

In Re:

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

*PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION
September 02, 2015*

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**PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION - September 02, 2015
SEC 2015-06 Northern Pass Public Information Meeting Concord, New Hampshire**

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

September 2, 2015 - 6:02 p.m.
Grappone Conference Center
7 Constitution Avenue
Concord, 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 REPORTER: Susan J. Robidas, LCR No. 44

{SEC 2015-06}[CONCORD MEETING-PRESENTATION/Q&A]{9-2-15}

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1 NOTED AS PRESENT:

2 Counsel for the Applicant: Barry Needleman, Esq.
3 (McLane Middleton)

4 Thomas B. Getz, Esq.
5 (Devine Millimet)

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7 Also noted as present for
8 Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and
9 Eversource Energy Project Team who
10 provided answers to questions:

11 Bill Quinlan, President, Eversource New Hampshire
12 Jim Muntz, President of Transmission, Eversource
13 Sam Johnson, Sr. Project Manger, Burns & McDonnell
14 Bob Clarke, Dir. of Siting/Outreach..., Eversource
15 Lee Carbonneau, Sr. Principal Scientist, Normandeau
16 Jerry Fortier, Project Director, Eversource

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1 PROCEEDING

2 THE MODERATOR: Good evening.

3 We're going to begin the public information portion

4 of the program now. So if you'd like to take seats,

5 we can get started.

6 My name is Kathleen McGuire.

7 I'm a retired superior court judge. I was a judge

8 for about 25 years before I recently fully

9 retired. And during the time I was a judge, I sat

10 the majority of the time in Merrimack County. So

11 maybe some of you were in my courtroom -- as

12 jurors, I mean, of course [Laughter].

13 My function tonight is to

14 moderate this public information session about the

15 Northern Pass Project. This is a 192-mile

16 transmission line proposed to bring energy from

17 hydroelectric plants in Canada to New Hampshire

18 and the rest of New England. The Project is being

19 proposed jointly by Northern Pass Transmission,

20 LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire,

21 doing business as Eversource Energy.

22 I want to thank you all very

23 much for coming out tonight to participate in this

24 event. Tonight's public information session is

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1 the first step in a state administrative process
2 required by statute, R.S.A. Chapter 162-H. Before
3 new energy facilities of a particular size can be
4 built, the company proposing the project must
5 receive a Certificate of Site and Facility from
6 the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee, or
7 the SEC, an entity formed by the Legislature for
8 the purpose of reviewing proposed energy
9 facilities. R.S.A. Chapter 162-H was recently
10 amended to require that at least 30 days before
11 submitting an application to the SEC, the Company
12 must hold a public information session in each
13 county in which the Project is proposed to be
14 built. The Northern Pass Project is proposed to
15 pass through five counties: Coos, Grafton,
16 Belknap, Merrimack and Rockingham. This meeting
17 is the first of these five pre-application
18 information sessions. The purpose of these
19 sessions is for Northern Pass to present
20 information to the public and to provide the
21 public with an opportunity to ask questions and
22 make comments about the proposed project. As part
23 of the effort to provide information, an open
24 house began in the next room at 5:00 and will

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1 continue throughout the evening. Project managers
2 and experts are available there to talk with you
3 about the Project.

4 Tonight's meeting has three
5 parts. First, after I've completed my
6 introduction, Bill Quinlan, who is the President
7 of Eversource New Hampshire, will make opening
8 remarks on behalf of Northern Pass and present a
9 short video that gives an overview of the Project.
10 After that, he will make a brief presentation
11 specific to Merrimack County.

12 Second, members of the Project
13 Team will answer questions for about an hour. To
14 make the most efficient use of the limited time
15 available, questions will be taken in written
16 form. Index cards are available outside this room
17 for you to write your questions on. Because you
18 may want to ask questions on different topics, I
19 ask that you use one index card for each topic;
20 this will help us group questions by category. I
21 may then consolidate or summarize the questions in
22 order to cover as much ground as possible. I hope
23 that by minimizing repetition in this way, the
24 evening will be more productive. In addition, if

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1 I don't think that the Panel has understood a
2 question or that it hasn't answered clearly or
3 responsively, I will follow up on that question.

4 During the third portion of
5 the program, you will have the opportunity to
6 comment on the Project. To do so, you will need
7 to fill out a form available out in the lobby.
8 The form asks for your name and address.
9 Preference will be given to residents of Merrimack
10 County. Non-county residents will follow. I will
11 call out your name in the order that I receive the
12 forms.

13 Our court reporters, who are
14 Sue Robidas and Steve Patnaude, will record your
15 comments which will be transcribed later and
16 included in the Application to the Site Evaluation
17 Committee. You may also comment in written -- in
18 writing about the Project at any time throughout
19 the evening on forms that are available out in the
20 lobby. Your written comments will also be made
21 part of the SEC Application.

22 These public information
23 sessions are the first step in a lengthy
24 administrative process. The next step will be for

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1 Northern Pass to file its Application with the
2 SEC. Pursuant to the statute, this may occur no
3 sooner than 30 days after completing the five
4 public information sessions. The Application,
5 including all public comments, will remain -- will
6 be made available online at the SEC web site, and
7 hard copies will be delivered to each town
8 affected by the Project. Once the Application is
9 filed, the SEC has 60 days to determine whether to
10 accept it. Within 45 days after acceptance, the
11 SEC will conduct another set of public information
12 sessions in each county. Additionally, within 90
13 days after the Application is accepted, the SEC
14 and other state agencies are required to hold
15 joint public hearings. In the past, those
16 hearings involved similar to what we're doing here
17 tonight; the Applicant presenting information
18 about the Project, the public making comments, and
19 the SEC moderating the public question-and-answer
20 session. In those sessions, the SEC and state
21 agencies also ask the Applicant questions about
22 the Project.

23 The last part of the
24 administrative process occurs when the SEC holds

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1 public adjudicative hearings at which it would
2 consider evidence from Northern Pass and other
3 parties and decide whether or not to issue a
4 certificate authorizing Northern Pass to proceed
5 with the proposed project. These hearings
6 typically occur eight months or more after an
7 application is accepted.

8 Again, I thank you very much
9 for coming out tonight and participating in this
10 process.

11 I would like to now introduce
12 Bill Quinlan, President of Eversource New
13 Hampshire, who, after his presentation, will join
14 members of the Project Team to answer your
15 questions. Mr. Quinlan.

16 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. Thank you
17 and good evening. I want to thank you all for being
18 here tonight, taking time out of your busy schedule
19 to attend, first, the open house and now to
20 participate in the public information session. I'm
21 personally very excited to be here. Why is that? I
22 think there's a great opportunity for us to have a
23 dialogue about this project, for us to continue to
24 gather feedback about the Project as we move forward

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1 with the site. So, irrespective of your views on
2 the Project, I'm happy you're here tonight and look
3 forward to your comments. So I am going to talk to
4 you a bit about the Project, as well as our broader
5 plan, which is referred to as the "ForwardNH Plan."
6 But let me give you a sense, first, as to what led
7 to the plan that we announced about two weeks ago.

8 So, for about the last year
9 we've been working with stakeholders across New
10 Hampshire to understand their perspective on this
11 project. Business leaders, environmental
12 organizations, municipalities, individual
13 homeowners, small business owners, contractors,
14 both union and non-union, elected officials. And
15 for about a year we've been gathering this
16 information to formulate what we announced two
17 weeks ago, the ForwardNH Plan. So we've been
18 listening for an extended period of time to a
19 diverse set of stakeholders who have very diverse
20 views. And while there's certainly support around
21 our previous proposal, two things came through
22 loud and clear, and it led to the plan we
23 announced two weeks ago. The first was that the
24 Company needs to understand and address, to the

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1 extent possible, view impacts, scenic view impacts
2 associated with overhead construction of this
3 project.

4 The second thing we heard was
5 that this project needs to benefit New Hampshire.
6 If it's going to be built in this state, there
7 needs to be clear and direct benefits to the state
8 of New Hampshire. There is a misconception that
9 this project was all about getting power to
10 southern New England and to basically use New
11 Hampshire as a way to get there. So that's the
12 feedback we received from those who had concerns
13 about the Project. I'm boiling down a lot of
14 other issues into the two principal issues that we
15 have sought to address. First, scenic impact;
16 second, direct benefits. Okay.

17 So, you know, as we thought
18 about how best do we address those two issues, it
19 really came to a balanced approach. You'll hear
20 me, whenever I talk about this project and this
21 plan, I stress that we've attempted to "strike a
22 balance." And the things that we are balancing
23 are we need a project that technically works. It
24 needs to be reliable and needs to get a large

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1 amount of clean, low-cost, reliable power from the
2 Canadian border down to New Hampshire. So it
3 needs to work technically.

4 The second thing it needs to
5 do is be sited. It needs to be a project that
6 addresses those view impacts that I'm referring to
7 that we've heard so much about here in New
8 Hampshire, to the extent possible.

9 And third, it needs to be
10 affordable. It needs to be a project that
11 customers, both in New Hampshire and throughout
12 New England, can afford.

13 When we look at those three
14 key variables -- technological feasibility,
15 ability to site it, and a project that's
16 affordable, that's what led to the ForwardNH Plan.
17 And I'll explain as I share with you the Plan, you
18 know, where we made our decisions and how we
19 approached that balance. So it's critically
20 important that we continue to focus on the need
21 for balance. I mean, we could build a project
22 that has no scenic impact or little scenic impact
23 and is unaffordable. We could build a project
24 that might be affordable but won't work

1 technically because it's using unproven
2 technology. And there are variations. We've
3 struck the balance that we think is appropriate
4 for this project, okay. So keep that in mind as
5 we go through this.

6 So this is the ForwardNH Plan
7 that we announced last week. As I say, it starts
8 with an improved route. And this is directly
9 focused on addressing the feedback we received
10 from New Hampshire about the need to protect
11 important scenic views. So, for those of you who
12 have been following the Project, you'll see the
13 area up in the north part of the state colored in
14 yellow. That was the only portion of the Project
15 previously that was planned for overhead
16 construction. It was 8 miles up in the North
17 Country. Two weeks ago we announced that we're
18 going to go with underground construction in the
19 yellow area in the central portion of the state.
20 So we are increasing the amount of underground
21 construction from 8 miles to 60 miles. Now, for
22 us to strike a balance and to do that
23 cost-effectively, we had to do two things: We had
24 to scale down the Project; so, what was previously

1 most consistently from New Hampshire stakeholders
2 as being particularly important. And almost every
3 conversation I had, with some folks in this room,
4 in fact, started with the White Mountain National
5 Forest. You know, the notion of even though
6 there's an existing right-of-way and existing line
7 through the White Mountain National Forest,
8 constructing a new line in parallel in that
9 existing right-of-way is one that we've received a
10 lot of concern and feedback on.

11 And then we looked north and
12 south of the White Mountain National Forest and to
13 the Appalachian Trail. You know, obviously, this
14 project, the current line intersects with the
15 Appalachian Trail. So we factored that into our
16 decision-making. We heard a lot about the
17 Franconia Notch area. So that decision and those
18 52 miles were selected entirely based on feedback
19 from New Hampshire, and again, in the interest of
20 balance.

21 I mentioned that we changed
22 the cable technology, scaled down the size of the
23 Project. What that also did was allowed us to
24 lower tower heights by 5 to 10 feet on average for

1 a 1200-megawatt project is now going to only
2 deliver 1,000 megawatts. So the amount of clean
3 energy that's going to be delivered to New England
4 and to New Hampshire has been reduced by 200
5 megawatts. So that's a big deal.

