

In Re:

*SEC 2015-06 Northern Pass Public Information Meeting
Lincoln, New Hampshire*

*PUBLIC INFORMATION/Q&A SESSION
September 8, 2015*

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PUBLIC INFORMATION/Q&A SESSION - September 8, 2015
SEC 2015-06 Northern Pass Public Information Meeting Lincoln, New Hampshire

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

September 8, 2015 - 6:00 p.m.
 Mountain Club on Loon Resort & Spa
 90 Loon Mountain Road
 Lincoln, New Hampshire

IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06
 JOINT APPLICATION OF NORTHERN
 PASS, LLC AND PUBLIC SERVICE
 COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a
 EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR A
 CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY
 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW
 HIGH-VOLTAGE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION
 LINE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE:
 Public Information Session held
 pursuant to RSA 162-H:10.

(Presentation by Northern Pass
 Transmission, LLC and Eversource
 Energy, followed by a
 Question-and-Answer Session)

PRESIDING: Hon. Kathleen McGuire (Retired)
 (Presiding as the Moderator)

COURT REPORTERS: Susan J. Robidas, LCR No. 44

{SEC 2015-06}[Lincoln - Presentation/Q&A]{09-08-15}

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1 NOTED AS PRESENT:
 2 Counsel for the Applicant: Barry Needleman, Esq.
 (McLane Middleton)
 3
 4 Thomas B. Getz, Esq.
 (Devine Millimet)
 5
 6
 7 Also noted as present for
 Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and
 8 Eversource Energy Project Team who
 provided answers to questions:
 9
 10 Bill Quinlan, President, Eversource New Hampshire
 Jim Muntz, President of Transmission, Eversource
 11 Sam Johnson, Sr. Project Manger, Burns & McDonnell
 Bob Clarke, Dir. of Siting/Outreach..., Eversource
 12 Lee Carbonneau, Sr. Principal Scientist, Normandeau
 Jerry Fortier, Project Director, Eversource
 13 Chris Soderman, Senior Engineer, Eversource
 Mark Hodgdon, Outside Counsel to Eversource
 Brian Bosse, Engineer, Eversource
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P R O C E E D I N G S

1 THE MODERATOR: Good evening.
 2
 3 My name is Kathleen McGuire, and I'm a
 4 retired superior court judge. I was a judge
 5 for 25 years before I recently fully retired.
 6 I spent a good deal of time in Grafton
 7 County, particularly when I was new on the
 8 bench. They tended to send new judges up to
 9 Grafton County. But I love staying at the
 10 Eastgate and walking downtown to Littleton at
 11 night, and I really miss my trips up here.
 12 My function tonight is to
 13 moderate this public information session
 14 about the Northern Pass Project. This is a
 15 192-mile transmission line proposed to bring
 16 energy from hydroelectric plants in Canada
 17 into New Hampshire and the rest of New
 18 England. The Project is being proposed
 19 jointly by Northern Pass Transmission, LLC
 20 and Public Service Company of New Hampshire,
 21 doing business as Eversource Energy. I
 22 wanted to thank you all very much for coming
 23 out tonight to participate in this event.
 24 Tonight's public information

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1 session is the first step in the state
2 administrative process required by statute,
3 RSA 162-H. Before an energy facility of a
4 particular size can be built, the company
5 proposing the project must receive a
6 Certificate of Site and Facility from the New
7 Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee, or the
8 SEC, an entity that was formed by the
9 Legislature for the purpose of reviewing
10 proposed energy facilities. The statute was
11 recently amended to require that at least 30
12 days before submitting an Application to the
13 SEC, the company -- here, Northern Pass --
14 must hold a public information session in
15 each county in which a project is to be
16 built. The Northern Pass Project is proposed
17 to pass through five counties: Coos,
18 Grafton, Belknap, Merrimack and Rockingham.
19 This meeting is the third of these five
20 pre-application information sessions. The
21 statute further requires that the public
22 information session be recorded, which is why
23 we have two court reporters, Steve Patnaude
24 and Susan Robidas, here taking down

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1 everything that is said tonight. They will
2 then prepare a transcript from the record
3 they take, which will be made part of the
4 application to the SEC.
5 The purpose of these sessions
6 is for Northern Pass to present information
7 to the public and to provide the public with
8 an opportunity to ask questions and make
9 comments about the proposed project. As part
10 of the effort to provide information, an open
11 house began at 5:00 in the room just up the
12 ramp here and will continue throughout the
13 evening. Project engineers and experts are
14 available there to talk with you about the
15 Project.
16 MR. MULLEN: Good evening,
17 Judge.
18 THE MODERATOR: Good evening.
19 Tonight's meeting is three
20 parts. First, after I've completed my
21 introduction, Bill Quinlan, President of
22 Eversource New Hampshire, will make opening
23 remarks on behalf of Northern Pass and
24 present a short video that gives an overview

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1 of the Project. After that, he'll make a
2 brief presentation specific to Grafton
3 County.
4 Second, Mr. Quinlan, aided at
5 times by a project team, will address
6 questions for about an hour. To make the
7 most efficient use of the limited time
8 available, questions will be taken in a
9 written form. Index cards are available at
10 the -- over there at the back of the room for
11 you to write your questions on. Because you
12 may want to ask questions on different
13 topics, I ask that you use one index card for
14 each topic. That will be -- make it easier
15 to group the questions by category. I may
16 then consolidate or summarize the questions
17 within a category in order to cover as much
18 ground as possible. For example: In the
19 last two sessions that we've had so far, many
20 people wanted to know why Northern Pass
21 doesn't just bury the entire line. You'll be
22 happy to know that I won't ask that question
23 20 times. I'm going to consolidate those
24 questions. However, if a question about

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1 burying the line varies and requires a more
2 specific response, then that question will be
3 asked. For example: Why isn't the line
4 buried in a specific location, or what is the
5 cost to bury a line, or something like that.
6 So I'll be very liberal about what varies
7 from the question about why don't you bury
8 the whole line, for example, to ask as many
9 questions as I can. I do hope by minimizing
10 repetition in this way, the evening will be
11 more productive. I'll also try to listen,
12 and if I think that the question wasn't
13 answered or it wasn't understood, I'll ask a
14 follow-up question.
15 Now, some people -- you know,
16 one of the participants or public -- member
17 of the public came up to me just before we
18 began and asked why are we following this
19 format of written questions and answers. And
20 there are a lot of answers to that. One --
21 but the most important thing from my point of
22 view is the fact that this all has to be on
23 the record. I've worked with court reporters
24 for 25 years, and I understand the very

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1 difficult job that they have of getting down
2 everything that everybody says. And in that
3 way, this is procedurally more like a
4 courtroom than a town hall meeting, which is
5 not on the record and people can -- it's much
6 more free-flowing -- because they're
7 responsible for getting down everything
8 everybody says, making a transcript of that
9 and submitting your comments, and your
10 questions and the answers to the SEC.
11 Another reason that we
12 followed this format is it's the format that
13 the SEC itself uses if you attend subsequent
14 sessions. At least in the past, that's how
15 the SEC has done it. So we're following the
16 same format as the SEC. Again, the
17 obligation to take a record and to make a
18 transcript is a statutory requirement. There
19 is an obligation to do that, and we have a
20 statutory requirement to do so. And again,
21 we don't have -- there's a lot of people
22 here. A lot of people have questions. A lot
23 of people will want to comment. And we need
24 to follow an efficient procedure so that

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1 everybody gets that opportunity. So, those
2 are the reasons.
3 Besides not asking questions that are
4 merely repetition -- repetitious, I'm not
5 going to ask questions that aren't really
6 questions. Sometimes they're comments or
7 they're opinions. And so I will take that
8 comment or opinion and I'll put it aside and
9 it will go in with the comments that will be
10 submitted to the SEC. And I'll trust that
11 the person who wrote the comment will take
12 advantage of the portion of the program where
13 members of the public get up, come to that
14 microphone and give their opinions or make
15 comments about the Project. So the member of
16 the public who spoke to me said there was a
17 concern that all the questions weren't being
18 asked. And those are really the only two
19 types of questions that I won't ask: If it's
20 already been asked and answered, and if it's
21 not really a question but a comment or
22 opinion, which you are certainly -- as I
23 said, that will be preserved as part of the
24 record. Your comment doesn't get thrown out

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1 or anything. It goes with the comments. And
2 the other thing is you'll then have the
3 opportunity to come up and make that comment
4 later.
5 All right. The third portion of the
6 program is the comment session. In order to
7 comment, if you want to comment, you just go
8 to the back of the room, write down on a
9 sheet of paper your name and your town and
10 your address. In receiving comments,
11 preference will be given to Grafton County
12 residents, homeowners, business owners, and
13 then non-residents will follow. If you don't
14 want to speak at the microphone but still
15 want a comment be part of the record with the
16 SEC, just write it down, and that -- and your
17 written comment will be made part of the
18 Application.
19 The third part -- I'm sorry. So that's
20 what we're going to do tonight. And I just
21 want to talk to you a little bit now before
22 we have Mr. Quinlan come up, and that is the
23 administrative process that will follow.
24 This public information session is the

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1 first step in a lengthy administrative
2 process. The next step will be for Northern
3 Pass to file its application with the SEC.
4 Pursuant to R.S.A. Chapter 162-H, this may
5 occur no sooner than 30 days after completing
6 the five public information sessions. The
7 Application, including all public comments,
8 will be available online at the SEC web site,
9 and hard copies will be delivered to each
10 town affected by the Project. Once the
11 Application is filed, the SEC has 60 days to
12 determine whether to accept it. Within 45
13 days after acceptance, the SEC will conduct
14 another set of public information sessions in
15 each county. Additionally, within 90 days
16 after the Application is accepted, the SEC
17 and other state agencies are required to hold
18 joint public hearings. In the past, those
19 hearings involve, like tonight's session, the
20 Applicant presenting information about the
21 proposed project, the public making comments,
22 and the SEC moderating a written public
23 question-and-answer session. Additionally,
24 the SEC and the state agencies also ask the

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1 Applicant questions about the Project.
2 The last part of the state
3 administrative process occurs when the SEC
4 holds public adjudicative hearings at which
5 it will consider evidence from Northern Pass
6 and other parties and decide whether or not
7 to issue a certificate authorizing Northern
8 Pass to proceed with their proposed project.
9 These hearings typically occur eight months
10 or more after an Application is accepted.
11 Again, thank you all very much for
12 participating in this initial step of the SEC
13 siting process. I'd like to now introduce
14 Bill Quinlan, President of Eversource New
15 Hampshire. Mr. Quinlan.
16 MR. QUINLAN: Thank you, Judge
17 McGuire. And good evening, everyone. At the
18 outset, I want to thank you all for being
19 here tonight. You know, this is the third of
20 our five public information sessions, as
21 Judge McGuire indicated. One of these is
22 required in each of the five counties through
23 which this project will pass, and these are
24 important sessions. We truly do value the

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1 input we're receiving, not only during these
2 sessions, but in discussions across the state
3 of New Hampshire. Discussions like this and
4 the questions you ask, the comments you make,
5 have gone a long way in shaping the ForwardNH
6 Plan that we announced a couple weeks ago.
7 And that listening is not at an end. It's
8 going to continue right on through the siting
9 process, and hopefully into the construction
10 period. So, thank you again for being here
11 tonight. Thanks for taking time out of your
12 schedule, and I do look forward to your
13 questions. To the extent we can't answer any
14 particular question tonight because it's at a
15 level that we're not prepared to answer,
16 we'll certainly take that down and get back
17 to you. And we also welcome your comments.
18 You know, those are very valuable in helping
19 us to make any adjustments we need to around
20 this project. So it's a project that works
21 for New Hampshire.
22 So, as Judge McGuire
23 indicated, you know, we're going to soon move
24 into the formal siting process here in New

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1 Hampshire, which means we'll file our
2 application, and that will start an whole
3 other administrative process. But before we
4 do that, these are important sessions for us.
5 They build upon sessions that we've had for
6 the last year across the state of New
7 Hampshire. And, you know, I've been in many
8 of those personally, as have many of the
9 Project Team. And when you boil down what
10 we've heard for the last year or so around
11 this project, really, two themes, two common
12 issues, you know, are consistent; you hear
13 them universally across the state, which is:
14 As a project, if this project is going to
15 move forward, the Company needs to do a
16 better job in addressing scenic impacts, view
17 impacts, historic resource impacts. But as a
18 general matter, you know, the prior proposal,
19 you really need to take a hard look at that
20 and do what we can to make it a more
21 palatable project for the state of New
22 Hampshire.
23 And second, and I give it
24 equal weight, is the Project has to deliver

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1 direct benefits to New Hampshire. This can't
2 be a project that's all about getting power
3 from Canada down to load centers in Boston or
4 Connecticut, and none of the benefits rest in
5 New Hampshire if we're going to host it.
6 Those are the two themes, two
7 concerns or questions we've heard
8 consistently for the last year or so. And
9 they really resonated with us and led to what
10 we announced two weeks ago, which is the
11 ForwardNH Planh. I'm going to give you a
12 quick overview of what that plan looks like.
13 We're going to run a video that brings it to
14 life a bit, and then we're going to drill
15 down to Grafton County, okay.
16 So, the ForwardNH Plan, it
17 started with an improved route. And to do
18 this, we first had to make a decision to
19 change the size of the Project. You'll
20 recall, if you've been following this
21 project, we originally proposed a
22 1200-megawatt project. So the number of
23 megawatts is basically the amount of energy
24 flowing into the country and into New

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1 Hampshire. So we've reduced the size of the
2 Project from 1200 megawatts to 1,000
3 megawatts. What that allowed us to do is to
4 actually change the cable technology -- so,
5 the cable carrying that energy across the
6 border into New Hampshire. Why is that
7 important? We had to make that decision,
8 reduce the size of the Project, change the
9 cable technology to allow us to address the
10 first issue we heard from New Hampshire,
11 which is, you know, you need to pursue
12 underground construction in the most
13 treasured or scenic areas of the state.
14 That's been consistently brought forward by
15 many stakeholders across New Hampshire. So
16 we've scaled the Project down. We've changed
17 the cable technology. What that's allowed us
18 to do, in essence, is to go underground, use
19 underground construction for now 60 miles of
20 the Project. You'll recall the prior
21 proposal, about 8 miles of the Project was
22 underground, basically in the far north
23 portion of the route. And now we've made a
24 significant increase in the amount of

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1 underground construction in this yellow area,
2 which much of it resides here in this county.
3 But, you know, that was a big change. You
4 know, this project will now deliver
5 18 percent less clean, affordable energy to
6 the state of New Hampshire and to New England
7 at a time where it's really important that we
8 increase the amount of low-cost, clean energy
9 flowing into this portion of the country.
10 But it's a trade-off we made based upon
11 feedback that we received from New Hampshire.
12 The other thing that we
13 elected to do, in addition to changing the
14 cable technology, is to begin to look
15 structure-by-structure for those overhead
16 portions of the line to reduce to the maximum
17 extent possible how tall the structure is.
18 If there's a different structure design or a
19 different structure location or shielding
20 that we can use to reduce the view impact,
21 we're doing that. You'll see some examples
22 of it up and down this line. But all of this
23 is based upon feedback that we've received
24 from New Hampshire in sessions just like

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1 this. The video's going to bring this to
2 life. I'm not going to dwell on it. But
3 these are steps we've taken to address the
4 principal issue raised by New Hampshire.
5 As I said, the second issue
6 was one of benefits. You know, you need to
7 prove to us that this project is beneficial
8 to New Hampshire, that it's going to deliver
9 environmental benefits and that it's going to
10 deliver economic benefits here in New
11 Hampshire, not just to New England. And that
12 is the ForwardNH Plan. It's the high-level
13 summary of the plan. There are detailed
14 sheets around that you can look at to see
15 exactly what I'm talking about. But we've
16 broken it out into kind of high-level areas
17 of New Hampshire benefits. It starts, first
18 and foremost, with lower energy costs. Why
19 is this project important? This Project is
20 important because, as a state, as a region,
21 as a country, we need to develop new,
22 affordable and clean sources of electricity.
23 You know, if we're going to meet our
24 environmental goals to reduce carbon

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1 emissions, we need projects just like
2 Northern Pass to achieve that, or we're going
3 to remain committed to largely a fossil fuel
4 generation mix, okay.
5 So, Northern Pass, what does
6 it do? You bring in a low-cost, clean source
7 of energy, and it lowers the wholesale price
8 of electricity for all of New England,
9 specifically and particularly here in New
10 Hampshire. We estimate that to be about
11 \$80 million a year in cost savings for New
12 Hampshire customers. So if you're a business
13 or residential customer anywhere in New
14 Hampshire, you're going to see a significant
15 change in your energy costs, and to some, and
16 perhaps more importantly, you're going to see
17 relative stability. So I think many of you,
18 particularly businesses, are aware of how
19 volatile energy prices have been recently in
20 the winter. That volatility is going to be
21 with us unless and until we bring in power
22 supplies like Northern Pass. So that's a
23 clear and direct New Hampshire benefit.
24 That's a New Hampshire figure.

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1 We also announced the
2 establishment of a ForwardNH Fund. This is a
3 fund that is going to be used really for
4 community betterment projects in the
5 communities that are hosting the line. I've
6 got some examples I'll share with you later.
7 But this is, again, directly focused on
8 feedback that we received. If a community is
9 going to have a new line run through it, it
10 can't just be about tax benefits. There has
11 to be something else in it for those
12 communities, okay.

13 This third line, which I've
14 been hearing consistently here in New
15 Hampshire, particularly of late, is the
16 importance of jobs. You know, this project
17 needs to create job opportunities for New
18 Hampshire citizens and residents. So we
19 announced a month or so ago a New Hampshire
20 Jobs partnership, which is going to give
21 basically a New Hampshire First approach to
22 this entire project. So if you think about a
23 \$1.4, \$1.5 million construction project and
24 the number of jobs required to execute that,

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1 each and every opportunity we have to source
2 that with either existing New Hampshire
3 contractors or labor force, we're going to do
4 that. In some instances, we're actually
5 going to train New Hampshire residents in a
6 new skill. So we're going to use this as an
7 opportunity to create careers for those who
8 are interested. So that's terribly important
9 to many here in New Hampshire. We estimate,
10 you know, over 2,000 construction jobs, which
11 is a big deal. It's a big deal for the state
12 of New Hampshire, particularly when a lot of
13 this project is up in the North Country.
14 That type of economic stimulus is key.

15 You know, I put the tax figure
16 up here. That's a statewide figure. It's
17 about \$30 million a year in new tax revenues.
18 I'll show you in a minute what that means to
19 Grafton County and to your individual towns.

20 And then, finally, you know,
21 from a clean energy perspective, what is this
22 project going to do? If you think about the
23 history of Northern Pass, it was originally
24 envisioned as a way for New Hampshire and New

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1 England to meet its carbon emission goals.
2 You know, if you're focused on global
3 warming, focused on climate change, you know
4 how much attention moving the generation from
5 fossil fuels to hydro and other renewables is
6 it's the key to the future. There's no
7 project like Northern Pass in that regard.
8 You know, there's certainly a place for
9 intermittent sources, like solar and wind.
10 But fundamentally, you have to have a
11 baseload source of electricity to balance
12 those intermittent sources. Northern Pass is
13 the perfect solution. We estimate about
14 3 million tons a year in carbon emissions
15 reduction as a result of the Project.

