## In Re:

SEC 2021-02 - ANTRIM WIND ENERGY FACILITY SUBCOMMITTEE INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS

Public Hearing<br>June 17, 2021

SUSAN J. ROBIDAS, N.H. LCR
30 James Pollock Drive
Manchester, New Hampshire 03102
(603) 540-2083
shortrptr@comcast.net

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| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 18 19 20 21 | State of new hampshire <br> SIte evaluation subcommittee <br> June 17, 2021 - 1:00 p.m. <br> N.H. Department of Transportation <br> 7 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH - Room 114 <br> IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2021-02 ANTRIM WIND ENERGY FACILITY Subcommittee Investigation of Complaints <br> (Public Hearing) <br> PRESIDING OFFICER: Jonathan Evans, NH DOT <br> SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS: John Duclos, NH DES Thomas Eaton, Public Member <br> ALSO PRESENT: John-Mark Turner, Esq. (Sheehan...) Subcommittee-retained counsel Michael Haley, Esq. (NH DOJ) SEC counsel <br> COURT REPORTER: Susan J. Robidas, LCR No. 44 | PROCEEDINGS <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All <br> right. The time is $1: 00$, so I'd like to get <br> the meeting started. <br> All right. Before we begin, just a <br> few housekeeping items. First we'll do a <br> roll call. My name is Jon Evans. I'm the <br> presiding officer for the SEC Subcommittee in <br> Docket 2021-02. <br> Start this way. <br> MR. DUCLOS: My name's John Duclos. <br> I serve on the Subcommittee as a <br> representative of the Department of <br> Environmental Services. <br> MR. EATON: Tom Eaton, I serve as a <br> public member to the SEC. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: To my <br> left. <br> MR. TURNER: John-Mark Turner, <br> counsel for the Subcommittee. <br> MR. HALEY: Michael Haley, <br> attorney, DOJ. I'm an advisor to the <br> Subcommittee. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 17 18 19 20 21 | MOTION: Approval of 4/20/21 | 1 right. Before we begin, also just take note 2 of the emergency exits. There's one there, 3 one there and one there. Restrooms are out 4 that door to either side, on the left or right. <br> This meeting is being recorded both <br> electronically and by a court reporter. <br> Please speak clearly into the microphone so <br> that everyone can hear you. Before speaking, <br> please state your name and, if you wish, <br> provide any other information you believe to <br> be relevant, such as your address or <br> organizational affiliations. If you have a <br> written version of your comments, please <br> provide them to the court reporter prior to <br> leaving to assist in the preparation of the meeting transcript. <br> All right. The next item is I do <br> want to -- we had draft meeting minutes from <br> both the April 20th and May 21st public <br> meetings. We did -- we weren't able to <br> 22 finalize the meetings [sic] from the <br> 23 April 20th meeting. So with that, I'd like <br> 24 to finalize the minutes. |


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| I know that, Tom, you weren't at <br> the meeting. But John, I didn't know if you <br> had any concerns with finalizing the minutes <br> as they were written. <br> MR. DUCLOS: No, I don't have any <br> issues with those minutes. <br> [Court Reporter interrupts.] <br> MR. DUCLOS: Is this on? Yeah, I <br> have no issues with those minutes, Jon. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Okay. <br> Perfect. Tom. <br> MR. EATON: I'm going to abstain <br> because I was not a member of the Committee <br> at that point. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Okay. <br> Perfect. All right. <br> With that, I'd like to move that <br> the minutes from both of those meetings, <br> April 20th, 2021 and May 21st, 2021, the <br> meeting minutes be adopted. <br> MR. DUCLOS: Second it. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All <br> right. We don't need to do roll call, do we? <br> All right. <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | 1 efficient and orderly meeting. <br> Written comments to the <br> Subcommittee's first charge will be accepted <br> for a period of two weeks and must be <br> submitted via the docket distribution list no <br> later than 5 p.m. on July 1st, 2021 for consideration. <br> The Subcommittee did receive a <br> request from Attorney Thomas Getz to register <br> two speakers on behalf of Antrim Wind, as <br> well as we also do need to figure out the <br> order for which we're going to allow the <br> speakers to speak. My recommendation would <br> be to do the order of the speakers <br> alphabetically, just to keep it fair. <br> And then as far as the request from <br> Attorney Thomas Getz to allow two speakers <br> for Antrim Wind, on behalf of Antrim Wind, my <br> feeling is that they're members of the public <br> and we should allow both of those speakers. <br> But I'd like to hear if there's any concerns <br> with that approach for both of those items. <br> MR. DUCLOS: John Duclos. I don't <br> have a problem with having as many speakers <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |
| Jon Evans, I vote yes. <br> MR. DUCLOS: John Duclos, I vote <br> yes. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: And Tom. <br> MR. EATON: Tom Eaton, I'll <br> abstain. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All <br> right. With that, the motion is adopted. <br> All right. A few rules of the <br> meeting as we move forward. Each individual <br> who registered to provide public comment in <br> advance of the meeting will be allowed five <br> minutes to speak, followed by an opportunity <br> for the Subcommittee to ask questions of the <br> speaker. The question-and-answer period will <br> not count towards the speaker's five-minute <br> comment period. Public comments shall be <br> limited to discussion -- discussing the <br> Subcommittee's first charge, namely, the <br> appropriate methodologies for measurement and <br> analysis of sound and procedures for <br> validating noise complaints. As the <br> presiding officer, I will enforce the time <br> 24 and discussion limits to ensure a fair, | that want to speak as possible for a full <br> accounting of the issues that we have of <br> concern. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: With <br> that, so I think -- do we need a roll call <br> or -- <br> MR. TURNER: No. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All <br> right. With that, I think we will allow both <br> of the speakers. And I do think what I would <br> like to do then is we'll do them <br> alphabetically. So it does look like we have <br> one question, but -- <br> MS. LINOWES: I do, Mr. Chairman. <br> I apologize. My name is Lisa Linowes. If <br> they're representing a single company, are <br> they going to get ten minutes or five minutes <br> total? <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Each <br> speaker will get five minutes. <br> MS. LINOWES: So that Antrim Wind <br> will get ten minutes to present. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Again, <br> we're looking at that as two members of the |


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| public. There could be multiple members. <br> Anybody could have brought multiple members <br> to the -- and they could have had two <br> separate speakers to get additional time. <br> But that's what we're going to do here today, <br> so we'd like to keep it at that. <br> All right. So alphabetically, the <br> first registered speaker is Richard Block. <br> MR. BLOCK: Can I wait a couple and <br> go a couple -- I'm not quite prepared yet. <br> So if you let one or two people go ahead of me, I'd appreciate that. <br> MR. WARD: Can I suggest that the <br> two people Attorney Getz is bringing in be <br> first, since we have never met any of them, <br> whereas we all pretty much, the rest of us, <br> know what's going on. And if they're <br> going to come in, we don't know much about <br> them, it would be well to let them speak <br> first. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: I would <br> prefer not to. Again, I'm trying to keep it <br> 23 as equitable as possible. So I'm going to go <br> 24 alphabetically. I understand Mr. Block has <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | 1 How's that? I'll do my best. <br> 2 Well, thank you, everybody, for the <br> 3 opportunity to speak here today. My name is <br> 4 Lori Lerner, and I'm a resident at <br> 5 Bridgewater -- in Bridgewater, New Hampshire. <br> 6 And for those of you who I may not have met <br> 7 before, I have been very much involved in <br> 8 this topic since 2012. I was working very <br> 9 closely with the Legislature when we passed <br> 10 Senate Bill 99, Senate Bill 245, and Senate Bill 281. <br> For those of you -- that happened <br> around the 2013 time frame and on. For those <br> of you who may not be familiar with this, <br> it's been a long-going process, where we <br> started with a recognition, recognizing that <br> the Site Evaluation Committee did not have <br> very thorough rules and regulations to <br> provide the public the opportunity to <br> understand what these projects were being <br> judged based on, as well as what the <br> 22 compliance standards were to be once they <br> 23 were implemented or into an operational <br> 24 status. <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |
| a -- is working on just getting himself <br> ready, so we'll move to the next one. And <br> then I think after that next speaker, then I <br> would ask to be Mr. Block. <br> Would that be all right with you? <br> MR. BLOCK: I'm somewhat hard of <br> hearing, so I'm not catching everything in <br> the room. I'll do the best I can. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: So it <br> would be -- the next one would be Lori <br> Lerner. And then after Lori, yourself. <br> MR. BLOCK: That will work, yes. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All <br> right. I think I'd like to just get started <br> with the actual testimony. So with that, <br> Lori Lerner. <br> (Ms. Lerner distributing handout to <br> Subcommittee members.) <br> MS. LERNER: Good afternoon. Can <br> you hear me okay? <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Bring <br> that a little bit closer to you. <br> (Pause in proceedings) <br> MS. LERNER: Can you hear me now? <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | 1 I worked very closely through <br> 2 getting the passing of the legislation. That <br> 3 went on to a whole stakeholder group related <br> 4 to SB 99, which incorporated SB 281. SB 281 <br> was specific to industrial wind. <br> We had a stakeholder group process <br> that included meetings across the entire state to get feedback from folks. From there we went into a rulemaking process, where that group was narrowed down into a number of different subject topic areas, and one was very specific to noise emissions related to industrial wind turbines, as well as other energy facilities. I participated in that group. That group was being led by Lisa Linowes. And it incorporated a number of other members of the public, as well as four noise experts. The result of that is the rules that we have before us right now. <br> So we all met, we all agreed, and <br> we brought forward through the rulemaking <br> process, that went through JLCAR, to where we are today, very specific rules. <br> The purpose of the rules in general |

were to increase public participation,
provide transparency, to provide certainty to
folks what could be expected when these
4 facilities were being built. It was
5 industrial wind. It was transmission. It
6 went across the board. However, because of
7 SB 281, we had very specific additional
8 requirements which must be met for industrial
9 wind purposes. A big part of that was more
10 protective siting, as well as compliance
11 regulations. This is where we come in today.
12 Antrim Wind was the first
13 industrial wind facility to go into operation
14 following the adoption of these rules.
15 Antrim Wind went into operation on December
16 24th of 2019, and by December 28th there were
17 complaints about the noise being created by
18 this.
19 I do want to say, and some of you
20 may have learned, there's a robust record of
21 evidence regarding all of what will be
22 discussed today. However, unfortunately,
23 it's all over the place. So, for those of
24 you that may not be aware, it's somewhat of a
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challenge to find information, as I've been
seeing. Some information is being put within
the new docket, some within the old docket.
Other information is just put in a general
SEC area. So good luck trying to really
understand and get your arms around the full
record of this. But what I'm going to
discuss today is within the record, and it can be found in various places.