6 We also had to change the
7 cable technology. For us to pursue that amount of
8 underground construction reliably and
9 cost-effectively, we had to go from our previous
10 preferred cable technology to what's referred to
11 as "DC Lite technology." So, a couple of major
12 changes that were required to facilitate that
13 amount of underground construction. So we've now
14 got a smaller cable technology -- I'm sorry -- a
15 smaller project; we have different cable
16 technology, and all of the components associated
17 with this project were impacted by that decision.
18 But we thought it was one that was important to
19 make in striking the balance that we are working
20 towards and to address New Hampshire's concerns.
21 So, not only did we increase the amount of
22 underground construction to 60 miles -- it wasn't
23 arbitrary. We didn't pick that central area
24 arbitrarily. We picked the area that we had heard

1 the entire DC portion of the line. So, from
2 Franklin, where we convert from direct current to
3 alternating current to the Canadian border --
4 that's the DC portion of the line -- all those
5 tower heights have come down as a result of the
6 decision to go with a different cable technology.
7 And we're taking it further. We're also looking
8 at the design and engineering of the structures
9 that are going to hold up the overhead portion of
10 the line. And our engineers are looking at
11 basically every structure from the perspective of:
12 Can we move it to a location that is not visible?
13 Can we lower it? Can we use a different structure
14 design that makes it less visible? And I'll share
15 with you some simulations that depict what I'm
16 talking about. But that's something else that
17 we're pursuing and we have been pursuing as we
18 move forward with the details of the design.
19 We're going to continue to work structure by
20 structure as finalize the design around this
21 project to address the view impact, okay. So this
22 was the first issue, probably the one I heard the
23 most about, at least from a concern perspective
24 concerning this project. And our announcement two

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1 weeks ago is directly intended to address it in a
2 balanced way, okay.
3 Beyond the view issue, you
4 know, as I said at the outset, it was very clear
5 that New Hampshire is interested in what are the
6 benefits associated with hosting this
7 infrastructure. This project can't be simply
8 about getting power into Boston or into
9 Connecticut with none of the benefits being kept
10 here for New Hampshire. So that led to the
11 ForwardNH Plan. This is a high-level summary of
12 the plan we announced last week. I'm not going to
13 go through this in any great detail. But what we
14 tried to do in a very conservative way, category
15 by category, is to quantify the benefits to New
16 Hampshire for hosting this line. Now, if this
17 line ends up in Maine or in Vermont, or doesn't
18 happen at all, these benefits go to Maine or
19 Vermont, or they don't happen at all. They don't
20 reside in New Hampshire, okay.
21 So, let's look at the
22 categories. Lower Energy Cost. For those who are
23 supportive of this project, businesses, small and
24 large, homeowners across the state, their big

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1 issue is lower energy costs. And they look at
2 this project as a way of lowering and stabilizing
3 the cost of electricity in this state. Now, the
4 misconception that this project isn't going to
5 impact energy costs in New Hampshire has been
6 addressed pretty significantly by this
7 announcement. In fact, the best and highest level
8 of benefits for any state in New England in the
9 energy cost area is going to be New Hampshire,
10 assuming we build here in New Hampshire. When we
11 look at it in a conservative way, it approaches a
12 billion dollars over the next 10 years. That
13 \$900 million figure is conservative, and we've
14 tried to be conservative throughout this. But
15 that is a significant benefit to New Hampshire
16 that doesn't happen if the Project goes elsewhere.
17 It comes from two things. We
18 know this project because the power flowing over
19 it are going to be very competitive in the market.
20 It's going to lower market price of electricity in
21 New England. We've added to that the specific
22 agreement between Hydro-Quebec, who owns all the
23 generation up in Canada, and Eversource New
24 Hampshire, that 10 percent of this project is

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1 going to be reserved specifically for our
2 customers here in New Hampshire at very beneficial
3 prices. So our belief is that the issue of energy
4 cost savings and benefits going elsewhere has been
5 addressed. In fact, the greatest benefits will
6 reside right here in the state.
7 The second issue is intended
8 to more directly address community-level issues.
9 So we announced two weeks ago the establishment of
10 a ForwardNH Fund. It's a \$200 million fund that
11 we're going to make possible through this project.
12 It's going to be focused on four areas: Tourism,
13 economic development, community betterment and
14 clean energy innovation. That fund is going to be
15 targeted at those communities that are hosting
16 this line. And we're going to work at a local
17 level in identifying how best to use those
18 proceeds to do important things at a local level.
19 In particular, we're going to focus that both in
20 the North Country and in the southern portion of
21 the state where we're in an overhead construction
22 scenario, okay. Again, this is intended to strike
23 a balance and to address the issue of benefits.
24 If you look at the third set

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1 of rows and the fourth set of rows that's
2 quantified, New Hampshire Jobs and Economic
3 Benefits, we've announced, and we're very
4 committed to this, a New Hampshire-first approach
5 to this project. So when we look at what's the --
6 how many jobs are created during a project of this
7 size, conservatively the number is 2400. To the
8 extent possible, we are going to work -- source
9 all of that locally. Now, we recognize there are
10 areas where the local labor market, both union and
11 non-union, and small contractors just can't
12 support that level of activity. So we'll have to
13 in some instances go outside the state. But to
14 the extent possible, we're going to preserve and
15 create job opportunities here in this state. And
16 that we expect has a big impact, particularly in
17 the areas of the state that are struggling, like
18 the North Country. You look at the North Country
19 job creation fund. That's a fund that we've
20 established up in the North Country to provide
21 some additional economic stimulus. But when you
22 look at the GDP effect of all that in the
23 aggregate, almost \$3 billion to New Hampshire that
24 doesn't occur if the project is sited elsewhere.

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1 And then, finally, this
2 project, when it was initially announced, was
3 intended largely for New Hampshire and the region
4 to meet its carbon-emission reduction goals, clean
5 energy goals. That was the original premise
6 behind Northern Pass, that by importing clean,
7 reliable, essentially baseload power from Canada,
8 we could take a big step in the right direction
9 towards reducing carbon emissions from fossil fuel
10 plants. And that hasn't changed. That
11 fundamental promise from Northern Pass remains.
12 Now, there are a lot of other
13 reasons to go forward with the Project, like lower
14 energy costs and the need for additional supply.
15 But the environmental benefits to the state of New
16 Hampshire and New England as a whole and the
17 Northeast portion of this country as a whole,
18 there's no other project that's going to deliver
19 3 million tons per year of reduced carbon
20 emissions.
21 So what we're trying to
22 demonstrate through this chart is that the
23 benefits to New Hampshire for hosting this project
24 are very clear. You know, they're both economic

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1 benefits, they're environmental benefits, they're
2 certainly job opportunities and job creation
3 opportunities. And when you look at these
4 benefits and the decisions we've made to improve
5 the Project route from the New Hampshire
6 perspective, our view is that we've struck the
7 right balance. This is a project we're very
8 excited about taking into siting in the coming
9 weeks. Obviously, we're very interested in your
10 reaction to it and getting comments and continuing
11 the public dialogue.
12 From my perspective, the
13 public discourse around this is not at an end
14 because we're moving into siting. We have
15 sessions like this evening to get further input.
16 That's going to continue right on through the
17 siting process, and probably into the construction
18 process, as we strive to have a project that New
19 Hampshire can support.
20 So with that, I'm going to
21 show you a quick video which does a better job
22 than I just did of bringing this to light, and
23 then we're going to drill down specifically into
24 Merrimack County and what this project means to

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1 this portion of the state.
2 (Whereupon a video presentation was
3 shown to the members of the public.)
4 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So I think
5 with that, hopefully you have a good sense for the
6 big picture, as to the changes we've made on the
7 Northern Pass Project, as well as the ForwardNH Plan
8 and the benefits that it can deliver to New
9 Hampshire.
10 Going into Merrimack County,
11 thought it would be important to share with you
12 some of the details that are pertinent to this
13 area. And then, obviously, we have an opportunity
14 for question and answer with subject-matter
15 experts from the Project Team.
16 So, first and foremost, as the
17 video showed, as we enter Merrimack County in the
18 town of Hill, it will be overhead construction in
19 that portion, and it will be direct current. When
20 we get to the town of Franklin is when we convert
21 from direct current to alternating current. You
22 can see the breakdown of the mileage. So, Hill to
23 Franklin is basically 12 miles, and from Franklin
24 down to Allenstown is 26 miles. Now, on average,

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1 when we look at this, the structure height in
2 overhead construction, the most common structure
3 heights throughout this portion of the route are
4 in the 80- to 85-foot range. Again, back to my
5 opening comments. We're going to do everything we
6 can to keep those structure heights as low as they
7 can be, and we're going to look at these
8 structures individually to determine what's the
9 best placement and can we reduce view impacts
10 where that's important. One of the ways we reduce
11 view impacts is by the structure design. So,
12 typically transmission structures are built in a
13 lattice structure. If you drive across America,
14 you see them everywhere. In the areas where there
15 are public places, we're looking at opportunities
16 to use what's referred to as a "monopole"
17 structure. It's a more streamlined structure. It
18 tends to blend in more with the natural landscape
19 and be less visible. So this is a depiction of
20 what the lattice looks like versus a monopole.
21 So, lattice is a bit more imposing. A monopole is
22 a single pole. So that's when we talk in terms of
23 monopole and lattice, that's what we're referring
24 to. So these are some of the things we're doing

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1 locally to address view impacts, and we're going
2 to continue to seek input and make changes as we
3 need around this project.
4 Also, as the video suggested,
5 there are significant benefits at a local level
6 from this project as well. It talked about tax
7 revenues and a \$30-million-a-year figure. That's
8 our current and best estimate as to the annual
9 revenues that municipalities, counties and state
10 of New Hampshire will receive, \$30 million a year.
11 So what does that mean for Merrimack County?
12 These are the towns in Merrimack County through
13 which the line would pass, kind of a current range
14 of what the tax payments, incremental tax payments
15 might look like. The reason for the end of the
16 range is we haven't finalized the Project cost
17 estimate. So until we've done that, we've used a
18 range around what the construction costs in each
19 of these towns might look like. We've also used
20 the range as to what the middle rate might be.
21 It's not something we can control. So we've come
22 up with these relatively broad ranges as we
23 finalize our design and we have these
24 community-level discussions. These ranges will

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1 tighten, and we'll be able to provide a more
2 definitive estimate. But the point of it is, you
3 know, somewhere between \$5- and \$10 million a year
4 of tax benefits to Merrimack County at the
5 municipal level. And you see what the county tax
6 amount is, which is an additional million or so of
7 tax benefits, okay.
8 So, before we get to the
9 question and answer, again, as I said, the output,
10 we've been listening for over a year. We truly
11 intend to continue our listening. That's why
12 these sessions like tonight are so valuable. The
13 video mentioned we have five of these sessions in
14 each of the counties through which the line will
15 pass, and we're going to have another five of
16 these once the Site Evaluation Committee
17 Application has been filed. So there's plenty of
18 opportunity for public input that will feed
19 directly back into our project. And parallel with
20 the New Hampshire process, there's a federal
21 siting process being conducted by the -- or lead
22 by the Department of Energy. They have a series
23 of open houses that are scheduled in the month of
24 October. So, another opportunity for public

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1 input.
2 But I think the key takeaway
3 here is we've been in a listening mode. We're
4 going to continue to listen in forums like this or
5 on an individual basis. Our intention is to
6 continue to meet with property owners up and down
7 this route; continue to meet with municipalities
8 who are on the route; continue our dialogue with
9 environmental organizations, businesses, small
10 contractors, union contractors, so that we can
11 strike the right balance. We think we've got a
12 truly workable and balanced plan at this point,
13 but we're certainly open to further input on it,
14 okay.
15 So, again, I thank you for
16 being here this evening. These are terribly
17 important sessions for us, and hopefully they are
18 to you as well. We look forward to constructive
19 dialogue and getting your feedback. I think with
20 that we're going to begin the question-and-answer
21 process, which is going to run about an hour, and
22 then, as the Moderator suggested, we'll have an
23 opportunity later for direct public comment, okay.
24 So, again, thank you for your time and attention.

