

10 Q. The rail line. Okay. And so would you --
11 you were alive when the river was polluted?
12 Were you aware of how polluted it was?

13 A. Generally, yes.

14 Q. And is it possible that it was fairly -- and
15 you're frequently called upon to give your
16 expert testimony about things like placement
17 of corridors and linear corridors and putting
18 things in the same place as the other
19 corridors already are. And so it's pretty --
20 can I ask you whether it makes sense to have
21 I-93 built along this river, particularly
22 when it's polluted?

23 A. Could you repeat the question? You said a
24 lot leading up to the question.

1 Q. Sure. Does it make sense to have I-93
2 located along the river when the river is
3 polluted?

4 A. I don't think water quality was a major
5 factor when the highway was constructed.

6 Q. I don't want to talk about water quality. I
7 want to talk about land use because this land
8 is going to be cheaper because the river is
9 polluted, isn't it?

10 A. I haven't reviewed land values along the
11 river going back to the '50s, so I don't know
12 if it had any effect or not.

13 Q. Okay. Well, it hasn't been clean that long.
14 It's only been clean since the late '70s,
15 maybe early '80s in some places. But that's
16 okay. I didn't ask you to identify the
17 dates.

18 MS. CRANE: I'm getting there.

19 BY MS. CRANE:

20 Q. And the rail line is there. Can you imagine,
21 in your capacity as a land use planner, can
22 you imagine why the railroad is there?

23 A. The railroad is part of the Concord to
24 Lincoln rail line.

1 Q. And why would they have put it where they've
2 put it on the interval?

3 A. I don't know the detailed siting decisions
4 that they made, but it follows somewhat along
5 the river in this stretch of I-93.

6 Q. And might it have anything to do with the
7 fact that everywhere else it's 25-percent
8 grades?

9 A. The contours of the land is one of the
10 factors that they consider in addition to
11 prospective users whose needs are met by
12 having the rail line there.

13 Q. And what do you see in the lower left-hand
14 corner of this view?

15 A. I assume you're referring to the golf course
16 on the other side of the river?

17 Q. Okay. And the arrow that doesn't have a
18 label, do you happen to be familiar with
19 that?

20 A. Yes. Those are condos.

21 Q. Those are condos.

22 And we've already talked about it, but
23 there's the Italian Village just outside the
24 yellow circle that is defining the interval.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And these are all relatively new
3 features of this landscape. Would you agree?

4 A. Well, the condos have been there for a long
5 period of time, as has the golf course. And
6 some of the agricultural uses have been here
7 for a long time, as has I-93 and 3 and the
8 rail line been there for a very long time.

9 Q. Well, the only one I want to ask about again
10 is do you imagine that the golf course and
11 the condos post-dated or predated the
12 cleaning up of the river?

13 A. I don't know. And I'm not sure how you
14 characterize "cleaning up" of the river, so I
15 really can't give you a precise answer.

16 Q. Okay. Then let me ask: The forested nature
17 of this river corridor might be attributable
18 to how unattractive it would have been to
19 build along the river when the Lincoln Mill
20 was still running, when the Ashland treatment
21 plan wasn't in yet, when Plymouth had an
22 inadequate sewerage supply. And that's what
23 I mean by the river, you didn't want to be
24 there. Do you think somebody would have

1 built condos right there if that were still
2 the state of the river?

3 A. I don't know.

4 Q. Okay. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
6 That, I believe, is the full list of
7 intervenors with questions for Mr. Varney.
8 Let's go off the record for a minute.

9 (Discussion off the record.)

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So what
11 we're going to do is take a short break. We
12 are not going to do the Committee questions of
13 Mr. Varney or redirect. Instead, we're going
14 to move on to the witnesses who are also
15 scheduled for today and circle back to Mr.
16 Varney probably first thing tomorrow morning,
17 and we'll break now for ten minutes.

18 (Recess was taken at 11:20 a.m.,
19 and the hearing resumed at 11:32 a.m.)

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I think
21 we're ready to hear from the next witness. Mr.
22 Boldt, who is your witness?

23 MR. BOLDT: Mr. Chairman, I have
24 the mayor of the City of Berlin, Paul Grenier.

1 (WHEREUPON, PAUL GRENIER was duly sworn
2 and cautioned by the Court Reporter.)

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Boldt,
4 you may proceed.

5 MR. BOLDT: Thank you, Mr.
6 Chairman.

7 DIRECT EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. BOLDT:

9 Q. Mr. Mayor, I'm over here. Would you please
10 state your full name for the record.

11 A. Paul R. Grenier.

12 Q. And Mr. Mayor, in what capacity are you here
13 testifying in the Northern Pass case?

14 A. I'm representing the City Council of the City
15 of Berlin as its mayor.

16 Q. And you have in front of you what has
17 previously been tendered to this body as
18 Franklin-Berlin Exhibit 1. Do you have a
19 copy of that in front of you?

20 A. I do.

21 Q. Is that your prefiled testimony as filed in
22 this case?

23 A. It is.

24 Q. Do you have any corrections, changes or

1 additions to make to that testimony at this
2 time?

3 A. I do not.

4 MR. BOLDT: I tender the witness
5 for cross-examination.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: According
7 to my list, Mr. Pappas, Counsel for the Public,
8 you are up.

9 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman.

11 CROSS-EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. PAPPAS:

13 Q. Good morning, Mayor Grenier. My name's Tom
14 Pappas. I represent Counsel for the Public
15 in this proceeding.

16 Am I correct that the City of Berlin
17 supports the Northern Pass Project?

18 A. Conditionally.

19 Q. And I understand that the City's support is
20 conditioned on a few things. It's
21 conditioned on Northern Pass and PSNH making
22 certain upgrades to the Coos Loop; is that
23 correct?

24 A. Yes.

1 Q. And it's also conditioned on Northern Pass
2 Transmission and PSNH making certain upgrades
3 to the Berlin Substation; correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And finally, it's conditioned on the City of
6 Berlin and Coos County receiving benefits
7 under the Forward NH Fund and the North
8 Country Jobs Creation Fund; correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And are those the three conditions upon which
11 the City of Berlin's support rests?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. So let me ask you a few questions
14 about each of these conditions.