So going back to the rules and the noise. So the plane language of the SEC rule
regarding noise is very straightforward. It
says, "it shall not exceed." "Shall not
exceed." The only time within the -- so
today what we're here -- this conversation
has been going on basically since the first
complaint. Since some initial review was
done, there was a suggested protocol put
together. Somehow, this noise threshold of
"shall not exceed" has devolved into a
21 one-hour averaging, which, in the plane
22 language of the rule -- I provided that in
23 the first attachment that I gave to you --
24 you can read for yourself there's nothing
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that says there's any one-hour averaging at all. The standard is very clear. The
standard states, with respect to the sound
standard, the A-weighted equivalent --
[Court Reporter interrupts.]
MS. LERNER: Sound levels produced by the Applicant's energy facility shall not exceed the greater of 45 dBA or 5 dBA above background levels measured at the L90 sound level between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., which would be the daytime hours, and the greater of 40 [sic] dBA and 5 dBA --

PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Okay. Unfortunately, you've hit your five minutes, so...

MS. LERNER: That's fine. Okay.
PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Finish your one thought there --

MS. LERNER: Sure. So if I could take you very quickly to the attachment, the TransAlta attachment, I have put my own comment in. Hopefully the comments speak for themselves. But they're identifying that the rules are not properly defined. Those rules
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went through a very extensive process and also incorporate some of the prior
precedence. To now say that they are not
properly defined is incorrect, and it feels
they're using it to their advantage. Their
one-hour -- the reference to "at least one
nighttime hour," suggesting that that means
they should average over an hour, I have no
idea. What that rule is saying is during the
night, at one point -- at some one-hour time
frame you're to do a noise test. It does not
say anything about averaging.
PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Okay.
MS. LERNER: I apologize. That time went by very fast.

PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: It's a tight time. But like I said, we're trying to keep things moving.

So I guess now the Subcommittee can ask some questions, if we have any questions.
I know that I kind of do want to know one
question, anyway. The rules do say
"A-weighted equivalent sound." Do you have
any idea what the word "equivalent" means?
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| MS. LERNER: So A-weighted <br> equivalent -- so there's the A-weighting and <br> a C-weighting, which is identified within the <br> rules. The A-weighting is the ambient, the <br> normal type of noise. And the equivalent, I <br> can't speak to that particular word. But the <br> only equivalent identified in there is the <br> interval for the $1 / 8$ th of a second, which is <br> the .125 -second interval. So if there's any <br> equivalent in terms of an interval being <br> suggested there, then it would be the $1 / 8$ th <br> of a second. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: So if you <br> do it at $1 / 8$ th of a second, which is the <br> period that also the meter is measuring, <br> taking measurements, how would you -- how <br> would you take out certain -- say there's a <br> -- somebody slams a door or something like <br> that. Do you just disregard that? How -- <br> what's the process for that? <br> MS. LERNER: If it's an attended <br> monitoring, those noises should be removed <br> from that. <br> 24 <br> In response to that, as I see, and <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | 1 you're measuring $1 / 8$ th of a second, and that <br> 2 is your measurement, and L90 is essentially <br> 3 requiring you to take it over a period of 4 time, and the L90 will essentially remove -or the LEQ, I should say -- LEQ or other measurements, if it is an average? You can't do that; correct? <br> MS. LERNER: If you're attending to that and you hear that there's that, you can note that that had occurred during that time. If you're measuring this noise, and there's outside noise to filter out, then it should be the full -- use that $1 / 8$ th measurement over the course of whatever period of time. But there's nothing that says to average. So if the sound should go from 40 dBA to 100 dBA , or to 60 dBA , there's -- you're going to have peaks and valleys. So the difference between industrial wind and most other sources is that you're going to have peaks and valleys. You've got that "whoop, whoop, whoop." So depending on when you take that is whether you're going to get that actual <br> 24 sound or not. If you average that, you're |
| 1 as was the expectation with the rules, there <br> 2 was never a discussion about any one-hour <br> 3 averaging during any of our legislative <br> 4 process or rulemaking process. As we all <br> 5 understood this rule to be, it would be as <br> 6 though you're a driver in a car going down <br> 7 Route 93 and you're told that there's a <br> 70-mile-an-hour speed limit. You get pulled <br> over for going 100 miles per hour. The <br> officer says, "Excuse me, you've exceeded the speed." <br> Do you think it's reasonable to <br> say, "But if you looked at my speed over the <br> last hour, you will find that I average below <br> 70?" No. This is a "shall not exceed." <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Would you <br> disagree that the rules say that you need to measure the L90? <br> MS. LERNER: I do not disagree that it says the L90. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: L90 <br> 22 requires you to remove certain, again, <br> 23 transient noise without -- if you're doing it <br> 24 at $1 / 8$ th of a second, how do you do that if <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | 1 averaging the sounds in between the "whoops," <br> 2 between the actual sound of the wind turbine. <br> 3 You're never going to have a compliance <br> 4 issue, but you're going to have a lot of <br> 5 complaints because people are hearing the <br> 6 "whoop" part of it. They're not hearing the <br> 7 silent part. So if you've got somebody <br> that's attending this noise study, and <br> there's nothing interfering with it, then I <br> don't see why you would need to even be <br> concerned with that. <br> Any other question? Thank you. <br> MR. DUCLOS: You said you were <br> involved in the rulemaking process of this? <br> MS. LERNER: Yes. <br> MR. DUCLOS: Okay. Why didn't they <br> use an Lmax standard? <br> MS. LERNER: An Lmax? So an Lmax <br> is similar to what was used in all of the <br> others. The decision was made to go with <br> 21 something that was more specific, which is <br> 22 why we're using the $1 / 8$ th-of-a-second <br> 23 standard within there. That's why the 1/8th <br> 24 of a second, it has its own place in the <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |


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| rule, because that was to be the highlight of <br> this, to give people the knowledge that <br> they're being protected by $1 / 8$ th-of-a-second <br> sound study versus Lmax. <br> MR. DUCLOS: Isn't there usually a <br> time standard that's built in, like an Lmax <br> one second or Lmax .8 seconds? <br> MS. LERNER: So this should be <br> interpreted as the Lmax $1 / 8$ th second. If you <br> put the time interval which is identified in <br> the rules along with the Lmax, this is what <br> you would get. <br> MR. DUCLOS: Do you see that in the <br> rules someplace as actually stating that? <br> MS. LERNER: I do not see that <br> stated. I see -- what I see stated is the <br> interval for capturing the sound. And the <br> interval to capture the sound is that $1 / 8$ th <br> of a second. And from there, the sound shall <br> not exceed at any $1 / 8$ th of a second the 40 <br> dBA during the nighttime hours and the 40 dBA <br> [sic] during the daytime. <br> MR. DUCLOS: It says shall not <br> exceed the greater of 45 dBA or 5 dBA above <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | out $1 / 8$ th of a second. And so no sound at <br> 1/8th-of-a-second interval should be <br> exceeding the 40 dBA or the 45 dBA . Do you <br> see that on the second page, bracketed in six? So that would be Site 301.18(e)(6). <br> And to that point, as Antrim is arguing, I don't see anywhere where it calls for one-hour averaging. There's nowhere in this rule that specifies one-hour averaging. The only interval identified was .125 seconds. <br> Again, when we look at the intent <br> of all of the work that's gone for the past <br> nine years, we'll call it eight, nine years, <br> it was all to provide more protective <br> measures to these people that live in rural <br> areas that are now going to have this massive <br> energy facility in their back yard. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All <br> right. Tom, did you have any questions or are you all set? You're good? Okay. <br> I think I'd like to move on to the <br> next speaker now. <br> MS. LERNER: Thank you very much <br> for this opportunity. <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |
| background -- <br> [Court Reporter interrupts.] <br> MR. DUCLOS: Or 5 dBA above <br> background noise measured at the L90 sound <br> level between the hours of $8 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. and 8 p.m. <br> instead. I don't see a time requirement <br> there at all. It doesn't say anything about, <br> you know, .125 seconds or anything about a <br> time standard. So I'm confused how that <br> could -- <br> MS. LERNER: So if you -- <br> [Court Reporter interrupts.] <br> MR. DUCLOS: -- how you believe <br> that the standard is set at $1 / 8$ th of a <br> second. <br> MS. LERNER: Okay. If you should <br> look to the second page, it would be (e)(6) <br> -- let's see. Second page. "All sound <br> measurements during post-construction <br> monitoring shall be taken at .125 -second <br> intervals, measuring both fast response and <br> LEQ metrics." <br> So we're specifically calling <br> out -- that was the intent there, was to call | PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Thank <br> you. <br> MS. LERNER: I appreciate it. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All <br> right. Mr. Block. <br> MR. BLOCK: Yes. My name is <br> Richard Block. I live on Loveren Mill Road <br> in Antrim, directly across from the wind <br> turbines. For the last how many years it's <br> been, I've served as a spokesperson for many <br> of the people in Antrim who are particularly <br> the non-abutting intervenors. So thank you <br> for this opportunity to speak. I just wanted <br> to make just a few remarks. Where am I <br> starting? Here, okay. <br> I myself am hard of hearing. I <br> have suffered quite a lot of hearing loss. <br> That's due to transient high levels of sound experienced when I was young. It's the one <br> lesson that I wish I could give a lot of young people now. I did -- I worked rock concerts a lot when I was in my teens and <br> 23 twenties. I'm suffering from that now and <br> 24 need to wear hearing aids. It's transient |


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| 1 high-level sound that's dangerous. It can be <br> 2 harmful. I know that personally. And at <br> 3 minimum, it can be very annoying and <br> 4 disruptive. <br> 5 Turbine noise is not steady. If <br> 6 you've ever gone to a wind facility and stood <br> 7 there and listened, you know it's not a <br> 8 steady hum. It's a "whomp, whomp, whoosh, <br> 9 whoosh" sound. There are highs and lows. <br> 10 The turbines in Antrim, I read the blades <br> 11 average 15 revolutions per minute rotation. <br> 12 With three blades, that means that those -- <br> 13 what I've also read is that the "whomping" <br> 14 and "whooshing" sound comes when the blades <br> 15 pass in front of the towers. So with three <br> 16 blades, 15 revolutions per minute, that means <br> 1745 blade passes per minute pass the towers. <br> 18 That simple arithmetic shows that it's about <br> 19 a one and a third seconds apart each one of <br> 20 those intervals. So testing in any form that <br> 21 uses a longer interval than that is going to <br> 22 miss all those transient hums. So it's very <br> 23 important to be able to test in some way that <br> 24 you can hear the variations in there. <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | 1 average on an hour. They're hearing -- if <br> 2 I'm trying to talk and there's a loud noise <br> 3 every now and then, that's the part we <br> 4 respond to. <br> 5 I don't think that it takes any <br> 6 sophisticated equipment or technology for a <br> 7 resident to know that turbine sounds nearby <br> might be excessive or disruptive. Either <br> they are or they're not. If the sound is low enough that it doesn't disrupt life, fine. <br> If the sound is high enough that they -- it <br> wakes them up or they can't hear what they're <br> doing in their own house, then it's <br> disruptive. <br> The residents of Antrim and other <br> areas expect protection from noise, not from numbers, okay. The people of Antrim, the <br> 18 residents of Antrim, were promised by the <br> 19 State of New Hampshire via the issuance of <br> 20 the certificate of operation that the <br> 21 residents would not have to endure disruption <br> 22 to their lives from turbine noise. That's <br> 23 what we took away from the certificate. By <br> 24 you granting the certificate, we assumed that <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |
| An example is a shooting range. My <br> 2 son is a firearms instructor, so I know a lot <br> 3 about this. I've been to the range with him <br> 4 many times. If you were to average sound at <br> 5 a shooting range over an hour or two, it's <br> 6 often -- probably would be very low because there are long periods in between shots. The individual shots, though, are the ones that are dangerous. If you do not have very good hearing protection, it's quite a dangerous <br> situation because those transient highs are really very dangerous. I'm not saying that wind turbine highs are that dangerous, but there's definitely a difference between the highs and lows, and that needs to be measured and seen. <br> The human ear does not hear <br> averages. It responds to those transient <br> highs and hears them, and that's what we <br> react to. People who live near wind turbines <br> and hear these noises and "whomps," it's <br> those high levels that interrupt their sleep <br> 23 or whatever they're doing. That's what <br> 24 they're hearing. They're not hearing an | meant that you were going to be watching out for us. I believe that the SEC has always <br> intended to protect residents from disruption of lives by turbines, whether it's the noise or the lighting or whatever. And I think the SEC specifications, the rules and regulations that were set up, were established with that goal in mind. So what I'm urging is that you don't bypass, waive, or change procedures at this point. It's there. It's fairly <br> thoroughly written out. I'm not a technician <br> in terms of sound, but even I can understand <br> when I look at the rules and procedures, I <br> can understand basically how it seems to go. <br> So more importantly, I think it's <br> important not to allow applicants to <br> challenge or ignore established procedures at this point. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Okay. <br> MR. BLOCK: I think what we've got <br> makes sense. Please stick by it. Look out <br> for the people who are living by the <br> turbines. <br> 24 <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Okay. |