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1 Thank you for being here this evening.
2 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. So
3 before I introduce our Panel Members, you know, we
4 have plenty of seats down here in the front. And I
5 promise you will not get called on. Really. No?
6 We have seats there, seats here, over there. Or you
7 can stay standing if you'd like. But we do have
8 plenty of seats.
9 So, the Panel Members are as
10 follows: From your left to right is, first, Jerry
11 Fortier. Jerry is with Eversource and is Project
12 Director for Northern Pass. He is responsible for
13 the construction of the Project.
14 Second is Robert Clarke. Bob
15 is the Director of Siting, Outreach and
16 Interconnections for Eversource Energy. He's
17 responsible for guiding Northern Pass through the
18 New Hampshire siting process.
19 Next to Bob is Sam -- no, it's
20 not Sam Johnson. It's Lee Carbonneau. Lee is the
21 Senior Principal Scientist in the Wetland
22 Terrestrial Group of Normandeau & Associates,
23 Incorporated. She is the Assistant Project
24 Manager and Permitting Lead for the Northern Pass

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1 Project.
2 Next to Lee is Sam Johnson.
3 Sam is Senior Project Manager for Burns &
4 McDonnell Engineering and is involved in the
5 construction of Northern Pass.
6 And finally, James Muntz. Jim
7 is the President of Transmission for Eversource.
8 I'm going to direct the
9 questions to the Panel to Mr. Quinlan, and he will
10 then decide, I guess, maybe who's best able to
11 answer the particular questions.
12 We have a number of questions
13 about burying the lines, so I'm going to ask
14 those. They've been consolidated to a degree.
15 But I have, like, four questions about burying the
16 lines.
17 So, first one: Why doesn't
18 the change in technology allow for more burial?
19 MR. QUINLAN: Okay. So, again,
20 it goes back to the point I mentioned at the outset,
21 which is striking the right balance. So, again, we
22 made the decision to go to a different cable
23 technology to allow us to go with underground
24 construction for more of the line. It's irrefutable

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1 that underground construction is more costly than
2 overhead construction. So let me give you a sense
3 for this cable technology, what I'm talking about
4 there. You know, for overhead construction with the
5 cable technology we've moved to, it's about
6 \$8 million a mile. For underground construction,
7 depending on soil conditions, it's anywhere from
8 \$8 million to \$13 million a mile. So there is a
9 significant incremental cost in making the decision
10 to underground more of this line. We believe we've
11 struck an appropriate balance in moving to the
12 52 miles of additional underground construction.
13 You know, if the question were, you know, why can't
14 you underground the Project in its entirety, if you
15 just run through the math that I just did, you,
16 know, you end up with a project that is dramatically
17 increased in cost and fails to strike the balance
18 from the affordability perspective. You have to
19 remember, you know, this is a project that someone
20 has to pay for. We think we've struck the right
21 balance with the amount of undergrounding that we've
22 committed to. We've selected those areas based upon
23 feedback from New Hampshire, and we believe we've
24 addressed the most significant areas based upon that

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1 feedback.
2 THE MODERATOR: Are you taking
3 advantage of the best transmission technology?
4 MR. QUINLAN: So I'm going to
5 defer this question to our engineering folks.
6 I think you'll find just what
7 a high level that we are. So the cable technology
8 we've chosen, as well as the converter stations
9 that we've gone to, are state-of-the-art.
10 Sixty miles of underground, HVDC Lite construction
11 will be the longest such installation in North
12 America when we complete it. So we are being
13 innovative around the Project technology and the
14 Project design and engineering. So I'm going to
15 turn it over to Jim or Sam or Jerry for additional
16 comment. You want to take it?
17 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, sure. Yeah,
18 so I think you said it pretty much right on the
19 button there, that this is an innovative technology.
20 It will be the longest installed land-based cable in
21 North America once it is installed. And, you know,
22 it is using something called a "cross-linked
23 polyethylene cable type," which has been around for
24 a couple decades now. But as we get into the higher

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1 class or higher energy class of material, it is
2 relatively new, a newer technology. So this is
3 definitely innovative technology.
4 MR. MUNTZ: Yeah, and I'll just
5 add to that a little bit. The initial technology
6 that we proposed for the Project required four main
7 cables and two alternate cables for any underground
8 segment of the Project. And that was basically
9 prohibitively expensive after about 30 miles of
10 underground, and we felt that got well beyond a
11 reasonable project. The original question you said,
12 you know, does this new technology enable more
13 undergrounding, and it does. We're able to do
14 60 miles and be at where we think a balance point is
15 for the entire project.
16 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Can you
17 explain why you aren't burying the whole line when
18 they're doing so in Vermont?
19 MR. QUINLAN: Again, I'm going
20 turn this over to Mr. Muntz in a moment. But I
21 think when we look at other projects, I would
22 suggest that we look at the question around what's
23 the balance that those projects have struck. You
24 know, is it a project that is technically feasible,

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1 which means it's got a confirmed power supply, it's
2 got an interconnection from the generating source to
3 the U.S. border and a path to get the power onto the
4 U.S. portion of the line? That's my technical
5 feasibility. The second, siteability. I think you
6 need to look at each project and assess it on its
7 ability to be sited. And then third, is it
8 affordable? Is someone going to pay the actual cost
9 of the lines you're referring to.

10 I think if you look at many of
11 the other projects that have reached a conceptual
12 stage, they fail on one or more of those key
13 variables, unlike Northern Pass, where we think
14 all three of those have been struck in a balanced
15 way.

16 THE MODERATOR: Maybe could you
17 address particularly the Vermont model?

18 MR. MUNTZ: Sure. Yeah. I
19 think there's also a fourth factor, and we're in the
20 middle of doing that now, which has contributed to
21 our reluctance to say here's what this new project
22 costs. We're in the middle of negotiating with
23 contractors to do this project, and so, you know,
24 obviously we don't want to throw out here's what the

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1 number is, guys. So we're going to get this as low
2 as we possibly can.

3 Many projects fail. You know,
4 they don't have an identified power supply. They
5 don't have a line that's under construction or
6 under siting at least on the Canadian or wherever
7 they're coming from side of the border. We do.
8 That process is underway for Northern Pass. We
9 are working with numerous contractors that are
10 world-class contractors and have done this before.
11 Very competitive process. We're about to make
12 awards and identify our partners who will go
13 forward with this and deliver this project on or
14 under budget.

15 But Bill really dwelled on the
16 important thing: You can have all that, but if
17 you put, you know, a project on the table that has
18 a price tag that no one's able to or willing to
19 pay, you're not going to be able to deliver it.
20 There are projects that have all their permits and
21 they're not started. They're waiting. So they're
22 missing one of these key elements.

23 MR. QUINLAN: And I would just
24 add, you know, specific to the projects you're

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1 referring to, whether it's Vermont or in New York,
2 you know, take a look at those projects with the
3 three variables I just referred to. You know, do
4 they have all their permits; and if so, why aren't
5 they being built? Why aren't they under
6 construction? Do they have a technological solution
7 to get power from where it's being generated to the
8 Connecticut [sic] border being a confirmed power
9 supply? You really need to look at it holistically
10 and not just on any one variable, such as does it
11 have the siting permits or not? It's got to work
12 technically. It's got to have a confirmed power
13 supplier and interconnection. It's got to be
14 siteable. And to Jim's point, it's got to be
15 affordable. So I think if you realistically look at
16 the projects you're referring to, whether it's
17 Vermont or New York, I think you'd see that in
18 certain areas there are real challenges to having a
19 viable project.

20 THE MODERATOR: So are you
21 saying those projects are proposed, however, they
22 haven't begun? Is that what you're saying?

23 MR. QUINLAN: Well, I'll just
24 take siting. Let's take siting for a moment. So,

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1 you know, any one of these projects that's for the
2 purposes of importing Canadian hydro power has to
3 have a line in Canada that takes the power from the
4 generation, which is the hydro dam, basically to the
5 U.S. border, and then you basically interconnect.
6 That's referred to as "the interconnection." I
7 think if you did the research and looked at what are
8 the other projects that have a siting process
9 underway in Canada to build such an interconnection,
10 there's only one, and it's Northern Pass. So in the
11 industry -- this is not our words, others are using
12 it -- some of these are lines to nowhere. They
13 don't have an interconnection, and they don't have a
14 power supply. So, you know, do they -- are they
15 technologically feasible? Will they actually meet
16 the need? And I think if you did the research,
17 you'd find that we're unique in that regard.

18 MR. MUNTZ: And it's really
19 important. So again, if we're talking about a
20 \$2 billion project, or whatever number you're going
21 to use for that, if you can't find contractors that
22 are willing to build it for that, or material
23 suppliers that are willing to supply material for
24 the number that you think they should, you don't

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1 have a project.
2 THE MODERATOR: Can you explain
3 why you aren't burying the line in Concord?
4 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So I'm going
5 to turn this over to Jim in a minute. But, you
6 know, specifically around the listening we've
7 done -- and again, it's a matter of prioritization
8 and striking a balance -- what we heard consistently
9 from New Hampshire stakeholders, that wide range
10 that I referred to, is a real interest and desire
11 that we, to the extent possible, build underground
12 construction in and around the White Mountain
13 National Forest. It was almost overwhelming,
14 regardless of stakeholders in state, out of state,
15 across the wide range. That's why we focused our
16 attention on the White Mountain National Forest area
17 and the approaches both north and south to that
18 area. Quite frankly, we did not hear a lot of
19 statewide or stakeholder-wide expression of any
20 particular town other than the White Mountain
21 National Forest, other than at a town level. So...
22 [Audience interruption]
23 THE MODERATOR: All right.
24 MR. QUINLAN: So, my point being

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1 that, you know, I've heard the question you asked
2 earlier, which is, you know, why aren't you going
3 underground with the entire route? But other than
4 the White Mountain National Forest, there is no
5 other area in the state where I've heard a wide
6 range of stakeholders say that area is particularly
7 scenic; you should consider undergrounding. Now, I
8 have not heard that for Concord, to be direct on
9 this.
10 THE MODERATOR: Okay.
11 MR. QUINLAN: And I will say we
12 are working -- I'm going to turn it over to Jim and
13 the Project Team. We are working within the town of
14 Concord, because there's an existing transmission
15 line with an existing right-of-way, on having a
16 project that Concord can be comfortable with. And
17 it's based upon some of the things we talked about:
18 Tower design, tower placement, the screening we
19 provide around the area of Concord. So we are --
20 just because we're not going with underground
21 construction in any particular town, we are doing a
22 lot, town-by-town, to minimize visual impact.
23 Would you care to add to that?
24 THE MODERATOR: Sir, this is a

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1 question-and-answer period. You are -- we're going
2 to -- after this concludes in about 45 minutes, it
3 will be -- you'll have the opportunity to come up to
4 the mic and comment. But we really have to conduct
5 this in an orderly fashion, in that, as you can see,
6 a court reporter is taking down everything that
7 everybody says. Okay?
8 Did you want to comment more
9 on that question?
10 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I'll expand
11 a little bit on the design and what we've done a
12 little bit through the Concord area.
13 Basically from the Franklin
14 conversion station south, we took a look at the
15 available width of the right-of-way, and we've
16 kind of put together a plan on how we can
17 efficiently use that right-of-way. And what we've
18 done from our original 2013 proposal is put
19 together a plan, that basically we're going to
20 rebuild an additional amount of 115 kV line, move
21 it to the edge of the right-of-way. And instead
22 of having a vertical monopole -- or sorry --
23 lattice structures, we're going to have
24 horizontal, H-frame structures. And effectively

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1 what it does is it brings, for the majority of the
2 line through Concord, it brings it down to the
3 level of the existing 115 line that's there today.
4 So, instead of just rebuilding two of the
5 structures, we'll now be building three of the
6 lines that go through the corridor there.
7 The second piece of it is
8 around the Concord Airport. What we have to do is
9 comply with FAA standards. And to do that, we
10 are -- we have a design that basically puts the
11 structures adjacent to the existing structures
12 that are there, at the exact same height that are
13 there, for the most part, as it extends down
14 around the airport and into the Pembroke area.
15 MR. QUINLAN: So that's a good
16 summary for many towns where we're taking the time
17 to look at what can we do within our existing
18 right-of-way with our existing lines, even if it
19 requires us to move them and to rebuild them to
20 allow for the Northern Pass lines to be as low and
21 as least impactful as possible.
22 THE MODERATOR: Okay. I think
23 this will be our last one on burying.
24 When did you decide to switch