16 Finally, we've also announced
17 as part of our ForwardNH Plan our intention
18 to use properties that we've acquired as part
19 of the Northern Pass Project and a mixed-use
20 application, particularly in the North
21 Country. We're going to look for community
22 initiatives that will allow us to find good
23 and appropriate mixed uses that are
24 appropriate in the North Country, whether

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1 it's economic development, recreational
2 purposes, resource preservation. A mix. And
3 that, we think, is terribly important to the
4 North Country.

5 When you total all that up,
6 it's approaching \$4 billion worth of direct
7 economic benefits to the state of New
8 Hampshire. My view of that is these are
9 conservative numbers. These numbers could
10 well be higher in many categories. So we try
11 to err on the side of conservatism. But it's
12 a big number. And it was designed and
13 quantified and structured specifically based
14 upon feedback we've gotten from New
15 Hampshire, which is, you know, this
16 perception that this project was all about
17 getting power to Boston and/or Connecticut.
18 So, right now, the lion's share of the
19 benefits actually reside in New Hampshire,
20 okay.

21 With that, Andrea, we're going
22 to queue up a short video that's going to
23 provide more detail around ForwardNH, and
24 then we'll drill down more specifically into

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1 Grafton County.
2 (Whereupon a video presentation was
3 shown to the members of the public.)
4 THE MODERATOR: There are
5 seats down here in front. You're not going
6 to get called on, I promise you. And there
7 are a lot of seats over there as well on the
8 far -- on my far right if you want to fill
9 those in. Okay.
10 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So a
11 little detail about Grafton County. As the
12 video indicates, the line will enter Grafton
13 County in Bethlehem. It runs overhead
14 through a portion of Bethlehem and then
15 basically transitions to underground
16 construction. The dashed area through Sugar
17 Hill, Franconia, Easton, Woodstock, down to
18 Bridgewater is underground. The Project then
19 is overhead for the balance of the route.
20 All of the overhead construction in Grafton
21 County is in an existing right-of-way. So
22 there's existing transmission lines in a
23 cleared right-of-way that basically will run
24 parallel to that existing right-of-way. So,

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1 statistically, in Grafton County, 52 miles of
2 underground construction, 11 miles of
3 overhead construction. When you look at the
4 height of those overhead structures -- and
5 again, this is something we've been working
6 on, we're going to continue to work on to get
7 these structures as low as we can. Our now
8 most common structure in Grafton County is
9 approximately 80 feet in height. So those
10 have come down a fair amount from what you've
11 seen previously. As a result of the changes
12 we've made, more underground construction, et
13 cetera, and different cable, we've been able
14 to eliminate approximately 400 structures in
15 Grafton County. You know, again, we selected
16 that area, that White Mountain National
17 Forest, Franconia Notch, Appalachian Trail
18 area, based upon feedback we received pretty
19 consistently across the state of New
20 Hampshire. So, all of that will be
21 underground construction, and the line will
22 not be visible from those key vantage points.
23 In this portion of the route,
24 the average structure heights have been

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1 reduced. And as I said earlier, where
2 possible or appropriate, we are pursuing a
3 more streamline structure. So when you look
4 at these red areas, this is what I'm
5 referring to. Those are areas that one of
6 our experts, whether our view expert or
7 historic resources expert, have identified as
8 warranting specific attention, that the view
9 impact should be mitigated through the use of
10 a more streamline pole. That's referred to
11 as a "monopole." Just to illustrate what I'm
12 referring to, that's a typical transmission
13 structure to the left, a lattice structure
14 (indicating). Looks like an erector set.
15 Has four legs and cross bracing. A monopole
16 looks more like a telephone pole. It's a
17 single pole. You can't hang your cross arm
18 or your wire from it. So in those areas in
19 red, we're going to have monopole
20 construction, based upon input from our
21 visual expert. So there are 19 monopole
22 structures that we identified here in this
23 county. I think it's out of a total
24 structure count of about 89. And up and down

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1 the route we've identified 140 locations
2 where we're going to use a monopole
3 construction. This is again an effort to
4 reduce view impacts based upon impact
5 analysis from our experts. We're going to
6 continue to work locally to identify any
7 other areas that might warrant that type of
8 attention, that type of design, as well as
9 the structure location and structure height,
10 okay. So that's a drill down into Grafton
11 County. Here is a drill down into the tax
12 benefits here in this county. As the video
13 mentioned and I mentioned earlier, it's about
14 a \$30-million-a-year increase in tax revenue
15 across the state of New Hampshire. Much of
16 that does reside here in Grafton County.
17 Somewhere between \$5 and \$8 million a year
18 would go to municipalities here in Grafton
19 County. And then you'll see ranges for each
20 of the towns here in this state that would be
21 hosting the line. So, for many
22 municipalities, this is obviously an
23 important factor as they think about the
24 Project. You can see where your town lines

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1 up.
2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: How long a
3 period?
4 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Sir,
5 you need to -- if you want to ask a question,
6 you're going to need to go ahead in the back
7 and write your question down, and it will be
8 submitted, and the question will be asked
9 through me.
10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay.
11 MR. QUINLAN: So these are
12 long-lived assets. So a transmission line --
13 a transmission project is not like a piece of
14 computing equipment. It doesn't depreciate
15 over three years or five years. These tend
16 to be long-lived; so, a 40-year depreciation
17 is typical for a transmission project.
18 Therefore, the tax revenue generally ramps
19 down very gradually over a long period of
20 time, unlike a short-lived asset, okay. This
21 is what it means to the county and to the
22 towns within the county.
23 As I said at the outset, we're
24 going to continue listening. This is the

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1 third of our five public information
2 sessions. We have two more this week. We
3 also look forward to those sessions as well.
4 Again, the more input we receive, I think the
5 better the Project is overall for New
6 Hampshire. Hopefully you'll agree by looking
7 at the ForwardNH Plan that it's a better
8 project for New Hampshire than the previous
9 proposal. That's the universal feedback
10 we've gotten thus far. I hope you'll agree
11 with that. But the dialogue is going to
12 continue. We're going to solicit input, and
13 we're going to value it.
14 So, with that, I think we're
15 now ready to start the question-and-answer
16 period.
17 THE MODERATOR: Again, there
18 are seats over on the far end, two seats here
19 in the front row, and some other seats
20 scattered. If there's anybody who wants a
21 seat and doesn't have one, would you see one
22 of the Eversource people, and they'll find
23 one for you.
24 So, first question. Why not

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1 bury the entire line in existing
2 rights-of-way to improve --
3 MR. QUINLAN: Wasn't expecting
4 that one.
5 THE MODERATOR: No, I know --
6 to improve reliability from storms and reduce
7 the threat to the grid from terrorists?
8 MR. QUINLAN: So that is a
9 different question. Okay. So, couple of
10 things with underground construction
11 generally. You know, while the number of
12 interruptions in underground lines tend to be
13 lower, the duration of those interruptions
14 when they occur tends to be much greater,
15 okay. So when you look at overall
16 reliability for underground versus
17 overhead -- I'm talking about transmission
18 structures, transmission lines -- overhead
19 transmission tends to have equal or better
20 overall reliability. Restoration for
21 underground cable is timely -- it's
22 time-consuming. You have to locate the
23 fault, you have to excavate the fault, unlike
24 an overhead line where you basically are

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1 fault-locating by driving down the line
2 looking for the interruption. So there is a
3 balance. I'd say reliability of all
4 transmission lines generally -- these are
5 high-voltage transmission lines -- is very,
6 very high. So the reliability you're
7 accustomed to when you think about the
8 distribution lines serving your town or your
9 home, you know, we don't have outages of that
10 frequency on these high-voltage transmission
11 lines. It's very, very rare that you have an
12 interruption on the transmission system.
13 THE MODERATOR: With respect
14 to blasting --
15 MR. QUINLAN: Blasting?
16 THE MODERATOR: Blasting --
17 what effect will it have on the following:
18 Homes, wells and businesses and tourism?
19 MR. QUINLAN: So we do have a
20 team of project members here who are really
21 focused on how we're going to actually build
22 this project. I'm going to ask Sam Johnson,
23 who's one of our project engineers, to
24 explain the construction methods and

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1 particularly the impact of blasting.
2 MR. JOHNSON: Sure. So,
3 blasting, obviously, is needed in the state
4 because of the amount of granite that's here.
5 And it's pretty much prevalent on any kind of
6 roadway project that's done in the state.
7 What we'll do is do what we
8 call "pre-blasting surveys," which means
9 we'll go out and photograph and assess,
10 really, any neighboring foundations, talk to
11 landowners about their wells, and find out
12 really all the needed information regarding
13 those specific sites and areas where we will
14 be blasting, and then we'll compare that to
15 what happens after the blasting. I will say
16 that blasting has become very much an art,
17 and there is a significant amount of work and
18 technology that goes into blasting to limit
19 the effects of any sort of over-blasting
20 which may cause some foundation and other
21 issues.
22 THE MODERATOR: We live in
23 Thornton on Route 3. How long will that
24 section take for construction, and which side

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1 of the road will the line be buried on?
2 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So we're
3 talking specifically about the town of
4 Thornton. So I'm going to turn that one over
5 to the Project Team.
6 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. So,
7 overall, the underground design is at about a
8 30-percent level, which is a conceptual
9 level. We're just beginning our work with
10 the Department of Transportation, to really
11 work with them to minimize impacts both to
12 them and to the local municipalities, and so
13 we haven't determined specifically which side
14 of the road they will be on. And a lot of it
15 has to do with the mechanics of installing
16 the line, bending radiuses to get around
17 corners and things like that. So all of that
18 is coming in the future.
19 What was the second part?
20 MR. QUINLAN: How long will it
21 take?
22 MR. JOHNSON: How long will it
23 take? So, length of construction will
24 probably be -- each crew will probably do

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1 around 20 to 50 feet a day. And that will be
2 excavating, putting in the conduit and then
3 covering it back up and finishing with the
4 asphalt back to a level. At all times the
5 primary goal is to maintain access to either
6 driveways or businesses or side streets, such
7 that we're really not impacting as much as we
8 possibly can. Clearly, we will have some
9 detours, but we're going to work with every
10 single municipality to ensure that we have
11 minimum impact possible.
12 MR. QUINLAN: So, Sam touched
13 on a key point at the end there, which is
14 local interruption. We work
15 community-by-community on minimizing business
16 interruption. So if there's a time of year
17 that is preferable from a construction
18 period, a time of day, a day of week, we try
19 to factor that into the construction planning
20 and execution process, to the extent
21 possible, to minimize not only business
22 interruption, but also homeowner
23 interruption. That's a key focus once we get
24 to that level of planning.

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1 THE MODERATOR: What will the
2 cost reduction be to New Hampshire Electric
3 Co-op residents?
4 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So, when
5 we look at the effect of suppressing the
6 wholesale price of electricity across New
7 England, it's not just Eversource New
8 Hampshire customers and former PSNH
9 customers. That is for residential and
10 business customers across all of New England,
11 including New Hampshire Electric Co-op
12 customers. That \$80-million-a-year figure is
13 really the value to all of New Hampshire
14 customers on an annual basis, including the
15 New Hampshire Electric Co-op customers. When
16 you get to an individual customer level, it's
17 approximately a 5-percent reduction in the
18 energy cost. Now, that varies by customer
19 class. It varies a bit by which utility
20 you're with. But it's around 5 percent.
21 That's a conservative number. There is
22 certainly an upside to that number.
23 The other thing I'll add is
24 it's not only the absolute price of

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1 electricity, it's the stability in the price.
2 You know, right now, if you're a New
3 Hampshire Electric customer, you probably saw
4 significant volatility in your electric bill
5 last winter. Who's a Co-op customer here?
6 Mostly Co-op customers. I'm assuming you
7 saw -- and I'm referring to you probably were
8 paying 9 cents for electricity for 9 months
9 of the year and 14 or 15 cents for 3 months
10 of the year. That's the volatility I'm
11 referring to, almost a doubling of the cost
12 of electricity for those seasonal peaks.
13 Northern Pass and projects like it stabilize
14 the cost of electricity, okay. They
15 basically act like a baseload power plant
16 that runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for
17 all intents and purposes, and eliminates that
18 volatility. If you're a business and you're
19 dependent on that power, it's a cost of goods
20 or cost of manufacturing, not just the
21 absolute price reduction, the 5 percent I'm
22 referring to. It's getting rid of that
23 volatility and stabilizing cost so you can
24 plan your business. So, New Hampshire

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1 Electric Co-op customers see both. They see
2 more stable prices and they see lower prices.
3 THE MODERATOR: Why are you
4 not following the I-93 corridor?
5 MR. QUINLAN: Yes, so we've
6 selected the areas that we decided to go
7 underground based upon a balance. We've been
8 trying to listen to New Hampshire and protect
9 the areas that we've heard the most about
10 from a view and scenic perspective, and that
11 largely is the White Mountain National
12 Forest, Franconia Notch, the Appalachian
13 Trail. Not to say we haven't heard local
14 issues elsewhere. But universally, we've
15 heard resoundingly about that area, and
16 that's what led us to make that decision to
17 go underground in the state roadways like the
18 White Mountain National Forest. The question
19 of using Interstate 93 or the entire length
20 raises a whole series of other issues. One
21 is the disruption to Interstate 93. We'd
22 basically be shutting down all or a portion
23 of the highway for long periods of time. So,
24 this is a two-year construction period, okay.

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1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, that's
2 not true.
3 [Audience interruption/applause.]
4 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. I'm
5 giving you the reasons why Interstate 93 is
6 not in our plan. So it's not only
7 constructability, it's also the cost of the
8 Project. When we look at the cost of this
9 project right now, using the cable that we've
10 moved to, it's somewhere between \$5- and
11 \$10 million a mile for every mile of
12 underground construction that we have. If we
13 went to an all-underground line using
14 Interstate 93 or another similar-length
15 route, it basically adds a billion dollars to
16 the total project cost for the same amount of
17 energy delivered into New England. In our
18 view, that's a balance that isn't balanced.
19 When we look at the Project that does what it
20 needs to do, which is to bring a large amount
21 of power into the region, addresses the
22 principal issues we've heard in New Hampshire
23 around view, and is affordable, adding a
24 billion dollars to the project cost really

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1 throws the balance off. It's not a project
2 that we think is viable. Someone ultimately
3 will pay for this project. So when we think
4 about adding a billion dollars to someone's
5 cost ultimately, it's not a balanced view and
6 not a balanced approach. We think we've
7 struck an appropriate balance. We think
8 we've protected those areas that we've heard
9 the most about. We know our project is
10 affordable, and we know it's going to work
11 technically. So, it's really the two
12 factors: It's the cost of the Project; and
13 then specifically around Interstate 93,
14 because it is a limited-use highway, it's the
15 constructability and the disruption that it
16 would cause. That's a second factor in that
17 decision.
18 THE MODERATOR: Here is a
19 summary of several questions regarding
20 construction on Route 3. Does the State get
21 paid for the use of Route 3?
22 MR. QUINLAN: So, the short
23 answer is: Not really. When you look at New
24 Hampshire law and the regulation around the

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1 use of state highways for public utilities,
2 whether it's an electric line, a sewer line,
3 a gas line or waterline, there is an accepted
4 approach to charging or valuing the use of
5 that public right-of-way. It's very, very
6 modest in the scheme of things. And that
7 would include Interstate 3 -- or Route 3.
8 Is there anything the Project
9 Team would add to that?
10 MR. JOHNSON: No.
11 MR. QUINLAN: The Project, we
12 intend to obviously meet all the
13 requirements, regulatorily and legally or
14 otherwise here in the state of New Hampshire.
15 That's the current structure.
16 THE MODERATOR: How -- on
17 Route 3 again. How will you handle traffic
18 and emergency services and flood planes and
19 streams -- that is, the risk of contaminating
20 groundwater and wells?
21 MR. QUINLAN: So, this again
22 is a detail question I'm going to ask the
23 Project team to address. Jerry Fortier is
24 our Project Director for Northern Pass.

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1 MR. FORTIER: So we would have
2 to work with DOT, the Department of
3 Transportation, here in New Hampshire. As my
4 colleague Sam mentioned, we're at a
5 30-percent design at this point, which we
6 will be providing in our Application.
7 Through the application process, through the
8 siting process, we will continue to work with
9 the DOT, who will identify means and
10 methods -- you know, we'll identify means and
11 methods to them that we use to construct or
12 how to propose it. We will work with them to
13 address any concerns, such as best management
14 practices, traffic management plans. All of
15 those will be included throughout that
16 dialogue over the year.
17 THE MODERATOR: So what about
18 the flood planes and streams and the risk of
19 contaminating groundwater and wells?
20 MR. FORTIER: Again, we would
21 use what are referred to as "best management
22 practices," silk fences and ways to control
23 groundwater -- for instance, frac tanks --
24 anything that would be necessary in

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1 accordance with our permits by DOT.
2 THE MODERATOR: Do you have
3 anything?
4 What will the average duration
5 of the job associated with the -- what will
6 be the average duration of the job associated
7 with the Project? What percentage or number
8 will be permanent? I'm not sure I know what
9 that means.
10 MR. QUINLAN: Yeah. So, you
11 know, there are different jobs that are
12 associated with this project. One of them --
13 THE MODERATOR: Oh, I see.
14 Somebody employed to work on the Project.
15 Okay.
16 MR. QUINLAN: Yeah. Yeah.
17 So, you know, one of the things we're using
18 this project to do is to launch what we refer
19 to as an "apprentice training program." So,
20 an apprentice is someone who's learning the
21 skill of being an electrical worker. We're
22 going to use Northern Pass as an opportunity
23 to essentially teach New Hampshire residents
24 a trade that will be there forever. So, in

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1 those instances, this is a lifetime decision,
2 right. They will basically enter this
3 project, they'll work on this project,
4 they'll receive world-class training, and by
5 the end of the Project, or shortly thereafter
6 fully, they'll be fully qualified and can
7 take that skill and use it both here in New
8 Hampshire or around the United States in a
9 very high-demand, highly skilled profession.
10 We've already begun that process. We've
11 brought in our first apprentice training
12 class of 15. We're going to continue to add
13 classes as we move towards construction. So,
14 in that instance, these are lifetime careers.
15 They're not construction jobs that are a
16 short duration, okay. And we expect there to
17 be quite a number of those. And they're
18 already very highly subscribed. There's a
19 huge demand for that type of opportunity for
20 many residents here in New Hampshire,
21 particularly up in the North Country, where
22 that is a very valued profession. When you
23 go beyond that program -- you know, we showed
24 a figure of 2400 jobs during construction.