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| ```Thank you, Mr. Block. MR. BLOCK: Any questions? PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: I don't think I have any questions. Do you? MR. BLOCK: Thank you for this opportunity. PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Okay. We don't have any questions. MR. BLOCK: Thank you again. PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Thank you. All right. Next, Lisa Linows [sic]. I hope I pronounced that right. MS. LINOWES: It's Linowes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some handouts that I'll be referring to. (Ms. Linowes distributing handouts to Subcommittee members.) PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All right. Could you, just for the record, just state your name, please. MS. LINOWES: Yes. My name is Lisa Linowes. I'm a resident of the state of New``` \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | questions that you asked Lori Lerner because <br> I'd like to clarify what was going on. <br> Second point I want to make: When <br> the rulemaking went through the process, <br> 301.18 was largely the wording that came out of the stakeholder process. It does not change the concept of Lmax significantly. It goes to an LEQ standard with a $1 / 8$ th-second interval. That's what it does. And I'll explain how that is when you ask me questions. <br> And finally, I'm going to show you <br> the practical effect of when you go to a <br> one-hour averaging, LEQ one hour, versus an <br> LEQ $1 / 8$ th second or an LEQ one second, or one <br> minute. It's significant when you stop to <br> think that the purpose of the SEC rule is to <br> protect public health and safety. We do not <br> want wind turbines elevated -- erected in the <br> state of New Hampshire where it's going to <br> negatively affect or have an unreasonable adverse effect on health and safety. That is the point of the rule. And if I could just <br> 24 comment that, if you look at the first slide, <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |
| Hampshire. I am executive director for the Wind Action Group -- <br> [Court Reporter interrupts.] <br> MS. LINOWES: I have been around <br> this issue for 14,15 years, particularly <br> with regard to noise, nationally, and I've <br> been an intervenor in the SEC on all of the wind proceedings. <br> I am not going to read my testimony <br> because I'm going to jump right to the facts. <br> There are three points that I want to make <br> today. One, the SEC has always had a <br> standard. The idea that the SEC -- <br> [Court Reporter interrupts.] <br> MS. LINOWES: The idea that the <br> State of New Hampshire does not have a New <br> Hampshire sound standard for turbines is <br> inaccurate. And that seems to be the <br> perception out there. We have had an Lmax <br> standard up through till 2015 when the <br> turbine rules were adopted. I was involved <br> with the stakeholder process. I can tell you <br> why every word is in that standard. And I <br> would hope that you would ask me the <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | there you can see the four projects that <br> had -- the three projects, rather -- <br> Lempster, Groton, Granite Reliable and Antrim <br> Wind. Those all had sound standards. Antrim <br> Wind I. These all predated -- <br> [Court Reporter interrupts.] <br> MS. LINOWES: 2012-01. They all <br> had an Lmax standard that was consistent with the state. <br> When you went to the SEC <br> deliberation -- if you looked at Antrim I, <br> 2012-01, the Committee spent a considerable <br> amount of time deliberating over whether or <br> not it should trash the Lmax standard to go <br> to an LEQ standard, a long-term average. It <br> opted not to. Why? Two reasons. One, it <br> was concerned about its ability to enforce a <br> long-term average; two, it was concerned that <br> there would be enough quiet times, given the <br> variability of turbine noise, that it would <br> offset the loud times when people were <br> suffering through the loud times. And they <br> didn't want that to happen. So they said it <br> was safer to stick with an Lmax standard. <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |

That's why that was done.
2 I want you to turn now to Slide 3.
This is the direct effect of an LEQ standard.
This is changing when you expand the size of
the compliance interval. You each have this
slide here. This is from Falmouth,
Massachusetts, a 1.65-megawatt turbine. And
these were -- this was an on/off test that
happened. Turbines on were measured,
turbines turned off --
[Court Reporter interrupts.]
MS. LINOWES: Turbines on and then
off. And you can see in that first image,
that is a $1 / 10$ th-second LEQ. That is
effectively what New Hampshire has. Ours now
reads a $1 / 8$ th second because it was written
in 2014. If it were written in 2000 --
today, it would have done $1 / 10$ th because
that's what the meters were -- are today.
In any event, you can see that the
turbine noise is going up above 45. See
that? Then you go to an LEQ one second.
It's about the same, but it's flattened. You
don't see anything going over 45 . You go to
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ten seconds, flatter still. You go to one
minute, considerably flatter. You go to one
hour, it's very quiet. You're meeting
compliance with a one-hour LEQ. But people
are experiencing the $1 / 10$ th-second effect.
That is the point of a short interval. If
you don't believe my graphs, I would like you
to look at Epsilon Associates' co-authored
second graph that you're going to see there
if you go to this graph.
Epsilon Associates is the
gentleman, Mr. O'Neal, who's here today.
This is from Alma Township in Michigan. I
want you to see what happened was Alma
Township in Michigan has a -- had an Lmax
standard as part of the local ordinance. The
company came in and said, oh, Lmax standard,
we can't work with that. That doesn't work,
right. So they --
[Court Reporter interrupts.]
MS. LINOWES: They said we want to go to LEQ. That really means LEQ one hour.
23 So what you would look at, if you see the
24 turbines, they're situated in the T and then
\{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\}
a number associated with it --
PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: You got your five minutes.
4 MS. LINOWES: Oh, my God. Come on.
5 There's so -- can I just finish --
PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: You can
finish your one thought, yes.
MS. LINOWES: The slide shows that
when you go to an LEQ one hour, you see the
contour is very close to the turbine. When
you go out to the $1 / 8$ th second or Lmax
standard, it goes significantly further.
That's the green line. And it's encompassing homes. As a result, you have a project that is not going to meet compliance. It's denied. It's not going to meet the standard. It was denied. They went to court. Lmax standard -- they actually took the town to court over that Lmax standard.

Last thing I want to show you is -five minutes is impossible to discuss this point. I do want to show you the last two slides, Antrim Wind. These are LEQ $1 / 8$ th second and $1 / 10$ th second, actual sound levels
\{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\}
taken at Antrim Wind --
[Court Reporter interrupts.]
MS. LINOWES: -- taken at Antrim
Wind at Location 4.
PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All
right. Thank you.
MS. LINOWES: Can I just say that
if you did an LEQ one hour on this, the
project would be in compliance.
PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: I do have
one question. How do you get -- I mean,
ultimately you need to figure out if the
facility is above a certain level. And if
they hit that level, you need to have a
single unit. And I get what you're saying
about the Lmax. But the unit that we have
here is that, one of them that's listed
anyway, is the L90. And how do you get that L90 --

MS. LINOWES: No, you're
misunderstanding what L90 means in this
context. L90 in the rule, under
post-construction sound monitoring, we asked the developer to provide an L90 because we
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| want to know what the background noise is for <br> the area generally. L90 is not what's <br> subject to $1 / 8$ th second. LEQ is what's <br> subject to $1 / 8$ th second. The proper term -- <br> and Mr. O'Neal knows this. Mr. O'Neal has <br> read the standard on which our rules are <br> based, 12.9, Part 3. And it says when doing <br> a background sound study, you're generally <br> going to use ten minutes. But that's not <br> LEQ. If you read (e)(6), what does (e)(6) <br> say? Under 301.18, (e)(6) says -- sorry. <br> (e)(6) says all measurements -- <br> [Court Reporter interrupts.] <br> MS. LINOWES: Okay. That's a <br> confusion. But that's not intended to <br> reference L90. We're talking about the LEQ <br> with regard to the $1 / 8$ th second. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Would you <br> agree that -- well, can you explain what <br> "equivalent" means -- <br> MS. LINOWES: Yes. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: -- in the <br> rules? <br> MS. LINOWES: Yes. We're talking <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | 1 We're going to waste our time in a rule defining a meter speed. That's not what we're doing. They may not like the way the rule is written. They may not like the fact that the time interval is in one location but the standard is somewhere else. Fine. I don't take responsibility for that. The rule is written the way the rule is written. But that is the effect of it, that there is no other place in the entire rule where an LEQ time frame is defined. <br> And I get that Lmax should have a <br> time frame. They went to court over the fact that Lmax, in the Almer Township Project, didn't have a time frame associated with it. And the court said, yeah, they really should have put a time frame in there. But they still said Lmax, even without a time frame specified, is a reasonable standard. Anytime you have L, you have to have a time frame <br> 21 associated with it, Lmax, Lmin, LEQ or <br> 22 whatever. You should have a time frame <br> 23 associated with it...(indecipherable). <br> 24 But L90 and L10, those aren't the <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |
| 1 about the sound power level that is basically <br> 2 averaged over a period of time. That's what <br> 3 we're talking about. And I agree that <br> (f)14) -- that 301.14 does not specify a time frame. But I will tell you that the time frame is in 301.18. And the reason I know that, and the reason there was no confusion with regard to the rulemaking, if you look on <br> 9 my Slide 4, which is the one that says "SEC Rulemaking," Chairman Honigberger [sic], who was running the process under the rulemaking, stated in the middle column, said -- he was talking about the layout of the rules, okay. And he said I get -- he understood the reliance on NH 301.18 and 301 -- the common -- connection between 301.14 and 301.18 and said this, meaning he was referencing the 14 , is where the standard is set, and 18 is where you explain how and where you test. Okay? I know that Antrim Wind is <br> complaining that there's no time frame. <br> 22 They're arguing that the meter speed -- <br> 23 somehow we decided 1/8th second -- we're <br> 24 going to specify the meter speed in the rule. | 1 same things. Those are statistical -- to put <br> 2 so much emphasis on L90, by the way, I just <br> 3 want to make that point, the standard isn't <br> 4 L90. The standard is LEQ. That's what New <br> 5 Hampshire's standard is for noise limit. <br> 6 L90, that's informational information so that <br> the person reading the documentation in the <br> rest of the report could understand what the <br> general acoustical environment was at the <br> time the post-construction sound monitoring <br> was done. <br> One other point. Since you're <br> tasked with figuring out complaint <br> validation, the L90 is not really even <br> relevant. And you'll notice that is not -- <br> that's not part of the complaint validation. <br> That is post-construction seasonal <br> monitoring. Different thing. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: I'd like <br> to -- do either of the other members have any <br> questions? <br> MR. DUCLOS: I'll just ask a <br> couple. Ms. Linoise? <br> 24 <br> MS. LINOWES: Linowes. |