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1 technologies and bury the additional line, and who
2 made that decision?
3 MR. QUINLAN: So as we've been
4 listening across New Hampshire and have gotten
5 feedback on, you know, these areas of greatest
6 scenic impact, if you will, we've been looking at
7 what would it take to have a viable project --
8 meaning, it's affordable and works technically --
9 and have underground construction in those areas.
10 So that's been a review that's been ongoing
11 literally for months. You know, we hadn't made any
12 final decisions until we also received the
13 Department of Energy Draft Environmental Impact
14 Statement, which, as you know, came out in the July
15 time frame, and basically echoed what we've heard
16 from New Hampshire, which is that the White Mountain
17 National Forest in particular should warrant further
18 evaluation for underground construction. So, with
19 the benefit of all the listening we've done in New
20 Hampshire, confirmed or reaffirmed by the Department
21 of Energy, based upon our analyses and what it would
22 take to strike the balance, that's when we made that
23 determination. The determination was made by
24 Eversource in conjunction with our partners,

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1 Hydro-Quebec.
2 THE MODERATOR: One more burial
3 question. At what town does the 60-mile burial
4 section -- what is the southern-most part of New
5 Hampshire does that extend to?
6 MR. JOHNSON: Bridgewater.
7 MR. QUINLAN: Runs from -- so
8 the 52 miles runs from Bethlehem to Bridgewater.
9 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Will
10 non-Eversource customers get savings on their
11 electric service from this project?
12 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So I put up
13 a figure earlier of \$900 million a year for New
14 Hampshire -- \$900 million for the next 10 years for
15 New Hampshire customers. There are two drivers of
16 that. One is the Power Purchase Agreement which is
17 particularly focused on Eversource New Hampshire
18 customers. The more significant cost savings comes
19 from what this project will do to the wholesale
20 price of power for all of New Hampshire customers.
21 So, New Hampshire customers, whether they're
22 Eversource or Liberty or the Co-Op or Unitil, will
23 see lower energy costs and more stable energy costs
24 as a result of this project by the wholesale market

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1 suppression.
2 THE MODERATOR: This is from a
3 Concord resident. Their name is put down here, so I
4 assume they don't mind me saying it. Taras Kucman.
5 Anyway, the question is: I
6 have lived on the right-of-way for 19 years. In
7 2008, Northeast Utilities cut down pines on the
8 eastern boundary of the right-of-way, and those
9 trees are still lying there rotting. I do not
10 want you cutting down my tax-paid-for trees beside
11 my house on the western boundary going forward.
12 Will you create the same mess in front of my house
13 and leave the same mess?
14 MR. QUINLAN: Wow, who's going
15 to take that one? So I'll start, and then I'm going
16 to turn it over to Jim.
17 We can't speak in particular
18 about this individual residence and homeowner. We
19 have to look at it. But generally, as a matter of
20 course, our vegetation management practices, which
21 is the tree cutting that's being referred to, is
22 done in very close consultation with landowners.
23 Oftentimes the landowner asks us to leave the
24 trees behind because they're going to use them for

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1 firewood or other purposes. And if the landowner
2 is not interested, we'll take them away. That is
3 our standard practice statewide along all of our
4 infrastructure. So, you know, if you can provide
5 me the name and details of this customer --
6 MR. KUCMAN: That would be me.
7 MR. QUINLAN: -- we'll certainly
8 take a look into it. Let's have a discussion
9 offline.
10 But, you know, our general
11 practice is we remove it, unless a landowner has
12 interest in it not being removed. In many
13 instances, we go so far as to cut it into firewood
14 length for customers.
15 MR. KUCMAN: I was never asked.
16 MR. QUINLAN: Are you sure
17 you're an Eversource customer? You're in Concord?
18 MR. KUCMAN: I'm a Unitil
19 customer.
20 MR. QUINLAN: Okay.
21 MR. KUCMAN: There was a
22 Northeast Utilities letter -- my name is Taras
23 Kucman.
24 This was a Northeast Utilities

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1 letter that was sent to us in 2007 telling us that
2 they were going to take down the wooded structures
3 that are 55 feet tall, replace them with
4 85-foot-tall towers, 20 feet closer to the eastern
5 boundary. So I really see a coincidence in a
6 forward-looking picture as to what was planned for
7 this. But they went ahead, and they cut down, I
8 want to say a good 20, 25 feet of depth of pine,
9 and they just left it there. They never contacted
10 me or my abutting neighbors, if you will. They're
11 still there. I mean, you're welcome to come take
12 a look and see how they look. Right now, the
13 overgrowth is a bit thick. But I'd happy to let
14 you in to take a look at it. Or if you want to
15 come up from the Hoyt Street and 132 intersection
16 and then just take a walk, preferably in April,
17 that's when it really stands out.

18 THE MODERATOR: Okay. You know,
19 I'm sorry, sir. If we -- you know, we can't have --
20 we'll have to take those up kind of privately just
21 because we have a time constraint. There are a lot
22 of people who'd like to speak.

23 MR. KUCMAN: It was a general
24 housekeeping question.

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1 MR. QUINLAN: And I would say,
2 just as a general matter, and I can't speak to this
3 particular instance, we get very positive feedback
4 from our customers across this state on our
5 vegetation management program. We've gone to
6 extreme lengths -- we honestly have -- in striking
7 the right balance around those practices. They're
8 among the best I've ever seen. And I am familiar
9 with them in many other states. We have very few
10 customer complaints about vegetation management in
11 this state. And I think folks in New Hampshire get
12 it, that we are cutting trees for a particular
13 reason; it's because they create a risk for our
14 power lines. So I think New Hampshire customers
15 understand that. Generally we do it well. I can't
16 speak to each and every instance, but we'll
17 certainly look into it.

18 THE MODERATOR: To build
19 Northern Pass, will Northern Pass be taking more
20 property from homeowners?

21 MR. QUINLAN: The answer is no.
22 So there's no intention for this project, for us to
23 exercise eminent domain or to take land from any
24 property owner. We have what we believe is a very

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1 secure route. We have all the property rights
2 necessary to build this project. The vast majority
3 of it is on existing rights-of-way. In the North
4 Country, there's 40 miles of new right-of-way. And
5 we believe we've got all the property rights
6 necessary to build that portion of the line. Of
7 those 40 miles, you know, 24 miles have been granted
8 to us through easements. It's in a working
9 industrial forest. And then much of the remainder
10 in the North Country where we're creating a new
11 right-of-way is on property we own or is underground
12 in state highways.

13 So the short answer is: No,
14 we have no intention of taking anyone's property
15 because we have all the property rights we need to
16 build the Project.

17 THE MODERATOR: All right. This
18 question has to do with a particular homeowner who's
19 having difficulty selling her property and I think
20 thinks that Northern Pass maybe has something to do
21 with that and is wondering will Northern Pass
22 purchase the property. Has that been something that
23 Northern Pass has been doing?

24 MR. QUINLAN: So I did say at

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1 the outset we are doing a lot of local outreach to
2 abutting landowners up and down this route. We've
3 had multiple rounds of that outreach: Letters,
4 phone calls, visits.

5 I think, Sam, the number is in
6 the thousands now?

7 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, it is.

8 MR. QUINLAN: I think the last
9 count was 3,000 contacts with landowners to better
10 inform them about the Project, address questions
11 like the one you just raised. If this is a property
12 owner who hasn't been touched by that outreach, I
13 would encourage you to get us the name and we'll
14 better understand your particular situation. But we
15 are firmly committed to working with abutting
16 landowners. It's one of the key focuses that we
17 have is to address, to the extent possible, those
18 really local concerns.

19 THE MODERATOR: Okay. I'll put
20 this one aside. I'll give it back so that the
21 property owner will be contacted, okay.

22 MR. QUINLAN: Yes.

23 THE MODERATOR: This one has to
24 do with historic resources, community buildings,

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1 farm landscapes, scenic views from old homes are
2 essential elements of New Hampshire's environment,
3 identity and economy. The federal process for
4 Northern Pass has seemed very slow, and advocates
5 have been concerned with the lack of private
6 engagement and methodology to date. Please describe
7 the process you are using for the identification and
8 elevation of historic resources for the state SEC
9 process.

10 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to turn
11 this over to Lee and Bob Clarke who are responsible
12 for this project portion of the Project and are the
13 subject matter experts in this area.

14 MS. CARBONNEAU: There are two
15 processes that are going on in parallel for this
16 project as regards to historic properties. One
17 process is undertaken by the Department of Energy as
18 the lead federal agency, and they are in charge of
19 the Section 106 process. The other is what we
20 are -- what the Project is doing for the SEC
21 process, and there is a fair amount of overlap
22 between those two activities. So, the Section 106
23 process, because it's not in the control of Northern
24 Pass at the moment, it's being undertaken by the

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1 Department of Energy, is following its time line.
2 In the meantime, we have historic resource
3 specialists, as well as archeologists, who have been
4 doing surveys in the Project area for several years.

5 For above-ground historical
6 resources, there's been an evaluation of
7 properties that are 50 years or older. And by
8 "properties," I don't just mean a structure. It
9 could be a group of structures, an old farm. It
10 can be a broader resource than just one building.
11 Over almost 1300 of those kinds of resources have
12 been cataloged as being in the area of potential
13 effect and potentially visible to the Project or
14 from the Project. Of those, additional
15 information has been collected from over 190 of
16 those parcels, more detailed information about
17 what those historic resources are. And at this
18 point, although the work is ongoing, the
19 historians have decided that there are about a
20 dozen of those parcels where there's a potential
21 for an adverse effect of some kind, either because
22 the Project would be visible from those properties
23 or would have some kind of an influence on the
24 properties themselves.

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1 The SEC process will require
2 that we submit documentation about where those
3 resources are, what the potential effects might be
4 in our view. But the Department of Historical
5 Resources will be reviewing that information. At
6 the same time, they will be reviewing the
7 information from the Department of Energy. So,
8 although the two processes are kind of working in
9 parallel, the vision of historical resources and
10 the Department of Energy as the lead federal
11 agency will probably make some final decisions on
12 that. We're kind of expecting that there will be
13 a programmatic agreement also that will be
14 established to decide exactly which parties are
15 responsible for the rest of the historical
16 assessments going forward from here.

17 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Will
18 Hydro-Quebec or Eversource be damming more land in
19 Canada in order to push through the transmission
20 line in New Hampshire as is proposed in the
21 ForwardNH version?

22 MR. QUINLAN: So I'm going to
23 turn this over to Jim Muntz. As a reminder, Jim is
24 the president of our transmission business for

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1 Eversource. So his responsibilities cover all three
2 states: Massachusetts, Connecticut and New
3 Hampshire. And he's been the point person in
4 dealing with Hydro-Quebec. So, Jim.

5 MR. MUNTZ: Yeah. Hydro-Quebec
6 has some new dams under construction. They're
7 slated to come into service shortly. They've also
8 got an extensive refurbishment program for a lot of
9 their other dams that will upgrade the capacity of
10 those dams as they're replaced with modern
11 equipment. So they do not intend, to my knowledge,
12 to start on new projects for this project,
13 certainly.

14 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
15 The right-of-way past Turtle
16 Pond in East Concord passes through a designated
17 wetland. Please explain the impact on that
18 wetland and any remediation efforts planned.