15 Now, the improvements to the Coos Loop
16 are intended to cure the current restraints
17 on the loop; correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And that's to allow more energy generators on
20 the loop to generate more power?

21 A. It's to allow the current generators to
22 continue operating with less impedence to
23 their production.

24 Q. And would it also allow them to export some

1 power outside the Coos Loop?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Now, in your prefiled testimony, you
4 indicated that it remains unclear whether the
5 proposed improvements to the Coos Loop will
6 accommodate expanded or new energy generation
7 on the loop. Do you recall that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. Now, am I correct that the City's
10 support of the Northern Pass Project is
11 conditioned on the Coos Loop improvements
12 being capable of accommodating expanded or
13 new generation on the Coos Loop? Is that
14 correct?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Okay. Let me ask you just few questions
17 regarding the Forward NH Fund and the North
18 Country Jobs Creation Fund.

19 Now, I understand that the City believes
20 that spending from these funds in Coos County
21 will maximize economic benefits to an area
22 that the City believes experiences the
23 greatest impact from the Project; is that
24 right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And the City of Berlin believes that Coos
3 County will experience the most or the
4 greatest impacts, adverse impacts from the
5 Project; is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. And would I be correct in saying the
8 City of Berlin believes these impacts to be
9 potential adverse visual impacts? Is that
10 one of them?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And impacts to tourism industry, is that
13 another impact?

14 A. No.

15 Q. No. Okay. How about potential adverse
16 impacts to real estate values? Is that one
17 of the impacts that you'd consider?

18 A. No.

19 Q. No. And how about -- well, let me ask it
20 this way: Why don't you list for me what
21 potential adverse impacts the City of Berlin
22 considered.

23 A. The City looked at this project as a whole.
24 And there are some areas that could have some

1 visual impacts, but that was the only impact
2 that any of the people in the city council
3 had talked about.

4 Q. Okay. Now, am I also correct that the City
5 would like NPT, Northern Pass Transmission,
6 to use a different -- to be taxed in a
7 different method than NPT proposes?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And is that also a condition of the City's
10 support of the Project?

11 A. I believe it is not.

12 Q. Okay. It is something that you, the City,
13 would like to see done, but it's not a
14 condition.

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Fair enough. So let me ask you this, Mayor
17 Grenier: Would you agree with me that in
18 determining the position the City of Berlin
19 took on the Northern Pass Project, the City
20 balanced the benefits of the Project to the
21 City of Berlin versus any visual impacts the
22 Project may have?

23 A. Well, the City has taken no position on the
24 route of the Project.

1 Q. I'm not referring to the route. I'm
2 referring to your support of the Project
3 itself.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. In determining to conditionally support the
6 Project, did the City balance the benefits
7 that the City may receive from the Project
8 versus any potential adverse impacts from the
9 Project?

10 A. It did.

11 Q. And presumably the City believes that with
12 the conditions, if the conditions are met,
13 the City of Berlin believes that the benefits
14 outweigh any adverse impacts to the City of
15 Berlin; correct?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Now, would you agree with me that each of the
18 cities and towns along the 192-mile route can
19 do their own balancing like Berlin did,
20 balance the potential benefits and balance
21 the potential adverse impacts, and determine
22 whether they should support or oppose the
23 Project?

24 A. I would suppose that each community has their

1 own right of determination.

2 Q. Would you agree with me that to determine
3 whether the benefits either outweigh or don't
4 outweigh the adverse impacts, it's really a
5 town-by-town analysis?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And would you also agree with me that the
8 Project may benefit one town differently than
9 it may benefit another town?

10 A. That's fair to say.

11 Q. And would you also agree with me that the
12 Project may adversely impact one town
13 differently than another town?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And if I understand your testimony correctly,
16 what the City of Berlin did is for the City
17 of Berlin itself. It did this balancing and
18 made a determination based on what it
19 believed was best for the City of Berlin;
20 correct?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. And the City of Berlin didn't make that
23 determination of what would be best for any
24 of the other towns along the route; is that

1 correct?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Okay. Thank you, Mayor Grenier. I have no
4 other questions.

5 A. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Next up I
7 have the municipal groups. Who's going to be
8 asking questions? Anyone?

9 MS. PACIK: We have no questions
10 for this witness.

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Then Ms.
12 Menard. And the only other one I have listed
13 is Ms. Crane, just so people know. Ms. Crane?

14 MS. CRANE: I'm sorry not to
15 have reported in. I believe if anyone from the
16 Ashland to Deerfield Non-abutters has
17 questions, it would be Maureen or Jeanne to be
18 using that time.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay. Does
20 anyone from that group have questions? No?
21 I'm seeing shaking heads. I know, I see you,
22 Ms. Menard. You're from a different group, and
23 I'm ready to have you go. I'm just making sure
24 we know what's happening next.

1 All right. Ms. Menard, you
2 may proceed.

3 CROSS-EXAMINATION

4 BY MS. MENARD:

5 Q. Good morning. Jeanne Menard from Deerfield
6 Abutter group. And I apologize. I missed
7 the Counsel for the Public's beginning line
8 of questions, so if this is a repeated
9 question, you can defer and I'll read the
10 transcript.

11 I just have one question as it relates
12 to Berlin's position on the Northern Pass
13 Project. I had the sense from reading your
14 testimony that you would be in favor of the
15 Northern Pass if there were upgrades to the
16 Coos Loop. Is that correct?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. And it leads me to question, if there are
19 necessary upgrades for generation in your
20 North Country area, the responsibility might
21 be in Eversource's and the shareholders' best
22 interest to perform those upgrades
23 irregardless of the Northern Pass. So my
24 specific question is: It seems that if you

1 vote in favor of Northern Pass, what is there
2 to gain from not -- what are you receiving in
3 return by defaulting to a neutral position if
4 they do not upgrade the Coos Loop?