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| MR. DUCLOS: Linowes. Thank you. <br> So one of the areas that you said <br> is that the standard that's in the <br> Certificate of Site and Facility is taken right out of 301.14(f)(2); right? <br> MS. LINOWES: Hmm-hmm. Correct. <br> MR. DUCLOS: And that's determining <br> whether the proposed energy facility will <br> have an unreasonable adverse effect on public <br> health and safety and shall -- and that's <br> where we get into the same thing we said <br> before -- "shall not exceed the greater of 45 <br> dBA or 5 dBA background levels." <br> I still don't see a time. The time <br> element you said was in 301.18(e)(6). <br> MS. LINOWES: (e)(6), correct. <br> MR. DUCLOS: That's the sound <br> measurements during post-construction <br> monitoring shall be taken at that <br> 1/8th-of-a-second interval, measuring both <br> fast response, which is the fast response, and LEQ metrics. <br> So you also talked a little bit about the Lmax standard. So I'm confused. <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | 1 around the country telling people Lmax made no sense; you cannot do a measurement based on Lmax. And as I mentioned, they went to court and cited in the record -- <br> [Court Reporter interrupts.] <br> MS. LINOWES: They went to court <br> over the fact that Lmax -- they argued Lmax <br> didn't make sense. So the State of New <br> Hampshire wanted to avoid that fight. That actual court case actually came after. It <br> was 2016-2017, I believe, when that -- but <br> the point being, yes, you're right. It would <br> be better written if the language had been <br> coincident with the limit, 40 decibel, not to <br> exceed 40 decibel, LEQ $1 / 8$ th second. But <br> it's not written that way. And that's fine. <br> But that does not cancel the fact <br> that the only place in the rule where a time <br> frame is specified for LEQ is in 301.18. <br> Chairman Honigberg recognized the connection <br> between 301.14 and 301.18. It is written <br> that way. And right now, Antrim Wind is <br> reaching to try and find a one-hour standard in there somewhere and can't. They're out <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |
| 301.14 was a standard that the SEC used to determine adverse effects. Why didn't they use the term "Lmax" or even put in a LEQ with a time limit or time period -- <br> [Court Reporter interrupts.] <br> MR. DUCLOS: With a time period. <br> To be clear, I said "limit," but I'll correct it. <br> MS. LINOWES: I agree. If I were <br> writing this as a technical person, I would <br> have established -- and you would typically <br> see in ordinances that are written around the <br> country, it would have said not to exceed an <br> LEQ -- 45 decibel LEQ and then a time frame <br> associated with it. It could be that the <br> Committee was avoiding that. I don't know. <br> I don't know why they didn't write it that way. <br> We were aware -- the reason -- to <br> your question, and maybe this will help <br> explain, the reason we went to an LEQ <br> standard over an Lmax standard was because back in the 2014-2015 time frame, the wind industry, people like Mr. O'Neal, were out <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | ```pointing to the ANSI standard. The ANSI standard -- do you know the one hour they keep referring to, this basic measuring period? I have the definition. I put the definition -- this second document that I provided for you is a point-counterpoint. I have all of their arguments that they made and why their arguments do not stand up. If I could -- if you would indulge me for a moment -- PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Well, I think in the interest of time, I think I can -- we'll make sure that these get into the docket, these slides -- MS. LINOWES: Okay. PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: -- and that would all be part of our consideration. MS. LINOWES: Okay. But that basic measuring period is simply the time frame that you're going to go out. You're going to plan to go out and do a measurement. 301, Part 3 -- I'm sorry -- 12.9, Part 3 -- [Court Reporter interrupts.] MS. LINOWES: 12.9, Part 3, is a \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\}``` |


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| standard based on an observer present. An <br> observer present. And you're generally not <br> out there more than an hour if you -- you can <br> get your job done in an hour if you pick the <br> right time. And that's what that one hour <br> is. And to try and introduce more meaning to <br> that, like Antrim is trying to do right now, <br> is just they're trying to confuse you. The <br> rule is what matters, not the standard, even <br> though the standard references the rule. <br> This rule is specific. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Thank <br> you. <br> One more follow-up for her? Okay. <br> MR. DUCLOS: I just have a <br> question. Why do you think the $1 / 8$ th of a <br> second is a reasonable period? <br> MS. LINOWES: Because it has <br> everything to do with the slide that I just <br> showed you. Let's go to their slide, the <br> Antrim -- the Almer Township slide, because <br> that says it all. <br> MR. DUCLOS: Well, I see it, . 125 <br> seconds, or $1 / 8$ th of a second, you have a lot | By the way, there are other issues. <br> We have raw data right now -- thank you, <br> Antrim Wind, for providing the raw data -- <br> that they collected, which was done in <br> 1/10th-second intervals. And we're analyzing <br> that right now to see if we're going to find <br> exceedances. We're not going to analyze it <br> based on one-hour averaging. But we'll show <br> you the results of it, one-hour averaging and <br> $1 / 8$ th seconds, so you can see the difference. <br> We know why. We know that there are <br> exceedances at that project. Did I answer <br> your question? <br> MR. DUCLOS: Good enough for me. <br> MS. LINOWES: Enough for you? <br> MR. DUCLOS: Good enough for me. <br> MS. LINOWES: Oh, okay. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Thank <br> you. <br> Tom? <br> MS. LINOWES: Wind energy is very, <br> very -- it's very, very low noise up to 11 <br> decibels, unlike traffic noise, by the way, <br> which one hour is totally fine. A LEQ one <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |
| of noise. The longer you put a time period in it, the more it flattens out. I agree with that. But why is it reasonable in your mind to do it at an eighth of a second versus one second, ten seconds, a minute an hour? <br> MS. LINOWES: This map shows you. <br> People hear the noise whether -- okay. I'm out there. I'm hearing this noise. This is what I hear. But what I'm -- if I'm Antrim <br> 10 Wind and I'm reporting what I measured to the <br> 11 Site Evaluation Committee to try and prove <br> that I'm compliant with their 45 day, 40 at <br> night, I'm recording something closer to this. <br> So Antrim Wind -- complaints are <br> coming in all over the place from the project <br> at Antrim. And the SEC is sitting there <br> 18 saying they don't know what they're measuring <br> 19 and they're telling me it's in compliance. I <br> 20 don't know what your problem is. The <br> 21 Committee is -- that's what you're trying to <br> 22 figure out right now: Why are there <br> 23 complaints when Antrim Wind is telling you <br> 24 they're in compliance? <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | hour is totally fine with traffic noise. It doesn't work for wind turbines. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All <br> right. Thank you. <br> MS. LINOWES: Thanks. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All <br> right. Next, Barry Needleman. <br> (Mr. Getz distributing handouts to <br> Subcommittee members.) <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All <br> right. Go head. <br> MR. NEEDLEMAN: Thank you. My name <br> is Barry Needleman, from the law firm of <br> McLane Middleton. I represent Antrim Wind, <br> and I also represent Antrim Wind in the <br> underlying certificate proceeding. <br> What you're being asked to do here <br> today is to move the goal post, essentially, <br> and to declare that $1 / 8$ th of a second is the <br> new sound standard, and by doing so, <br> essentially render this facility, and most <br> likely other New Hampshire wind facilities, <br> not in compliance. If this were actually the <br> standard, this project never would have been <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |


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| 1 built. And that's what you'll hear from Mr. O'Neal shortly. There's nothing in the Antrim Wind decision, there's nothing in the Certificate, there's nothing in the rules or SEC precedent to justify this kind of extreme interpretation of the rule. <br> Mr. Duclos, you've asked several times about Site 301.18 and the <br> 1/8th-of-a-second intervals. Those are intervals, not compliance periods. The 1/8th-of-a-second interval is meant to be a snapshot to collect data points. And I think I can give you a simple example that demonstrates the fallacy of the different interpretation offered by Ms. Linowes. <br> When you look at the Winter 2020 <br> sound report, there were 60 -- over 60 million $1 / 8$ th-of-a-second intervals included in that sound report by Acentech. If every <br> 20 one of those $1 / 8$ th-of-a-second intervals were <br> 21 a compliance period, can you imagine what <br> 22 that would look like? The report would be <br> 23 over a million pages long. As a very <br> 24 practical perspective, it just makes no sense <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | 1 <br> You'll also have a report from Mr. <br> 2 Kalisky here, who was involved in the working <br> group that Ms. Lerner referenced. And when <br> you look at that report, he's going to <br> provide you with a very different description <br> of what happened in that working group from what you heard from Ms. Lerner. <br> In their technical assessments, <br> 9 both Mr. O'Neal's and Mr. Kalisky's, they confirmed what Acentech and what Tocci said, that the way in which these measurements were done was correct and that a $1 / 8$ th-second approach to this is not only inconsistent with the rules and the national standards they derived from, it's functionally unworkable. <br> So let me conclude by pointing out, as far as I know, Ms. Linowes apparently has no technical training and no experience with actual sound monitoring. The one expert she did rely on here is Mr. Rand, who produced a report that Mr. O'Neal responded to in his <br> 23 June 7th letter and discussed the fatal flaws <br> 24 with that report. <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |
| to interpret the rule that way. <br> Now, it's not lost on me or anybody <br> else that this is complicated stuff. And so <br> let me pull back for a minute and ask you to <br> think for a minute about what the actual <br> experts have said about this. <br> First of all, Acentech prepared <br> that 2020 report. They used the one-hour <br> averaging, and it was their expert opinion <br> that that was what was appropriate. The SEC <br> then hired its own expert to peer-review that <br> work, Mr. Tocci. And what did he say? He <br> concurred with what Acentech did. <br> Antrim Wind also engaged Rob <br> O'Neal, who you'll hear from shortly, and Ken <br> Kalisky of RSP to look at this issue. <br> There's probably no expert that knows more <br> about wind issues in New Hampshire than Mr. <br> O'Neal. He was involved in three of these <br> 20 four dockets as an expert. He testified in <br> 21 Antrim, and he testified in Groton on behalf <br> 22 the Applicants. And he actually <br> 23 peer-reviewed the reports in Lempster for <br> 24 Counsel for the Public. | 1 <br> I'm tempted, as I conclude here, to <br> 2 just state the obvious with what's going on. <br> 3 This is an effort to shut this project down. <br> 4 But don't take my word for it. Look at <br> 5 Mr. Rand's report. He wrote it on May 11th. <br> 6 And on Page 12 of the report, he used the <br> 7 incorrect $1 / 8$ th-second compliance period. He <br> drew mistaken conclusions about Antrim Wind's <br> 9 supposed exceedances. And then, in his <br> words, he said the only viable way to deal <br> with this was, quote, "shut down." That's <br> the goal here. <br> By contrast, you have in the record <br> four different experts, all of whom have a <br> vast amount of experience with these issues, <br> working for applicants, Counsel for the <br> Public, and the Committee. And every one of <br> these experts says that the $1 / 8$ th-of-a-second <br> approach is unworkable, it's internally <br> inconsistent with other aspects of the rules, and it's just simply wrong. <br> Thank you for your time. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Thank <br> you. |