19 MR. QUINLAN: Lee.
20 MS. CARBONNEAU: Yeah, I can
21 take this. Yes, actually the Project does go
22 through Turtle Pond, on the edge of Turtle Pond, on
23 the western edge. And actually, it goes through
24 wetlands all over the state as well. The impacts to

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1 the wetlands in Turtle Pond and elsewhere along the
2 right-of-way are primarily related to the impact of
3 the foundation of the structures that would be
4 placed there. There will also be -- those would be
5 the permanent impacts. I can't tell you the exact
6 square footage of what that impact is on Turtle
7 Pond. There will also be some temporary impacts
8 that are associated with access roads to get to
9 where those structures would need to be placed. At
10 the same time, there are structures that are being
11 relocated that are in the existing line there. Some
12 of them will be moved out of wetlands into uplands,
13 some of them will be relocated in other places along
14 the right-of-way. What I can tell you is that all
15 of the impacts that are temporary will be restored
16 in place, a restoration plan that will specify what
17 kinds of seed mix would need to go in to re-
18 establish wetland vegetation there. But for the
19 permanent impacts, the Project is compiling those
20 for the entire project area, and some kind of
21 compensatory mitigation will be required. There is
22 state and federal regulations about how that is
23 calculated and what kind of compensatory mitigation
24 could be acceptable. We're currently working on

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1 that mitigation plan. It hasn't completely been
2 finalized yet. We're expecting that it will be a
3 combination of things. It could be a combination of
4 preservation of high-value wetlands with upland
5 buffers around them. We also expect there will be
6 some payment into New Hampshire's Inland Fee
7 Program, which in this state is called the Aquatic
8 Resource Mitigation Fund. So, those are two aspects
9 that we're fairly certain will be part of the
10 mitigation plan.
11 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
12 MR. JOHNSON: I will add to
13 that. From a construction perspective, we are
14 trying to use minimally invasive construction
15 methodology that we can. In this case, we will be
16 doing construction in the winter so that we're not
17 damaging any active wetland-type species in that
18 particular area.
19 THE MODERATOR: Access to the
20 right-of-way in East Concord is via either Oak Hill
21 Road or Appleton Street. Both of these roads are
22 small, residential streets. Will construction use
23 either of these roads to transport materials
24 equipment, et cetera; and if yes, what are the plans

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1 to address wear and tear on these streets and noise
2 traffic for the residents?
3 MR. JOHNSON: Sure. All
4 excellent questions. I can't say specifically
5 whether those streets will be used. Again, it comes
6 down to the contractor and working with the
7 contractor over the next several months as we
8 develop our construction plans. What I will say is
9 that, if those roads are used, we will reach out to
10 the community and the municipality to develop
11 particular plans as to certain times of day when
12 truck traffic will be acceptable. We will work with
13 them on times of construction -- meaning, you know,
14 daylight hours, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., or 8 to 5, or
15 whatever the agreement is. And thirdly, I will say
16 that, for the most part, access along these
17 right-of-ways is tangential to the right-of-way as
18 well. So it's up and down the right-of-way. So if
19 there's a better, bigger road that can handle
20 heavier truck traffic, we will certainly commit to
21 using those roads as opposed to local residential
22 roads.
23 THE MODERATOR: What is the cost
24 of the above-to-below-ground transition stations?

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1 Okay. Let me read that again.
2 What is the cost of the
3 above-to-below-ground transition stations?
4 MR. MUNTZ: Yeah, each of
5 transition stations is about two and a half million
6 dollars.
7 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Do you
8 have a formal agreement with the New Hampshire
9 Department of Transportation to use state
10 right-of-ways for burial, and will it pay the
11 citizens of New Hampshire fair market value for the
12 use of their roadways?
13 MR. QUINLAN: Bob.
14 MR. CLARKE: Yeah, I can take
15 that, Bill.
16 Essentially, for over a
17 hundred years we've been able to place
18 infrastructure in state roads, and any entity can
19 apply and with proper permitting and licensing be
20 allowed to do that. I mean, if you look at your
21 typical roadways, there are sewer lines, water
22 lines. There are underground distribution lines
23 in some spots and distribution lines on the sides.
24 So that's an allowable use of the public

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1 right-of-way if we get appropriate permits. And
2 there would not be a payment for that use.
3 THE MODERATOR: Will there be a
4 sharing of annual revenue the developers will
5 receive for each year of the 40-year contract with
6 Hydro-Quebec?
7 MR. MUNTZ: I'm not sure exactly
8 what the question is getting at.
9 THE MODERATOR: Well, I'll read
10 it again. Will there be a sharing of the annual
11 revenue the developers -- I'm not clear who that
12 is -- will receive for each year of the 40-year
13 contract with Hydro-Quebec? "Developer" meaning
14 maybe Northern Pass?
15 MR. MUNTZ: We have an existing
16 contract with Hydro-Quebec. And like any
17 transmission project with customers, the people that
18 are going to pay for the rights to the line in this
19 case or to have power delivered over the line or to
20 have it part of the system reliability will pay for
21 the year -- pay for that transmission line. The
22 transmission lines are typically amortized over 40
23 years. So there will be a declining payment from
24 Hydro-Quebec under our transmission service

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1 agreement that will fully amortize the line. And
2 that payment is basically called a "revenue
3 requirement." There's a capital component where
4 they basically pay us back for the debt and equity
5 that's used to finance the Project. There's also an
6 O & M component. Things that are in the O & M
7 component are the actual taking care of the line,
8 things like taxes, you know, any ForwardNH payments.
9 Those are all an O & M component on the line. So
10 that continues on forever. And the capital is
11 generally amortized over the first 40 years.
12 MR. QUINLAN: I'll add to that.
13 The transmission support agreement has been filed
14 with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and
15 approved by that commission.
16 THE MODERATOR: I am concerned
17 about the cost to ratepayers. What rate will the
18 100-megawatt allocation cost ratepayers? First
19 question.
20 Second question: Will
21 ratepayers of other utilities be charged?
22 MR. QUINLAN: So, as to the
23 100-megawatt Power Purchase Agreement with
24 Hydro-Quebec, in essence what our current plan is,

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1 is to enter into that through Eversource New
2 Hampshire. Hydro-Quebec, in essence, will be
3 entitled to that amount of power. We believe the
4 power will be very attractively priced relative to
5 any other power coming over this line. The net
6 benefit of that will be passed on to our customers.
7 So there's no benefit to the company in having that
8 Power Purchase Agreement. All of those benefits
9 flow to Eversource New Hampshire customers.
10 THE MODERATOR: And as to
11 ratepayers of other utilities?
12 MR. QUINLAN: Just to close out
13 on the Eversource New Hampshire customers, you know,
14 from a regulatory perspective, the way we're
15 intending to do that is to monetize that Power
16 Purchase Agreement in the markets and then
17 essentially deliver to our customers a credit
18 against what's referred to as their "stranded costs"
19 charge, which will be spread across all of
20 Eversource New Hampshire's customers.
21 THE MODERATOR: Will
22 Hydro-Quebec continue to flood areas in Quebec?
23 MR. QUINLAN: I believe Jim
24 answered that question.

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1 MR. MUNTZ: I think we mentioned
2 that, to our knowledge, they are not embarking on
3 any new dam building at this point. They are
4 refurbishing and finishing construction on projects
5 that are underway.
6 THE MODERATOR: How do you
7 estimate the savings from lower energy costs? Nine
8 hundred million is a lot.
9 MR. QUINLAN: It is a lot.
10 That's why we think it's a terribly important
11 project for New Hampshire. It's exactly what
12 businesses are calling for to lower energy costs and
13 more stable energy supplies and power prices. The
14 estimation of what that looks like again is
15 two-fold. What is the impact of this project on
16 wholesale power costs throughout New England? So we
17 run what is referred to as a "production cost
18 model," which looks at the effect of taking 1,000
19 megawatts of low-cost power and injecting it in New
20 England, and what does that do to the overall market
21 prices. It's a very detailed, comprehensive model
22 that looks at the entirety of New England. So it's
23 basically a production cost model.
24 We run a very similar scenario

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1 and model to value the incremental benefits to
2 Eversource New Hampshire customers under the Power
3 Purchase Agreement. It basically looks at what
4 are the market prices, what's the pricing we
5 anticipate under this project, and what's the
6 benefit we're going to deliver to Eversource
7 customers. But in both instances, they are
8 significant. In the first case, that analysis was
9 performed by the London Economics Institute. So
10 it was done by a recognized expert in the field of
11 wholesale markets.

12 THE MODERATOR: Would you please
13 explain "grid upgrades."

14 MR. QUINLAN: I'm going to turn
15 this over to the engineers, probably Jim and his
16 team. But a "grid upgrade" is basically a change to
17 the grid to either make it more reliable or allow it
18 to carry more energy.

19 MR. MUNTZ: Yeah, anytime you
20 propose to build a project and say you're going to
21 build a generating station here or we're going to
22 put in a new transmission line there that's going to
23 deliver power on a DC line, you need to apply to the
24 ISO-New England and say how does this fit into the

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1 system, how do I need to connect, what other lines
2 do I now create overloads or other breakers do I
3 create overloads on under all the conditions that
4 they analyze that I have to actually go and change
5 those breakers out at my expense. So the tenet that
6 ISO lives by is, "The Project must do no harm,"
7 okay. You have to be able to connect to the system.
8 And everybody that's already there needs to be able
9 to flow their power and deliver their product as
10 they had before this project shows up. So,
11 sometimes that can get a little strange. You can
12 end up with a project in -- you know, this project
13 in New Hampshire that says, Hey, you know, there's a
14 substation halfway up through Maine where you're
15 going to have to put a static VAR compensator,
16 because under winter conditions, light loads,
17 weekends, you might have this bad scenario and this
18 line overloads. So, hey, that's \$30 million of
19 system upgrades that you got to go put in a SVC,
20 upgrade the compensator at the substation in Maine,
21 and there's a breaker down in Connecticut that
22 overloads under some of those conditions. So that's
23 a always an analysis that ISO does for us. And
24 generally we concur.

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1 The way that FERC has
2 established what's called an "open access" to the
3 transmission system is that people cannot block
4 you when you have an approved project with ISO,
5 when you get your generator approved. You must be
6 allowed to connect to the high-voltage
7 transmission system. And that's the basic tenet
8 for FERC.

9 THE MODERATOR: Jim, you might
10 want to explain what ISO and FERC are.

11 MR. MUNTZ: Yeah. ISO is the
12 Independent System Operator in New England. FERC is
13 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission who
14 regulates the wholesale business, the transmission
15 side of the business, basically anything above
16 69,000 volts; everything else is distribution that's
17 regulated at the state level.

18 But, you know, the Maine
19 utility can't say, no, you can't do that here.
20 The utility, you know, may be in Connecticut that
21 we have to upgrade the breaker. They need to work
22 with us and do it. They can do it for us, and we
23 just pay them. But that's what system upgrades
24 are.

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1 MR. QUINLAN: Let me give a
2 direct example of what Jim's referring to. And this
3 may be the basis for this question. I know we've
4 announced the intention to upgrade the Coos Loop,
5 the Coos transmission loop up in northern New
6 Hampshire, which is a grid upgrade. I know I've
7 spoken in those terms about that upgrade. What it
8 essentially does is it allows the Coos Loop to carry
9 more electricity. That's what the grid upgrade --
10 basically take the existing conductor which is
11 limited in its ability to carry electricity and
12 replace it with new wire that has greater capacity,
13 so we eliminate what are referred to as "thermal
14 bottlenecks" or "thermal constraints." What does
15 that have to do with and why is it so important to
16 New Hampshire? There's a lot of small-scale,
17 renewable generation that feeds into that loop --
18 wind power, hydro power, biomass plants -- that
19 can't get to market. They can't run every day
20 because the loop is constrained. So we are
21 upgrading that grid, allowing it to carry more
22 energy basically to market so that those small-scale
23 renewable projects that feed into the loop have a
24 path to market. So that's an example of a local

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1 grid upgrade along the lines of what Jim's referring
2 to, okay.
3 THE MODERATOR: What is the
4 voltage through Merrimack County?
5 MR. QUINLAN: Answer that?
6 MR. FORTIER: The voltage is 320
7 kilovolts.
8 THE MODERATOR: As 3MM tons of
9 CO2 would be removed from emissions, is there any
10 thought to retiring --
11 MR. QUINLAN: Let's just clarify
12 something, because the voltage actually will be
13 increased once it hits the converter station in
14 Franklin.
15 MR. FORTIER: Yeah, good
16 clarifying point, Bill. The voltage to the Franklin
17 converter on the DC, the direct current side, is
18 being proposed at plus or minus 320 kilovolts. On
19 the AC side, it's 345 kilovolts. And that's AC,
20 alternating current.
21 MR. MUNTZ: That's
22 345,000 volts.
23 MR. FORTIER: That's correct.
24 THE MODERATOR: As 3MM tons of

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1 CO2 would be removed from emissions, is there any
2 thought to retiring a portion of the resulting CO2
3 credits as a permanent environmental benefit?
4 MR. QUINLAN: Can you repeat
5 that question, make sure I understand the question?
6 THE MODERATOR: Three MM tons.
7 I'm not sure what --
8 MR. QUINLAN: Three million
9 tons.
10 THE MODERATOR: Okay. As
11 3 million tons of CO2 would be removed from
12 emissions, is there any thought to retiring a
13 portion of the resulting CO2 credits as a
14 permanent -- I think it means environmental benefit?
15 MR. QUINLAN: So, a lot of
16 activity in this space. I think many of you are
17 probably familiar with the Obama Administration has
18 recently come out with its new Clean Power Plan,
19 which is a nationwide approach to lowering carbon
20 emissions. One of the exciting things about that
21 plan is, for the first time, the federal government,
22 and EPA specifically, recognizing large-scale
23 imported hydro for this very purpose to meet the
24 country's clean energy goals. Now, how that all

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1 plays out in the coming years at a federal level, at
2 a regional level within the renewable energy credit
3 market, or a more local level with renewable
4 portfolio standards, I think there's a lot of
5 movement. But it's clear that we are going to have
6 a very positive environmental impact associated with
7 this project. And it's clear, particularly under
8 the Power Purchase Agreement with Hydro-Quebec for
9 Eversource New Hampshire, that a big portion of
10 that's going to reside right here in the state
11 because we are entitled to the so-called
12 "environmental attributes," which I think feeds into
13 this question.
14 THE MODERATOR: Please better
15 define any supplemental environmental projects that
16 would improve impacted areas over and above
17 pre-existing conditions or develop other
18 environmental -- I guess environmentally beneficial
19 projects.
20 MR. QUINLAN: So I think this
21 question is directed to the topic Lee was talking
22 about earlier -- so I'm going to turn this back over
23 to her -- which is one of environmental mitigation,
24 whether it's wetland impacts or otherwise. So, Lee.