5 A. Could you repeat the question, please?

6 Q. Yes. I apologize. Let me rephrase that.

7 You are in favor of the Northern Pass if
8 they were to upgrade the Coos Loop; correct?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And if they choose not to upgrade the Coos
11 Loop, you defer to a neutral position --

12 A. Yes --

13 Q. -- is that correct?

14 A. -- that's in my prefiled testimony.

15 Q. Yes. Have you demanded anything in exchange
16 for a neutral position on Northern Pass?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Thank you. I have no further questions.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
20 According to my list, there are no other
21 intervenor groups that have questions for the
22 mayor; is that correct?

23 [No verbal response]

24 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.

1 Committee Members, questions for the mayor?

2 Why don't you start, Commissioner Bailey.

3 INTERROGATORIES BY SEC MEMBERS AND SEC COUNSEL:

4 BY COMMISSIONER BAILEY:

5 Q. Good morning, Mr. Mayor.

6 A. Good morning.

7 Q. I'm Kate Bailey from the Public Utilities

8 Commission, and I just have a couple

9 questions for you.

10 A. Sure.

11 Q. On Page 4 in your testimony, you say that the

12 City requested, but PSNH has not yet agreed,

13 to make thermal upgrades to the remaining

14 eastern portion of the Coos Loop.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Has there been any update on that?

17 A. There has been nothing of substance to

18 upgrade the eastern portion of the Loop as

19 yet.

20 Q. And that's not the part that you're talking

21 about as a condition.

22 A. No, that is not.

23 Q. That's just a wish that you have.

24 A. That would be a wish, yes.

1 Q. Okay. And what would that get you in
2 addition to -- what would that do? What
3 would that provide?

4 A. It would probably provide us with the ability
5 to add generation to our tax base, although
6 there are some downfield constraints that
7 would need to be dealt with as well.

8 Q. Can you tell me, are there visual impacts
9 from this project if it were built as
10 proposed on the City of Berlin?

11 A. There would not be.

12 Q. Okay. Thank you. That's all I have.

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Wright.

14 BY DIR. WRIGHT:

15 Q. Thank you, Mayor Grenier. Craig Wright with
16 the Department of Environmental Services.

17 A. Good morning.

18 Q. Good morning. I just have one quick
19 question. In your testimony on Page 3, Lines
20 12 and 13, you make a statement that PSNH
21 further represented that it will install a
22 static VAR compensator SVC at the Berlin
23 Substation. I thought I heard testimony that
24 that was something they were going to study

1 and potentially do. Is that your
2 understanding?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. So when you say "will," you're
5 recognizing that that particular action may
6 not occur, depending on their study.

7 A. That may not occur, yes.

8 Q. Okay. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Way.

10 BY MR. WAY:

11 Q. Good morning, Mayor.

12 A. Good morning.

13 Q. Just a quick question. So, in terms of your
14 involvement with the Project, whether it's
15 with regards to the Coos Loop or the Northern
16 Pass Project, were you or your staff
17 contacted throughout the process to get your
18 opinions? Were people on your staff
19 contacted for their opinions?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. They were.

22 A. Yes, and primarily on the North Country Job
23 Creation Fund.

24 Q. On the North Country Job Creation Fund?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And have those communications been ongoing?
3 Are they still ongoing or --

4 A. Since the SEC process started, I have not had
5 any conversation with anybody from the
6 developer.

7 Q. Have they been working with members of your
8 staff, whether it be your city clerk's
9 office, tax assessment office or anything
10 like that?

11 A. No.

12 Q. All right. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Anyone else
14 on the Committee have questions for the mayor?

15 [No verbal response]

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Boldt,
17 do you have any redirect for your witness?

18 MR. BOLDT: We do not.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thank you,
20 Mayor Grenier.

21 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Raff,
23 are your witnesses ready? And why don't you
24 identify them for the record.

1 MR. RAFF: Would you state your
2 names --

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: We're going
4 to have them sworn in in a second, and then you
5 can ask them that question. But why don't you
6 tell us who you are calling for witnesses.

7 MR. RAFF: Joe Casey, IBEW 490,
8 and Tiler Eaton, IBEW 104.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
10 Let's have them sworn in.

11 (WHEREUPON, TILER F. EATON and JOSEPH
12 M. CASEY were duly sworn and cautioned
13 by the Court Reporter.)

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Rath,
15 you may proceed.

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. RAFF:

18 Q. So can you both give your full name for the
19 record, please.

20 A. (Eaton) My name is Tiler Franklin Eaton from
21 Nottingham, New Hampshire.

22 A. (Casey) Joseph Michael Casey, Rochester, New
23 Hampshire.

24 Q. And I've given you both exhibits, and I want

1 to identify those.

2 Mr. Casey, Business Intervenor Group
3 Exhibit 10 is your prefiled direct testimony.
4 Mr. Eaton, Business Intervenor Group Exhibit
5 11 is your prefiled direct testimony. In
6 regards to the prefiled testimony, do you
7 have any changes or corrections you'd like to
8 make?

9 A. (Eaton) None.

10 Q. And do you both swear and affirm the prefiled
11 direct testimony that you submitted?

12 A. (Casey) Yes.

13 MR. RAFF: Thank you. All
14 yours.

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: According
16 to my list, Mr. Pappas, you are up.

17 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr.
18 Chairman.

19 CROSS-EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. PAPPAS:

21 Q. Good morning, gentlemen. I'm Tom Pappas. I
22 represent Counsel for the Public in this
23 proceeding.

24 Mr. Casey, let me start by asking a few

1 questions to you. I understand that you're
2 the international business development
3 representative for the New England region for
4 the local -- for IBEW Local 490; is that
5 right?

6 A. (Casey) No, that's not correct.

7 Q. Okay. Tell me what your position is.

8 A. (Casey) So I am a member of Local Union 490,
9 which is the authority from the IBEW
10 representing the state of New Hampshire.
11 Business development rep, there are ten
12 locals throughout the New England area that I
13 represent other than Local 490.

14 Q. Okay. So you're a member of 490. And you
15 represent 10 locals, and one of them is 490.

16 A. (Casey) Correct. Thank you.

17 Q. And as I understand it, Local 490 members do
18 inside electrical construction and
19 maintenance work; is that correct?