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| MS. LINOWES: Mr. Chairman, will <br> there be an opportunity for rebuttal at all? <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: No. <br> MS. LINOWES: Well, could I comment <br> on something that -- <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: No. I'd <br> like to allow Mr. -- I'd like to give Mr. <br> Needleman the same opportunity that you had. <br> So with that, I think I have the <br> same question that I consistently have been <br> having with what does "equivalent" mean to you. <br> MR. NEEDLEMAN: I would love to <br> tell you. I'm not a sound engineer, and I'm <br> not going to wade into that. I'm sure Mr. <br> O'Neal could tell you all you want to know. <br> MR. DUCLOS: Hello, Mr. Needleman. <br> How are you today? <br> MR. NEEDLEMAN: Good. How are you, <br> Mr. Duclos? <br> MR. DUCLOS: Very good. I agree <br> that the sound study methodology goes on the <br> $1 / 8$ th of a second, and I agree that that is a <br> standard for collecting data and you're going | ```not sure that there is a material difference in the context. MR. DUCLOS: And Groton obviously wasn't -- didn't get their Certificate of Site and Facility under this rule. This is the first facility to be issued a certificate under this rule. MR. NEEDLEMAN: Correct. MR. DUCLOS: Okay. I'm just surprised that no time limit was put in there, in all fairness. And I don't have any further questions. Thank you. PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Tom, did you have any? MR. EATON: I am all set. To the people, I was appointed last week, and I'm still drinking from the fire hose to catch up. PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Well, I am going to continue to just check with you and make sure that you are -- that if you have any questions that pop up, you get them answered.``` |
| to have a lot of data points. The compliance period is different. What's in the Certificate of Site and Facility is also different. But it doesn't say an hour and it doesn't say an eighth of a second is the compliance monitoring standard to meet the $45--$ or shall not exceed the greater of 45 . So where do you get the hour from as a legitimate compliance measuring period? <br> MR. NEEDLEMAN: Sure. I think <br> you're going to hear from O'Neal on that. I think there are a couple of answers to that question. I think the primary one is that in this context, it's left to professional judgment to determine that period. My understanding is that, to some extent, the one hour does derive from those ANSI standards. But I know, for example, that when Mr. O'Neal did the post-construction sound monitoring for the Groton Wind project, there was a ten-minute compliance interval. So I do know that one hour is not necessarily the only way to do it. Groton did predate the particular rules at issue here, but I'm | MR. EATON: Thank you. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: I think <br> that's all I have for questions. <br> MR. NEEDLEMAN: Thank you for your time. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Thank <br> you. <br> All right. Next, again keeping in <br> alphabetical order, would be Rob O'Neal. <br> MR. O'NEAL: Good afternoon, <br> members of the Subcommittee. My name is Rob <br> O'Neal from Epsilon Associates. I'll try to <br> speak slowly. Thank you for having me to <br> make some remarks today. <br> I've been measuring wind turbine <br> sound for 15 -plus years, doing general sound <br> for 34 years. I've measured wind turbine <br> sound here in New Hampshire, as well as other <br> places in the country. I am board-certified <br> by the Institute of Noise Control Engineers. <br> So I just put that out there for background. <br> I'm going to start with my <br> conclusion and go right into the reasons why <br> I can offer this conclusion. The premise <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |

that an operating wind turbine facility can
meet an instantaneous $1 / 8$ th-of-a-second
standard somehow is not true. No wind
turbine facility is going to meet that kind
of a standard. That's why there are no wind
6 turbine projects built in areas where the
jurisdiction that interprets "shall not
8 exceed" does that. So if you interpret that
"shall not exceed" as an eighth of a second,
10 there would be no wind farms. There are no
wind farms built in those places.
Averaging over time makes sense.
There's really two fundamental issues with
regard to the time element of sound
measurements. Number one we've already heard
and talked about; that's the speed that the
sound meter is set to record the data.
That's the one that's set in the SEC rules.
The second one is the actual
measurement period that's used to assess
compliance with whatever the standard is, in
this case the 45 day, 40 night LEQ. The SEC
rule requires that fast response of .125
seconds, that eighth of a second, for
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post-construction sound testing. That's the response of the meter. That's how fast it collects the data. And we generally have two
settings on our meters we can use, either for
fast response of an eighth or a slow
response, which is one second. And very
often jurisdictions will put that in the
rules, that they'd like you to use one or the
other. Fast is probably the most commonly used one we see.

However, the response speed of the instrument, though, is not the same as the
time period used to evaluate compliance with
the standard. That's a really important
point. Generally you have a sound regulation
limit that follows four basic principles.
Number one is relevant impact on people.
Number two, it should be repeatable; in other
words, when we go out and take measurements
under similar conditions, we should get
similar results. Number three is it should
be predictable. You should be able to
predict what the sound levels are going to be
in the future based on the data we have from
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wind turbines. And number four is it should be easy to implement; in other words, we should be able to test without a substantial burden to the public, the regulators or the operator of the wind farm.

Using a one-hour time period, for example, checks all four of those boxes. Trying to use a $1 / 8$ th-of-a-second time frame as a compliance period does not. I'll give you a quick example. You know, if you think about New Hampshire DOT or FHWA, their noise abatement criteria, or NAC, are one-hour LEQs. They've defined the time period as one-hour LEQ. You know, the NAC for a residential area is 67 decibels. Now, I would suggest that the highway department's not going to say we need to build a sound barrier on this road if the NAC goes over 67 for $1 / 8$ th of a second and use a more robust time period than that.

The second point I wanted to make is about post-construction compliance monitoring. In the rules, it does reference the ANSI S12.9, Part 3 standard which you
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heard about. A couple sections in that
standard describe the basic data collection
procedures which were part of measuring
continuous background for at least ten
minutes or more -- you've heard that
already -- and measurement with a sound in
operation for a basic measurement period.
Now, the ANSI standard doesn't define what
that is. It's left to jurisdictions to pick
that out. They use one hour as a typical
example. But just to be clear, the ANSI
standard doesn't say thou shall/must use one
hour. It's an example. And that basic
measurement period's broken up into smaller
chunks of time in the aggregate to understand
what's going on. And those blocks of time
can never be less than one second, according
to the ANSI standard. So, again, using an eighth of a second would be improper.

The third point I want to make is about post-construction compliance monitoring here in New Hampshire. As you know, the rules require in that post-construction evaluation measuring L10 and L90, both
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| 1 A-weighted and C-weighted. Those are <br> 2 statistical sound levels. I'll be happy to <br> 3 explain them once my five minutes are over if <br> 4 you want. But they're derived, again, from a <br> basic measurement period such as the one-hour <br> example. Trying to calculate a L10 or L90 <br> from 1/8th-of-a-second intervals is not possible. That would be like looking at the <br> highest $1 / 80$ th of a second for your time period. Just one more quick thought? <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Yeah, <br> finish your thought. <br> MR. O'NEAL: Okay. So I'm just <br> going to conclude with the SEC rule is <br> consistent with ANSI standards and other <br> jurisdictions. Exact time period is not <br> specified. Using professional judgment, we <br> would recommend and often use ten-minute or <br> hour periods as the basic measurement period. <br> And that's what has been used here in the SEC <br> compliance evaluation. <br> With that, I'll conclude and take <br> any questions you might have. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: My first <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | 1 period. So, for example, if you take a <br> 2 measurement for an hour, the L90 is going to <br> 3 be the quietest six minutes. So 6 divided by <br> 460 is your quietest 10 percent of the hour. <br> 5 So in other words, the L90 means that 90 <br> 6 percent of the time the sound level is higher <br> 7 than whatever your L90 is. So that's not <br> 8 defined in the ANSI standards. It's defined <br> 9 in other standards, in terms of basic <br> 10 terminology. <br> 11 PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: But does <br> 12 it say -- how do I put this? You know, <br> 13 essentially, how can you even calculate an <br> 14 L10 or an L90 if you're only using a single, <br> 15 essentially a single data point? Is that <br> 16 possible at all? Like $1 / 8$ th of a second, <br> 17 which is going to be, if I'm understanding <br> 18 you correctly, it's going to be one data <br> 19 point that you'll get out of that; correct? <br> 20 MR. O'NEAL: Under I think the <br> 21 claim that Ms. Linowes is making, yes, you <br> 22 would have that $1 / 8$ th-second data. So trying <br> 23 to calculate an L10 on that 1/8th-second data <br> 24 point is meaningless. You don't do that. <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |
| question is do the ANSI standards have -- do <br> they list -- and particularly that Part 3 <br> standard, is there any mention of an Lmax in there that you're aware of? <br> MR. O'NEAL: Not that I'm aware of, no. And that ANSI standard that we're talking about, this 12.9 , Part 3 , is really geared toward when an observer is present, in terms of how do you collect the data; what you do for the total sound, which is, you know, your source running plus the background; how do you shut it down; how do you get background only, et cetera. And it goes through all the procedures and -- <br> [Court Reporter interrupts.] <br> MR. O'NEAL: All the procedures and the equipment that you would use. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: But it <br> does -- the ANSI standard itself does define <br> how you would, say, calculate an L90 or an <br> LEQ or something to that effect; correct? <br> MR. O'NEAL: I don't believe that <br> standard actually tells you how to calculate <br> 24 an L90. And L90 is defined as a statistical | You calculate an L10 or an L90 over a broader <br> measuring period, ten minutes, an hour, <br> something like that. Doing it on $1 / 8$ th of a <br> second is non-sensical. I've never seen it done. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: 'Cause <br> it's essentially just going to be one data <br> point that it will give you. You don't have <br> to do a calculation. There is no <br> calculation; correct? <br> MR. O'NEAL: Correct. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: I know <br> you have some good questions. <br> MR. DUCLOS: Well, thank you, Mr. <br> O'Neal, for your testimony. It's nice to get <br> an expert on the other end of the microphone <br> who can explain some of this to me. I think <br> that will be helpful. <br> In the standard, 301.14 (f)(2), it <br> talks about the A-weighted equivalent sound <br> level. What does the "A-weighted" mean? <br> MR. O'NEAL: So A-weighted is just <br> a weighting scale that's defined by standard <br> 24 again. So an A-weighting really <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |


characterizes how we as people respond and how our ears do. In other words, our ears don't hear low frequencies very well, so the A-weighted scale discounts those, if you will. But we hear middle frequencies very well. So the middle frequencies make up a
lot of the A-weighted energy. So the
A-weighted scale takes all the different
octave bands, different frequencies, and weights them according to this A-weighted scale, which, again, is defined by standard and gives you one number. So it gives you that 40 dBA or 45 dBA number that's in the SEC rules.