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1 MS. CARBONNEAU: Yeah, sure.
2 Some of the projects that
3 we're contemplating that are associated with
4 Northern Pass would be in our mitigation plan.
5 There are some opportunities to do restoration of
6 areas that are temporarily impacted or have been
7 impacted by other activities in the transmission
8 line. One of the things that is important with
9 transmission lines is that it can be a location
10 where invasive species take hold. So, to the
11 extent that those might be present in the areas
12 that the Project is working in, if there are any
13 in the immediate impact area, those invasive
14 species would be taken out of the Project area and
15 disposed of in a place where they can't
16 repopulate. And there are special protections
17 that are taken during construction to avoid
18 transmitting invasive species throughout the
19 project and during construction as well: Cleaning
20 off the equipment, making sure that mats are clean
21 when they're put down in wetlands that might have
22 invasive species and are moved elsewhere. So,
23 there are things that will improve the habitats
24 that can be done during and after construction,

1 restoring areas that we may have some impacts to
2 rarer species. And we're working with the Natural
3 Heritage Bureau on that in ways that we can
4 restore those habitats so that populations of rare
5 species that might be present will have the best
6 chance of resuming their presence there. So,
7 using native wildlife, native seed mixes in those
8 location is an important part.

9 We have some other ongoing --
10 or Northern Pass has also had some other ongoing
11 projects and funding initiatives, including the
12 National Fish and Wildlife Federation Foundation
13 Grants Program. So, Northern Pass committed
14 \$3 million over the next three years. That
15 funding has been made available through grants to
16 various organizations that would like to fund
17 certain conservation projects. First round of the
18 grants was approved recently, and it includes a
19 number of riparian habitat restoration projects,
20 which is very important; also, some studies for
21 Bicknell's thrush in Vermont and New Hampshire.
22 And we expect that some other projects will be
23 forthcoming through that grant in the process as
24 well. That is above and beyond the actual

1 mitigation projects that will be done as part of
2 the permitting process.

3 MR. QUINLAN: Yeah, so I think
4 we're approaching this at three levels: Certainly
5 the formal mitigation, which is what Lee brought to
6 life and articulated; this incremental program we
7 have with National Fish and Wildlife, which is the
8 largest such corporate program in the Northeast
9 portion of this country. So we're really excited
10 around that, launching that several months ago. And
11 we look forward to continuing to grow it. So that's
12 not required by any regulations or rules. And at a
13 third level, we also announced as part of our
14 ForwardNH Plan that we intend to pursue the mixed
15 use of 5,000 acres of land holdings that we own in
16 the North Country and to put it to good and
17 important uses, in consultation with local
18 stakeholders. Some of that may well be conservation
19 and natural preservation. It could be for economic
20 development. It could be recreational. It's truly
21 a mixed-use approach.

22 So, at three levels we are
23 working to address and go beyond what's required
24 by the law on adverse impacts.

1 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Describe
2 how Eversource plans to draw parity between Unitil
3 and Eversource towns regarding benefits.

4 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, I think
5 other than the Power Purchase Agreement itself,
6 there's no wholesale difference between a Unitil
7 town and an Eversource town. I think for the Power
8 Purchase Agreement, the benefits of that will flow
9 solely to the towns that we serve, that Eversource
10 New Hampshire serves. Other than that, the benefits
11 that we walked through earlier really are kind of a
12 town-by-town analysis. You know, what's the value
13 of the infrastructure that's going in the town; that
14 obviously drives the tax benefits. You know, the
15 wholesale price suppression, as I said earlier, is
16 consistent. It's homogenous across the state. The
17 environmental benefits are generally homogenous.
18 So, many of these benefits will enure to Unitil
19 towns and customers. I think the only instance
20 where that is not true is with respect to the Power
21 Purchase Agreement; that's only for Eversource New
22 Hampshire.

23 THE MODERATOR: In your
24 introduction, Mr. Quinlan, you stated you continue

1 to work with municipalities. Specifically, how have
2 you reached out to Allenstown, Pembroke and
3 Deerfield?

4 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So,
5 certainly for many months we've had ongoing dealings
6 with all 32 municipalities through which this line
7 would pass. That's either through our community
8 relations organizations in those areas where we
9 actually serve customers in our service territory or
10 through other project personnel -- so,
11 subject-matter experts. We've shared as much
12 information as we can about the Project plans, you
13 know, in advance of our announcement. We tried to
14 have a dialogue with each and every community along
15 the route before we made the ForwardNH announcement.
16 And now, in the aftermath of our announcement, we're
17 going to be getting into the next round of community
18 discussions. But we understand the importance of
19 that community dialogue and receiving that input.
20 It's terribly important to us in making some of the
21 decisions that Jerry and Sam referred to around, you
22 know, the local approach to this project, whether
23 it's, you know, the design of the Project, the
24 construction window, you know, anything we can do to

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1 mitigate local effects that Lee was referring to.
2 So, that community-level engagement is going to
3 continue right through the construction phase.
4 THE MODERATOR: How does this
5 proposed project comport with the New Hampshire
6 Office of Energy and Planning's 10-year plan?
7 MR. QUINLAN: Yeah. So, for
8 those of you who are not familiar with that 10-year
9 plan, it's a very aspirational plan that really
10 looks at what's going on in the energy industry, how
11 does New Hampshire move to a more innovative energy
12 future, whether it's through technology or
13 otherwise. You know, it has a heavy emphasis on
14 energy efficiency and clean energy technology. Our
15 ForwardNH Plan identifies that as one of its
16 particular focus areas. So we intend to make
17 investments in clean energy innovation that are
18 directly on point with the Governor's and the OEP's
19 10-year plan.
20 At a more holistic level, you
21 know, that plan has a keen focus on reducing
22 carbon emissions. There's no project certainly in
23 this state or in this region that's going to have
24 the positive impact on carbon emissions that

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1 Northern Pass will. And when we introduce the
2 upgrades to the Coos Loop project, that
3 infrastructure that I referred to earlier, that's
4 directly targeted at unlocking small-scale
5 renewable generation, which is a principal focus
6 of that 10-year strategy. So, on multiple levels,
7 this project goes a long way towards furthering
8 our energy future and moving us to a more
9 innovative and cleaner energy.
10 THE MODERATOR: What assurance
11 will Eversource Northern Pass give that it will not
12 seek RGGI credits or any other renewable energy
13 credits?
14 MR. QUINLAN: You know, as I
15 said earlier, this is an area that's undergoing a
16 lot of change. Certainly with respect to Renewable
17 Portfolio Standards, the Administration's Clean
18 Power Plan, the renewable -- Regional Greenhouse Gas
19 Initiative, we're going to allow that to all unfold
20 and develop. As I said earlier, our New Hampshire
21 customers are going to receive the environmental
22 attributes associated with the power flowing over
23 this line for the 100 megawatts that we are entitled
24 to. And I have an obligation to ensure that our

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1 customers receive the monetary benefit of that
2 power, not just the energy and the capacity. But if
3 I can monetize the environmental attributes
4 associated with that power, we intend to do so.
5 Now, I think the issue that
6 whoever posed that question is getting to is
7 they're worried about this project squeezing out
8 small-scale renewable generation. Our Coos Loop
9 upgrade is intended to show our commitment to
10 small-scale renewables, as is our ForwardNH Fund,
11 where I do anticipate we're going to make further
12 investments. So, you know, not only will our
13 customers get the benefit of environmental
14 attributes and the value of that, we are going to
15 address the issue underlying that question, which
16 is to do it in a way that doesn't diminish the
17 market for small-scale renewable generation in the
18 region, in New Hampshire.
19 THE MODERATOR: We're at our
20 hour for question and answers, but I'm going to ask
21 two more. And I do want to, you know, tell you how
22 much I appreciate how respectful you've been and
23 what great questions that you have asked. After
24 that, I know some of you are probably anxious to be

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1 able to speak, so we're going to turn to that after
2 we answer two more questions.
3 How much of the \$80 million
4 annually to lower energy costs will go to
5 residential taxpayers -- ratepayers? I'm sorry.
6 MR. QUINLAN: So that's a great
7 question that I'm not prepared to answer right now.
8 I need to look at our load share, essentially
9 between our commercial industrial class and our
10 residential class. I'm going to speculate, and I'm
11 going to check this and get back to whoever posed
12 this question, that it's on the order of 60 percent
13 residential. I think that's about the load share.
14 And it's pro rata based upon the load share. So, if
15 you think about what happens as wholesale market
16 price of electricity comes down, it enures to the
17 benefits basically associated with how much energy
18 are you consuming. So, you're load-sharing. So I
19 think it's in that range, but I'm going to have to
20 check that figure and get back to you. And I will
21 say --
22 THE MODERATOR: Okay. And I
23 have put that aside.
24 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. And just to

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1 clarify, even customers which tend to be commercial
2 and industrial and business customers who don't buy
3 energy service from Eversource will see the benefit
4 of that wholesale market suppression. So what I'm
5 talking about is the wholesale price of electricity
6 coming down for all customers in New England,
7 whether you're taking your energy from Eversource
8 New Hampshire or a competitive supplier, ultimately
9 customers will see that benefit in their energy
10 costs. We'll get you a specific figure on what
11 portion would go to residential.

12 THE MODERATOR: Okay. And the
13 last question: Is it correct that this project will
14 transmit a baseload of power to New Hampshire?

15 MR. QUINLAN: Yes. So, and by
16 "baseload," it essentially is in contrast to what is
17 referred to as an "intermittent power supply." So
18 an example of an intermittent power supply might be
19 a wind plant or a solar farm that generates
20 electricity when the wind is blowing and the sun is
21 shining. So it's on during certain hours of the day
22 and certain times of the year and not at other
23 times. By "baseload," it means it's generally
24 available when we need it, sometimes 24 hours a day,

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1 7 days a week, if that's what we need. That's
2 referred to as a "firm power supply." So this
3 particular line looks like a baseload power plant.
4 It's basically fed by 40,000 megawatts of
5 hydroelectric generating capacity on the Canadian
6 side of the border. So it's not dependent on any
7 one plant running. All of those plants feed into
8 the line, in essence, and it allows the power to
9 flow in a firm way, in a baseload way, and going to
10 be there when you need it.

11 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

12 MR. QUINLAN: Anything to add?

13 MR. MUNTZ: No, I would say that
14 HQ obviously wants to flow power into New England at
15 hours when the price is at its highest. And that's
16 very perfectly aligned with our interests because we
17 want that power to come in because it's going to be
18 price taking over flow, and it will actually lower
19 the price for everybody in the region by doing that.