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1 That looks at basically a two-plus-year
2 construction period; so, again, a \$1.5
3 billion construction effort. New Hampshire
4 probably hasn't seen one of those since
5 Seabrook Station, okay. So it's been many
6 years since anything of this magnitude has
7 existed here in New Hampshire. What does
8 that create? It creates opportunities for
9 local utility workers who are already fully
10 qualified to go to work for two years or more
11 here in this state. And you can ask many of
12 them. They haven't worked in New Hampshire,
13 in some cases, 10 years. So that's a very
14 important opportunity. For some, you know,
15 you view it as temporary. But in the
16 construction business, a two-year
17 construction project is a very long project.
18 In a similar fashion, if you look at all the
19 support required around a large electrical
20 infrastructure project, whether it's building
21 roads, clearing land, provision of gravel,
22 hotels and restaurants, there are literally
23 hundreds -- in this case, thousands -- of
24 second- and third-order jobs that are created

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1 for basically the next two years. It is a
2 very significant economic stimulation for New
3 Hampshire.
4 So, the short answer is: The
5 length of the jobs vary. Some it's just the
6 construction period, and other instances it's
7 a career that's going to serve folks well for
8 a lifetime.
9 THE MODERATOR: What tax
10 revenues do local towns currently derive from
11 Eversource? And following up, I think it's
12 and how will that compare to what they will
13 derive if the Northern Pass Project is
14 approved?
15 MR. QUINLAN: Yeah. So it
16 varies. You know, we serve about 75 percent
17 of the state. So we have electric
18 infrastructure in roughly 75 percent of the
19 towns in this state. So, in those towns, the
20 amount of tax revenues received from
21 Eversource is a function of what's the
22 infrastructure we have in that particular
23 town. In other areas of the state, for
24 example, served by the Co-op, where we don't

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1 have any infrastructure place there, there
2 really is no tax revenue coming from
3 Eversource. So it varies town-by-town,
4 depending whether it's a town that we serve
5 or not. Now, when you look at the numbers I
6 showed you earlier, in many instances these
7 are very significant increases in the grant
8 list for these towns. I've seen some of the
9 towns through which Northern Pass will
10 pass -- will traverse as, in essence,
11 doubling the grant list and, therefore,
12 doubling the tax bases for some of these
13 towns. In some towns, it's a 10-percent
14 increase, 25 percent. But, you know, there
15 are certain small towns along this route
16 where it's quite a dramatic impact in the
17 grant list and in associated taxes.
18 THE MODERATOR: You promised
19 \$30 million of new state and local tax
20 revenues. Could you give us a breakdown by
21 state, county, local towns.
22 I'm not sure if you answered
23 that with your slide before or not.
24 MR. QUINLAN: That's for

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1 Grafton County only. We can, and I'll be
2 happy to provide that. The vast majority,
3 I'm going to say 75 to 80 percent, is at a
4 municipal level. The county taxes are the
5 next largest percentage, and then the
6 state-level taxes are relatively modest in
7 the scheme of things. But I don't have the
8 exact breakdown by percentage with me.
9 THE MODERATOR: Is there a
10 handout on that?
11 MR. FORTIER: They can go on
12 the web site.
13 MR. QUINLAN: It is available
14 on the web site. I know there's someone here
15 who knows that, so we can get that answer and
16 get back to you before we break today.
17 THE MODERATOR: How many towns
18 are you currently asking for re-evaluation of
19 property values?
20 [Audience interruption/applause]
21 MR. QUINLAN: Yeah, so the
22 question there is really focused on the issue
23 of tax abatement processes, okay. So there's
24 accepted methodology in this country and in

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1 New England for how utility assets are valued
2 and then taxed. It basically looks to the
3 net book value of that asset; so, what's the
4 cost of the asset and then a gradual
5 depreciation. That's the industry-accepted
6 practice for valuing a taxing utility
7 infrastructure in many places around this
8 country. Here in New Hampshire, in some
9 towns, there's a different methodology. It's
10 based upon an appraised value or a perceived
11 market value. Where we have some challenges
12 and issues is when the appraised value is
13 dramatically different from what the net book
14 value methodology yields. So if they're
15 reasonably close, we really don't have any
16 issues with municipal-level tax. It's when
17 they're dramatically different.

18 Now, why is that important?
19 It's not terribly important to Eversource.
20 You know, the taxes we pay ultimately are
21 born by our customers. So we have a
22 fiduciary obligation to our customers to keep
23 our overall rates as low as we can, and that
24 includes a reasonable approach to taxation.

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1 So we really try to be thoughtful about when
2 we raise an abatement issue with a town. We
3 understand the impact that could have on a
4 town. We have lots of discussions with the
5 town before we do it, and hopefully we'll get
6 to a comfortable place. But it is an issue
7 that we are focused on, really on behalf of
8 our customers.

9 MR. MULLEN: He hasn't
10 answered the question.

11 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

12 MR. MULLEN: The question was
13 how many.

14 THE MODERATOR: All right.

15 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to say
16 there are probably, sir, I believe a hundred
17 and -- actually, over 200 towns in this
18 state. Two hundred towns in this state. I
19 believe we have ongoing tax issues with
20 perhaps 70.

21 [Audience interruption/applause]

22 THE MODERATOR: The new
23 underground route chosen for burial is not
24 specified as one of your chosen routes in the

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1 DOE draft. How can the Northern Pass specify
2 a route that has not been reviewed by the DOE
3 or included as a numbered route for the SEC
4 and the public?

5 MR. QUINLAN: So what the
6 questioner is referring to is the Department
7 of Energy, a couple months ago, issued its
8 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. And in
9 it they analyzed the whole series of routes,
10 including our initial proposed route, which
11 was the 1200-megawatt project with only the
12 8 miles of underground construction up north,
13 and the rest of it was overhead. That was
14 the proposed action they reviewed. They then
15 looked at variations on that route, and the
16 variations were either variations proposed by
17 others or of their own choosing. And they
18 looked at a whole range of route
19 alternatives. Our decision to underground
20 the areas that we have elected to underground
21 was based largely on New Hampshire feedback.
22 Ultimately, when the Department of Energy
23 came out with their Environmental Impact
24 Statement, it confirmed that we had selected

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1 the right areas in and around the White
2 Mountain National Forest, because the
3 Department of Energy also identified that as
4 the area that warranted further attention.

5 But really, our decisions were based more on
6 feedback we had received from New Hampshire.

7 Now, the Department of Energy
8 had some instances where, you know, that
9 amount of underground construction was
10 10 miles or 16 miles, just the minimum amount
11 required to get you technically out of the
12 White Mountain National Forest, all right.
13 Those were some of the alternatives. Then
14 they looked at longer amounts of underground
15 construction. We selected one that addressed
16 the areas that we had heard the most about
17 from New Hampshire -- White Mountain National
18 Forest, important view sheds from the White
19 Mountain National Forest, Franconia Notch,
20 the Appalachian Trail -- and we determined
21 where are the points of intersection between
22 that route and our current right-of-way,
23 because we needed transition points to go
24 from underground to overhead construction and

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1 back. So our route was basically driven by
2 New Hampshire feedback and the realities of
3 having a secure route. When you look at the
4 Department of Energy and all of the
5 alternatives they had looked at, they looked
6 at variations that encompassed our route in
7 its entirety. And you could piece together
8 various segments that they looked at. The
9 key point is that our route came as a result
10 of feedback from New Hampshire, not from what
11 DOE --
12 THE MODERATOR: Sir, you're --
13 MR. QUINLAN: -- not from what
14 DOE found.
15 THE MODERATOR: Sir, if you
16 want to ask a question, you're going to have
17 to go over and write it down, and they'll
18 bring it down here.
19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can everyone
20 of you against this project --
21 THE MODERATOR: Excuse me,
22 sir.
23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: -- just say
24 "No."

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1 AUDIENCE: No.
2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.
3 Good-bye.
4 THE MODERATOR: If you bury
5 the line, how will you --
6 [Audience interruption/applause]
7 THE MODERATOR: If you bury
8 the line, how will you compensate businesses
9 along Route 3 for the loss of income while
10 you are in the process of digging up Route 3?
11 MR. QUINLAN: So, again, I'll
12 turn to the Project Team in a minute. But
13 one of the things we are going to do very
14 clearly when we get to the construction
15 planning process is to work
16 municipality-by-municipality, area-by-area,
17 town-by-town, street-by-street, on how do we
18 approach the construction of this,
19 particularly the underground area, in a way
20 that, you know, minimizes the interruption to
21 businesses.
22 As far as compensation of
23 particular businesses or business
24 interruption, Bob or Jerry? Bob is our

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1 Siting/Permitting Project Team Lead.
2 MR. CLARKE: Thanks, Bill.
3 Yeah, what we'll do is work
4 with all the businesses and do the best we
5 can to avoid any interruptions with those
6 businesses, mitigate anything we can. And
7 then, if there are issues, we will work with
8 that and business owners on a case-by-case
9 basis.
10 THE MODERATOR: Is the 8/18
11 proposed NPT route considered an amended
12 application for the presidential permit; and
13 if so, will DOE schedule additional scoping
14 hearings?
15 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to
16 turn this over to Jerry. But the short
17 answer is: No, it's not an amended
18 application. The route we've announced is
19 fully within the routes analyzed by the
20 Department of Energy, as I said earlier, so
21 it's, in essence, encompassed by the route
22 alternatives that we've studied.
23 MR. FORTIER: Yeah, and the
24 alternatives that Bill described earlier are

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1 Alternatives 4C and 5C, as well as the
2 original proposed action. That encompasses
3 all but a 3-mile section to the north of
4 Alternative 5C that bypasses the Rocks Estate
5 and also the Profiles on Route 302.
6 THE MODERATOR: How much
7 rental fee does Eversource expect to receive
8 from Hydro-Quebec for the use of
9 right-of-ways in New Hampshire?
10 MR. QUINLAN: There is no plan
11 for a rental agreement between Hydro-Quebec
12 and Eversource New Hampshire.
13 THE MODERATOR: The electric
14 lines going from Canada through New York and
15 Vermont are buried in their entirety. Why
16 aren't the scenic beauty, tourist vitality,
17 real estate stability and health of our New
18 Hampshire citizens worthy of the same
19 consideration?
20 MR. QUINLAN: Yeah, so I'm
21 going to turn this one over to Jim Muntz.
22 Jim's our President of Transmission.
23 MR. MUNTZ: Thanks, Bill. The
24 projects that are referred to in Vermont and

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1 to New York are proposed projects that
2 haven't been built yet. Any of those
3 projects, to come to completion, they're
4 going to need five things: They're going to
5 need a power supply identified, something
6 that has generation that can provide power to
7 the north end of the line; they're going to
8 need the line in Canada constructed and
9 somebody identified to pay for that. We've
10 identified -- you know, Hydro-Quebec has
11 agreed to build the Canadian line --
12 THE MODERATOR: Jim, might you
13 use the microphone? Thank you.
14 MR. MUNTZ: -- the Canadian
15 side of our line. The other thing you need
16 is a siteable project. You need to have a
17 project that can get a siting certificate.
18 Finally, you need -- or next to finally, you
19 need contractors that are identified that
20 are, you know, willing to build the project
21 for the price that you talk about. We are in
22 the process of negotiating with contractors
23 that are nationwide and have done a lot of
24 these projects, and we're in the final throes

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1 of identifying those, and we believe that
2 will add further credibility to this project.
3 The last thing you need are
4 customers willing to pay the cost of the
5 transmission and the power that's being
6 supplied over it. And everybody wants clean
7 and renewable power these days. And
8 unfortunately, where that comes from is
9 generally not near where the power is
10 consumed. So you also need a relatively
11 sizable transmission line. And to get that,
12 you need to be willing to pay the price. We
13 think this is a very balanced project and
14 will provide the best value for New
15 Hampshire, and also New England.
16 MR. QUINLAN: So, just on that
17 final point, which is the question of cost,
18 you know, I think the projects that the
19 questioner is referring to really needs to
20 look at those projects objectively as to
21 whether they're truly balanced. Is it a
22 project that has a secure power supply? You
23 know, does it have an interconnection on the
24 Canadian side of the border? Is the cost

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1 estimate that's being shared publicly truly
2 what it's going to cost to build those
3 projects? I think you'll find that several
4 of these projects are really conceptual.
5 They're very early in their planning phase,
6 and they really aren't balanced. And they
7 aren't at that level where you can answer
8 those questions in the affirmative.
9 And, you know, the other issue
10 in Vermont in particular is, you know, there
11 exists Lake Champlain in Vermont, right. So,
12 underwater construction, which is a long part
13 of that project, is very different than
14 underground construction. It's far less
15 costly. And as I said, for our project, we
16 think we've struck the right balance. And
17 cost is certainly one of the factors that we
18 weighed in our calculus.
19 THE MODERATOR: How far back
20 from the road edge will you be clearing trees
21 and vegetation?
22 MR. QUINLAN: So I'm assuming
23 this is in the underground portion of the
24 line where we're going along the right-of-way

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1 basically in the shoulder of the road. With
2 that, I'm going to turn it over to Sam.
3 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I would
4 say for over 99.9 percent of the Project we
5 have no plans to trim any trees, that we will
6 try to stay in the shoulder and travel lane
7 of the road itself.
8 MR. QUINLAN: And Sam, maybe
9 just to highlight that, maybe you could
10 explain the width of the --
11 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, the width
12 that we're planning on constructing is about
13 4 feet wide and about 4-1/2 feet deep
14 overall. So the impact will sawcut the road
15 or the shoulder, and we will trench it 4-feet
16 wide and then restore it back to its
17 capabilities once we're completed.
18 THE MODERATOR: And will
19 herbicides be used in the future to limit
20 regrowth so that roots don't infiltrate the
21 buried structure?
22 MR. QUINLAN: No. So, here in
23 New Hampshire, unlike other states which the
24 questioner may be familiar with, we don't use

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1 herbicides as a way of managing vegetation.
2 We use either a mowing process or a
3 tree-trimming process. We don't use
4 herbicides as you may be familiar with
5 elsewhere.
6 THE MODERATOR: Who will
7 compensate the people who lose property
8 values due to the above-treeline towers?
9 MR. QUINLAN: So one of the
10 things we've been doing for, now years, but
11 we've really focused on it recently, is
12 reaching out to landowners who are basically
13 abutting landowners, who are adjacent to the
14 right-of-way with the line that's proposed.
15 We've had multiple rounds of outreach, a lot
16 of discussions with those homeowners. We've
17 captured all that information. In some
18 instances, the property owner is just
19 interested in information and they just want
20 to understand, "What does this mean? Explain
21 to me electric magnetic frequency," for
22 example. In other instances where a homeowner
23 may have a concern about property values,
24 again we're working on the location, height

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1 and design of the structures to try to
2 minimize that. In certain instances, you
3 know, we'll deal with homeowners on a
4 case-by-case basis if we don't otherwise get
5 to a comfortable place. And in some cases,
6 you know, we'll take other steps to mitigate
7 local concerns. But that really is a
8 homeowner-by-homeowner discussion that we're
9 focused on.
10 I think we've reached out to
11 how many, Sam, 3,000?
12 MR. JOHNSON: About 3600.
13 MR. QUINLAN: About 3600
14 different homeowners along the route. And we
15 intend to do that. And now that we're honing
16 in on the project design, we're going to do
17 it with more intensity, particularly for
18 those homeowners who are along the overhead
19 portion of the route.
20 THE MODERATOR: How did
21 Northern Pass come up with 5-percent savings
22 for customers' electric bills as a result of
23 the Project?
24 MR. QUINLAN: So there's

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1 actually a fairly complicated model that
2 essentially estimates that. But it's really
3 simple. You look at the forward price of
4 power in New England and, therefore, in New
5 Hampshire without Northern Pass, and then you
6 run the model again with Northern Pass. So,
7 basically you have 1,000 new megawatts of
8 low-cost electricity, and you inject that
9 into New England. And basically, what it
10 does is it suppresses the overall market
11 price of electricity.
12 Let me explain to you how that
13 works. So, New England is one market. New
14 Hampshire is part of it. The way electricity
15 prices -- that wholesale price works is
16 across New England you need look at what does
17 the customer demand for electricity, and then
18 you start running generating units to the
19 point where you meet the customer demand,
20 okay. That last generating unit that's
21 required to meet customer demand across New
22 England sets the price for all customers and
23 for all plans, okay. So when you take
24 Northern Pass and you inject that 1,000

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1 megawatts at the bottom of that bid stack,
2 the 1,000 megawatts of most costly generation
3 that was setting the clearing price goes
4 away. It's not needed to meet customer
5 demand. So it basically offsets high-price
6 units that don't have to run in New England.
7 It's really just a before-and-after analysis.
8 It is complicated, but there are literally
9 hundreds of units that need to be modeled,
10 but it looks at basically market clearing
11 prices with and without Northern Pass. It's
12 pretty accepted in the industry how this
13 works.
14 THE MODERATOR: Are the union
15 members who come en mass to these meetings
16 paid?
17 [Audience interruption/applause]
18 MR. QUINLAN: So, no. But I
19 would -- you know, we talk about jobs. When
20 you talk about the jobs that a project like
21 this creates, not only for folks who are
22 fully qualified and practicing that trade and
23 just want to get home and work in New
24 Hampshire for a few years, but also, you

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1 know, young folks who want to enter a skilled
2 trade and do it here in New Hampshire, that's
3 why those folks are here, because these jobs
4 are important to them, whether they're two
5 years in duration or a new career. You know,
6 it's an important factor that, if you read
7 the DOE, in their review -- I know some of
8 you have done that -- they put a heavy
9 emphasis on jobs that are created,
10 particularly for skilled electrical workers.
11 I think that's what brings folks here,
12 because they're passionate about the job
13 opportunities.
14 MR. MULLEN: Judge, please ask
15 him to answer --
16 THE MODERATOR: No. Sir --
17 MR. MULLEN: -- the question.
18 THE MODERATOR: Sir --
19 MR. MULLEN: Answer the
20 question, please.
21 THE MODERATOR: Please just
22 wait --
23 MR. QUINLAN: I think I said
24 "No." I did say "No."

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1 THE MODERATOR: He said "No."
2 Please explain how your
3 agreement with Wagner-Bayroot to develop wind
4 turbines relates to your refusal to use an
5 alternative buried route.
6 MR. QUINLAN: So, for those of
7 you who haven't been following the Project
8 very closely, one of the project changes that
9 was announced in 2013 had to do with the
10 northernmost portion of the line. So, the
11 original proposal had the line running along
12 the western portion of the state in the North
13 Country. And for very similar reasons that
14 led to our recent announcement, the whole
15 route was shifted to the west -- I'm sorry --
16 to the east into the Wagner Forest area. So
17 now, 24 miles of that northernmost portion of
18 the line now runs through a working forest,
19 the Wagner Forest. It's an industrial
20 forest. It's basically used for timber
21 harvesting. And that was intended to move it
22 away from a public place. That's what led to
23 our leasing of property from Bayroot. It's
24 essentially to give us a path through that

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1 24-mile portion of the line that minimizes
2 view impacts for folks in the North Country.
3 THE MODERATOR: If you truly
4 come to understand the culture of the North
5 Country and the passion most people feel for
6 protecting it, why isn't the line being
7 buried to the Canadian border?
8 MR. QUINLAN: So I have done a
9 lot of listening in the North Country. You
10 know, you get a lot of different perspectives
11 in the North Country. You know, there are
12 certainly folks who would say, you know, we'd
13 like it buried in the North Country. There
14 are other folks in the North Country who say,
15 you know, we're interested in the tax
16 revenues because it could change our
17 municipality. We're interested in the job
18 opportunities, whether it's for our young
19 folks to learn a new trade, whether it's
20 local contractors who could benefit by having
21 a great opportunity to work on a
22 two-year-long project. We hear other voices
23 in the North Country around the ForwardNH
24 Plan. That \$200 million fund that we

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1 announced is going to have a keen focus on
2 the North Country. And why is that? I hear
3 from many folks in the North Country: Help
4 stimulate our economy. You know, don't bury
5 the line through 24 miles of working forest.
6 You know, it's being harvested for timber.
7 Why would you ever think about burying it
8 there? So, again, a wide range of views in
9 the North Country. Clearly, and I'm not
10 saying any one of them is universal, but you
11 hear it extensively. But I do know a few
12 things. One, there's a keen interest in
13 economic development and community betterment
14 up there, keen interest in jobs and the
15 opportunities this can create. We need to do
16 what we can to protect view impacts there,
17 just like we're doing here in Grafton County.
18 You know, when I mentioned the monopole
19 structures, I think almost a hundred of those
20 are going into Coos County, in areas that are
21 public viewing places, again, based upon
22 input from experts, visual experts and
23 historical resources experts. So we are
24 doing what we can in the North Country in a

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1 balanced way to make this project acceptable
2 in the North Country. You know, my recent
3 visits to the North Country, I think, you
4 know, much of what we've announced is pretty
5 exciting. You know, I do think there's many
6 in the North Country who now support this
7 project for those reasons, because they see
8 it could be a game changer for an area of the
9 state that could use it.