MR. DUCLOS: Okay. And it says
"shall not exceed the greater of 45 dBA ."
What does that mean to you?
MR. O'NEAL: So in other words, you
have a compliance period, whether it's ten
minutes or whether it's an hour. And if I'm
measuring sound from a wind turbine for, you
know, an entire week, that's 168 hours. So
those hours that I know the turbine is really
the dominant source of sound, during the day
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it can't be over 45 during any of those
hours, and at night it can't be over 40 .
That's what "shall not exceed" means. You can't go over those limits.

MR. DUCLOS: Okay. We understand
we can't go over those limits. We understand
what the A-weighted equivalent means.
So, really, in your opinion, is
there a compliance period written into this rule?

MR. O'NEAL: There is not, and that is probably one of the reasons we're sitting here today is because there is none.

If I may go back to the second part of your question. You asked me about an A-weighted equivalent. I only answered the A-weighted part --

PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: I was about to ask that. What does "equivalent" mean to you?

MR. O'NEAL: I think that's the question I've heard a few times now, so I want to make sure I give you an answer for that.

1
2 That's the descriptor that you see. And it
3 can be LAEQ, which is an A-weighted
4 equivalent sound level, or LCEQ, which is
5 just a C-weighted equivalent sound level.
$6 \quad$ So equivalent sound level is
7 basically taking all the sound energy over a
8 defined period of time. Again, you got to
9 have some defined period of time. It can be
10 one minute, can be ten minutes, can be whatever, eight hours. But over that time period of time, the sound levels are going to vary somewhat. Any source of sound will have some variation in them. And the equivalent sound level takes all that energy. And thankfully, the sound level meters do this now internally with computer code. You don't have to go back to our calculus textbooks and try to integrate the area under a curve. It takes all that sound energy and gives you an equivalent one number as if that sound was steady the entire time.

And the thing about equivalent sound level is it weights the higher sound
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levels greater. That's what the LEQ does. And I didn't sit in through the hearings on the rule adoption, but my guess is that's probably why the LEQ was chosen as a metric,
because it does weight those higher sound
levels. So like a 40 dBA LEQ at night, any
higher sound energy from the turbines is
going to get counted in that LEQ calculation.
It's not discounted. So even though it's --
I know I've used the word "average." It's
really an integration of energy over the entire time period. But it's a one-number equivalent calculation, if you will, for that time period. Does that make sense?

MR. DUCLOS: When the
1/8th-of-a-second meters pick up a data
point, is there a reason why $1 / 8$ th of a
second is used versus one second?
MR. O'NEAL: I'm just old enough to remember having used the old analog sound level meters when I started my career. And the thinking back in the day was you use a slow response so the needle wouldn't jump around so much. It would slow it down. If
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| 1 you used a fast response, there's a little <br> bit more wiggle because you're sampling <br> basically eight times a second, if you will, <br> a 1/8th-of-a-second sample rate. <br> So, again, now with digital <br> technology, pretty much the fast response is what we see today for any kind of testing programs. <br> MR. DUCLOS: Let me ask it a <br> different way. How quickly does a human ear pick up sounds? <br> MR. O'NEAL: Again, it all depends <br> on the individual's hearing and how good it <br> is. I don't honestly know if I could tell an <br> eighth of a second, if you get any different <br> gave -- if you get different sounds over a <br> one-second period. I don't think I could <br> tell that. I've never been tested for that <br> kind of refined ability, so I don't have a <br> good answer for you on that one. But I think <br> 21 we'd be hard-pressed to know how sound is <br> 22 changing, you know, unless, of course, it <br> changed dramatically. And when I say <br> 24 dramatically, you know, we're talking a very <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | But most of them do a time period, yes. <br> MR. DUCLOS: And you said the LEQ <br> could be LAEQ of T, which would be .125 , is <br> unreasonable; it doesn't make any sense <br> whatsoever because the data point then can't be split. <br> MR. O'NEAL: Yes. Correct. <br> MR. DUCLOS: How would that be <br> different than an Lmax standard? Is Lmax <br> just a blip in time, or is it an average type <br> of a standard? <br> MR. O'NEAL: So an Lmax is not that <br> different than the $1 / 8$ th-of-a-second <br> measurement. Lmax is going to be what is the <br> highest sound level that you measured, again, <br> over some period of time. You know, the Lmax <br> over one hour might be different than Lmax <br> over an entire day. Could be different hours <br> during the day. But it would be Lmax over a <br> defined period of time, right. Again, it's a <br> very short, instantaneous sound level which, <br> again, goes against some of those four <br> criteria I gave you before, in terms of <br> 24 trying to have a reasonable sound standard, <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |
| 1 large change, 10, 20 decibels over a very <br> short period of time. You know, a decibel or <br> two change, we're not going to really pick <br> that up. <br> MR. DUCLOS: Okay. So the eighth <br> of a second is based on the accuracy of <br> picking up data points because we have the <br> technology to do that now with digital <br> equipment; correct? <br> MR. O'NEAL: Correct. Correct. <br> MR. DUCLOS: So it's kind of a very <br> specific monitor to get as many data points <br> as possible; right? <br> MR. O'NEAL: That's fair, yes. <br> MR. DUCLOS: And to average that <br> for an LEQ, 'cause usually an LEQ has some <br> time period set to it. Is that the way the <br> standard works? <br> MR. O'NEAL: That's the way all the <br> regulations -- well, I shouldn't say all. <br> Most of the sound level regulations that are <br> written try to incorporate a time period in <br> them. Not all of them do. Some of them omit <br> it. Just for whatever reason they omit it. | 1 because Lmax is a very -- it can be very <br> 2 variable, whether it's a gust of wind, <br> 3 whether it's a -- you know, any type of <br> 4 source sounds that might intrude that are not <br> 5 necessarily the source that you're trying to <br> 6 measure specifically, that Lmax will pick it <br> 7 up. And it just may obfuscate what you're <br> 8 really trying to measure, which is another <br> 9 reason the L10 and the L90 are very, very <br> useful statistical metrics in wind turbine <br> compliance testing. I've tested dozens and <br> dozens of wind farms post-construction. And <br> if I see the L10 and the LEQ and the L90, <br> those three numbers, I can know right away if <br> that sound is really wind turbine sound or <br> not. They should be very, very close <br> together. They should not be that much <br> different. <br> MR. DUCLOS: All right. So you <br> said the LAEQ .125, in your mind, were <br> equivalent to an Lmax standard, and that's an <br> unreasonable standard for a wind farm. <br> MR. O'NEAL: I'm agreeing with you, <br> yes. The Lmax and the 1/8th-of-a-second LEQ, <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |


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| 1 they can be a little bit different, but | 1 that. The beauty of that is, say, for |
| 2 they're not wildly different. | 2 example, you had one of those ten-minute |
| 3 MR. DUCLOS: And you also agree | 3 periods contaminated for whatever reason, |
| 4 that the compliance standard that's in the | 4 bunch of trucks went by. You throw that time |
| 5 rule and in the certificate don't have | 5 period out. You could use the other five |
| 6 compliance period assigned to the "shall not | 6 ten-minute periods and come up with, as you |
| 7 exceed the greater of $45 \mathrm{dBA} . "$ | 7 say, an extrapolated one-hour LEQ. |
| 8 MR. O'NEAL: They did not include a | 8 In general, the research has |
| 9 time period in there. Correct. | 9 shown -- this report came out right after the |
| 10 MR. DUCLOS: What is a reasonab | 10 standards were adopted. But the |
| 11 time period that they should have considered | 11 Massachusetts Clean Energy Center sponsored a |
| 12 in the rule, from your wind farm experience? | 12 wind turbine acoustic study. And the |
| 13 MR. O'NEAL: Sure. I would say a | 13 research -- and I was involved in that, |
| 14 minimum of ten minutes would be the absolu | 14 actually. And the research showed that, you |
| 15 smallest time period that you would consider. | 15 know, the shorter the time period is, the |
| 16 We see that a lot in other jurisdictions, ten | 16 more unreliable any kind of standard or |
| 17 minutes. A lot of the jurisdictions make you | 17 metric is going to be to try and show |
| 18 collect multiple ten-minute periods and then | 18 compliance with any type of source, wind |
| 19 take them and do some further calculations | 19 turbines or something else. They showed in |
| 20 with them. Most, or a lot of the | 20 the research that a one-hour standard showed |
| 21 jurisdictions that do put a time period in | 21 good agreement with pre-construction |
| 22 there put in the one-hour. | 22 modeling, which is really what you're trying |
| 23 But if you're asking my opinion, | 23 to get here. You're trying to have somebody |
| 24 I'd say ten minutes would be the absolute | 24 who's proposing a project. They know the |
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| 1 minimum time duration that I would say, based | 1 rules, and they know the rules about how they |
| 2 on anything I've measured. | 2 have to meet the standard. Then having that |
| 3 MR. DUCLOS: Would you then | 3 one-hour time period is going to give them a |
| 4 extrapolate that out to an hourly, say? I | 4 lot of confidence that if my modeling shows |
| 5 mean, I'm coming from the transportation | 5 I'm in compliance, I would expect to go out |
| 6 side. That's what we do. I can take | 6 there post-construction and be very confident |
| 7 measurements at ten minutes or up to 30 | 7 that it will show compliance. |
| 8 minutes or whatever, but it gets extrapolated | 8 MR. DUCLOS: Thank you. I got a |
| 9 out to an hour. So would you recommend -- is | 9 few others, but I can hold them for now. |
| 10 that what you're saying here? Or would it be | 10 MR. O'NEAL: Okay. I could submit |
| 11 at, say, an LEQ for ten minutes? | 11 some written comments to sort of expand on |
| 12 MR. O'NEAL: As a practical matter, | 12 this, and you'll have plenty to read. |
| 13 we're going to have six ten-minute periods | 13 PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Sure. |
| 14 because we're going to measure, you know, for | 14 That would be helpful. Thank you. |
| 15 many, many days. So you're going to end up | 15 MR. O'NEAL: Thank you. Thank you |
| 16 with six ten minutes in every hour. | 16 for your time. |
| 17 And you could do it either way. | 17 PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All |
| 18 You could make the ten-minute period its | 18 right. Dr. Fred Ward. |
| 19 the compliance period, or you could make them | 19 MR. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman -- |
| 20 aggregate and take those six ten-minute | 20 PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Yes. |
| 21 periods -- because the LEQ, if you have six | 21 MR. EDWARDS: Point of order, if I |
| 22 ten-minute LEQs, for example, you could very | 22 may. I'm not very good with the alphabet. |
| 23 easily calculate a one-hour LEQ. The math is | 23 I'm Bob Edwards from the Town of Antrim, and |
| 24 very straightforward. It's fine. You can do | 24 I had an acknowledgment that I could speak. |
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| And I'm just not good alphabet, but I <br> believe -- <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: I am <br> sorry if -- <br> MR. EDWARDS: No, it's not your <br> fault, because I mistyped your e-mail <br> address. But I did get it from -- <br> MR. WARD: I'd be perfectly happy <br> to let E go before W. <br> MR. EDWARDS: And I can't go after <br> Dr. Ward. I don't have the time. I'm only <br> kidding. So if it pleases the Committee -- <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All <br> right. We just had -- like I said, I <br> didn't -- because it didn't -- the e-mail <br> didn't come to me, so I didn't have you on <br> the list. So with that, we are -- I am <br> trying to wrap this up by 3:00. So with the <br> five-minute periods, no, we should be able to <br> do it. We'll just have to take -- <br> MR. EDWARDS: My comments are not <br> technical in nature, so I yield to whatever <br> you want. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Well, <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | thought was going to be included under the <br> first request. And when you started speaking about best procedures in New York and Vermont and so forth, we wanted to just make sure that our interpretation was correct, and that is that you're trying to ensure compliance with the certificate as it relates to measuring and analyzing sound. <br> So the board of selectmen have <br> relied on the SEC expertise when it developed <br> both the operational standards and compliance <br> monitoring procedures, that they were fair <br> and they were equitable to all interested <br> parties, to the Antrim Wind initiative that originated in my time back in 2008, when it all began. <br> And I hope, and I apologize if I <br> am, but I hope I am not oversimplifying this matter. But the Town expected then and continues to expect that the methods utilized to collect and analyze sound data will adhere to the requirements already defined in detail in the terms and methods previously approved and in place as an integral part of Antrim |
| since you alphabetically are -- it should <br> have already happened. So by all means, go ahead. <br> MR. EDWARDS: Thank you, Dr. Ward. <br> MR. WARD: You're very welcome. <br> I'll get it back out of you someday. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All <br> right. Since I don't have you on my list, if <br> you could state your name, that would be very helpful. <br> MR. EDWARDS: Yes. My name is Bob <br> Edwards, and I'm one of the selectmen from <br> the Town of Antrim. And I'm not here to <br> define the word "equivalent" or anything <br> close to it. But my -- our comments are <br> general in nature. <br> When we first read the charges for <br> this Subcommittee, the first charge was a bit <br> alarming to us. And I apologize to the <br> Committee if we misunderstood the intent of <br> the language in that. But what we heard and <br> read, and what we heard on the Zoom meetings <br> 23 that you conducted, it seemed to me that you <br> 24 were going outside the scope of what we | Wind Energy's certificate. There must be no effort on behalf of the Subcommittee or the full Committee as part of its charge to deviate from or seek alternative methodologies for measurement standards for analysis of sound procedures for this particular wind farm. And should the full Committee feel that such an exercise is justified, we suggest that be a separate and distinct initiative to be undertaken, that may result in future rules standards changes. But it is clearly outside the scope and intent of the Subcommittee's first charge, in our opinion. <br> We at the Town level feel that we are spending too much time unnecessarily with complaints from the public, phone calls at night and so forth regarding violation <br> 19 potentials. And so we also feel that the <br> 20 matter may be -- I don't want oversimplify <br> 21 it, but we just ask that the Committee follow <br> 22 those approvals and guidelines that are <br> 23 already in the certificate. <br> 24 <br> One of the things that I think was |