20 MR. QUINLAN: So, Jim's point is
21 we want the maximum flow over this line to occur
22 when prices are highest so that the market
23 suppression effect is the greatest, and therefore
24 energy costs are lowered by the maximum amount.

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1 But the short answer to the
2 question is: This looks a lot like a baseload
3 power plant operating in Deerfield, New Hampshire.

4 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you
5 very much.

6 MR. QUINLAN: And thank you.
7 Just before we break this
8 session, I do want to thank the audience for these
9 questions. They are great questions. Again, I do
10 appreciate you taking the time out of your busy
11 night to come and hopefully be informed about the
12 Project. Hopefully the public information session
13 was useful, as was the open house. And we'll
14 continue this dialogue. So, thank you very much.
15 We look forward to moving forward. Thank you.
16 (Changeover of court reporters)
17
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1 C E R T I F I C A T E
2 I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed
3 Shorthand Court Reporter and Notary Public
4 of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby
5 certify that the foregoing is a true and
6 accurate transcript of my stenographic
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8 place and on the date hereinbefore set
9 forth, to the best of my skill and ability
10 under the conditions present at the time.

11 I further certify that I am neither
12 attorney or counsel for, nor related to or
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PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION - September 02, 2015
SEC 2015-06 Northern Pass Public Information Meeting Concord, New Hampshire

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1

1 STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 2 SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE
 3
 4 September 2, 2015 - 7:51 p.m.
 5 Grappone Conference Center
 6 7 Constitution Avenue
 7 Concord, New Hampshire

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
 24

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

23 COURT REPORTER: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52

2

1
 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 Also noted as present for
 9 Northern Pass Transmission LLC and
 10 Eversource Energy Project Team:
 11 Bill Quinlan
 12 Jim Muntz
 13 Sam Johnson
 14 Bob Clarke
 15 Lee Carbonneau
 16 Jerry Fortier

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4

1 [Public Comment Session opened at 7:51 p.m.]

2 THE MODERATOR: I'm going to begin now

3 the public comment portion of the program. As I said, I'm

4 going to call your names with the residents of Merrimack

5 County going first. When your name is called, please

6 approach the microphone right there, and state your name

7 and your town. The court reporter, Steve Patnaude, is

8 going to be taking down everything that you say. So, to

9 ensure a good record, it's very important that you speak

10 clearly and slowly, and that you address your comments to

11 me, not to other people.

12 As time permits, you'll have a second

13 chance to speak, if everyone else who wants to comment has

14 had that opportunity. To ensure that everybody does get a

15 chance to speak, we're going to limit the comments to

16 three minutes. And, we'll have here, the sign will go up

17 when you have 60 seconds left, 30 seconds, and then the

18 hook, okay? And, it's really important also, because

19 Steve gets very irritable, that other people aren't

20 talking when the person is speaking into the mike, you

21 know, like not showing pictures on your cellphones,

22 etcetera. Okay?

23 So, what I'm going to do is call like

24 four names at a time, and there are seats referred over

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1 there. So, if you could sit there, and then come up when
 2 your name is called, that way we won't have to take time
 3 and wait for people to approach the microphone, okay?
 4 So, the first commenters will be
 5 Representative Katherine Rogers; Jane Difley -- Difley,
 6 from Webster; Mayor Ken Merrifield, of Franklin; Taras
 7 Kuegan, from Concord. Okay? So, if you could come on up
 8 and take seats, and I'll call your names. And, when you
 9 reach the microphone, if you would state your name, and
 10 your town, and spell your last name please. Okay?
 11 Representative Rogers.
 12 REP. ROGERS: Thank you. My name is
 13 Katherine Rogers, R-o-g-e-r-s, and I am from Concord.
 14 Good evening. My name is Katherine Rogers. I'm a State
 15 Representative, and I represent Concord, the east side of
 16 the river. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this
 17 proposal. It's obvious, from the turnout tonight,
 18 although some of us have left already, I see tonight that
 19 a lot of people care about this issue. I am one of them.
 20 I'm here because some of my constituents
 21 asked me actually to come tonight and speak out on their
 22 behalf. I'm here because a number of them tell me that
 23 their electric bills are way, way too high. Many of these
 24 people that I represent in my district are low income
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1 families or simply middle income families, who struggle
 2 day-to-day with their monthly payments. They need help.
 3 I've also heard from businesses in my district that have
 4 high utility costs that are way too expensive for them;
 5 they need relief, too. We can't forget about these folks.
 6 This project has been demonized by many
 7 in this debate, and I feel we have lost sight of why we're
 8 talking about Northern Pass. I'm not saying I
 9 wholeheartedly endorse the final proposal. We still have
 10 things to talk about. I know major progress when I see
 11 it, though. And, I know a proposal that resolves
 12 constituent concerns when I see it. And, I believe this
 13 does both. We've made progress. Obviously, the folks
 14 from Eversource listened. They heard what people in New
 15 Hampshire said, and they acted on it.
 16 This is a private investment, from a
 17 company that's listened to concerns, and they have come
 18 back to all of us with a new proposal. The line is buried
 19 in areas where scenic views are the most pristine and most
 20 valued. Almost all of the rest of the line is located in
 21 places where power lines currently stand.
 22 What I see is a plan that will lower
 23 electric rates, provide new jobs, and it will produce
 24 clean energy that can actually take a bite out of our
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1 carbon footprint. These are good things. I fear
 2 absolutes in this debate, as in any debate, that an "all
 3 or nothing" sentiment often jeopardizes the benefits that
 4 a project like this can bring to New Hampshire.
 5 I understand the concerns raised by
 6 people, and they will probably raise later, and there are
 7 always ways this plan can be further adjusted to meet
 8 them. But we can't all just dig in and say "no" over and
 9 over again, while real people wait for relief from real
 10 and highest electric rates in the country. This plan
 11 isn't a solution to every problem, no plan ever is, but
 12 it's real great progress.
 13 I hope we can all work together and find
 14 a way to "yes". The most important thing is, we need to
 15 find a way to "yes". We need to lower our electric rates
 16 and we all need to work together. Thank you for the
 17 opportunity.
 18 And, I do have the written, would it be
 19 easiest if I gave this to the court reporter as well?
 20 Yes. He's shaking his head "yes". So, thank you very
 21 much.
 22 THE MODERATOR: All right. Thank you
 23 very much. Jane Del --
 24 MS. DIFLEY: Difley.
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1 THE MODERATOR: Difley. Okay.
 2 MS. DIFLEY: Good evening. My name is
 3 Jane Difley. I live in Webster. And, I am the
 4 President/Forester of the Society for the Protection of
 5 New Hampshire Forests, which is located here in Concord.
 6 And, the Forest Society was founded in 1901 to "perpetuate
 7 the forests of New Hampshire through their wise use and
 8 their complete reservations in places of special scenic
 9 beauty."
 10 Because we're headquartered here in New
 11 Hampshire, and thanks to many of our donors, we own
 12 54,000 acres of conserved land in New Hampshire, and hold
 13 conservation easements on another 130,000 acres. These
 14 lands were conserved in order to protect the natural
 15 resources on them, and to protect them from, among other
 16 things, commercial developments like Northern Pass.
 17 The current proposed route for Northern
 18 Pass detailed here this evening would cross overhead or
 19 underground on four of our Forest Reservations in
 20 Clarksville, Stark, Bethlehem, and Woodstock. In
 21 addition, it would cross a number of conservation
 22 easements that we hold on land owned by others, including
 23 those specifically prohibiting underground and overhead
 24 utilities.
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1 The Forest Society believes that
2 Northern Pass and its parent company are taking a step in
3 the right direction with this latest proposal. However,
4 we also believe that there are more steps to be taken
5 before this project should be permitted or built.

6 These public -- excuse me -- these
7 public input sessions are designed to allow the public to
8 weigh in on the current proposal, and enable the Northern
9 Pass to then improve on that proposal in its formal
10 application to the Site Evaluation Committee. We think
11 the proposal as outlined tonight leaves considerable room
12 for improvement.

13 In particular, first of all, Northern
14 Pass can use the new cable technology that their latest
15 proposal embraces to bury the line in its entirety, rather
16 than limiting burial to one-third of its length. The
17 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the project
18 outlines the feasibility of this approach and notes the
19 benefits of doing so.

20 Extending the run of the direct current
21 into Deerfield underground along roadways, and relocating
22 the DC to alternating current conversion station would
23 take full advantage of the improved long-distance
24 transmission capability of a DC line. More importantly,
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1 it would also spare 24 communities from the negative
2 impacts of an overhead line, including populous areas like
3 Concord. Southern New Hampshire has deserved to have
4 their scenery and historic landscapes protected no less
5 than the White Mountain National Forest.

6 We believe that much of the current
7 proposed route is a relic of the project's prior reliance
8 on old cable technology and an overhead approach that is
9 unnecessary and unsightly. It is not the shortest
10 distance between two points. In particular, the
11 serpentine route through northern Coos County would seem
12 to make little sense, other than to benefit Northern Pass
13 itself. We encourage Northern Pass to use more direct
14 routes underneath existing roads in Coos County.

15 We believe there are compelling
16 arguments for rerouting the proposed line, not the least
17 of which are important property rights that are of the
18 interest of every New Hampshire landowner.

19 As a landowner and a stakeholder, we
20 will be intervening in the SEC process. And, we look
21 forward to seeing the final, improved proposal as
22 submitted to the SEC in October. Thank you.

23 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

24 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Mayor
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1 Merrifield.

2 FROM THE FLOOR: Judge, excuse me.

3 Where are the panelists?

4 THE MODERATOR: Well, --

5 FROM THE FLOOR: [inaudible].

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, they're right
7 here.

8 FROM THE FLOOR: Is one of them? Oh,
9 they are. Oh, thank you.

10 *[Audience interruption.]*

11 THE MODERATOR: Just a second. Sir.
12 Sir, just a second. As I explained, we had a
13 question-and-answer period. We're into public comment
14 now. If there are -- if people do have further questions
15 that they want answered, remember that next door there are
16 experts available there, you may go and get your questions
17 answered, okay? But we're in the public comment session.
18 And, we really can't have people speaking out like that,
19 because this is all being taken down, everything is being
20 taken down. Everything that's being said is being taken
21 down by a court reporter, so that a transcript can be made
22 of everything that everybody has said, and what -- and
23 your comments will then be made part of the application to
24 the SEC. Okay.

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1 MAYOR MERRIFIELD: Thank you. Thank
2 you, Judge. Again, for the record, my name is Ken
3 Merrifield. I'm the Mayor of Franklin, New Hampshire.
4 M-e-r-r-i-f-i-e-l-d. And, I am speaking this evening not
5 only on behalf of myself, but on behalf of a united and
6 unanimous Franklin City Council, and several other elected
7 officials, who either reside in Franklin or represent the
8 City of Franklin, in expressing our support for the
9 project and for the changes that have been made to the
10 project and expressed here tonight.

11 It has been demonstrated in other public
12 settings like this the benefits to the City of Franklin
13 and our residents. You saw earlier this evening that the
14 City can expect to receive between four and a half and
15 seven and a half million dollars in additional revenue
16 each year from the project. And, for a community that
17 only raises about \$10 million a year in property taxes
18 now, it's an extraordinary benefit, really changes the
19 course of our history. And, so, certainly, we support the
20 project for those reasons. And, I think also we would say
21 that we believe, and all of the points that were raised by
22 Representative Rogers also, that this is a project that
23 will benefit not only Franklin, but also the rest of New
24 Hampshire, and all of the ratepayers in New England.

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1 So, we urge support for the project.
2 And, we thank you for the changes that have been made, and
3 all of the work that went into the changes. I'm sure that
4 it makes the project much more palatable to a much larger
5 number of people, and, we, in Franklin, appreciate that
6 very much.

7 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

8 THE MODERATOR: All right. Thank you.
9 Could we have Mary Lee and Elizabeth Dragon or Drogon --
10 Dragon, Michael Van Natta, and Joe Drinon to come on up
11 and take seats here. And, Mr. Kueman.