10 So, are we there yet? You
11 know, we're going to listen to the North
12 Country as well. We're going to continue
13 listening right through construction. But,
14 you know, I think we are taking a big step in
15 the right direction, in particular in the
16 North Country.

17 THE MODERATOR: How do you
18 plan to deal with underground water lines
19 under Route 3?

20 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So I'm
21 going to turn this over to Sam again. For
22 the underground portion of this route, we are
23 at the 30-percent engineering phase. So, for
24 those of you who are engineers or technical,

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1 you know you go from a conceptual to an order
2 of magnitude, to a definitive estimate. So,
3 not until you get to the definitive
4 engineering are you doing things like
5 locating other utilities and figuring out how
6 you're going to avoid them. So, as a generic
7 matter --

8 MR. JOHNSON: I think you hit
9 it right in your last statement there. It is
10 the No. 1 thing we'll do is reach out to all
11 the municipalities and all the utilities that
12 currently have infrastructure under these
13 roads and we will map them onto our design
14 and we will avoid every one of those as we go
15 forward.

16 THE MODERATOR: Why are lines
17 now proposed to be buried under residential
18 driveways instead of burying them through the
19 woods where existing high-power lines run?

20 MR. QUINLAN: So, the new
21 design is to not bury through residential
22 driveways. In essence, we're following state
23 roads. We're going to bury in the shoulder
24 of the road, basically that last four to six

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1 feet along the shoulder of the road. The
2 reason we've selected that, hopefully it's
3 obvious, is it's going to be easier for us to
4 do that than to blast our way through our
5 existing right-of-way. So if you think about
6 the right-of-way and the 52 miles that we are
7 bypassing through the underground
8 construction, it runs through the White
9 Mountain National Forest. So, for us to
10 follow our existing right-of-way in our
11 existing transmission lines, we'd essentially
12 have to blast our way through the White
13 Mountain National Forest, which is not only
14 difficult, but the environmental impacts of
15 that are significant. So when we made the
16 decision to change the cable technology to
17 allow more undergrounding, that's when we
18 made the decision to move to the state
19 roadways.

20 THE MODERATOR: Okay. This
21 question relates to historic resources, and
22 it's a statement rather than a question.
23 Historic buildings and
24 landscape and... I don't -- archeological

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1 resources are an important part in New
2 Hampshire's history, environment and economy.
3 Can you describe your approach to the
4 identification and the valuation --
5 evaluation of impact on these resources below
6 or above the ground?

7 MR. QUINLAN: So I'm going to
8 ask Lee Carbonneau, who's one of our lead
9 scientists, to describe that process. But it
10 does start with an expert review. Go ahead.

11 MS. CARBONNEAU: Thanks, Bill.
12 So, there are actually a
13 couple things that are going on for
14 historical and archeological resources.
15 There are actually two sets of studies going
16 on. The Department of Energy has
17 responsibility as the lead federal agency to
18 comply with Section 106 of the National
19 Historic Preservation Act. So they have
20 consultants working to look at the
21 above-ground historical resources, as well as
22 the below-ground archeological resources in
23 the Project area. They have identified --
24 they have submitted four project area forms

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1 for the above-ground historical resources,
2 and these are based on different regions of
3 the state where the work is taking place.
4 They've also submitted a Phase 1A survey for
5 all of the underground archeological
6 resources where they had access to do that
7 work.
8 On the Northern Pass Team
9 side, there's also historians and
10 archeologists doing work. The historical
11 work, the above-ground resources, are being
12 evaluated in a little bit more detail because
13 we need to do these studies for the Site
14 Evaluation Committee as well. The
15 information that's being collected is fairly
16 detailed. It has identified all of the
17 properties and structures that are 50 years
18 or older, identified ones that have a
19 potential view of the Project, or the Project
20 area could have a view of, and then it's
21 narrowed down that list to a number of
22 properties where even more information was
23 collected.
24 What they have discovered at

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1 this point is that there are about a dozen
2 properties that there may be a potential
3 adverse effect on from a secondary effect,
4 not a direct taking of a historical building
5 necessarily, but a potential view of the
6 Project that could have an effect on the
7 resource. That information will be provided
8 back to the Department of Energy and become
9 part of the Section 106 process as well. And
10 it will also be included in the Site
11 Evaluation Committee information that gets
12 submitted with the Project. The
13 archeological surveys will continue. So,
14 some of the below-ground resources have had
15 additional survey, where they've actually
16 gone out and done test pits to try and
17 identify what artifacts might be there, what
18 the extent of a site could be. And that work
19 continues. And for the Site Evaluation
20 Committee process, typically they rely pretty
21 heavily on that Federal Section 106 process.
22 So they may not have all information
23 completed by the time the Application is
24 filed for the state, but the understanding is

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1 that the whole process will continue with the
2 Section 106 process.
3 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Here's
4 a question. I'm going to paraphrase it a
5 bit.
6 Is the reason that you are
7 going underground now, is that because you
8 realize that going overhead through a route
9 as physically challenging as the one you
10 chose to go through the White Mountain
11 National Forest would cost much more than
12 going underground along an already softened
13 roadway corridor using the new DC Lite
14 underground cable technology?
15 MR. QUINLAN: The short answer
16 is: No. The longer answer is: We made the
17 decision as a result of the listening we've
18 done here in New Hampshire and the need to
19 strike the balance that I referred to
20 earlier. So, couple of things: You know,
21 we've reduced the size of this project by
22 200 megawatts. So there's going to be 200
23 fewer megawatts flowing into this region. So
24 the environmental benefits go down by that

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1 amount, the energy cost savings go down by
2 that amount. So, that's a big change.
3 Overall, the Project becomes less beneficial
4 to New England and to New Hampshire. But,
5 again, that was part of the balance. Now,
6 not only did we go from 1200 to 1,000, we've
7 also changed the cable and changed the
8 converter technology from AC to DC and back,
9 all to facilitate this balance. Our earlier
10 project, which was the larger project,
11 1200 megawatts, was around the \$1.4 billion
12 project. We are re-estimating the new
13 project, which is the smaller project with
14 the underground construction. We do
15 anticipate the price to go up. As Jim
16 mentioned, we're in the market now doing
17 everything we can do to keep that price
18 increase as low as possible, including
19 firming up bids with vendors and others. But
20 our expectation is that once we look at all
21 of those changes, the price will go up, and
22 the Project is going to be smaller.
23 So, again, the answer is no,
24 we didn't make that decision. If you think

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1 about our existing right-of-way, we've
2 already got a transmission line in that
3 right-of-way, overhead construction very
4 similar to what you would see here. So it's
5 not the technological challenge of it, and it
6 wasn't the cost-effectiveness of that
7 project. It was really the need to strike a
8 balance that worked for New Hampshire.
9 That's what led us to the decision. You
10 know, we've traded off, and New Hampshire and
11 New England is trading off. You know, it's
12 200 megawatts of carbon-emitting power plants
13 that are going to continue to run as a result
14 of the trade-off. It's, you know, a
15 20-percent, 17-percent reduction in the
16 energy cost savings that businesses are going
17 to see. This was not --
18 THE MODERATOR: Okay. I'm
19 sorry.
20 MR. QUINLAN: The decision was
21 based upon that balance.
22 THE MODERATOR: Has the DOT,
23 the Department of Transportation, approved
24 use of the state highway right-of-ways for, I

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1 imagine, for burial of the cable?
2 MR. QUINLAN: So as Jerry
3 mentioned earlier, that's something that
4 we're in active discussions with the
5 Department of Transportation.
6 Jerry or Mark, anything you'd
7 like to add?
8 MR. FORTIER: As we discussed
9 earlier, we are in active discussions with
10 the DOT, the Department of Transportation
11 here in New Hampshire. What we've discussed
12 with them is a 30-percent design and what we
13 will be intending to file with our SEC
14 Application.
15 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
16 We've got about 10 minutes
17 left on the question and answers, so I'm not
18 going to get to all questions. But I'm
19 combing through them and trying not to repeat
20 anything.
21 Why didn't Northern Pass take
22 the shortest route to Massachusetts, which
23 would have cut across Vermont to New
24 Hampshire, rather than go 60 miles further

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1 and go through northern New Hampshire?
2 MR. QUINLAN: Yeah. So,
3 again, for this project to work, we have to
4 get it from where it's being generated in
5 Canada down to the U.S. border. That's the
6 Project that's being sited by Hydro-Quebec on
7 the Canadian side of the border, all overhead
8 construction. Northern Pass basically then
9 takes it from the Canadian border to its
10 delivery point in Deerfield, New Hampshire.
11 That's always been the Project design, which
12 is to get it from the source to Deerfield,
13 New Hampshire. Using a route through Vermont
14 or Massachusetts was really never
15 contemplated.
16 THE MODERATOR: Is there a
17 technical reason you are proposing -- is
18 there a technical reason why you are
19 proposing to begin burial in Bethlehem?
20 MR. QUINLAN: Again, the
21 technical reason is that we had to find the
22 point where we can transition from overhead
23 construction to underground in Bethlehem. So
24 the specific point was based upon having the

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1 property rights to make that transition.
2 You know, why Bethlehem?
3 Generally, again, we clearly wanted to avoid
4 the White Mountain National Forest, the
5 Franconia Notch area, and have this line be
6 not visible in that region. That's what got
7 us up to the Bethlehem point. And then it
8 becomes where can you interconnect,
9 basically, transition.
10 THE MODERATOR: Will Northern
11 Pass agree to non-depreciation --
12 non-depreciating, for local tax purposes, the
13 transmission structures and lines?
14 MR. QUINLAN: No, for the
15 reasons I articulated earlier. You know, we
16 are pursuing what we think is a fair and
17 equitable approach to property tax valuation
18 and tax payments based on industry practices.
19 So that's what our intention is. The figures
20 I shared with you earlier are based upon that
21 methodology.
22 THE MODERATOR: Why is there a
23 hesitancy to bury the entire line? Since
24 Hydro-Quebec is paying for the entire

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1 project, the cost won't be passed on to
2 ratepayers of New Hampshire; correct?
3 [Audience interruption/applause]
4 MR. QUINLAN: Correct. You
5 know, one of the things that we have been
6 steadfast about is that New Hampshire
7 customers are not going to pay for the line.
8 That's unique.
9 [Audience interruption/applause]
10 MR. QUINLAN: New Hampshire
11 customers will not pay for this transmission
12 line. To Jim's earlier point, you know, we
13 have to have a project that is affordable and
14 that others will be willing to pay for. We
15 think we've struck that appropriate balance
16 with the project we rolled out two weeks ago.
17 THE MODERATOR: Okay. What is
18 the total number of towers that will be
19 constructed for the entire project?
20 MR. QUINLAN: I believe the
21 number is in the 1800 range.
22 But Sam or Jerry?
23 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I have that
24 sheet with some stats here. There will be --

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1 as proposed today, there had been 858 DC
2 structures, 340 AC structures in the southern
3 section of the Project, and there will be 635
4 relocations of existing structures.
5 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. And back
6 to that earlier question on the breakdown of
7 tax payments. So, at the local level, which
8 is the municipal level, it's about 60 percent
9 of the figure; the county portion is
10 15 percent, and the state portion is
11 approximately 25 percent.
12 THE MODERATOR: Okay. What
13 would you say to the people who live, work,
14 walk, ride bikes, et cetera, and are
15 concerned about the high magnetic field
16 levels that burying the transmission lines
17 won't block and that, according to the chart
18 made by the DOE in the EIS, will be around
19 200 milligauss?
20 MR. SODERMAN: The magnetic
21 fields we've calculated above the trench.
22 There are still going to be magnetic fields
23 underground, and the burial lines wouldn't
24 block that. But it's actually less than the

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1 actual natural fields that exist today. If
2 we turned off all the electricity in North
3 America, there will be a magnetic field, a
4 DC magnetic field of about 530 milligauss
5 right now right around here and throughout
6 pretty much the Project area. This project
7 won't even be that large.
8 THE MODERATOR: Because
9 Hydro-Quebec power is unreliable in the
10 winter due to reservoir freezing and high
11 demand in Quebec, what effect will that have
12 on delivery by way of Northern Pass?
13 MR. QUINLAN: So I'm going to
14 turn this over to Jim.
15 MR. MUNTZ: Yeah, Hydro-Quebec
16 has been delivering power into New England
17 for quite some time, and they have a very
18 high reliability record. They've had, you
19 know, individual events on occasion. They
20 had a big ice storm. They've had a few
21 extremely cold days where they had to
22 curtail. But these are one- or two-day
23 incidents, for the most part. Overall,
24 they've got a high-90s percentile as far as

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1 availability and their ability to fully
2 deliver down here. So we believe they're
3 very reliable and a good partner for this
4 project. And the reservoirs, they don't
5 freeze in the wintertime.
6 MR. QUINLAN: And that power
7 is imported into the U.S. basically every
8 day. There are two existing lines feeding
9 from the very same hydro stations into New
10 England. Reliability and performance is
11 approaching a hundred percent.
12 THE MODERATOR: Okay. There
13 are a couple questions, or maybe more,
14 following up on your answer about why I-93
15 wasn't selected as the best route to bury the
16 lines, and here they are.
17 If the impact you just
18 described to shoulder off road is truly only
19 4 feet wide and 4-1/2 feet deep, then why do
20 you say it's too expensive to follow I-93
21 when there's already a wide swath of path
22 available? If the trench is so small, why
23 would you have to close I-93 as you said --
24 [Audience interruption/applause]

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1 THE MODERATOR: Bill, so we
2 have it all -- if following 93 would cause a
3 complete shutdown of the highway, how will
4 following secondary roads, such as 112 and
5 116 in Woodstock, not be completely
6 disruptive, particularly considering there
7 are no alternative roads for travel in those
8 areas?
9 [Audience interruption/applause]
10 MR. QUINLAN: So I'll address
11 the cost side of that, and I'm going to turn
12 it over to Jerry and the Project Team for the
13 constructability.
14 When you look at the
15 incremental cost per mile, it's approximately
16 \$5- to \$10 million of additional cost per
17 mile. That's the -- that's a good rule of
18 thumb for the type of cable technology
19 comparing overhead construction to
20 underground construction in the state
21 right-of-way. That's where we get to the
22 \$1 billion in incremental costs that I shared
23 at the outset.
24 Jerry or Sam, do you want to

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1 address the roadway selection?
2 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, sure. In
3 some of our preliminary conversations with
4 the DOT, they've expressed an interest for us
5 to be on the fence line, which is, as you
6 know, when you go up and down the interstate
7 corridors, there's either a drain swale and
8 then you come to a tree line, and sometimes
9 you can see the fence that's there. That
10 extends to the edge of the right-of-way that
11 DOT has. One of the issues with that is the
12 environmental impact we're going to have if
13 we go out that way. We'll have to create all
14 new roads. And then, any kind of wetlands
15 and/or stream impacts or things like that
16 will have to be considered in the total
17 application. And I believe, as is noted in
18 the EIS, they do note that that does cause
19 significant environmental impacts.
20 I will add that the closure
21 that Bill was referring to through the
22 Franconia Notch area, where it goes down to a
23 very limited access road which is only
24 one-lane wide, there we'd have significant

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1 restrictions on how we would get through that
2 particular area.
3 MR. QUINLAN: Mark Hodgdon.
4 MR. HODGDON: The other issue
5 with using I-93 is if you're in the roadway
6 or --
7 THE MODERATOR: Excuse me.
8 Mark, you're with the Attorney General's
9 Office?
10 MR. HODGDON: I'm not anymore.
11 THE MODERATOR: Oh, okay.
12 Sorry.
13 MR. HODGDON: I used to be.
14 THE MODERATOR: And you
15 represented the Department of Transportation.
16 MR. HODGDON: One of the huge
17 factors for using I-93 is it's a high-speed,
18 free-flowing road. And anytime you have
19 vehicles accessing off of it or entering onto
20 it, or you're doing work on it, you have
21 major safety issues. You have traffic
22 traveling at 70, or often more, miles an
23 hour. And anytime you have to close a lane
24 on I-93, it is a very huge safety issue.

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1 On those other roads, it is
2 still a safety issue. That's why DOT has
3 rules about it. But it's a far more
4 manageable safety issue. And that's why
5 entering and accessing off 93 is going to be
6 very, very difficult under DOT rules.
7 THE MODERATOR: Okay. We're
8 out of time by about five minutes. We've
9 gone over. I want to thank you all very
10 much. I know that a lot of you feel very
11 strongly about this project, and I really
12 appreciated how respectful you were. You
13 asked some very, very good questions. I
14 appreciate that very much. And we're going
15 to turn it over to you now. I'm sure you've
16 been waiting for that to comment. We're
17 going to have to switch court reporters. Sue
18 is about worn out, I'm afraid. So that will
19 take us about five minutes or so, and then
20 we'll get going with comments, okay.
21 (Switchover of court reporters.)
22
23 (Public Comment Session provided under
24 separate cover)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

Susan J. Robidas, LCR/RPR
Licensed Shorthand Court Reporter
Registered Professional Reporter
N.H. LCR No. 44 (RSA 310-A:173)

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1 STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 2 SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE
 3 September 8, 2015 - 7:55 p.m.
 4 Mountain Club on Loon Resort & Spa
 5 90 Loon Mountain Road
 6 Lincoln, New Hampshire
 7
 8 IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06
 9 JOINT APPLICATION OF NORTHERN
 10 PASS LLC AND PUBLIC SERVICE
 11 COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a
 12 EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR A
 13 CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY
 14 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW
 15 HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION
 16 LINE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE:
 17 Public Information Session held
 18 pursuant to RSA 162-H:10.
 19
 20 (Public Comment Session)
 21
 22
 23 PRESIDING: Hon. Kathleen McGuire (Retired)
 24 (Presiding as the Moderator)
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 2 NOTED AS PRESENT:
 3 Counsel for the Applicant: Barry Needleman, Esq.
 4 (McLane Graf Raulerson &
 5 Middleton)
 6 Thomas B. Getz, Esq.
 7 (Devine Millimet & Branch)
 8
 9 Also noted as present for
 10 Northern Pass Transmission LLC and
 11 Eversource Energy Project Team:
 12 Bill Quinlan
 13 Jim Muntz
 14 Sam Johnson
 15 Bob Clarke
 16 Lee Carbonneau
 17 Jerry Fortier
 18 Mark Hodgdon
 19 Chris Soderman
 20 Brian Bosse
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1 *[Public Comment Session opened at 7:55 p.m.]*
 2 THE MODERATOR: I've spoken to two or
 3 three people who were upset that their questions didn't
 4 get asked. We had a slew of them. I apologize for that.
 5 But please remember that the open house is available.
 6 And, if you need answers to your questions, they will
 7 spend a lot of time with you, you can be very specific
 8 about your property or, you know, any questions that you
 9 have. So, those project engineers are there all night
 10 long for you to consult, if you didn't get your question
 11 answered. Apologize. But we're required by statute, we
 12 have to have a question-and-answer, and now we have to
 13 have a comment section, and which is what we're going into
 14 now.