20 A. (Casey) Yes.

21 Q. Okay. For instance, if this project were
22 built, they could work on the Franklin
23 converter station?

24 A. (Casey) Yes.

1 Q. Okay. How many Local 490 members live in New
2 Hampshire?

3 A. (Casey) I believe at least 95 percent.

4 Q. No, no. My question is numerically how many?
5 Approximately how many Local 490 members live
6 in New Hampshire?

7 A. (Casey) So, Local 490 has about 300 members,
8 and I would say about 290 of them. You're
9 required to live in the jurisdiction that you
10 work in, in the local that you belong to.

11 Q. Does that mean if you belong to the Local 490
12 in New Hampshire, you're required to live in
13 New Hampshire?

14 A. (Casey) Correct.

15 Q. Okay. So, for those 10 or so out of 300 that
16 don't live in New Hampshire, they're still
17 members of the Local 490?

18 A. (Casey) Correct. We can't keep somebody from
19 moving out of state.

20 Q. So they can maintain their membership even if
21 they move out of state once they're a member?

22 A. (Casey) Right.

23 Q. Okay. Now, as I understand it, if the
24 Northern Pass Project is built, that would

1 provide your members with jobs in New
2 Hampshire; correct?

3 A. (Casey) Correct.

4 Q. And that would avoid the need for them to
5 travel outside New Hampshire in order to have
6 employment; correct?

7 A. (Casey) Correct.

8 Q. And is it your understanding that it would
9 provide jobs in New Hampshire for about two
10 years, or during the two-year construction
11 period?

12 A. (Casey) Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Now, out of the approximately 290 or
14 300 Local 490 members, what percentage would
15 you anticipate would work on the Northern
16 Pass Project?

17 A. (Casey) Probably upwards of 50 percent.

18 Q. Okay. So you anticipate somewhere in the
19 neighborhood of 145 to 150 local members
20 working on the Project?

21 A. (Casey) Correct.

22 Q. And I assume the other members are working on
23 other projects because you've got projects
24 going on constantly.

1 A. (Casey) Right. So the number of employees is
2 adjusted to the amount of construction that
3 we have.

4 Q. Okay. Now, would you expect those 145 to 150
5 members to work throughout the two-year
6 construction project, or at least at some
7 point during it?

8 A. (Casey) At some point during it, yes.

9 Q. So that at any given time, it's likely that
10 the number of Local 490 members actually
11 working on the Project would be less than 145
12 to 150; correct?

13 A. (Casey) Correct.

14 Q. Do you have a sense of how low that number
15 may go, for instance, at the lowest point,
16 perhaps, how many 490 members might be
17 working on the Project?

18 A. (Casey) So, I mean, we do large-scale
19 substation work all the time. And the
20 manpower needs that the contractor will have
21 during the Project varies significantly. So
22 you would start off with a small group, and
23 the demand would peak, you know, a couple of
24 times during the project, doing large wire

1 poles and equipment showing up. And then at
2 the end of the Project it certainly dwindles
3 off when you're doing terminations and
4 clean-up of the Project.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. (Casey) So it's always different, you know.

7 Q. Okay. And when you say you start with a
8 small crew, give me some sense of what that
9 might be in terms of numbers.

10 A. (Casey) Oh, so I would imagine that half a
11 dozen guys would start a project.

12 Q. And for about how long would that period go
13 until it ramps up?

14 A. (Casey) Not very long. They would
15 familiarize themselves with the Project
16 within three to four weeks, and then most of
17 those guys would be what we call the foremen,
18 and then they would take on a crew of 10 guys
19 each and off they go.

20 Q. And then during construction you have these
21 two peak periods when most of the work is
22 being done?

23 A. (Casey) Right. I mean, it could be
24 throughout the whole project. They could

1 need more people, they could need twice as
2 many people. An example, for instance, when
3 we built Newington Station down in Newington,
4 the contractor told me they were going to
5 need about 80 guys. After the 330 that we
6 sent, we had to reassess where they were at.

7 Q. And presumably those 330 came from more than
8 the Local 490.

9 A. (Casey) They came from more than Local 490.
10 We were able to offer twice as many
11 apprentice opportunities to people throughout
12 the state.

13 Q. Okay. And in your experience, for instance,
14 along a two-year construction period, at what
15 point does it start to wind down along that
16 two-year path?

17 A. (Casey) So, probably when the job has about a
18 month left.

19 Q. Okay. All right. Mr. Eaton, let me ask you
20 a few questions.

21 Now, I understand you're from IBEW Local
22 104; is that correct?

23 A. (Eaton) That's correct.

24 Q. And would I be correct in saying you're the

1 international business development

2 representative for the eastern U.S.?

3 A. (Eaton) Yes, I am.

4 Q. Now, am I also correct that the Local 104
5 members do outside electrical work? Is that
6 right?

7 A. (Eaton) That's correct.

8 Q. And they do -- they would work on, in terms
9 of the Northern Pass Project, they would work
10 on parts of the overhead section and parts of
11 the underground section; is that right?

12 A. (Eaton) Yes.

13 Q. So, for instance, for the overhead section,
14 they would do things like hauling material to
15 the right-of-way? Is that one of the items?

16 A. (Eaton) Yes.

17 Q. And they would do site work on the
18 right-of-way?

19 A. (Eaton) That's correct.

20 Q. And they would do some foundation work?

21 A. (Eaton) Yes.

22 Q. And they would set some towers and install
23 some wires?

24 A. (Eaton) Yeah.

[WITNESS PANEL: EATON AND CASEY]

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1 Q. For the underground section, what type of
2 work would the Local 104 workers perform?

3 A. (Eaton) We believe that the Local 104 members
4 would install the cable.

5 Q. They wouldn't do HDD drilling, for instance?

6 A. (Eaton) They wouldn't do -- well, I can't say
7 they wouldn't. It all depends on the
8 manufacturer of the cable. But the only
9 thing I know they probably wouldn't do would
10 be the splicing of the cable.