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| 1 troubling to the Committee was that we -- <br> 2 some of the residents didn't allow <br> 3 measurements on their property. And I think <br> 4 our opinion is that if you're going to abide <br> 5 by the initial rules of the SEC when they <br> 6 approved that certificate, it will have a <br> 7 hundred percent cooperation from the <br> 8 landowners. And I understand the waiver is <br> 9 perfectly legitimate, but I'd like to see it <br> 10 done in the same fashion as it was approved. <br> And we asked for their cooperation, as long <br> as we're doing it the way it was approved. <br> So we ask that you let the results <br> be what they are. They will -- either Antrim <br> Wind is compliant or they are not. And if <br> not, we ask that a timely corrective action <br> be undertaken and bring any sound violations <br> compliant with the certificate. If they are <br> found to be compliant after collecting the <br> sound data, and analysis performed in <br> accordance with the certificate requirements, <br> then please let's move forward. Thank you. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Thank <br> you. <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | 1 we're looking for you and your experts to <br> 2 tell us whether that's in compliance. So I <br> 3 don't know if it's right or wrong. It may be <br> 421 st Century standards will be such that you <br> 5 redesign the different requirements on it. <br> 6 But what we're trying to suggest is that we <br> spent a lot of time getting the application <br> discussed and approved, and a lot of detail <br> went in and analysis and expert testimony, <br> and we wonder why it isn't a simpler process <br> to merely go in with your experts and say is <br> it being done in accordance with the terms of the certificate, yes or no. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: That's <br> what we're trying to figure out. <br> MR. EDWARDS: And we thank you for <br> all you're doing, yeah. <br> MR. DUCLOS: No questions. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All <br> right. Thank you. <br> All right. I think now the next <br> one would be Dr. Fred Ward. <br> MR. WARD: I want to start off with <br> something that I've said to you in writing -- <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |
| MR. EDWARDS: Probably no questions <br> for me. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Well, I <br> do have kind of one question. If you -- do <br> you have concerns with the measurement <br> period? Does the Town? 'Cause I mean <br> ultimately it's your agreement that is in the certificate. <br> MR. EDWARDS: Yes. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: So do you <br> have concerns with that agreement now at all? <br> MR. EDWARDS: We have concerns, <br> only that we see and hear feedback from <br> people. We don't have the technical <br> knowledge to interpret that properly. And <br> that's one of the prime reasons that we <br> forwarded it on initially and supported the <br> Committee to do the application. But we <br> understand that potentially if it isn't done <br> in the measurements as we understand it to <br> be, then it distorts it, and it can be <br> construed in people's minds as just trying to <br> circumvent the original measurement standards <br> so that it's compliant. But we have no -- <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | 1 meant to go to you, it went to the old SEC. <br> 2 But this is on point, which you all seem to 3 worry about, which is the question of the 4 averaging interval or no of the sound. Now, <br> 5 you heard all kinds of stories from everybody <br> 6 as to what they might prefer or what these things all mean. And I think you would agree that it's a little bit confusing. Let me just unconfuse it. <br> Neither the human brain nor the <br> human ear averages sound. Let me repeat <br> that. Neither the human brain nor the human <br> ear averages sound. Now, let me give you <br> three examples. It's pretty easy to <br> understand. <br> Let's say that you're somebody <br> who's coming in, they want to put in a rifle <br> range, a pistol range next to a church. Now, <br> 19 you could say that, well, we want the average <br> 20 to be over 40 dB . Now, if you're sitting in <br> 21 the church and the rifle range is operating, <br> 22 you go over a 100 dB for a fraction of a <br> 23 second and then it's zero. Maybe another <br> 24 second or ten seconds later you get another |



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whatever he's going to do. They're short, sharp things, but you damn well hear them.
The average is irrelevant.
Let me just make something that you
might understand even easier. Let's say
we're out on a country road and that country
road has cement trucks and great big trucks,
but they only go by once, oh, maybe every
minute or two minutes or hour, and loud as
hell, 100, 150 decibels. The average, what's
it going to be? A couple of hundred or 150
and a mess of zeros. What does a 40 dB
average mean over more than a few seconds?
What the human ear hears and what the human
brain does is meant to be the peaks. It
doesn't hear the zeros. It's not set up for that.

If you go on a trip, for example, and you go rolling down, you'll see the waves and the things or whatever you want to do.
21 You don't average that out and say, boy, that
22 was a nice average. The average is
23 irrelevant. It has nothing to do with what 24 the human ear is hearing. So all of the
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discussion about averaging out is what we call in polite language "BS."

Now, I have one other point I want to make, and I'm hoping I can get it in. I'm a meteorologist. What you hear from the Antrim Wind facility is totally dependent on the meteorology. The wind speed determines how loud the sound -- how fast things are going and how loud the sound is going to be. Slow-end speeds, low sounds. High-end speeds, high sounds.

The second part of meteorology that comes into it is everybody knows, even Mr. O'Neal, that a temperature inversion at night will make an enormous difference. Most of the time, even if it's called an inversion, it implies that there's some other thing, which is the version. Well, that's daytime. In daytime, all the sound goes up and out. Doesn't affect anybody. At night, the ground cools, and it cools the air near the ground. And if you pool the cooler air and it goes up to the level of Antrim Wind, all the sound from the Antrim Wind is trapped
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in that. So high winds on the thing, a meteorological phenomenon. And inversion from temperature, another meteorological phenomenon. That's when you get your loud sounds. So talking about anything of these things and talking about, as somebody said, 65 million, well, nobody gives a damn about the 65 million. There's only some times. And that's where this should focus: High winds to make louder sound, inversion to trap it. That will always give you the most sound. Thank you.

## PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All

right. Thank you. I don't have any questions.

Do you, John or Tom?
MR. EATON: No.
MR. DUCLOS: Dr. Ward, nice to know that you're a meteorologist. That's one thing we didn't bring up is the temperature inversions and how that applies to sound. None of that's in the compliance standard either; right? So wind --

MR. WARD: I didn't hear you. None
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| of that what? <br> MR. DUCLOS: None of that <br> temperature, meteorological information, is <br> in the compliance standard -- <br> MR. WARD: Everything <br> meteorological is in every compliance <br> standard because there's only sometimes when <br> the towns are going to be loud. Nobody's <br> sitting here saying that they're always loud. <br> They're loud at certain times. And when you <br> have those things, then you have to make your <br> measurements when the sound levels are the <br> loudest, meteorologically speaking. <br> MR. DUCLOS: Okay. I understand <br> your position. <br> MR. WARD: And that's the reason <br> there are two different standards, day and night, too. <br> MR. DUCLOS: Right. The human ear <br> and the human brain, as you said, picks up, <br> you know, peaks. But we're not dealing with <br> the human ear here or what the brain <br> translates it to. It's what the compliance <br> standard is. <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | ```then other nights you damn well know it was there. MR. DUCLOS: Okay. No further questions. PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All right. Tom, you all set? MR. EATON: All set. Thank you. PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All right. The last speaker is Joe Wilkas. MR. WILKAS: I have handouts that I'm going to refer to... I'm not going to -- the words I'm going to say are not in there. (Mr. Wilkas distributing handouts to the Subcommittee members.) MR. WILKAS: Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I guess just listening to all the other testimony -- PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Can you pull the microphone just a little bit closer to you? MR. WILKAS: Okay. Yeah. I had a question. Would Mr. O'Neal choose to live near a wind turbine? PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Well, I \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\}``` |
| MR. WARD: What do you mean we're <br> not here for the human ear? This all has to <br> do with the human ear. <br> MR. DUCLOS: You hear sounds. Do <br> you think of any fan or the wind farm or -- <br> MR. WARD: Say it again? Ask me -- <br> MR. DUCLOS: Would you think that <br> any fan that you have in your home or the <br> wind farm you wouldn't hear at all, ever? <br> MR. WARD: Oh, you could certainly <br> make enough noise in your house to cover <br> everything. Is that what you're asking? <br> MR. DUCLOS: No. I'm asking <br> whether when they sited this facility here, <br> did you think it would be silent, like a <br> Dyson fan versus an electric-generating wind <br> farm? <br> MR. WARD: Well, most of the time <br> the winds would be -- the sounds from the <br> wind farm would be below, well below 40 dB . <br> Most of the time. The winds are not strong <br> all the time. They're strong some nights, <br> some nights they're not. So maybe some <br> nights you'd hardly know they were there and <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | don't think -- I don't want to take questions for other people. Questions will come from here. <br> MR. WILKAS: I just brought it up. <br> Okay. We're supposed to be helping <br> with you folks learning sound regulations and things. So what I've done here is I have a <br> list of links and information that are found <br> in those links that are all on the SEC site. <br> The first one is where the sound regulations are, which is Site 301 on the SEC site, which is the regulations. And I've highlighted in <br> little red marks some of the interesting information that I've copied and pasted in here. <br> The first one is for wind energy <br> systems, apply the following standards, and <br> it says that the sound shall not exceed the <br> greater of 45 dBA or 5 dBA above background <br> levels measured at the L90 sound level and -- <br> okay. The background -- above background <br> sound levels. 45 dBA or 5 dBA above <br> 23 background levels measured at the L90 sound <br> 24 level between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. |