15 As I've said, I'm going to call your
 16 names, with the residents and property and business owners
 17 of Grafton County being called first. When your name is
 18 called, please approach the microphone and state your name
 19 and town. The court reporters again will be taking down
 20 all of your comments, which will be transcribed and made
 21 part of the application to the SEC. To ensure a good
 22 record, it is very important that you speak slowly and
 23 clearly, and that you address your comments to me and not
 24 to each other. If you're reading from a statement, please
 {SEC 2015-06} [Lincoln Public Comment Session] {09-08-15}

1 give a copy of your statement to the court reporter after
 2 you've finished.

3 Also, to ensure that everyone who wants
 4 to speak has that chance, I ask that you limit your
 5 comments to three minutes. A timer, right here, will be
 6 holding up cards indicating that when you have one minute
 7 left, and 30 seconds left, and then when you get the hook.

8 So, I'm going to call four names at a
 9 time. So, we've reserved these seats in front here, so
 10 that you could be near the microphone, and it will be more
 11 efficient than waiting for people to come down to the
 12 microphone. So, you can sit here while you wait for your
 13 turn to make a comment. Okay?

14 All right. First up, Brian O'Donnell.
 15 And, then, also let's have Martha Richards, Judy
 16 Goodler -- Goodler --

17 MS. GOODIER: Goodier.

18 THE MODERATOR: Goodier, okay, and Tom
 19 Mullen. So, Brian, go ahead.

20 MR. O'DONNELL: Now, can I ask questions
 21 or is this purely --

22 THE MODERATOR: No, this is comment
 23 time.

24 MR. O'DONNELL: Okay.

{SEC 2015-06} [Lincoln Public Comment Session] {09-08-15}

1 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

2 MR. O'DONNELL: I guess my comments
 3 would be, every question I had specifically was there was
 4 no answer. It falls within the 30 percent of unknown,
 5 project not finished. But, yet, they certainly know that
 6 going down the highway is going to be more expensive. How
 7 could they know so much about one thing and so little
 8 about something else? It's beyond me. Second thing is --

9 THE MODERATOR: Oh, I'm sorry,
 10 Mr. O'Donnell. Did you state your name at the beginning?

11 MR. O'DONNELL: I'm sorry. Byron
 12 O'Donnell, Thornton, New Hampshire.

13 THE MODERATOR: And, would you spell
 14 your last name.

15 MR. O'DONNELL: O-D-o-n-n-e-l-l.

16 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

17 MR. O'DONNELL: And, more people have
 18 problems with my first name. It's Byron. It's B-y-r-o-n.

19 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

20 MR. O'DONNELL: No, thank you. So, I
 21 guess my question is is, are they, people, just something
 22 to think about, are they throwing a shell game out at us?
 23 Whereas, if they don't have an answer, it falls under the
 24 30 percent "I don't know, the project's not done." But,
 {SEC 2015-06} [Lincoln Public Comment Session] {09-08-15}

1 when it becomes an answer -- something that they have an
 2 answer to, they have the immediate answer.

3 I came into here really 50/50, didn't
 4 know what it was all about. I knew it was going to go
 5 through Thornton. It was going to go to the other side of
 6 Thornton. And, I hate to admit this, I was the one "well,
 7 it's in their back yard, not mine." It's in my front yard
 8 right now.

9 And, I can sympathize with everybody who
 10 has dealt with this all these years, but I certainly know
 11 what they went through. I empathize with them when you
 12 just can't get a straight answer. And, that's my
 13 comments.

14 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you.
 15 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

16 MS. RICHARDS: Martha Richards,
 17 Holderness. I've given a copy already.

18 THE MODERATOR: Okay. And, would you
 19 spell your last name please.

20 MS. RICHARDS: R-i-c-h-a-r-d-s. And, a
 21 disclaimer, I am known for being forthright, and quite
 22 honest, and blunt.

23 Good evening, everyone. And, thank you
 24 to my Grafton County fellow citizens and their amazing

{SEC 2015-06} [Lincoln Public Comment Session] {09-08-15}

1 strength and endurance as we continue this fight against
2 Northern Pass. I am Martha Richards, from Holderness,
3 living "on the line" to be supposedly buried, though, at
4 this point, I am feeling that the old Reagan saying "Trust
5 but verify" is appropriate with this group.

6 For the record, we three Grafton County
7 Commissioners are in strong opposition to the Northern
8 Pass Project unless it is totally buried its full length.
9 As a Commissioner for 17 towns in this county, I have
10 continued to attend meetings too numerous to remember over
11 these past five years, listening to constituents and some
12 very smart people who know technology, and can easily see
13 through all the PR ploys that Hydro-Quebec and Eversource
14 have thrown at us.

15 The continuing hollow promises of new
16 tax payments, clean power, jobs, and now some paltry
17 savings on our New Hampshire electric bills have not
18 placated us tough Yankees, as we value our past, our
19 future, and our land more than the greedy corporate hacks
20 will ever understand.

21 Learning about the Canadian natives'
22 plight in losing their indigenous hunting and fishing
23 lands have been eye-opening. Learning about today's cable
24 technologies that can be buried economically and easily
{SEC 2015-06} [Lincoln Public Comment Session] {09-08-15}

1 damnable project, still unwanted and not needed, and no
2 amount of twisted rhetoric nor job creation grants will
3 change our minds. Thank you.

4 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

5 MS. GOODIER: Judy Goodier, Thornton,
6 New Hampshire. I live right on Route 3. This will be in
7 my front yard. I have to follow Martha. I just have
8 notes. I'm not turning these in.

9 I was never really, I don't want to say
10 "concerned", I never really thought about the project. I
11 knew it would impact way up northern New Hampshire. I was
12 upset about, you know, the view, *etcetera*. When I just
13 got this letter in August, to hear that all of a sudden it
14 was going to be on Route 3, in my front yard, it really
15 raised a lot of questions. I'm right in a floodplain. I
16 pay exorbitant amount of money for my flood insurance and
17 my FEMA insurance. Route 3 was shut down at both ends for
18 the Hurricane Irene flood.

19 I am -- don't really feel that I had my
20 questions answered, as far as watershed, soil erosion,
21 contamination of water with any of this project, blasting,
22 how it's going to affect the streams, and potentially just
23 the two right on Route 3 near me, Hubbard Brook, and also
24 there's one that's kind of close to my property, it
{SEC 2015-06} [Lincoln Public Comment Session] {09-08-15}

1 versus scarring our viewsheds with tall towers that will
2 lower property values, increase -- increased health
3 issues, incur bad weather outages and damages has been
4 enlightening, especially as we watch projects in Maine and
5 New York get permitted more easily with their buried
6 projects.

7 I urge Northern Pass to take a deep
8 breath, suck it up, deal with it, whatever, and accept the
9 DOE's fully underground Alternative Route Option 4a. The
10 ludicrous statement about certain geographic regions being
11 more vocal in opposition to the project, which then
12 equaled burial, defies imagination. Pitting those who may
13 have buried lines against those with towers, as Nancy
14 Martland just wrote, is a low blow and divides us into
15 winners and losers. Even Senator Ayotte said "We are
16 worth it" for complete burial. The \$200 million ForwardNH
17 hush money could complete the burial, money that wouldn't
18 be needed just because the whole project is buried, and
19 thus not detrimental to our economy nor our environment.

20 By the way, for the record, as our late
21 dear Burton -- Ray Burton would have said, as I mentioned,
22 the line is no longer in my back yard in Holderness. Just
23 by that mere fact, it has further driven me to fight for
24 total burial for my friends up and down this 187-mile
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1 doesn't have a name, it's just a little arm.

2 As far as the cost of the project, I
3 really think that it's all about your costs and your
4 balancing of your project. Has nothing to do with the
5 Town of Thornton, and with us on Route 3, we do not want
6 this.

7 You could have saved a lot of money by
8 going on I-93 and not having federal money used for
9 archeological surveys and scientific surveys. I-93
10 already had that done, when they were doing the
11 engineering project for the highway -- excuse me -- in the
12 '70s. So, you would have had your engineering done, you
13 would have had your floodplain research done, your soil
14 erosion done. It would not impact businesses, it would
15 not impact wells, residences and businesses on I-93.

16 As far as the joke that you told me
17 about the amount of traffic, there are four lanes on that
18 road. You can actually shut down one, still have your
19 people working on it at night. It's not I-93 in Boston.
20 Route 3, you shut it down, there are two lanes, there are
21 businesses, everybody else is going to be impacted.

22 I am totally against, unless you use
23 I-93, buried the whole way. Thank you.

24 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

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1 THE MODERATOR: All right. Would Dennis
 2 Ford, Edward -- Edmond Gionet, Patricia Kellogg, and
 3 Deborah Stever come on up and take a seat. Mr. Mullen.
 4 MR. MULLEN: I'm going to be followed by
 5 Edmond. Okay. My name is Thomas Mullen. I live --
 6 THE MODERATOR: M-u-l-l-e-n?
 7 MR. MULLEN: Pardon me? M-u-l-l-e-n,
 8 and I live in Campton. I have some comments on several
 9 items.
 10 First of all, 5 percent of the bill that
 11 I believe was being discussed is of the raw electricity
 12 portion, not the entire bill. So, it's only the -- it's
 13 about half, I think, if I'm not mistaken, of your bill
 14 that would be subject to the "5 percent" increase. And,
 15 with the savings that we all realize from that, we'd be
 16 lucky to take our wives or husbands out to dinner one
 17 night.
 18 Secondly, Mr. Muntz's characterization
 19 of the projects in Vermont "not being far along" is
 20 totally wrong. It's a mischaracterization entirely. They
 21 are well into the permitting process. They are way ahead
 22 of this project in the process of getting approved, and
 23 they will be underway and finished before this project
 24 ever gets started, I believe.
 {SEC 2015-06} [Lincoln Public Comment Session] {09-08-15}

1 pay the additional costs associated with burial? It's
 2 time to tell the truth about this project.
 3 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*
 4 THE MODERATOR: Dennis Ford. Has he
 5 left?
 6 (No verbal response)
 7 THE MODERATOR: Edmond Gionet -- Gionet.
 8 How do you say that, sir?
 9 REP. GIONET: Edmond Gionet. Thank you,
 10 Judge.
 11 THE MODERATOR: All right.
 12 REP. GIONET: For the record, I was born
 13 and brought up in Lincoln.
 14 FROM THE FLOOR: Pull the mike down, Ed.
 15 REP. GIONET: Thought you could hear me.
 16 THE MODERATOR: I can.
 17 REP. GIONET: Born and brought up here
 18 in Lincoln, been domicile here since 1931.
 19 THE MODERATOR: Sir, would you spell
 20 both your first and last names.
 21 REP. GIONET: First name is Edmond,
 22 E-d-m-o-n-d, last name is G-i-o-n-e-t, Gionet.
 23 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
 24 REP. GIONET: French. Acadian French,
 {SEC 2015-06} [Lincoln Public Comment Session] {09-08-15}

1 Thirdly, I see that this line is
 2 scheduled to go right through the middle of downtown
 3 Plymouth. I don't know if you have ever -- I've driven
 4 this route. I've walked portions of the route. How this
 5 thing is going to go through downtown Plymouth is
 6 absolutely beyond me. I don't see it happening ever.
 7 And, so, at any rate, here's my
 8 comments. This is actually not a question, it's a
 9 rhetorical question, meaning I'm not looking for an
 10 answer. So, it's effectively a comment, Judge. At the
 11 hearing last week in Concord, Mr. Quinlan said that "the
 12 costs for more burial of the Northern Pass line have to be
 13 paid for by someone", and he sort of looked around the
 14 room. And, you implied at the time that that someone
 15 would be New Hampshire's ratepayers. That's what you
 16 implied when you said that. In actuality, your firm has
 17 chosen to classify Northern Pass as a "merchant-funded
 18 transmission line project", a for-profit project.
 19 Meaning, the costs of constructing the Northern Pass will
 20 be paid for by the owners of the transmission line, not
 21 the ratepayers. Thank goodness for all of us. Don't you,
 22 in fact, mean that further burial of more of this line is
 23 being opposed by Northern Pass, because your firm and the
 24 other owners of this proposed line are simply unwilling to
 {SEC 2015-06} [Lincoln Public Comment Session] {09-08-15}

1 correct.
 2 I respectfully submit to you that I am
 3 State Representative Edmond Gionet, and I represent
 4 Grafton District 5, which includes the Towns of Lincoln,
 5 Woodstock, Waterville Valley, and Livermore.
 6 I'm pleased to offer my support for the
 7 revised Northern Pass Project, and appreciate the work
 8 that has gone into listening to the concerns raised by
 9 various stakeholders. The changes made to the project in
 10 my district, include expanded use of underground cable in
 11 the area of the White Mountain National Forest, which is a
 12 positive step forward for this project.
 13 Many of the residents that I represent
 14 are concerned about local property taxes and doing what we
 15 can to help keep taxes low. The investments made by
 16 Northern Pass will provide much needed tax revenue to
 17 these communities and reduce the tax burden on many tax
 18 payers.
 19 As this project moves into siting
 20 review, I encourage Eversource to continue its outreach to
 21 communities and stakeholders, to continue to work with
 22 abutting landowners to mitigate any further impact for the
 23 project. Thank you.
 24 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
 {SEC 2015-06} [Lincoln Public Comment Session] {09-08-15}

1 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*
 2 THE MODERATOR: Patricia Kellogg.
 3 MS. P. KELLOGG: Good evening. My name
 4 is Patricia Kellogg. I live in Littleton, New Hampshire,
 5 and the line should be completely buried.
 6 THE MODERATOR: And, that's two Ls, two
 7 Gs, correct?
 8 MS. P. KELLOGG: Two Ls, two Gs, double
 9 double. Northern Pass 3.0 is not enough of an
 10 improvement. 4a is the fully underground alternative
 11 route option recently analyzed by the Department of Energy
 12 in the Draft EIS for Northern Pass. It is far superior to
 13 the "improved" route NPT had just proposed 8/18/15, which
 14 would bury only an extra 52 miles of the line, leaving 132
 15 miles of towers.
 16 If Northern Pass has to be built, 4a is
 17 affordable. 4a is feasible. In the Draft EIS, the DOE
 18 confirms this: "DOE has determined that extended burial
 19 of the transmission line with a capacity of 1,000
 20 megawatts would be practical and technically feasible."
 21 4a adversely impacts New Hampshire
 22 least, respects it the most in the following categories:
 23 Visual resources, recreation resources impacted during
 24 construction, recreation resources in terms of long term
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1 MS. SCHIBANOFF: Close enough.
 2 THE MODERATOR: Okay. And Linda Lauer.
 3 MS. STEVER: Good evening. My name is
 4 Deborah Stever. And, I'm a resident of the Town of
 5 Easton.
 6 THE MODERATOR: Would you spell your
 7 last name.
 8 MS. STEVER: S-t-e-v-e-r. I also serve
 9 on the Easton Select Board, and I'm a member of the Easton
 10 Conservation Commission. For those of you who don't know,
 11 Easton is a town of 250 residents, who appreciate the
 12 rural character and intense beauty of a town nestled
 13 within the valley of the base of North and South Kinsman
 14 Mountain. Over 60 percent of our town lies within the
 15 White Mountain National Forest.
 16 To begin, let me say that I am
 17 cautiously encouraged that Eversource has agreed to bury
 18 50 plus additional miles of Northern Pass, a positive step
 19 in the right direction. Finally, we have an admission
 20 that the technology exists and Eversource is willing to
 21 use it.
 22 For Easton, it has been a nearly six
 23 year battle, with our residents writing countless letters,
 24 attending hearings, testifying, taking hikes with elected
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1 visual impact, health and safety, traffic and
 2 transportation, noise, archeological resources impacted
 3 during construction, air quality, impacts to vegetated
 4 habitats and to forestlands, water resources, geology and
 5 soils, total ground disturbance and disturbance of
 6 farmland, and land use conversions. I refer you to the
 7 Draft EIS Summary, which supports Alternative 4a in terms
 8 of the above-mentioned impacts.
 9 The DOE did not calculate property value
 10 impacts of the various alternatives. But 4a would have
 11 the least impact, in fact, no adverse impact on property
 12 values.
 13 4a would create more permanent FTE jobs
 14 and increase statewide property tax annual collections
 15 more than the proposed action, that's Northern Pass 3.0,
 16 and comparably reduce wholesale electricity costs to
 17 ISO-New England and New Hampshire per the Draft EIS
 18 Summary.
 19 Please support 4a, not 3.0. 4a is
 20 affordable, it's feasible, and it respects New Hampshire.
 21 Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.
 22 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*
 23 THE MODERATOR: And, let me ask for Roy
 24 Stever to come up, Suzanne Smith, Susan Schibanoff?
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1 officials through the power lines, and on, and on, and on,
 2 and on. It has not been an easy time, fighting a much
 3 larger opponent than ourselves. I believe many have said
 4 "It was like David and Goliath."
 5 Our work is not done, however. The
 6 proposal to bury the line through Easton leaves its
 7 residents with many unanswered questions, as we are all
 8 residents of New Hampshire as well. Why not bury the
 9 entire line? Why, if it is possible to bury 60 miles,
 10 could not the entire project be buried? Preserving the
 11 landscape of New Hampshire, not just the White Mountain
 12 National Forest.
 13 Why not bury the line down Interstate
 14 93? It is already a softened corridor, and, more
 15 importantly, a shorter distance through Franconia Notch
 16 than your proposed route.
 17 Easton residents might prefer to forgo
 18 the tax revenue to be free of community disruption, which
 19 has not really been fully explained. Also, there seems to
 20 be a huge discrepancy in the tax benefits to Easton. When
 21 you compare the handout that was given to me earlier this
 22 evening and what was put on the screen, there's a large
 23 discrepancy.
 24 And, finally, is it truly profit alone
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1 that will steer your decisions from here? Can not the
2 enormous amount of profit being made by the investors in
3 the project be reduced marginally to protect the
4 incredible landscape, wildlife, and viewshed of the entire
5 State of New Hampshire, and not just the 60 miles around
6 the White Mountain National Forest.

7 You have said that you listened. I hope
8 that you are still listening. When we said "Bury Northern
9 Pass", we meant all of it.

10 I, the Easton Select Board, and Easton
11 Conservation Commission favor total burial of Northern
12 Pass.

13 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

14 MR. STEVER: When I submitted my request
15 I had specifically said --

16 THE MODERATOR: Would you please state
17 your name, sir.

18 MR. STEVER: I had specifically said
19 that I didn't want to follow my wife.

20 THE MODERATOR: You said you didn't want
21 to do what?

22 MR. STEVER: So, therefore, my name is
23 Roy Stever.

24 THE MODERATOR: Oh. You didn't want to
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1 were informed that burial costs were prohibitive, although
2 the basis for this assessment was never revealed. We were
3 told that project economics simply would not allow for
4 significant alteration of the overhead plan.

5 Against this backdrop, we are now asked
6 to assess our third major variation of the proposal, and
7 after five years of misleading statements by the project
8 sponsors.

9 We now know that burial is a very real
10 option, and that the total project cost, with 60 miles
11 buried, is only marginally higher. Indeed, the question
12 is no longer about feasibility. The crux of the matter is
13 whether New Hampshire will extract another small reduction
14 in overall project return to investors, or otherwise ask
15 hard-working New Hampshire families and residents and
16 communities to subsidize the project's partners, including
17 Hydro-Quebec.

18 The proposal by Northern Pass to bury in
19 some towns and not others appears to be based on a
20 strategy to offer the minimum required to "gain a route",
21 as was the case in the earlier decision to bury in the
22 North Country. The implications of a public utility
23 making such a choice, selecting the "haves" and the
24 "have-nots" is questionable. The claim that Northern Pass
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1 follow your wife?