11 Q. Splicing is more of a specialty?

12 A. (Eaton) Yes.

13 Q. But you're familiar with the HDD drilling
14 that's proposed to be done on the Project?

15 A. (Eaton) Yeah.

16 Q. Okay. Would you agree with me that the
17 actual drilling operation is also specialty
18 work?

19 A. (Eaton) It is, but we do have people that
20 actually do that. Some of our contractors
21 specialize in that.

22 Q. Okay. And how about installing splice boxes?

23 A. (Eaton) The splice boxes themselves, yes,
24 that could be done by our people, either 104

1 or 490.

2 Q. Okay. How many members of the Local 104 live
3 in New Hampshire?

4 A. (Eaton) Probably 500-plus, and seems to be
5 growing monthly.

6 Q. Okay. Are there members of the Local 104
7 that live outside New Hampshire?

8 A. (Eaton) Yes.

9 Q. About how many of those workers are there?

10 A. (Eaton) I would say Local 104's jurisdiction
11 is New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont,
12 Massachusetts and Rhode Island is what we
13 cover.

14 Q. Okay. So are there more members of the Local
15 104 that live outside New Hampshire in those
16 jurisdictions rather than live inside New
17 Hampshire?

18 A. (Eaton) I would say Massachusetts would be
19 the state that probably carries most of
20 members.

21 Q. And Massachusetts would have more than 500
22 members?

23 A. (Eaton) Yes.

24 Q. Do you have sense of how many members live in

1 Massachusetts?

2 A. (Eaton) Oh, just off the top of my head, I'll
3 say 700.

4 Q. Of the approximately 500 members of the
5 Local 104 that live in New Hampshire, what
6 percentage of those workers would you
7 anticipate working on the Northern Pass
8 Project?

9 A. (Eaton) I would say probably 75 to
10 85 percent.

11 Q. And would that be throughout the two-year
12 period, or would that be -- when would that
13 be?

14 A. (Eaton) I would say, yeah, as soon as they
15 could get to -- a lot of New Hampshire
16 members are working in Massachusetts, Maine
17 and some in Vermont that would prefer to be
18 home. I would say as soon as they get the
19 call they would come.

20 Q. And if they weren't working on ongoing
21 projects in those other states, who would do
22 their work in the other states?

23 A. (Eaton) I'm not sure. They probably -- I
24 mean, we are a referral hall. So there would

1 be people that are on different books. We
2 have Book 1, 2 and 3 and 4. And it happens a
3 lot. I mean, if you work elsewhere, the
4 contractor and the customer understands that
5 you're looking to get closer to home. So...

6 Q. So would the process be that, if some of your
7 workers who live in New Hampshire but are
8 currently working outside the state, the
9 union would attempt to get substitute workers
10 for them outside the state so they could work
11 on the Northern Pass Project?

12 A. (Eaton) Yes.

13 Q. And that would depend on whether or not those
14 referrals could be filled; correct?

15 A. (Eaton) Correct. But the individuals, they
16 do have the right to give a notice to the
17 company. So, again, if they want to come
18 home and work on Northern Pass or any
19 projects in New Hampshire, they have the
20 right to come home, and the contractor will
21 have to wait until those positions are
22 refilled that they've left.

23 Q. How much notice do they have to give?

24 A. (Eaton) Well, we used to have to give a

1 48-hour notice. In negotiations they had
2 taken that away, so there's no notice for
3 either side now. It could be a ten-minute
4 notice.

5 Q. Okay. I want to ask both you gentlemen some
6 questions about the Project Labor Agreement.
7 And perhaps, Mr. Casey, I'll start with you.
8 And Mr. Eaton, you can certainly chime in if
9 you have a different answer or want to expand
10 on the answer.

11 On the screen in front of you gentlemen,
12 can you see -- is there something on the
13 screen in front of both of you?

14 A. (Casey) Yes.

15 Q. On the screen in front of you is Counsel for
16 the Public's Exhibit 488 which is a copy of
17 the Project Labor Agreement for the Northern
18 Pass Transmission Project, dated July 21,
19 2017. Do you see that?

20 A. (Casey) Yes.

21 Q. And am I correct that both of you signed this
22 Project Labor Agreement?

23 A. (Casey) Yes.

24 Q. Mr. Eaton, did you sign this as well?

1 A. (Eaton) This is... this one is signed by...

2 Q. Yeah, we're going to help you. I don't want
3 to test your memory. This is Page 23 of that
4 July 2017 Project Labor Agreement, which is
5 the signature page.

6 A. (Eaton) Yes.

7 Q. And you see your signature?

8 A. (Eaton) Yes.

9 A. (Casey) I don't see mine.

10 Q. Yeah, I'm looking. Well, let me ask this
11 question 'cause some of these are hard to
12 read: Do you recognize any of the other
13 signatures besides Mr. Eaton's? I see Mr.
14 Murphy.

15 A. (Casey) I recognize all the signatures,
16 but...

17 Q. Could you just tell us who is who?

18 A. (Casey) Pardon me?

19 Q. Could you go down the signatures and identify
20 them and tell us who they are and what their
21 position is, if you know it?

22 A. (Casey) So I can't really make out the one on
23 the top far left.

24 Q. Okay. Looks like that's from an electrical

1 company, if you look at it really carefully
2 but --

3 A. (Casey) So that would be M.J. Electric. Is
4 that what it says? So that gentleman is the
5 representative from M.J. Electric who will be
6 doing the converter station.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. (Casey) Next to him on the right is Lance
9 Clute. He is a representative from PAR
10 Electric.

11 Q. Thank you.

12 A. (Casey) Eugene... yeah, I can't... can you
13 give me clue on the --

14 Q. I was hoping you'd be able to do that. But
15 the first name looks to be Eugene. I think
16 you're right. We can move to the next one
17 then.

18 A. (Casey) Brian T. Murphy, he is the business
19 manager of Local Union 104, the line local.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. (Casey) Denis Beaudoin is the business
22 manager now of Local 490 here in New
23 Hampshire. He has my old position. And when
24 I signed in 2013, that's the position I held.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. (Casey) Tiler Eaton, of course, sitting right
3 here to my right.