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| 1 each day and 40 dB or 5 dB above at night. <br> 2 You guys have all heard that. This is where <br> 3 it's easy to find. But again, I'm <br> emphasizing "shall not exceed." <br> Now, the second page is just more <br> of a spec, but nothing highlighted. The <br> third page, all sound measurements during <br> post-construction monitoring shall be taken <br> at 0.125 -second intervals, measuring both <br> fast response and LEQ metrics. We've all <br> discussed that, too, but there's the link to <br> finding that information when you want it. <br> The next page, on Page 4, is some <br> information from some of the sound reports <br> that are on your sites. It's including the <br> link to them. This one on Page 4 is the Rand <br> sound report. And included in there is a <br> graph showing, you know, ten minutes of sound <br> 19 collection at the proper sampling rate. And <br> 20 as you can see, much of it above the red line <br> 21 exceeds the limit. And if you averaged that <br> 22 sound level, which people have been proposing <br> 23 to do, then you would not be exceeding the <br> 24 sound levels; you'd be at the sound level. <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | compliance in this study, the one-hour LEQ <br> metric, as compared to the appropriate <br> daytime and nighttime limits. Once again, <br> we're averaging over an hour, not taking the peaks. <br> And then the final, on Page 6, is a <br> two-minute sample from, actually a posting <br> on our site by Lisa Linowes. And it's <br> showing, once again, that even over two <br> minutes, if you're following the peaks, you <br> can see it exceeding the limit. But if <br> you're averaging, you'd see that you would <br> not be exceeding the limit. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: All <br> right. Thank you. <br> MR. DUCLOS: I have no questions. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: I think <br> I'll just ask my same question. Do you have <br> any idea what "equivalent" means? <br> MR. DUCLOS: You know, I'm an <br> engineer. And when I get into the acoustics <br> of all this stuff, every time this comes up I <br> 23 have to go looking and researching, and then <br> 24 I finally figure out what I'm looking it. Do <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |
| 1 So measuring the peaks not to exceed is the <br> important, significant fact here. And there's a visual indication of it. <br> On Page 5, from another sound <br> report on your site, Tocci's sound report on <br> September 2nd, it says that in this sound <br> report, Column 7 or 8 are measured <br> five-minute, 10th and 90th percent A-weighted <br> sound levels. In other words, the <br> information in this sound level, they're <br> taking five-minute average samples instead of <br> peaks. And that's, again, just for your <br> reference. <br> And there's another statement <br> there, many five-minute samples were noted to <br> be below the 40 dBA after the wind subsided. <br> So once again, they're saying, okay, we're <br> taking five-minute samples, not just -- I <br> mean they're sampling at the proper rate and <br> averaging five minutes, which of course will <br> lower the level that they're recording. <br> And then there's the Acentech <br> post-construction sound report, which I'm <br> 24 highlighting again where they stated the <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | I remember it months later? Not necessarily. <br> I have to go through it again. <br> So you have my thanks for trying to <br> do what you're doing, and my sympathy for <br> trying to do what you're doing, too. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: We <br> appreciate that. Thank you. <br> All right. That was -- that's the <br> end of our speakers. And I don't know if <br> anybody on the Committee had any additional <br> items or anything else that either of you two <br> want to discuss. I don't think I have <br> anything. <br> MR. EATON: No. <br> MR. DUCLOS: I'm good. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: I forget <br> where we left off when our next meeting will be. <br> MR. TURNER: I think the <br> investigation plan is August, if you want to <br> highlight it. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Yes. <br> Yes, I should do that. <br> So, again, we'll be allowing... <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |


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| (Discussion off the record among <br> Committee members.) <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: I don't <br> think we need to rehash that. At least my <br> opinion is that we've done that. We've <br> talked about the ADLS. It was just a -- <br> [Court Reporter interrupts.] <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: I'm <br> sorry. I misinterpreted you. So just go <br> ahead and say it. <br> MR. DUCLOS: I'll just ask. <br> I asked Jon, as the presiding <br> officer, whether he wanted to ask Allen <br> Brooks if he had anything to offer at this <br> public meeting or not, given that -- afford <br> him the opportunity while he's in the <br> audience, as he has represented the Counsel <br> for the Public in a letter on the ADLR <br> system. I would offer him a chance to speak <br> at this public meeting if he so chooses. <br> MR. BROOKS: May I, just very <br> briefly? <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Yeah, absolutely. <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} | via the normal docket distribution list. <br> We're just looking for comments by $5 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. on <br> July 1st, just so that we can have enough <br> time to get to everything, you know, as we <br> start to make our decisions on the first <br> charge that this Subcommittee has been tasked <br> with. <br> MR. BROOKS: Well, thank you. any <br> questions for me? <br> MR. DUCLOS: I guess we can go to <br> Jon's question. <br> On the standard for measurement, <br> which is 301.14 (f)(2), do you have an <br> opinion what the equivalent sound level is? <br> MR. BROOKS: I've read that <br> standard. The word "equivalent" I'm not sure <br> is going to help you one way or the other to <br> figure out what the standard means. I think <br> you've gone over this very well, which is <br> that your task is to apply that standard. <br> And to do so, you have to figure out how an <br> L90 is going to be applied with the time <br> interval. And in my reading -- I have not <br> gone through this with my office, and I'd <br> \{SEC 2021-02\} [PUBLIC HEARING] \{06-17-21\} |
| 1 <br> MR. BROOKS: Hi, my name is Allen <br> 2 Brooks. I function as Counsel for the <br> 3 Public. I work at the New Hampshire <br> 4 Department of Justice. Thank you. <br> 5 <br> I have nothing further to add at <br> this time. I'm happy to answer any questions <br> that you have. I would like to consider <br> everything I've heard today, as well as all <br> the written material, and maybe provide my <br> own written comment. I don't want to be <br> disruptive by doing that. I think that <br> you're open to that type of thing happening, <br> but I just want to make sure that that is <br> something that's going to provide some <br> benefit to the Subcommittee and not disrupt <br> whatever process that you have. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Correct. <br> Yeah. Absolutely. If there's any <br> comments -- and again, that's actually what I <br> was just looking up. I just needed to find <br> what I said so I didn't contradict what I <br> said earlier. <br> 23 Any comments that anybody else <br> 24 would like to submit, please just submit them | like to. But in my reading so far and listening to it, there is no time interval either stated or implied in the rule. I don't believe it's implied to be $1 / 8$ th of a second. I don't believe it's implied to be an hour. It's not stated. So that time interval that's needed is missing from the rule. And the next task would be to figure out what are you going to do to fill in that hole. I think you suspected as much as you were asking some of these questions. <br> MR. DUCLOS: I have no further <br> questions of this person. <br> MR. BROOKS: Thank you. <br> PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Thank <br> you, Mr. Brooks. <br> All right. It probably would be <br> helpful for us just to remind everybody of some of the next deadlines. <br> Following the public meeting, the <br> Subcommittee will publish by July 15th a <br> draft recommendation for the appropriate <br> 23 methodologies for measurement and analysis of <br> 24 sound procedures for validating noise |


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| 1 complaints. And then the Subcommittee will | 1 | certificate |
|  | 2 |  |
| 3 testimony on the draft recommendation from | 3 |  |
| 3 testimony on the draft recommendation from | 4 | I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed <br> Shorthand Court Reporter and Notary Public |
| 4 all parties, which must be filed by | 5 | of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby |
| 5 July 29th. And then the Committee will hold | 6 | accurate transcript of my stenographic notes of these proceedings taken at the |
| 6 a public meeting on August 16th to decide | 7 | place and on the date hereinbefore set forth, to the best of my skill and ability |
| 7 whether to adopt the draft recommendation as | 8 | under the conditions present at the time. |
| 8 written or as modified. | 8 | I further certify that I am neither |
| 9 I will say that we do have to -- | 9 | attorney or counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the |
| 10 when we wrote this dispersion of the work | 10 | action; and further, that I am not a |
| 11 plan, we had a different member of our | 11 | counsel employed in this case, nor am I |
| 12 Subcommittee. So I do need to still confirm | 12 |  |
| 13 some of those dates with him, particularly | 13 | transcript does not apply to any |
| 14 the August 16th, just to make sure that that | 14 | reproduction of the same by any means unless under the direct control and/or |
| 15 works into your schedule. So it is possible | 15 | direction of the certifying reporter. |
| 16 that that August 16th date may slide a little | 16 |  |
| 17 bit, depending on the schedule of the | 17 |  |
| 18 Subcommittee and whatnot. But that's the | 18 |  |
| 19 rough time frame for likely when our next | 19 |  |
| 20 public meeting would be. | 20 | Susan J. Robidas, LCR/RPR |
| 21 So with that, I would like to -- I | 21 | Registered Professional Reporter <br> N.H. LCR No. 44 (RSA 310-A:173) |
| 22 think we can end the meeting, unless either | 22 | N.H. LCR No. 44 (RSA 310-A:173) |
| 23 of you had any other points of discussion. | 23 |  |
| 24 MR. EATON: No. | 24 |  |
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| 1 MR. DUCLOS: I'm good. |  |  |
| 2 PRESIDING OFFICER EVANS: Okay. |  |  |
| 3 All right. With that, thank you everybody |  |  |
| 4 for coming today. And we'll keep doing our |  |  |
| 5 investigation. Thank you. |  |  |
| 6 (WHEREUPON the Public Hearing was |  |  |
| 7 adjourned at 2:54 p.m.) |  |  |
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|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & 75: 21 ; 82: 7,11 \\ & \text { ahead (3) } \\ & 9: 11 ; 78: 3 ; 97: 10 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 32: 3,4,11 ; 35: 23 ; 36: 1, \\ & 3 ; 38: 20 ; 43: 22 ; 45: 7,21 ; \\ & 46: 9,15,17,23 ; 47: 3 \\ & 48: 14.15: 49: 3: 50: 14 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c} \hline \text { assess (1) } \\ 57: 20 \end{array}$ |
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|  |  |  |  | $\begin{array}{\|l} \text { assessments (1) } \\ 51: 8 \end{array}$ |
| $5: 7 ; 15: 5 ; 22: 2,12$ |  | 24:24 | 21;52:8;76:23;78:13; | assigned (1) |
| 30:3,14;32:6;33:11; |  | air (2) | 79:14,24;81:14;87:6, | 73:6 |
| 34:20;36:2;37:13;42:5; |  | 87:21,22 | 23,24 | assist (1) |
| 43:5;44:23;62:15;97:7 |  | alarming (1) | apart (1) | 4: |
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