2 MR. STEVER: Absolutely not.

3 THE MODERATOR: You can't live up to
4 her, right?

5 *[Laughter.]*

6 MR. STEVER: Okay. Good. So, Roy
7 Stever. I also live in Easton, New Hampshire. Good
8 evening. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am
9 a retired business executive, now teaching full-time as a
10 faculty member at Plymouth State, in the College of
11 Business Administration. I am also Chair of Easton's
12 Conservation Commission.

13 Like many residents of New Hampshire, I
14 have been following the proposed Northern Pass Project
15 from inception. I have sought the facts, trying to make a
16 fair assessment.

17 From the start, Northeast Utilities,
18 PSNH, Northern Pass Transmission, and now Eversource, have
19 made this job difficult, unnecessarily so against current
20 standards of corporate transparency. As residents, as
21 appointed officials, as elected officials, as a
22 Conservation Commission, as residents of New Hampshire, we
23 all asked about burial from the start. We were told that
24 the technology did not exist to bury the line. Later, we
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1 listened is self-serving, when one considers all the towns
2 and organizations that have advocated full burial from the
3 start.

4 For elected officials and the Site
5 Evaluation Committee to endorse ForwardNH Plan without
6 independently validating the will of the people would be
7 irresponsible. The legacy of these towers in the
8 "above-ground" towns would immediately eclipse centuries
9 of careful, deliberate stewardship, not to be undone for
10 generations to come.

11 Please bury Northern Pass for its entire
12 length. Thank you.

13 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

14 MS. SCHIBANOFF: Susan Schibanoff,
15 Easton.

16 THE MODERATOR: Oh, wait a minute. Oh,
17 I'm sorry. You'll be next. Yes, go ahead.

18 REP. SMITH: You can go first. I'll go
19 next.

20 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

21 MS. SCHIBANOFF: Okay. And, it's doubly
22 difficult to follow both Stevers, my neighbors. We're
23 here --

24 THE MODERATOR: Oh, you gave a card to
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1 them for your address and name?
 2 MS. SCHIBANOFF: Yes. He's got it.
 3 We're here tonight because Senate Bill 245, enacted into
 4 law last year, enables the public to participate in this
 5 session, and it requires that we be "heard" in a
 6 meaningful way, transcribed, not merely "listened to".
 7 And, there's a big difference between listening and
 8 hearing. I want to thank Senator Jeanie Forrester, prime
 9 sponsor of SB 245, and the co-sponsors. I see two here,
 10 Representative Smith and Representative Ford. Thank you
 11 for hearing us and for this hearing tonight.
 12 Project developers say they have
 13 listened to New Hampshire, and what they heard was that we
 14 wanted the line buried in the seven towns in the lower
 15 White Mountain region, of which mine is one. If this is
 16 all that Northern Pass has heard over the last five years,
 17 they need hearing aids.
 18 So, loud and clear, here are two sets of
 19 on-the-record, verifiable municipal data that Northern
 20 Pass seems to have missed: Beyond the seven lower White
 21 Mountain towns, another 26 have passed official warrant
 22 articles rejecting an overhead Northern Pass Project,
 23 including Ashland, Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Deerfield, New
 24 Hampton, Clarksville, Dalton, Lancaster, Northumberland,
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1 Pembroke, Pittsburg, and Stewartstown. Beyond the seven
 2 lower White Mountain towns, another 22 have submitted
 3 scoping comments for the DOE rejecting the project's
 4 proposed route or design, including Bristol, Concord,
 5 Deerfield, New Hampton, Pembroke, Whitefield,
 6 Stewartstown, Clarksville, and Pittsburg. This sounds
 7 like a blizzard announcement of school closings.
 8 Nor did project developers hear the
 9 7,650 scoping comments that were submitted to the DOE.
 10 The largest single category was burying the line, the
 11 entire line.
 12 The DOE has now taken down the scoping
 13 comment database, but we have archived the entries
 14 advocating burial of Northern Pass. What I just held up
 15 is a 60-page index of comments from 2013 alone that
 16 advocate burial throughout New Hampshire. That's roughly
 17 only one-quarter of all the scoping comments. We'll
 18 submit the entire index to the SEC in due course.
 19 But, just to summarize quickly what's in
 20 that 60-page index from 2013, comments requesting burial
 21 were submitted by residents from numerous towns that
 22 Northern Pass says it has not heard from: Ashland,
 23 Concord, Canterbury, North Hampton, Deerfield, Pembroke,
 24 Bridgewater, Northfield, Whitefield, Lancaster, Pittsburg,
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1 and others.
 2 It's time for project developers to
 3 start hearing what the real stakeholders, impacted towns,
 4 and New Hampshire citizens have been saying for five long
 5 years: Bury the Northern Pass, all of it. It's feasible,
 6 it's affordable, it's the right thing to do for New
 7 Hampshire. Thank you.
 8 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
 9 [Audience interruption/applause.]
 10 REP. SMITH: Thank you. And, I'm
 11 Suzanne Smith. I'm State Representative for Grafton
 12 County District 8, the towns of --
 13 THE MODERATOR: You get an exemption
 14 from having to spell your last name.
 15 REP. SMITH: But my first name -- no, I
 16 gave him something in writing. Plymouth, Holderness, and
 17 Hebron.
 18 The new Northern Pass Plan is a step in
 19 the right direction, but has been -- as has been said
 20 before, there are winners and losers in the new plan.
 21 My constituents in Holderness may be
 22 pleased that 120 foot tall towers will not be in their
 23 backyards, but I don't think the businesses in Plymouth
 24 are looking forward to the disruption of having Main
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1 Street dug up to install the underground cables. My
 2 neighbors in Bridgewater are asking "Why do the
 3 underground lines suddenly become tall towers near the
 4 Ashland/Bridgewater line?" Peaked Hill Road, where I
 5 watch hawks in the springtime, as they migrate north
 6 through the Bridgewater Mountain area, will now be graced
 7 with 80 to 100 foot tall lattice towers. Not quite a
 8 beautiful sight to see from Inspiration Point in Bristol.
 9 Rather than run the buried lines along
 10 the interstate 93 corridor, Northern Pass has chosen to
 11 place the new underground lines through the towns along
 12 Route 3. Why aren't you burying the lines in Thornton,
 13 Campton, Plymouth, Ashland, Bridgewater, and New Hampton
 14 along the interstate?
 15 During testimony in both the House and
 16 Senate Science and Energy committees, legislators have
 17 heard that burial is impossible, because of the terrain,
 18 because, after all, this is the Granite State. But the
 19 ForwardNH Plan buries lines in the White Mountain National
 20 Forest, in the shadows of those craggy peaks and through
 21 Kinsman Notch, and in Coos County, which has more farmland
 22 than peaks, the lines will be above ground for all to see,
 23 in a county where tourism is the number one economic
 24 driver. And, in the Concord to Deerfield corridor, not
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1 many granite peaks there either, but where are the lines
2 to be? Above ground.

3 In the Department of Energy's Draft EIS
4 for Northern Pass, Option 4a is fully underground. This
5 option uses state roads from Pittsburg to Franconia, I-93
6 from Franconia to Concord, and federal and state roads
7 from Concord to Deerfield.

8 I ask the Northern Pass Project once
9 more, go back to the drawing board, listen to the people
10 of New Hampshire, including the folks in Deerfield,
11 Concord, Whitefield, Stewartstown, Bridgewater, and
12 Bristol and bury the entire project. All of New Hampshire
13 deserves it.

14 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

15 THE MODERATOR: Would Eric Jones come
16 up, Judith Weisen, I think -- Weisenberger. No.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

18 THE MODERATOR: Yes. Okay. Chris
19 Thayer, Bob Tuveson.

20 MS. LAUER: My name is Linda Lauer,
21 L-a-u-e-r. I live in the Town of Bath. But I am Grafton
22 County Commissioner for District 2, which includes the
23 towns of Bethlehem, Sugar Hill, Franconia, Easton,
24 Woodstock, and Thornton. If that sounds like the Northern
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1 a member of the Scenic Byways Council. I serve as the
2 Commissioner's representative on that Council. We're
3 looking at four designated scenic byways in the North
4 Country for the purposes of encouraging tourism. Two of
5 those byways are in Coos County, and they're going to be
6 impacted in multiple locations by the aboveground towers.
7 And, that's an area of concern.

8 Finally, I'll say that I replaced Ray
9 Burton, the late great Ray Burton, on the Grafton County
10 Commissioners, and I've heard nothing yet that tells me
11 that Ray wasn't right five years ago, when he said "Bury
12 it all, or pack up your tents and go home."

13 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

14 MR. JONES: My name is Eric Jones,
15 E-r-i-c, and the last name you probably get. I'm from
16 Glenclyff. No one knows where that is, but it's part of
17 Warren. We don't admit that, but we are. A 100 percent
18 buried high voltage transmission line utilizing state and
19 federal roadways would be a win-win for the uniquely
20 beautiful New Hampshire. The reasons are so compelling
21 that to do otherwise would be unacceptable.

22 Number one, the State of New Hampshire
23 would receive a large and continuous stream of revenue
24 from the use of its roadways. Now, I've heard that
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1 Pass route, it's because it is. You would think that,
2 since I represent those towns, that I would be happy to
3 see this new revision. And, I will tell you it's a great
4 improvement over what I saw a year ago; but we're not
5 there yet.

6 I'm concerned about two specific areas.
7 First of all, the disruption to the traffic. By burying
8 the lines along US 3, it's a major -- a major obstacle to
9 travel for all of the residents in that area. We talk
10 about the businesses, and not going under the driveways.
11 The driveways go up both sides of the road. So, you are
12 going to be going through driveways. State Route 112,
13 from the Town of Easton to Woodstock, is viewed as one
14 place where we're going underground. If you think it's
15 going to be hard to go through Franconia Notch, try going
16 through 112 across Kinsman Notch, where you've got a cliff
17 two feet from one side of the road, and Beaver Pond 5 feet
18 from the other side. So, I really -- I'm very pleased
19 that we're talking about burial, but I very much encourage
20 you to look at the I-93 option again.

21 The other concern that I have, and I
22 said I was happy to see this, that so much of this was
23 buried, we hear the "Not in my back yard" attitude. Well,
24 New Hampshire is my back yard, not just my district. I'm
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1 denied, but I think that's not true.

2 Number two, the overwhelmingly negative
3 impact on the North Country and on towns south of the
4 White Mountain National Forest would be eliminated.

5 Number three, the White Mountain
6 National Forest would be spared the negative impact on
7 the forest users' experience.

8 New Hampshire would be viewed as a "good
9 neighbor" by the states to our south, both because they
10 would receive all or most of the power transmitted by the
11 project, and their citizens will continue to stream north
12 from their wire-clogged and congested environments to a
13 still beautiful New Hampshire.

14 New York, Vermont, and Maine have and
15 are permitting fully buried electric transmission projects
16 to feed the same insatiable demand for power from those
17 states and cities to our south.

18 The U.S. Department of Energy Draft
19 Environmental Impact Statement calls full burial in
20 roadways, their Alternative 4a, the least damaging to New
21 Hampshire's environment and shorter than the applicant's
22 most current proposal.

23 The state and numerous conservation
24 organizations that hold easements in the North Country
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1 would be spared the potential violation of their fiduciary
2 obligations to their landowners.

3 Most likely, the three to four years of
4 litigation being prepared against the project, as now
5 proposed, would be terminated.

6 Last, but by no means least, the
7 overwhelming majority of New Hampshire citizens would set
8 aside their cynicism of government and reward those who
9 put the people ahead of business.

10 If the SEC is not convinced that full
11 burial in roadways is the right choice, then you must
12 reject it entirely. Thank you.

13 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

14 THE MODERATOR: Judith Weisenberger.

15 MS. WEISENBERGER: I didn't pass
16 anything in.

17 THE MODERATOR: That's okay.

18 MS. WEISENBERGER: So, it's Judy, and
19 Weisenberger, W-e-i-s-e-n-b-e-r-g-e-r. And, I'm not known
20 for my brevity, but I will try to speak --

21 THE MODERATOR: We appreciate it.

22 MS. WEISENBERGER: -- to my heart to the
23 people from Northern Pass. I'm from Sugar Hill, one of
24 the winners. But I want you to understand that for five
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1 long time after us will protect us. Thank you.

2 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

3 MR. THAYER: Good evening. Chris
4 Thayer, T, as in Tom, h-a-y-e-r, Sugar Hill, New
5 Hampshire. I'm also an employee of the Appalachian
6 Mountain Club here in the Great State of New Hampshire.
7 The AMC is the oldest conservation and recreation
8 organization in the country, with more than 100,000
9 members, supporters, and advocates from Maine to D.C.,
10 including more than 12,000 here in New Hampshire.

11 AMC's 139-year history is punctuated by
12 battles to protect the places people love. AMC has played
13 a critical role in maintaining the character of New
14 Hampshire and ensuring that our natural and recreational
15 resources will be available for the enjoyment of
16 generations to come. Open spaces, without the permanent
17 scars of industrial-scale development, are a diminishing
18 and scarce resource of high public value that AMC will
19 fight to protect.

20 Our opposition to the Northern Pass
21 transmission project as originally proposed has been based
22 not only on the serious negative impacts of overhead
23 lines, but also the fact that today's HVDC cable
24 technologies make 100 percent burial a viable and
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1 years many of us have sacrificed, some way, way, way
2 sacrificed, put aside their lives, disrupted their lives,
3 meant expenses for a lot of people. And, we did it not
4 just for Sugar Hill. What we did it for is the reason
5 that many of us, especially us that weren't native born to
6 New Hampshire, came here and loved it, and it's for the
7 land.

8 And, I would say to the people at
9 Northern Pass, if you think that, because some of the
10 people that were most vocal, from Bethlehem down to
11 Plymouth, are going to just be glad that they won, and the
12 others lost, we have just begun to fight, because we fight
13 for the children. That this is our legacy to hand to the
14 children. People before us fought for a long time. And,
15 when you stand up in Lancaster, or the places that you
16 want to put those towers, and don't understand that it's
17 about the land, it's about what it does to your spirit,
18 then you don't understand that this is not over. And, we
19 are going to, even if you get the pass -- get the proposal
20 that you want, it will only still just beginning, for
21 courts, for laying down in the streets, if we have to.

22 But this is our state, and this is
23 our -- our heart to keep the land the way it is and the
24 way the people for a long time before us, and hopefully a
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1 economically realistic option. While we are encouraged
2 that Northern Pass has recently proposed burying an
3 additional 52 miles of the line in the vicinity of the
4 White Mountain National Forest, much more remains to be
5 done. Two-thirds of the Northern Pass route remains above
6 ground, and tens of thousands of New Hampshire residents
7 and visitors will continue to be impacted by the proposed
8 aboveground route. The preponderance of evidence shows
9 that full burial is doable.

10 The North Country is among New
11 Hampshire's most remote and least developed landscapes.
12 If Eversource can bury the line from Bridgewater to
13 Bethlehem, the evidence shows that burying the line from
14 Bethlehem to the Canadian border would reduce the route by
15 15 miles, would have fewer above-to-below-ground
16 transition costs, would create more jobs, and would
17 significantly reduce major environmental impacts to the
18 North Country.

19 For years, the Company has claimed that
20 burial of the line was technically impossible and
21 prohibitively costly. But other projects in New England
22 and New York have determined that full burial is both
23 practical and economically feasible. Other northeastern
24 states have demanded full burial, and got it. New
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1 Hampshire deserves the same.

2 The DEIS provides clear evidence that
3 full burial of the line would provide almost twice as many
4 jobs, have a much smaller impact on property values, and
5 create more long-lasting economic benefits to the region
6 than overhead transmission lines or partial burial.
7 Burying the full project is the most balanced and
8 appropriate alternative.

9 At stake here is the future of New
10 Hampshire's forests, scenic vistas, property values, and
11 cohesive communities. New Hampshire is, and has been for
12 many years, a net exporter of electric power. The
13 Independent Systems Operator that maintains the overall
14 New England grid has not deemed this project essential.

15 In conclusion, this isn't about the need
16 for essential electricity. This project is about money,
17 about private profit through the sacrifice of precious
18 resources that belong to all New Hampshire citizens. Our
19 state deserves better. If this project is to go forward,
20 every mile of it must be buried.

21 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

22 MR. TUVESON: Bob Tuveson,
23 T-u-v-e-s-o-n, for Holderness. 4a all the way. My
24 comments come from a five year-old document, but it still
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1 lines, around 7 percent, over the life of the line. When
2 this is taken into account, plus the lengthy planning
3 delays, property devaluation, impacts on tourism and
4 higher maintenance costs associated with overhead lines,
5 costs of underground and overhead lines are almost equal.

6 And, this is for Mr. Quinlan, if I have
7 a few more seconds. I know your project's gone from 1,200
8 to 1,000 megawatts, and you're going to lose 18 percent of
9 that energy. But you know you'll gain some back by total
10 burial, because you lose seven of percent if it's all
11 overhead. I know some of it's overhead. You'll gain some
12 of that back. And, it also reduces the carbon footprint.

13 And, as I started, I'm going to end:
14 Alternative 4a all the way.

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Douglas Evelyn,
16 Susan Ford, Carl Mastland, Jane Kellogg.

17 MR. EVELYN: Hi. I'm Douglas Evelyn, of
18 Sugar Hill. That's E-v-e-l-y-n, on "s" on Douglas. I'm
19 Secretary of the Board of the Ammonoosuc Conservation
20 Trust, the chief land trust concentrating on the White
21 Mountain region, in Grafton, Carroll and Coos Counties.
22 We appreciate this opportunity to testify as part of the
23 SEC process.

24 ACT has always doubted the rationale for
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1 applies and stands to be repeated. Please note, some of
2 these comments differ from what you've heard this evening.

3 Underground cables are much safer than
4 overhead lines. No electric fields are emitted from
5 buried cables, and most importantly, the magnetic field is
6 greatly reduced. This significantly reduces the negative
7 health effects documented for overhead lines.

8 Underground cables provide obvious
9 environmental benefits versus overhead lines in terms of
10 land use, visual impact, property valuation, and tourism.

11 Underground cables enhance power grid
12 security and reliability and give improved performance,
13 compared to overhead lines.

14 Underground cables are significantly
15 more reliable. Failures in underground cables are
16 significantly lower than overhead lines.

17 Underground cables are significantly
18 more efficient. Transmission losses with underground
19 cables are significantly lower than with overhead lines,
20 which translates to a much lower carbon footprint.

21 Underground cables are affordable
22 compared to overhead lines. There is a higher initial
23 capital cost, but this difference is canceled out by the
24 much higher and costly electricity losses from overhead
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1 the proposed Northern Pass Project. The need for a power
2 line from Canada through New Hampshire has never been
3 justified. New Hampshire does not need Hydro-Quebec's
4 energy. And, during the five-year history of the project,
5 new and offsetting sources of clean energy for coastal New
6 England have been developed and identified.

7 ACT argues that the project must be
8 buried throughout, if it proceeds at all. No promised
9 short-term benefits can justify the permanent impact of
10 Northern Pass's industrial-scale aboveground power lines
11 to New Hampshire's mountain, lake, and agricultural
12 landscapes and scenery. These nationally recognized
13 scenic resources have been valued for two centuries and
14 undergird New Hampshire's tourist economy.

15 ACT views the latest Eversource
16 proposal, to reduce the project scale and bury 60 miles of
17 the power line, as a small step in the right direction.
18 But it leaves many New Hampshire areas and communities
19 permanently scarred. The case justifying this damage
20 throughout the region has not been made. Competing
21 projects in adjacent states, and Eversource's own
22 concessions, demonstrate the potential for full burial.