4 Q. Okay. All right. Now, you mentioned a
5 moment ago the 2013 Project Labor Agreement.
6 That would be the first Project Labor
7 Agreement for the Northern Pass Project;
8 correct?

9 A. (Casey) The one we submitted with our
10 testimony, yes.

11 Q. Yes. This exhibit, Counsel for the Public
12 488, replaced that 2013 Project Labor
13 Agreement; correct?

14 A. (Casey) Correct.

15 Q. Okay. Now, would I be correct in saying that
16 the Project Labor Agreement was changed at
17 Northern Pass's request?

18 A. (Casey) Was the Project Labor Agreement
19 changed at Northern Pass's request?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. (Casey) It was changed mutually between the
22 two parties.

23 Q. Okay. And it was changed shortly before
24 Northern Pass submitted its bid into the

1 Massachusetts RFP; correct?

2 A. (Casey) I'm not sure when they submitted or
3 if they submitted an RFP to Massachusetts.

4 Q. Okay. On the screen now is Joint Muni
5 Exhibit 294. Do you see that?

6 A. (Casey) Yes.

7 Q. And this is the public version of the
8 Northern Pass joint submission to the
9 Massachusetts RFP. And if you look, it's
10 dated July 27, 2017. Do you see that?

11 A. (Casey) Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And that's six days before the second
13 Project Labor Agreement that we just saw a
14 minute ago; correct?

15 A. (Casey) Are you talking the June 2017?

16 Q. July 21, 2017, that we had on the screen
17 before. It's right -- this came right after,
18 correct, the RFP?

19 A. (Casey) All right. Yes.

20 Q. Did you discuss with Northern Pass
21 representatives their submission to the
22 Massachusetts RFP?

23 A. (Casey) Is this part of our testimony that
24 you're asking this?

1 Q. Well, the Project Labor Agreement that we put
2 on the screen, dated July 21, 2017, is the
3 second Project Labor Agreement; correct?

4 A. (Casey) Correct.

5 Q. Okay. And I'm going to ask you some
6 questions about moving from the first Project
7 Labor Agreement to the second Project Labor
8 Agreement. And my first question is: Were
9 you involved in any discussions on the
10 changes that were made from the first Project
11 Labor Agreement to the second Project Labor
12 Agreement?

13 A. (Casey) Yes.

14 Q. Okay. And who on the Northern Pass side did
15 you have those discussions with?

16 A. (Casey) Who did we talk to?

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. (Casey) We negotiated with the president of
19 Eversource, Bill Quinlan.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. (Eaton) I'd like to add to that.

22 Q. Oh, you may.

23 A. (Eaton) And one of the reasons, so everybody
24 understands, this first PLA was, again, 2013.

1 And again, the wages, conditions, a lot of
2 that stuff changed yearly. So we had been --
3 I mean, originally, the first one was signed
4 by the business manager of 104, Gary Stacy,
5 who has since passed away. So we were trying
6 to, you know, get all this stuff updated.

7 Q. Okay. That's fine.

8 A. (Casey) And also since we negotiated our
9 first Project Labor Agreement, conditions in
10 construction have changed. So we had to --
11 from the IBEW perspective, we had to deal
12 with wages and benefits, as far as part of
13 how to get people to the Project.

14 Q. Understood. I appreciate that. What I think
15 what I'll do is I'm going to point to a few
16 sections of the PLA and ask you about the
17 changes to those specific sections.

18 On the screen in front of you is Page 2
19 of the current 2017 PLA. And if you look at
20 Page 2, this is a Project Labor Agreement for
21 the Northern Pass Transmission Project, by
22 and between, and there's a blank for
23 contractor, and then on the other side is
24 your two locals, Local 104 and Local 490. Do

1 you see that?

2 A. (Eaton) Yes.

3 A. (Casey) Yes.

4 Q. And as I understand it, you would enter into
5 this contract, for instance, or this
6 agreement, with PAR Electric or any of the
7 other contractors for whom you would do work;
8 is that right?

9 A. (Casey) Correct.

10 A. (Eaton) Correct.

11 Q. Okay. And if you look at the next
12 highlighted sentence, it refers to Eversource
13 Energy Service Company, as agent for Northern
14 Pass Transmission, LLC, hereinafter owner.

15 Do you see that?

16 A. (Casey) Yes.

17 A. (Eaton) Yes.

18 Q. Okay. And then if you look at the third
19 highlighted section, it states, quote, "The
20 Parties understand that the Owner, at its
21 sole option, may terminate, delay and/or
22 suspend any or all portions of the Project at
23 any time," close quote. Do you see that?

24 A. (Eaton) Yes.

1 Q. And that's Northern Pass's ability to
2 suspend, delay or terminate the Northern Pass
3 Project; correct?

4 A. (Eaton) Correct.

5 Q. On the screen in front of you now is Page 3
6 of the 2017 Project Labor Agreement. And
7 this lists the prioritization of labor
8 sources. Do you see that in the highlighted
9 section?

10 A. (Casey) Yes.

11 A. (Eaton) Yes.

12 Q. So I'm going to ask you a few questions about
13 the priority of labor.

14 If you look under Priority No. 1, it
15 provides that all work specifically bid under
16 the agreement will use New Hampshire-based
17 union workers, and after the supply of those
18 workers are exhausted, use
19 Massachusetts-based union workers as the
20 primary source for the non-excluded workers.

21 Do you see that?

22 A. (Casey) Yes.

23 A. (Eaton) Yes.

24 Q. So the priority under this agreement is to

1 first use New Hampshire-based union workers
2 and then use Massachusetts-based union
3 workers; correct?

4 A. (Casey) Yes.

5 A. (Eaton) Correct.

6 Q. If you look under Priority No. 2, it provides
7 that after the qualified New Hampshire and
8 Massachusetts union-based workers are
9 exhausted, the next priority is non-union New
10 Hampshire companies or non-union companies
11 outside of New Hampshire, using predominantly
12 New Hampshire labor. Do you see that?

13 A. (Casey) Yes.

14 Q. So in the pecking order, the number three
15 priority after New Hampshire-based union
16 workers and Massachusetts-based union workers
17 is non-union New Hampshire companies either
18 located in New Hampshire or located outside
19 New Hampshire, using predominantly New
20 Hampshire labor. Do you agree?