23 ACT views this project as the greatest
24 threat to the integrity of New Hampshire's scenic
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1 landscapes since the corporate devastation of the forest
2 in the late 19th century, leading to the Weeks Act and the
3 creation of the White Mountain National Forest.

4 ACT urges Eversource, and New
5 Hampshire's leadership, to respect the nationally
6 appreciated character and the economic and social benefits
7 of New Hampshire's natural landscapes throughout the
8 state.

9 Do no harm. Bury the project in full,
10 or abandon it altogether.

11 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

12 REP. FORD: Thank you. For the record,
13 my name is Susan Ford. I happen to be the Representative
14 from Easton and serve in the New Hampshire House. I am
15 also the Chair of the Grafton County Democrats. And, I
16 mention that, because four and a half years we filed a
17 resolution that we were against Northern Pass, and that
18 resolution has not changed.

19 I have been accused of supporting the
20 opposition, because this was a NIMBY project. And, after
21 all, I lived in Easton. If you look around at the Grafton
22 residents, it's very clear this is not a NIMBY project,
23 unless New Hampshire is our back yard. We consider all of
24 New Hampshire our back yard, and we are willing to fight
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1 THE MODERATOR: Carl Mastland.

2 MR. MARTLAND: That's "Carl Martland".

3 THE MODERATOR: Martland.

4 MR. MARTLAND: M-a-r-t-l-a-n-d. "Mast
5 land" refers to the apple trees in my fields.

6 THE MODERATOR: I stand corrected, sir.

7 MR. MARTLAND: I'm just going to read my
8 comments, and I'll give this to you at the end. I am the
9 Chair of the North Country Scenic Byways Council. And, I
10 have submitted written comments on the negative impacts of
11 Northern Pass on scenic byways in the North Country.
12 Repeated sightings of steel lattice towers and long rows
13 of transmission lines will have a strong cumulative,
14 negative effect on users of the byways. The North Country
15 Scenic Byways Council has asked me to submit detailed
16 comments on this topic to the Department of Energy in
17 response to the Draft EIS, and I will do this prior to the
18 October 7th hearing on the EIS.

19 I am also the author of a textbook
20 entitled "Toward More Sustainable Infrastructure: Project
21 Evaluation for Planners and Engineers". So, I fully
22 understand Mr. Quinlan's repeated references to a
23 "balanced approach". However, I believe that there are
24 many better ways to balance the costs and benefits of this
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1 for full burial.

2 I support the Department of Education --
3 Energy and the EIS report. They are absolutely right; 4a
4 is the best option for New Hampshire. There were several
5 other people that brought out options, and talked a little
6 bit about that. And, one of the things that they talked
7 about was jobs. The EIS states there will be no more
8 jobs -- there will be more jobs for New Hampshire
9 residents should we bury this project than if we put up
10 towers.

11 Another issue is the roads. And, we've
12 talked about Franconia Notch. I travel through Franconia
13 Notch, even in the summer, to the Legislature about two
14 times, sometimes three times a week. They are already
15 doing construction. There is already construction, and
16 it's been there all summer. They repaired the roads.
17 They put up barriers. They have done a wonderful job of
18 Franconia Notch. There is no reason why they cannot use
19 93, as opposed to the state roads.

20 The technology clearly supports the
21 decision to use 4a. This cannot be a project of winners
22 and losers. It absolutely cannot. I ask that the SEC
23 recommend full burial of the Northern Pass Project.

24 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

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1 project, both for Northern Pass and for the North Country.

2 The information presented by Mr. Quinlan
3 today demonstrates that the benefits of the project are
4 great enough to justify burial of the line. I, therefore,
5 would like Northern Pass to consider restructuring its
6 proposal so as to reduce the net present value of the
7 overall project to Northern Pass, and, at the same time,
8 maintain or increase the benefits of the project to the
9 public.

10 There are three ways that this might be
11 done that just are very, very quick to summarize. One is
12 savings in electricity costs: Are \$80 million of diffuse
13 benefits to ratepayers necessary? If the savings were
14 only 40 million per year, the net present value difference
15 for Northern Pass could be \$400 million.

16 Payments in lieu of taxes: Instead of
17 payments of 30 million per year that decline to zero over
18 40 years, have annual payments of 15 to \$20 million per
19 year, thereby saving 150 to 250 million in net present
20 value, and giving the towns a longer stream and a higher
21 stream of tax revenue.

22 Third, the ForwardNH community benefits:
23 Instead of having 20 million per year for ten years, start
24 at a much lower amount, build to say \$10 million per year
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1 and continue for a longer period. Net present value
2 savings for Northern Pass could be 50 to \$100 million, and
3 the program would last longer and be a more durable
4 benefit for the North Country.

5 So, funding for the burial: Even if the
6 added cost is 1 billion, the annual cost, with reasonable
7 financing, would be well under 100 million, under 80
8 million. And, with the savings I've identified, this is
9 easily affordable.

10 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

11 MR. MARTLAND: I can't read that with my
12 glasses on.

13 *(Referring to the sign put up by the*
14 *time keeper.)*

15 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

16 MS. J. KELLOGG: I appreciate everyone's
17 comments. Mine are very short. My name is Jane Kellogg,
18 two Ls and two Gs, from Campton. I'm here with three
19 other members of the Campton Conservation Commission. As
20 a commission and as individuals, we have opposed this
21 project since it was first proposed, and we continue to do
22 so.

23 Environmentally, this project is
24 unsound, as a basic. From its generation where the Cree
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1 And, I live in Sugar Hill for the record. For nearly five
2 years, Northern Pass promoters have vigorously denied the
3 feasibility of burying HVDC lines here in New Hampshire.
4 Suddenly, on Tuesday, August 18th, a miraculous turnaround
5 took place. In a stunning reversal, Northern Pass could
6 now bury an additional 52 miles of line through the
7 rockiest terrain in the state at no additional cost. I
8 call this the "Miracle in Manchester".

9 The new Northern Pass route buries
10 itself through the White Mountains using new technology,
11 along roadsides, and for a reasonable cost, just as
12 opponents have said it should for years.

13 I live in one of the towns that will be
14 spared the affliction of high overhead towers. And, I am
15 pleased that Eversource took this important first step.
16 I'm also not much of a mind-reader, but I'm guessing this
17 is what you guys are asking yourselves, "why am I standing
18 here?" I'm standing here, because the people from away or
19 even from downstate seem to be unaware of the strong
20 connection North Country communities have with one
21 another. We are not about to walk away while some towns
22 are still under the gun, even if we are not. These people
23 are our friends, they're our neighbors. We treasure their
24 historic and scenic landscape with nearly the same fervor
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1 lands and livelihoods are forever irreparably altered, to
2 the major permanent visual and environmental disruptions,
3 to the heartland of our beautiful mountains and valleys.
4 Not to mention that New Hampshire does not need this
5 energy.

6 If, if the determination is that this
7 energy project is indeed in the public's best interest,
8 and I say "if", then we believe that the entire line must,
9 underlined, must be buried. We totally reject the claim
10 that it would be cost prohibitive to do so. The natural
11 resources of our state belong to all of us, and the
12 protection of those resources outweighs any additional
13 costs incurred by a private company.

14 And, that comes from the entire
15 Conservation Commission in Campton. Thank you.

16 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

17 THE MODERATOR: Nancy Martland, Heather
18 Townsend, Ken Mosedale, we'll try that, Steve Sabre.

19 Your printing is better than your
20 husband's.

21 MS. MARTLAND: Yes. I used to teach
22 kindergarten.

23 THE MODERATOR: Ah.

24 MS. MARTLAND: So, I'm Nancy Martland.
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1 as we treasure our own.

2 When the new route was announced, every
3 single person I spoke to, and I spoke to a lot of them,
4 remarked in some way on the fate of Coos County in
5 particular. The new route fails miserably in this one
6 very important aspect: It divides New Hampshire into
7 winners and losers. It divides us into tower towns and
8 burial towns. Offers cash to tower towns, in an attempt
9 to sooth the dual injury of a disfigured landscape and
10 loser status. Offers job creation grants to paper over
11 the fact that Coos County is the biggest loser of all.
12 Why not take that money and put the lines underground?
13 Even a casual observer might ask "why not just bury the
14 whole thing?" The new route confirms that it can be done.

15 In view of the fact that their earlier
16 "no burial" arguments have collapsed entirely, one wonders
17 what possible reason Eversource could cite that makes it
18 acceptable to damage some towns and not others.

19 I certainly have not heard anything
20 convincing here this evening. It is simply not the New
21 Hampshire way to favor some and leave others behind.
22 Ideally, the entire line should be underground. I really
23 don't see how you can do less.

24 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

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1 THE MODERATOR: Heather Townsend.
 2 MS. TOWNSEND: Here you go.
 3 (Document handed to the court reporter.)
 4 MS. TOWNSEND: My name is Heather
 5 Townsend. And, it's T-o-w-n-s-e-n-d. I live in
 6 Bridgewater, close to the Pemi River. Your current
 7 proposal calls for overhead high voltage lines to cross
 8 the Pemi four times, in places heavily used by residents,
 9 by boaters, and campers. In Bridgewater, towers would be
 10 up to 110 feet, in Bristol up to 120 feet, well above the
 11 treeline.

12 The Pemi is a state-protected river, and
 13 this type of intrusion is unacceptable. In addition,
 14 lines will likely impact recreation and tourism, which is
 15 a crucial part of the local economy.

16 The lines will come close to some homes.
 17 And, in terms of health, I will note that Spain, Sweden,
 18 the U.K., and Australia now prohibit homes being within
 19 300 feet of high voltage power lines. California requires
 20 a boundary zone of 250 feet, and Rhode Island has a
 21 moratorium on high voltage lines. So, despite your
 22 assurances, there does seem to be a valid health concern.

23 The Appalachian Mountain Club says that
 24 this plan "would cause considerable environmental and
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1 new proposal now buries 52 miles of utility lines through
 2 Grafton County, but leaves many miles of aboveground metal
 3 poles in Coos County and below Ashland. Beginning utility
 4 infrastructure into New Hampshire from Quebec is above
 5 ground, and Coos County will have a 150 feet wide/40 mile
 6 long clear-cut for the new Northern Pass right-of-way
 7 proposed route. This would destroy huge amounts of
 8 woodlands and destroy lots of natural landscape; not good
 9 for tourism and recreation. Anywhere there are
 10 above-treeline towers, property values will be negatively
 11 affected.

12 So, parts of Grafton County get a new
 13 buried line, but most of Coos County gets above-ground,
 14 harmful towers. Grafton County gets relief from property
 15 tax destruction, property value destruction; Coos County
 16 does not. No balance here.

17 Concord, New Hampshire also has a
 18 "balance" problem. The new Northern Pass right-of-way
 19 goes through part of the capital city, and the proposed
 20 aboveground towers will decrease property values for all
 21 adjacent owners, other close property owners, and all
 22 owners who are in the town view area -- tower view area.
 23 Part of the city will not be affected, while the
 24 right-of-way-impacted owners will realize decreased
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1 scenic damage compared to a total burial of the project."
 2 I urge you to bury the line along I-93,
 3 as outlined in the Department of Energy's Draft
 4 Environmental Impact Statement as Alternative 4a. If
 5 Hydro-Quebec is paying for the line, their profit should
 6 not come at the cost of our rivers, our environment, and
 7 our health.

8 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

9 MR. MOSEDALE: Ken Mosedale. I'm from
 10 Franconia. M-o-s-e-d-a-l-e. This is called "A Balanced
 11 Proposal", with some question marks after that phrase.
 12 Eversource uses the term "balanced proposal" to describe
 13 the new Northern Pass plan. Balance occurs when things
 14 approach equilibrium, when two situations are similar.
 15 Let's look at the balance in the new Eversource Northern
 16 Pass proposal. This new Northern Pass proposal has
 17 right-of-way winners and losers, lucky ones and unlucky
 18 ones. I emphasize the right-of-way issues because that is
 19 where the money is. Hydro-Quebec will pay lots of money
 20 to lease a right-of-way. The location and ownership of
 21 this right-of-way will determine who gets the millions of
 22 dollars from Hydro-Quebec.

23 The issue of building these
 24 above-treeline metal towers has not been resolved. The
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1 property valuation; no balance here.

2 Eversource promotes Northern Pass as a
 3 revenue-generator for all towns affected by its
 4 right-of-way plans. More property tax revenue, because
 5 tall metal towers and related infrastructure buildings are
 6 very valuable, and the towns will get more tax money based
 7 on this higher valuation. However, the history of Public
 8 Service New Hampshire, now Eversource, is that the Company
 9 has for years appealed the assessed value of its utility
 10 infrastructure, in an effort to reduce the taxes they pay.
 11 The Company has hassled small New Hampshire towns for
 12 years. Eversource works for its shareholders, not for the
 13 people of New Hampshire. Reducing the taxes owed to
 14 towns, means more profit for the Company's shareholders,
 15 maybe even a higher stock price.

16 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Mosedale, might you
 17 summarize the rest?

18 MR. MOSEDALE: All right. I guess I'll
 19 have to go to the last paragraph.

20 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

21 FROM THE FLOOR: I'll cede my time.

22 MR. MOSEDALE: This is basically a real
 23 estate deal. Eversource does not want that sensible, this
 24 is referring to the Environmental Impact Statement 4a
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1 route, Eversource does not want that sensible option,
2 because they will not get the lease money from
3 Hydro-Quebec for their right-of-way use. If EIS Option 4a
4 is adopted, the future issue may be who and how much does
5 Hydro-Quebec pay for the use of this highway right-of-way?
6 Does the money go to the State of New Hampshire? Does
7 Eversource get money due to its present agreement with
8 Hydro-Quebec?

9 The people of New Hampshire will be
10 losers if this Northern Pass goes through as now
11 presented. We must fight this present proposal that will
12 bring hurt and harm to many New Hampshire people. Better
13 options exist.

14 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

15 MR. MOSEDALE: Thank you.

16 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

17 MR. SABRE: Steve Sabre, S-a-b-r-e. I'm
18 from the Town of Easton, population 250. Except tonight,
19 I looked around the room, and we're probably down to 75
20 people at home. I've submitted some written comments
21 already on specific issues. I just wanted to address one,
22 one quick issue, that I have with the Northern Pass
23 strategy in general.

24 It's not listening. Burying the lines
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1 Hydro-Quebec put in 100 miles in Australia. And, they
2 reported they actually held a FERC conference in Hartford,
3 Connecticut to report their findings, that it was not only
4 cost-effective, but, even more important, it saved 80
5 percent -- they reduced the maintenance expenses for
6 maintaining the --

7 FROM THE FLOOR: Line.

8 MS. TERP: -- line, thank you. And, so,
9 you know, considering that, over the years, that's a
10 tremendous savings for people to think, and they did this
11 for several projects. And, that information is all on the
12 FERC website.

13 And, the only other comment that I want
14 to make is that, you know, I'm concerned about the trees.
15 And, any time you think about power lines, you're thinking
16 about making a wider path for the power line. And, when
17 we look at California, we notice the water -- the problems
18 they're having water, and now they have lost even more
19 trees. They sequester all kinds of water for them. And,
20 so, I think we need to look very carefully at what we're
21 doing, how we're protecting our trees in this state.

22 And, it's certainly cost-effective to
23 bury the lines. That's already been proven. I'm not sure
24 why Hydro-Quebec doesn't even look at its own findings.
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1 through this region is not out of the goodness of their
2 hearts, but because it was unlikely to get permitting
3 through the White Mountain National Forest. This is all
4 part of a cynical business strategy to divide the state by
5 region, buy off detractors, and pay one -- play one group
6 against another, or region against region.

7 Fairness to all is total burial, 4a.

8 Thank you.

9 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

10 THE MODERATOR: Douglas Evelyn.

11 MR. EVELYN: I testified.

12 THE MODERATOR: Yes, you did. Go again.

13 *[Laughter.]*

14 MR. EVELYN: Early and often.

15 THE MODERATOR: Homer May, Elizabeth

16 Terp, Susan Moore, Carl Lakes.

17 Homer May?

18 FROM THE FLOOR: I think he left.

19 THE MODERATOR: Oh, he left. All right.

20 I'm not going to take it personally.

21 Elizabeth Terp.

22 MS. TERP: I'm Elizabeth Terp, from

23 Thornton. That's T-e-r-p. And, I just have a couple of
24 brief comments. Several years ago a subsidiary of
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1 But, you know, that might be helpful to do that at this
2 point.

3 So, 4a all the way. Thank you.

4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

5 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

6 MS. MOORE: My name is Susan Moore. I'm
7 from Franconia. I'm speaking as Chair of the Northern
8 Grafton County Democrats. We're on record in opposition
9 to the original proposal for Northern Pass. We are
10 pleased that Eversource has recognized how important line
11 burial is, and that they have put forth the revised plan
12 3.0. This is a great beginning. But it still leaves most
13 of the lines above ground. Coos County and a good portion
14 of Grafton County will still have above lines --
15 aboveground lines, and it is not a good situation for our
16 neighbors.

17 Now that Eversource has stated that
18 lines can be buried along roadways through the White
19 Mountain National Forest, we request that lines be buried
20 throughout the entire route. Thank you.

21 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

22 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

23 THE MODERATOR: Carl Lakes.

24 MR. LAKES: Yes. It's Carl Lakes,
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1 L-a-k-e-s. I'm from Easton, and I'm on the Conservation
2 Commission in town.

3 In the old Soviet Union, in Germany,
4 Iraq, and countless other authoritarian countries, they
5 built outside monuments to their leaders, as if they were
6 gods, infallible and always right. When the people saw
7 the ruinous results of these leaders and the institutions
8 they created, the monuments were torn down in a rage.

9 In New Hampshire, Eversource wants to
10 build a hideous steel monument, a symbol of
11 shortsightedness, ignorance, and corporate greed.
12 According to the Supreme Court, corporations are now
13 people. But, unlike most individuals, they have the
14 money, the influence to get what they want through
15 coercion, buying off legislators, and doling out monies to
16 silence critics.

17 Is this the New Hampshire that says
18 "Live Free or Die"? The people have spoken loud and
19 clear: Bury Northern Pass, bury all of it. The
20 technology is proven and, logistically, it makes the most
21 sense.

22 For all our sakes, let's do what's
23 right. Let's not destroy our natural vistas, let's not
24 destroy land values, let's not bow down to corporate
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1 You said Hydro-Quebec is "renewable
2 energy". Industrial hydro has never been classified by
3 New Hampshire or the EPA as renewable energy because of
4 all the environmental damage that's created in the
5 production of the energy.

6 Two. You said it's "clean power".
7 Wrong again. Industrial hydro reservoirs release both
8 carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere. And, as
9 far as overhead power lines go, it takes of tons of
10 concrete for the towers. Each ton of concrete releases a
11 ton plus 400 pounds of CO2 into the atmosphere.

12 Three. Thomas May calls Hydro-Quebec
13 the "greenest utility in the world". No, the greenest
14 would be energy efficiency and conservation. No trees
15 destroyed, no wildlife displaced, no property damage.
16 But, since there's no money in it, I don't see you
17 fighting for that.

18 Four. You said you couldn't bury it,
19 too much granite, even though companies are burying -- are
20 planning to bury power lines in other New England states
21 that have granite. You said it would be ten times more
22 expensive if buried; however, ABB's website states
23 "Depending on local conditions, it is realistic that the
24 costs for an underground high voltage line are equal to
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1 hegemony. I'm sure there is not one legislator or one
2 union worker that would vote for above ground if it came
3 through their yard. It is the duty of all legislators to
4 hold up the will of the people, and, by burying the whole
5 thing, we honor the individual rights of every state
6 resident.