21 A. (Casey) Yes.

22 A. (Eaton) Yes.

23 Q. Now, that is a change from the first Project
24 Labor Agreement; is it not?

1 A. (Casey) Yes.

2 A. (Eaton) Yes.

3 Q. And we can bring it up. But correct me if
4 I'm -- let me know if I'm correct. Under the
5 first Project Labor Agreement, the order was,
6 first, New Hampshire union workers; correct?

7 A. (Casey) Correct.

8 A. (Eaton) Yes.

9 Q. And then the second priority was New
10 Hampshire non-union workers; correct?

11 A. (Casey) Correct.

12 Q. And then the third priority was out-of-state
13 union workers from neighboring states, and
14 those neighboring states were Maine, Vermont,
15 and Massachusetts; correct?

16 A. (Casey) Correct.

17 Q. So, under the current Project Labor
18 Agreement, the Massachusetts union workers
19 have, if you will, jumped priority over the
20 New Hampshire non-union workers, and the
21 union workers from neighboring states.
22 Massachusetts union workers have jumped into
23 second position.

24 A. (Casey) That's correct.

1 Q. Okay. And is it your understanding that,
2 from the Eversource side, Eversource was
3 interested in making that change as part of
4 its bid into the Massachusetts RFP?

5 A. (Casey) That's correct.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. (Casey) We were also interested in making
8 that change.

9 Q. Sure, because it jumped your union members
10 ahead of the non-union members; correct?

11 A. (Casey) Right. That's the way our referral
12 system works on a regular basis.

13 A. (Eaton) I mean, again, we have two different
14 entities here. We have the people that do
15 the inside electrical and the people that do
16 the outside. So, in 104's case, again, the
17 largest non-union contractor in New Hampshire
18 that could provide this service is now bought
19 by the contractor that has the bid for this
20 project. So that's the reason why we went to
21 Massachusetts again saying they had 700
22 members of 104 that live in Massachusetts,
23 you know. And when we talk about who's going
24 to go to the Project, it's just not somebody

1 that isn't qualified or has never been on a
2 right-of-way or never climbed a pole. So I
3 want to make that clear that that's the
4 reason why we said we would reach to
5 Massachusetts first, because they had the
6 most numbers. But again, with the purchase
7 of the largest non-union company, that has
8 gained us anywhere from 100 to 150 people
9 that will fall into Priority 1.

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. (Casey) It's our responsibility to make sure
12 they have qualified people, and we know that
13 our training gives these people
14 qualifications.

15 Q. Yeah. And I assume it's your responsibility
16 to try to get your union members, whether
17 they live in New Hampshire or outside New
18 Hampshire, priority in terms of jobs.

19 A. (Eaton) Yes.

20 A. (Casey) Correct.

21 Q. Yeah. Okay.

22 A. (Eaton) Again, I would add to that, too. I
23 mean, I look at Local 104, our members, we
24 have a stake in every state that we own

1 property, operate out of. And again, the
2 members of Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont,
3 Rhode Island, they own property in
4 Barrington, New Hampshire. We have a
5 facility there. It's the members' building.
6 So they do have a stake, as far as we operate
7 and own a facility in New Hampshire because
8 of them.

9 Q. And I'd be correct in saying that the more
10 union members you can get to work on the
11 Northern Pass Project, the more revenue it'll
12 generate for your local union; correct?

13 A. (Eaton) Correct.

14 Q. And the more you'll get in not only wages for
15 the employees, but things for your pension
16 plan and for your training program and for
17 your insurances and other items.

18 A. (Casey) Which is for the employees.

19 A. (Eaton) Yes.

20 Q. Yeah, ultimately to their benefit; correct?

21 A. (Casey) Correct.

22 A. (Eaton) Yeah.

23 Q. Yeah. Understood.

24 So what's on the screen in front of you

1 gentleman is Page 22 of the July 21, 2017
2 Project Labor Agreement. And this contains a
3 definition, and it provides, quote, "New
4 Hampshire-based union workers as used herein
5 shall mean: 1) union member whose primary
6 residence is in New Hampshire; 2) union
7 member whose primary residence is outside of
8 New Hampshire, but who is a member of a New
9 Hampshire union," close quote. Do you see
10 that?

11 A. (Eaton) Yes.

12 Q. So under this Project Labor Agreement, for
13 that first category of workers, the first
14 priority of workers, that can be either a
15 union member who lives in New Hampshire or a
16 Local 104 or Local 490 union member who lives
17 outside New Hampshire; correct?

18 A. (Eaton) Correct.

19 A. (Casey) Correct. If I can give an example?

20 Q. Sure.

21 A. (Casey) So, for the inside, the Boston local
22 is covered by Local Union 103, which is
23 exactly what Local 490 does for the state of
24 New Hampshire. Local 103 has more members

1 that reside in New Hampshire than they do in
2 Massachusetts -- I'm sorry. They have more
3 members that reside in New Hampshire than
4 Local 490 has members. There's over 500
5 103 members that reside in the state of New
6 Hampshire.

7 Q. Okay. And are they also members of
8 Local 490?

9 A. (Casey) No.

10 Q. No. Or I take that back. I should say 104
11 because they're outside; right?

12 A. (Casey) Yeah, this is inside.

13 Q. Inside folks?

14 A. (Casey) Right. 103 has over 6,000 members;
15 500 of them reside in the state of New
16 Hampshire.

17 Q. And Local 103, are they inside workers?

18 A. (Casey) Yes.

19 Q. And for those --

20 A. (Casey) We would hope to utilize them as part
21 of the Northern Pass group.

22 Q. Got it. And for those folks that live in New
23 Hampshire, but they choose to be members of
24 103 rather than 490 --

1 A. (Casey) Correct, they commute to the city.

2 Q. Or wherever their work takes them.

3 A. (Casey) Well, that's their jurisdiction,
4 Boston.

5 Q. So they only work in the Boston area if
6 they're --

7 A. (Casey) If they're working in their home
8 jurisdiction.

9 Q. Okay. And presumably they also work outside
10 their home jurisdiction.

11 A. (Casey) Correct.

12 Q. And that's the same for, I assume, Local 490
13 as well?

14 A. (Casey) Right now, Local 490 has numerous
15 members working down in the city of Boston.

16 Q. Okay. Fair enough. Thank you, gentlemen. I
17 have no other questions.

18 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Do the
19 municipal groups have questions? They do
20 according to my list.