7 Though, our most treasured natural
8 monument, the Old Man of the Mountain, has fallen, we who
9 are living should continue to uphold the grandeur of his
10 vision that did not include steel towers and monuments to
11 greed, but breathtaking beauty that is the heart and soul
12 of this state. Honor the Old Man on the Mountain by
13 burying all of Northern Pass.

14 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

15 THE MODERATOR: Brenda Adam, Pamela
16 Martin, Gail Beaulieu, Margo Connors.

17 Brenda Adam. Did she leave?

18 (No verbal response)

19 THE MODERATOR: Pamela Martin.

20 MS. MARTIN: It's P-a-m-e-l-a,

21 M-a-r-t-i-n. I'm from Plymouth. Over the years, I've
22 compiled a list of all the lies told by you, Northern
23 Pass. And, I only have time for eleven of them, but here
24 we are.

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1 that of traditional overhead lines." We have sewer,
2 cable, and water lines buried all over the Granite State,
3 and somehow they manage to do that. Why can't you figure
4 it out?

5 Five. You promise tax benefits for
6 towns at the very same time you're in court trying to
7 change the depreciation schedule, so you can end up with
8 zero tax liability.

9 Six. You boasted 1,200 jobs with
10 overhead lines. Now, the DOE says 2,400 jobs with burial.
11 You claim New Hampshire desperately needs the jobs. Are
12 you aware that New Hampshire has the lowest unemployment
13 of all of New England states? Considerably lower than
14 Connecticut or Massachusetts.

15 Seven. You said you were cooperating
16 with the public and the local governments. But we asked
17 that you debate us, and you repeatedly refused.

18 Eight. You're claiming low-cost energy.
19 Why in the world would Hydro-Quebec go into this venture
20 to lose money? This energy will be competitively priced.
21 Corporations always charge what the market can bear.

22 Nine. You said "New Hampshire needs the
23 power." New Hampshire has more than enough power, but
24 Hydro-Quebec has a surplus of energy and they are
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1 desperate to sell it to the United States. They're not
2 doing it to be nice or to solve a crisis. They want to
3 make a huge amount of money, which will go to pay off some
4 of Quebec's massive debt.

5 Ten. You said you're doing us a favor
6 by not going through the White Mountain National Forest.
7 You knew you weren't going to get a permit to go through
8 the White Mountain National Forest. So, you're making a
9 virtue out of a necessity. If you really wanted to be
10 good neighbors, you'd bury it all right down 93 to
11 southern New England.

12 Eleven. You claim you're going to bury
13 8 miles in Coos County. You act like you're doing that
14 out of the goodness of your heart. The reason you're
15 doing that is because you're blocked. The private
16 property owners there are refusing to sell to you. By the
17 way, I don't know if you realize it or not, but you can't
18 bury something under someone else's property without their
19 permission.

20 These are not little lies. They are
21 monumental lies which have affected people's lives and
22 leaves you with no credibility at all. How can we have a
23 conversation with you when we can't trust you to tell the
24 truth?

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1 Google, you will see that there are many electrocutions
2 resulting in the death that occur from overhead power
3 lines.

4 A man was killed in Keene from a downed
5 overhead power line. An electrocution occurred from the
6 transfer of electricity without the crane even touching
7 the overhead power line. A power line worker was
8 electrocuted while performing maintenance. A tree trimmer
9 was electrocuted. A famous eagle came in contact with a
10 high voltage line and electrocuted. A hot-air balloon
11 came in contact with a power line causing electrocution.

12 Today, I am speaking on behalf of a man
13 that cannot speak today. He was recently killed by
14 electrocution from an overhead power line.

15 The deaths caused by electrocution from
16 overhead power lines can now be avoided, and should be
17 avoided, with the installation of DC Light cable buried
18 along Interstate 93, 4a.

19 With the new technology available, I
20 encourage the Site Evaluation Committee consider burial as
21 the highest and best use for the Northern Pass Project
22 proposing to transfer high voltage electricity miles away
23 from its use, to protect the landowner, avoid death by
24 electrocution, to protect our country from possible

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1 An out-of-state utility has teamed up
2 with a foreign government. They have no love or respect
3 for New Hampshire. They care only about money. I lived
4 in southern New Hampshire and northern New Hampshire, and
5 it's all beautiful. Please protect it. All of it.

6 [Audience interruption/applause.]

7 MS. BEAULIEU: My name is Gail Beaulieu,
8 G-a-i-l, B-e-a-u-l-i-e-u. I'm from Plymouth, New
9 Hampshire. And, I am opposed to the development of
10 overhead transmission lines trespassing on private
11 property, existing rights-of-way, and property that you
12 actually own, when burial is feasible and affordable.

13 In the early days of rural
14 electrification, a right-of-way was granted by landowners
15 to serve themselves and their neighbors. The lines were
16 smaller and carried less voltage. These landowners, at
17 the time of the right-of-ways were established, never
18 anticipated that utility companies would be looking to
19 purchase electricity from locations miles away, with
20 higher voltage, and with no benefit of the electricity for
21 the landowners' use.

22 Not only are overhead lines unnecessary,
23 excessive, intrusive, and a financial burden to the
24 majority of these landowners, they are unsafe. If you

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1 terrorist attacks, drone attacks, and weather-related
2 occurrences.

3 And, I want you to also remember that a
4 wise man told me once "never trust marketing as the
5 truth". Thank you.

6 [Audience interruption/applause.]

7 MS. CONNORS: Margo Connors, Sugar Hill,
8 M-a-r-g-o, C-o-n-n-o-r-s. On behalf of the Select Board
9 of Sugar Hill, New Hampshire, I would like to commend
10 Northern Pass for using new cable technology in their
11 latest proposal. This will enable the line to be buried
12 in our community. We would like to thank all of the
13 people in Sugar Hill, who worked extremely hard over the
14 past five years, through countless meetings, information
15 sessions at public events, letters and e-mails to elected
16 officials and representatives of Northern Pass and
17 Eversource, tours of the land where the proposed towers
18 would be. Specifically we would like to thank members of
19 the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission, the Sugar Hill
20 Historical Museum, the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust, and
21 STOP. Our views and opinions were heard.

22 However, in speaking with members of our
23 community after the latest route was announced, people
24 were pleased that Sugar Hill was spared, but the

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1 overwhelming sentiment was concern for the 24 communities
2 that will still have towers. If they can bury 52 miles at
3 not extra cost, why can't they bury the whole thing? The
4 entire North Country has scenic vistas, landscapes,
5 historical resources, conservation lands and private
6 properties that should be valued. It seems that their
7 views were not heard. We think they should be listened to
8 just as we were.

9 Our Board, our Select Board, would
10 recommend that the plan be amended further before the
11 official SEC filing to include more burial that spares all
12 of the state. The Draft EIS clearly states this is
13 feasible and beneficial. We believe our neighbors deserve
14 the same treatment that our town received from Eversource.

15 Eversource has offered to sit down with
16 town officials to discuss the plan for Sugar Hill in more
17 detail. Since we have not been offered this opportunity
18 to date, we look forward to setting up a meeting in the
19 near future where we can discuss the impact on town roads,
20 and the possibility of developing a contract that would
21 establish a payment schedule to the town in lieu of taxes.
22 Thank you.

[Audience interruption/applause.]

23 THE MODERATOR: Rebecca Brown, William
24 {SEC 2015-06} [Lincoln Public Comment Session] {09-08-15}

1 seeing, but asking ourselves harder questions about "what
2 is our energy future and our energy independence going to
3 look like in New Hampshire?" "How do we take advantage of
4 our natural resources to provide that future for ourselves
5 and for our neighbors?"

6 There's no state policy that this
7 project is following. As we know, it's a private
8 proposal. There is no demonstrated public need. This is
9 not part of our renewable, big hydro is not part of the
10 state's renewable energy portfolio.

11 So, I ask you -- or, I will tell you,
12 that we have opposed this in the beginning, we oppose it
13 in the middle, and we will continue opposing it to the
14 end. I personally favor the "no build" alternative. If
15 this project goes forward, I do not believe it should,
16 full burial is the only fair way to treat all of New
17 Hampshire. Thank you.

[Audience interruption/applause.]

18 THE MODERATOR: William Bolton.

19 FROM THE FLOOR: He left.

20 THE MODERATOR: Okay. James -- John
21 Olson.

(No verbal response)

22 THE MODERATOR: Mark McCulloch.
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1 Bolton, John Olson, and Mark McCulloch.

2 REP. BROWN: Hi. Rebecca Brown,
3 B-r-o-w-n. I live in Sugar Hill. I represent five towns
4 in the Legislature: Sugar Hill, Franconia, Lisbon, Lyman,
5 and Monroe. We've heard a lot of fantastic comments
6 tonight. And, so, I would urge you to think about
7 something a little different, which I think about as being
8 a legislator, which is public trust. And, the trust in
9 this process, and what we're going to achieve at the end
10 of the day that is best for all of New Hampshire, today,
11 tomorrow, and for the foreseeable future, like the next
12 100 years.

13 People in my district, all of them, not
14 just the affected towns, always ask me about Northern Pass
15 "What's in it for New Hampshire?" "What is the public
16 benefit?" And, that is the question, really, before us,
17 as policymakers, as lawmakers, as public servants. A
18 clearly articulated public benefit, not the carrots that
19 are dangled, we've heard about a lot of them tonight.

20 Everybody that I know, who's followed
21 this so closely for five years, sees the clearly
22 articulated benefit as being private and corporate. Not
23 for the good of all of New Hampshire, not a
24 divide-and-conquer kind of approach, which is what we're
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1 MR. McCULLOCK: This is he.

2 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

3 MR. McCULLOCK: I'm from the Coos
4 County. I came down here to support them. Wow. This is
5 pretty nice.

6 Since five years ago, this project has
7 ticked me off so badly that my wife and I now have two
8 small poles, with 12 panels each, solar panels. We
9 provide all the power for our own home and my business.

10 I came down here to talk about something
11 that is in The News and Sentinel free summer magazine
12 called "Enjoying the Great North Woods", on the side it
13 says "Capture your next adventure here!"

14 What I want to talk about is the
15 165-mile Cohos Trail. "The 165-mile Cohos Trail is the
16 only international trail system in New Hampshire and the
17 second international pathway in the East, providing a
18 wilderness hiking experience from Crawford Notch in the
19 White Mountain National Forest through the Great North
20 Woods to the Canadian border in Pittsburg. Hardy souls
21 can continue on Sentier Frontalier's trails to Mount
22 Megantic or Mount Gosford in Eastern Townships of Quebec."

23 "The past spring the Cohos Trail
24 Association, the all-volunteer non-profit organization
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1 that stewards the trail received two grants that will
 2 support the efforts to make the Cohos Trail a major hiking
 3 destination in the Northeast. "2015 is on the path to be
 4 the most successful year for the Cohos Trail in terms of
 5 being able to make significant, positive changes", said
 6 CTA president Chad Pepau. "These changes will enhance the
 7 hiking experience tremendously. The Cohos Trail is very
 8 fortunate to have received these generous gifts as the
 9 association relies heavily on grants and donations to
 10 accomplish a wide array of projects annually."

11 This Cohos Trail runs basically adjacent
 12 to the route that they're proposing through the northern
 13 section of the state.

14 "The New Hampshire Trails Bureau
 15 Recreational Trails Program awarded \$27,555 to assist the
 16 group, building miles of new trails, relocating
 17 footpaths -- excuse me -- footpaths off the roads and
 18 greatly improving the hiking experience."

19 "The Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund,
 20 excuse me, administered [by] the New Hampshire Charitable
 21 Foundation, awarded a \$3,280 grant."

22 THE MODERATOR: Mr. McCullock, your time
 23 is up. I don't know if you might summarize for us the
 24 article.

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1 Executive Director of the New England Ratepayers
 2 Association, a non-profit, social welfare organization
 3 which advocates for ratepayers in New Hampshire and New
 4 England.

5 The high cost of electricity to New
 6 Hampshire's businesses and families is well-documented.
 7 We have the fifth-highest electricity rates in the United
 8 States. The recent and potential retirements of 8,000
 9 megawatts of coal, nuclear, and oil-fired generation has
 10 left New England short of baseload power options and
 11 over-reliant on natural gas-fired generation, with half of
 12 our electricity produced by natural gas plants. This
 13 overreliance is exacerbated by the fact that New England
 14 has insufficient pipeline capacity to meet the demand of
 15 natural gas generators, especially during the winter.

16 With an electricity market that hasn't
 17 induced any natural gas generators to subscribe to firm
 18 capacity from any of the proposed pipeline projects, and
 19 the fact that natural gas generation sets the wholesale
 20 market price for electricity 80 percent of the time,
 21 extreme price volatility follows. Which is largely
 22 responsible for the 55 percent and 13 percent increases in
 23 wholesale electricity prices the last two years.

24 These high and volatile energy prices
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1 MR. McCULLOCK: To summarize this, we
 2 have a 165-mile trail that runs from Crawford Notch to
 3 Pittsburg and into Canada. And, these link ding-a-lings
 4 are going to destroy it. We need to protect it.

5 I tried to see where they assess the
 6 impact to this trail, and there is one -- there isn't any.
 7 For those that come up here and try to go cross-country
 8 hiking and long distance hiking, this is one of the trails
 9 that's appealing to these folks. I have hiked the Long
 10 Trail in Vermont. It's a great experience to be able to
 11 do that. They're starting to get the same opinion and
 12 ideas around the Cohos Trail. Let's protect it.

13 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

14 MR. McCULLOCK: Thank you.

15 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

16 THE MODERATOR: Sam Godin, Tim -- T. M.
 17 Burgess, Marc Brown. Are any of those people still here?

18 MR. BROWN: I'm Marc Brown. I was on
 19 the list.

20 THE MODERATOR: Oh, Marc Brown. Okay.

21 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Marc Brown,
 22 Newfields, New Hampshire. Brown, B-r-o-w-n, Marc,
 23 M-a-r-c.

24 My name is Marc Brown and I am the

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1 are crimping our economy and putting future job growth at
 2 significant risk. Public policy in the region has made it
 3 a veritable certainty that New England will not be
 4 building nuclear, coal, and oil-fired generation plants
 5 which have historically provided the region with the bulk
 6 of its baseload generation. The recently announced safety
 7 downgrade at Pilgrim Nuclear Plant in Massachusetts will
 8 certainly embolden environmental groups, whose relentless
 9 lobbying contributed to the premature shutdown of Vermont
 10 Yankee, to pursue the same result at Pilgrim before
 11 ultimately setting their sights on the more than 3,000
 12 generating capacity at Seabrook and Millstone.

13 With one quarter of the region's
 14 capacity retiring or expected to retire by the end of the
 15 decade, new, reliable baseload power will be vital to
 16 provide stability to the New England power grid. Natural
 17 gas and large-scale hydroelectricity are the only
 18 remaining options.

19 It's extremely difficult to accurately
 20 calculate the savings that a project like Northern Pass
 21 will provide ratepayers. However, Northern Pass will no
 22 doubt compensate for some of the scheduled retirements,
 23 and will provide ratepayers some relief, especially in the
 24 capacity markets. The current capacity market will see
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1 New England ratepayers pay an additional 1.5 billion in
2 payments to electricity generators in 2016-2017, a total
3 that will escalate to 3.5 billion for 2019-2020. That
4 represents a \$200 million annual increase to New
5 Hampshire's ratepayers. Another 1,000 megawatts will help
6 reduce those costs.

7 The Northern Pass -- the Northern Pass
8 Project is far from perfect and its merits and flaws are
9 certainly open to debate. What isn't debatable is the
10 fact that New England's electricity grid is seeing its
11 baseload power options decrease while its electricity
12 rates increase. A perfect solution to our region's energy
13 woes that will please everyone does not exist. Can a
14 state that has seen 35 percent of its manufacturing jobs,
15 and a region which has lost half a million manufacturing
16 jobs in the past 25 years really afford to make the
17 perfect project the enemy of a very good project. It's
18 time to make some decisions that benefit the region before
19 it's too late.

20 As an organization, we certainly don't
21 support a \$200 million fund promised by Eversource to a
22 variety of competing special interests, whose costs will
23 ultimately be borne by ratepayers. But, as stated
24 earlier, nothing is perfect. Thank you.

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1 Most of my time, if I come straight from
2 Massachusetts, it's supposed to take me three hours, but I
3 like to go all the byways, up and all the way back,
4 because, for me, my family doesn't come up here. And,
5 like I thought, I have a very large family, and I thought
6 we'd have big camp-outs. But we're all older and creaky,
7 and they want the condos. One of them does own a third
8 share in loon, and another one comes up every summer at
9 one of the condos up here. So, they still enjoy New
10 Hampshire, but not the way I thought they would, as a
11 whole family camping out with them.

12 So, I just want to say thank you, New
13 Hampshire. I hope you do fight and not have those lines.
14 I also have an illness in my lungs. So, I breathe better
15 up here. And, it's because of what you're fighting for.
16 Thank you.

17 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

18 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Not seeing any
19 more commenters, I'm going to close the session. And,
20 thank you all very much for coming.

21 *(Whereupon the Public Information*
22 *Session was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.)*

23
24

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1 THE MODERATOR: Okay. I've got two
2 comment papers left. Sam Godin and T. M. Burgess.

3 *[Audience interruption-inaudible.]*

4 THE MODERATOR: Go ahead. You want to
5 go up to the microphone? Yes, that's okay. She's asked
6 to speak.

7 MS. BRODERICK: My name is Pat
8 Broderick. I'm from Massachusetts.

9 *(Court reporter interruption.)*

10 MS. BRODERICK: I'm from Massachusetts.
11 Pat Broderick, B-r-o-d-e-r-i-c-k. When my husband passed
12 away, I bought a little piece of property up on Route 3 in
13 Woodstock. I put it in trust for my three children.
14 They, right at the moment, don't have any interest in it.
15 They have come up when they were teenagers. They said I
16 bought it for me. Well, I decided to enjoy New Hampshire.

17 I thought it was a safe bet for my
18 financial mind, instead of putting it in the bank. Some
19 of my Massachusetts relatives think I made a bad bet. I
20 think I made a very good bet. Today, I spoke to somebody
21 over on this side, he was very polite to me. I asked him
22 what this was all about. I only knew a little bit. I'm
23 very happy to have heard the other side. And, I don't
24 want the Pass after hearing everything I've heard.

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2

C E R T I F I C A T E

3 I, *Steven. E. Patnaude*, a Licensed Court Reporter, do
4 hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate
5 transcript of my stenographic notes of these proceedings
6 taken at the place and on the date hereinbefore set forth,
7 to the best of my skill and ability under the conditions
8 present at the time.

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

14
15

16 *Steven E. Patnaude, LCR*
17 *Licensed Court Reporter*
18 *N.H. LCR No. 00052*
19 *(RSA 310-A:173)*

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\$10 [1] 44/24	3,000 [1] 72/11	ability [1] 76/7
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\$27,555 [1] 69/15	300 feet [1] 49/19	42/13 47/21 55/14 55/15 55/16 62/3 66/6
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00052 [1] 76/16	400 [1] 59/11	aboveground [6] 31/6 36/8 40/10 51/2
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26 [1] 25/21	abandon [1] 41/10	against [9] 9/1 10/13 12/22 22/19 23/5
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