21 MS. PACIK: I just have a few
22 questions, thank you.

23 Could we get the ELMO,
24 please -- sorry, the Apple TV.

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION

2 BY MS. PACIK:

3 Q. Good afternoon I think it is at this point.
4 My name's Danielle Pacik. I'm the attorney
5 for the City of Concord, and I'm also the
6 spokesperson for Municipal Group 3 South. I
7 just have a couple questions.

8 What we're looking at right now is the
9 Project Labor Agreement that was marked by
10 Counsel for the Public as Exhibit 488. And I
11 just want to turn to Page 3. And this is the
12 new PLA that was entered into in July.

13 Under Priority A -- well, it's letter A,
14 Priority 1, there's a sentence in this which
15 says, and we're going to highlight it for you
16 if we can, or at least we have the cursor
17 near it -- well, I'll read it.

18 "It is understood that the supply of New
19 Hampshire-based union workers is limited and
20 that Massachusetts-based union workers will
21 be necessary for the work." Do you see that?

22 A. (Eaton) Yes.

23 Q. And do you agree with that sentence?

24 A. (Eaton) Yes.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. (Casey) Yes.

3 Q. In terms of the amount of New Hampshire-based
4 workers -- and we've already established with
5 Counsel for the Public that New
6 Hampshire-based workers are those individuals
7 who are members of a New Hampshire union but
8 may also live in Massachusetts; is that
9 correct?

10 A. (Casey) Correct.

11 Q. Okay. So, in terms of the supply of New
12 Hampshire-based workers, I understand that
13 you went over some math with Attorney Pappas
14 as to how many people living in New Hampshire
15 would be working on this project from your
16 two unions; is that correct?

17 A. (Eaton) Correct.

18 Q. So I understood from Mr. Casey that in Local
19 490 there's 290 members living in New
20 Hampshire; is that correct?

21 A. (Casey) That's an estimate, okay.

22 Q. Okay. And then from Mr. Eaton, I understood
23 for Local 104 there were an estimate of about
24 500 members living in New Hampshire?

[WITNESS PANEL: EATON AND CASEY]

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1 A. (Eaton) Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And so out of those approximate 790, I
3 understood that 50 percent of Local 490, or
4 about 145, might potentially be working on
5 this project. Is that correct?

6 A. (Casey) That's what I -- yeah.

7 Q. I understood that was an estimate. And then
8 out of the 500 in Local 104, I think the
9 estimate was about 75 percent; is that right?

10 A. (Eaton) 75 to 85 percent, yes.

11 Q. So, around 400, potentially?

12 A. (Eaton) Yes.

13 Q. So that to me is 400 plus 145 is 545,
14 roughly; correct?

15 A. (Eaton) Those are the -- now, those are
16 skilled workers. We're not having any of the
17 numbers again for the new people that would
18 come in to our apprenticeship, which we have
19 a list right now of about 500 to 600 that are
20 waiting to get called, entry-level positions.

21 Q. I understand. I'm talking about current
22 members, not apprentices.

23 A. (Eaton) Yes.

24 Q. Okay. So I just wanted a little

1 clarification. Because if we turn to what's
2 been marked as Joint Muni 294, and you went
3 over this with Attorney Pappas, but this is
4 the response to the RFP submitted by Northern
5 Pass and Hydro-Quebec. And in the response
6 there's information about how many
7 individuals living in New Hampshire would be
8 working on this project. And if we turn to
9 the last page, and this is just an excerpt
10 because the actual response would be several
11 hundred pages, but for Joint Muni 294, the
12 very last page -- there we go -- some of it's
13 redacted, so we don't know what it says. But
14 the last sentence of this page says, "Based
15 on the current full IBEW membership of those
16 locals, New Hampshire has approximately 250
17 union members, with another approximate 600
18 in Massachusetts."

19 Could you just explain the discrepancy
20 in Joint Muni 294, where Eversource is
21 representing there's about 250 potential
22 union members living in New Hampshire versus
23 the number that you just provided to the
24 Subcommittee?

1 MR. RAFF: Objection. They
2 stated these were estimates. And that was not
3 part of their prepared testimony. They did not
4 submit this, nor did they work on this enough
5 to have exact answers to those questions.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Pacik.

7 MS. PACIK: I think it's an
8 appropriate question. I'm asking if they can
9 explain the discrepancy.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Overruled.
11 You can answer.

12 A. (Eaton) Again, I would say that I had nothing
13 to do with submitting this proposal to the
14 Massachusetts Clean Energy RFP or whatever it
15 may be. So it may be there's 250 members in
16 New Hampshire that are currently not working.
17 I have no idea.

18 A. (Casey) So where these numbers came from is
19 beyond me. I mean, no one asked us our
20 estimates for the proposal to Massachusetts.
21 Why would they? And where these numbers came
22 from, I have no idea.

23 Q. Okay. But you understand this is the
24 estimate that Northern Pass and Hydro-Quebec

1 provided to Massachusetts, was that there
2 would be about 250 New Hampshire union
3 workers?

4 A. (Casey) This is the first I've seen it. So
5 if you're telling me it is, then yes.

6 Q. Okay. All right. Thank you. I have nothing
7 further.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: The next
9 person I have on my list is Mr. Reimers. But
10 wait. It seems like it's going to make sense
11 to break right now for lunch 'cause you're not
12 the last one, Mr. Reimers. There's a couple of
13 others. All right. So what we're going to do
14 is break for lunch, and we'll be back at 1:30.

15
16 (Lunch recess taken at 12:28 p.m, and
17 concludes the Day 39 Morning Session.
18 Hearing continues under separate cover
19 in the transcript noted as Day 39
20 Afternoon Session.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed
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