12 MR. KUCMAN: Hello. My name is Taras
13 Kucman. I am a represent of Concord.

14 THE MODERATOR: Would you spell your
15 last name, sir?

16 MR. KUCMAN: Last name is spelled
17 K-u-c-m-a-n.

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

19 MR. KUCMAN: First of all, I'm glad
20 Mr. Quinlan is back. I wanted to apologize for the
21 awkward introduction regarding my first question. But I
22 just wanted to express my concern about what's happened to
23 date. And, personally, I'm more inspired by what
24 Eversource is doing, in that they're taking the
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1 build/no need" option. Hydro-Quebec is a private
2 corporation trying to make profits for the province of
3 Canada by selling hydropower to New England.

4 As a landowner whose property is along a
5 right-of-way easement for Eversource Energy, the proposed
6 plan does not improve my property value, because the
7 proposal still plans to build overhead transmission lines.
8 In fact, the new plan actually raised the height of the
9 "most common proposed 345-kilovolt towers". They're
10 raising it from 80 feet to 85 feet, the "most common"
11 proposed height. The plan also proposed and states that
12 the most common relocated poles will be raised to 95 --
13 excuse me, 92.5 feet. So, it will be raised to 92.5 feet,
14 where now the existing "most common" height is only
15 43 feet. So, that's double the height. This is the
16 latest plan. They also added a tenth of a mile to
17 Northfield's lines. I ask why and where? This is not an
18 improvement for Northfield.

19 In its current form, the plan proposes
20 to bury 60 miles out of 192. The view impact on my
21 property is valuable and "sensitive" to me and my
22 neighbors. Moving forward to a better plan means the
23 building of lines that should move to the roadway, not to
24 the right-of-way. Repeat: Move to the roadway, not to
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1 unprecedented step to confirm that burying the line as
2 much as 60 miles, beyond the original 7 miles they
3 proposed, is a viable option. I also acknowledge that
4 Mr. Muntz's comment that "8 to \$13 million per mile is a
5 current cost of digging underground". And, I also see the
6 opportunity that, as the line comes down north towards
7 Canterbury, they also have a choice of either continuing
8 with the towers through Canterbury, into Concord, or take
9 the soft corridors that are right down I-93.

10 I know, on one end of my property, I've
11 got rock ledge. I understand, that would be expensive to
12 dig. But, on the other side of the property, on 93, it's
13 a soft corridor. And, I see that there's room for further
14 consideration for burying the line. Thank you.

15 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

16 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Mary Lee.

17 MS. LEE: Hello. My name is Mary Lee.
18 I live in Northfield. And, I am speaking regarding the
19 this ForwardNH Project or Plan. The ForwardNH Plan,
20 announced by Northern Pass on August 18th, 2015, does not
21 provide the best benefits for me or my neighbors in
22 Northfield. New Hampshire deserves a truly improved plan
23 for its citizens and for our environment.

24 I recommend that the SEC decide on a "no
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1 the right-of-way. In the future, bury all the lines along
2 the side of roadways, and then you'll provide revenues
3 directly to the State of New Hampshire.

4 Eversource promises to provide revenues
5 to municipalities. Why then does Eversource go to the
6 land use court and sue the towns over the assessed values?
7 How can we be assured that the promised estimated property
8 taxes assigned to each town will not be costing residents
9 more in court fees, more in court fees to fight
10 Eversource? That is the case right now. Look it up.

11 I urge the Site Evaluation Committee to
12 ensure that citizens will be heard in New Hampshire. We
13 love our state for its beautiful environment. We stay
14 here, we pay taxes here, and we invite tourists to play
15 here. Please do not compromise our most treasured assets,
16 our environment and our people, for a few shortsighted,
17 ill-conceived plans to force New Hampshire citizens to
18 give up our land and our rights to enjoy it. Thank you.

19 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

20 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

21 MS. DRAGON: Hi. Good evening. My name
22 is Elizabeth Dragon. And, I'm the --

23 THE MODERATOR: D-r-a-g-o-n?

24 MS. DRAGON: Yes. Just as it sounds.
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1 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

2 MS. DRAGON: I'm the Franklin City
3 Manager. And, thank you for holding this this evening.
4 You heard from the Mayor of Franklin how important this
5 project is to the City, and how much the elected official
6 -- elected officials support this project, and we continue
7 to do so.

8 As you can imagine, because of its
9 importance, we've followed this project from the very
10 first proposal. So, for several years, we've attended
11 meetings, where there has been a lot of very heated and
12 passionate discussion and debate about what is the right
13 way to do this project, if at all. And, when this new
14 proposal came out, this revised proposal, I was very happy
15 to see that many of the things that I heard personally at
16 those hearings, about the White Mountains, the North
17 Country concerns, about view impacts, and about the height
18 of the structures, were being addressed in this new
19 proposal.

20 So, I was hoping that, with that, we
21 would, in fact, have a plan that was, in fact, more
22 palatable to others. I do see not only the benefits to
23 the City of Franklin, but to the state as a whole. And, I
24 think this evening you heard a lot about what it means in
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1 go before I'll be satisfied. All the benefits that you
2 outlined that Northern Pass will deliver to the State of
3 New Hampshire and its population will be there if you bury
4 it also.

5 I might mention that I was impressed
6 with Mr. Quinlan and his presentation. If I was the owner
7 of a company, and my company was proposing something as
8 controversial and devastating to the environment as this,
9 I would want Mr. Quinlan to be advocating for my company.

10 I might mention that, when we started
11 with this project, the word "balance", which I counted 20
12 times Mr. Quinlan used the word "balance", "we think this
13 is balance". Five years ago, when they presented the
14 Northern Pass Project, we -- they offered the opinion that
15 this was a "balanced project". And, then, when they
16 decided that they were going to bury 6 miles, they said
17 "well, we listened to the community, and we've decided
18 that this is a balanced project." So, now, what we hear
19 is, "that they listened to the White Mountain National
20 area, they listened to the Sugar Loaf [sic], they listened
21 to the Easton people." They listened to all those people
22 up there, and "we've decided that we're going to respond
23 to their agitation", if you will, "and we're going to bury
24 the line coming through those communities."

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1 terms of energy cost savings, jobs, and also just economic
2 development and economic spin-off from the construction
3 project while it's occurring. These are things that each
4 community in New Hampshire are struggling with, as we all
5 try to balance our budget every year. And, the impacts to
6 the county, as well as to the state, and the revenue that
7 would come into those organizations as well, is something
8 that we should not forget about.

9 So, again, I am encouraged to see the
10 new plan. I do believe that a lot of the things that I
11 personally heard during the hearings and the discussions
12 of this project were addressed in the new proposal. And,
13 we wholeheartedly support the project moving forward.

14 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

15 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Just a minute.
16 Would Michael Van Natta, William Hill, Jr., Carl Sargent,
17 and Dan Sadler come on up. Okay. Joe.

18 MR. DRINON: My name is Joe Drinon.
19 That's D-r-i-n-o-n. I'm from Bow. I might add, Bow is
20 not directly impacted by Northern Pass. But I've been
21 involved in and following this project for five years,
22 since its inception. And, I want to congratulate the
23 Eversource for at least burying a third of the line, but
24 that's a good start, but we've got another two-thirds to
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1 You heard Mr. Quinlan tonight admit that
2 he did not hear the same kind of response, the same kind
3 of opinion or the same kind of advocacy for burying from
4 the Concord people, as he did for that area up there. So,
5 what he did was or what Eversource did was, that they
6 were -- they used, instead of doing the right thing here
7 in the Concord area for us, they were expedient and
8 listened to the people of the White Mountain area. And, I
9 don't think it's too late for the Concord area people to
10 bring the same kind of voice that, for the last five years
11 that the people in the North Country have brought, I think
12 time is running out, but it's not too late.

13 I guess what I'm saying is, Mr. Quinlan,
14 if you hear the same kind of voice, strong voice, and
15 reasoning for burying the line in the Concord area, that
16 you heard from the Sugar Loaf [sic] people, will you bury
17 it here? Thank you.

18 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

19 THE MODERATOR: Go ahead. Go ahead, and
20 say your name.

21 MR. SADLER: I think I'm out of order.
22 My name is Dan Sadler. I live in Bow, as well as the last
23 gentleman. So, I also am not directly affected by --

24 THE MODERATOR: Would you spell your
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1 last name please.
 2 MR. SADLER: S-a-d-l-e-r.
 3 THE MODERATOR: Thanks.
 4 MR. SADLER: So, I'm also not directly
 5 affected by the location of the power lines. But, like a
 6 lot of other New Hampshire residents, I don't stay in my
 7 hometown. My family and I vacation up in the North
 8 Country and in the White Mountains. And, I don't have any
 9 problem with using existing right-of-ways.
 10 I am a power line worker by trade. I
 11 have a good -- I have a good income doing that, health
 12 insurance for myself and my family, retirement, when -- a
 13 retirement plan, when that time comes. One of the
 14 toughest things about the job that I have is traveling,
 15 being away from -- being away from my family. Over the
 16 last five years, I haven't worked in the State of New
 17 Hampshire at all.
 18 So, this would be -- this job, this is
 19 supposed to create, I've heard, around 2,000 jobs. I
 20 don't know where that figure came from, but I know that
 21 it's going to create at least one for myself. And, that's
 22 going to help me be closer to my wife and my three kids.
 23 So, I think that's important to me and my family.
 24 Also, it's going to, because of the size
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1 of this project, there's going to be a need to create more
 2 jobs in my profession, in the electrical trade, which will
 3 give more young people the chance to gain the experience
 4 and get into the trade that I'm in now. I started this
 5 profession as an apprentice, on a large construction
 6 project, similar to this one, similar to Northern Pass, in
 7 the State of Maine. So, I had to do quite a bit of
 8 traveling, missed a lot of birthdays, anniversaries,
 9 Valentine's Days, Christmas, Thanksgiving, missed a lot of
 10 holidays traveling. So, I think this should be something
 11 good for me and my family and my line of work.
 12 THE MODERATOR: Uh-huh. Thank you.
 13 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*
 14 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Hill.
 15 MR. HILL: Hi. I'm William Hill, from
 16 Hooksett, New Hampshire, H-i-l-l. Just wanted to address
 17 everybody. I, as Dan, we're both union hands. Dan and I
 18 worked together previously. As it stands, we are
 19 supporters of the Northern Pass, both for ourselves and,
 20 you know, our union brothers.
 21 On another note, I am born and raised a
 22 White Mountain kid, born and raised in the sticks. In the
 23 last 20 or so years of growing up, I've seen what happened
 24 in the North Country. No paper mills, they're all gone.
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1 No logging -- no sawmills, sorry, that's all gone. So,
 2 speaking on behalf of those people that are from the North
 3 Country, it might be time for something to go back to the
 4 North Country. There is nothing up there.
 5 My two daughters still currently reside
 6 there. I'd like for them to be able to grow up and have
 7 something to look forward to, that maybe doesn't require
 8 them to leave where they were born and raised, if they so
 9 choose not to.
 10 And, as far as every other student or
 11 child or anything up there, there's opportunities here
 12 abundant for any child that wants to get in the trade,
 13 whether it be male or female. It's a good trade. It can
 14 be difficult. As Dan has said, we spend a lot of time on
 15 the road, or working for other states, aside from our own,
 16 because of lack of infrastructure or nobody just wants to
 17 pony up the cash to fix what they got.
 18 I've been all over the country doing
 19 this, to maintain a job, to maintain medical insurance for
 20 my children, for my family. And, as Dan has spoken, you
 21 know, maybe it's our time to work locally. Everybody else
 22 gets a chance to, maybe we should, too. Thank you.
 23 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
 24 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*
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1 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Sargent, before you
 2 start, let me call up Ruth Niven, Mark Monahan, Tony
 3 Giunta, Eileen Schulze.
 4 Okay, Mr. Sargent.
 5 MR. SARGENT: My name is Carl Sargent,
 6 the Third. I'm from Concord, New Hampshire. And, my last
 7 name is S-a-r-g-e-n-t. I am glad to see that they, in the
 8 northern part of the state, through the White Mountains,
 9 they have decided to put more of it underground. I'd like
 10 to see more of it put underground in resident -- in more
 11 densely residential areas, like in Concord, Pembroke, and
 12 all the way to Deerfield, there's quite a few residential
 13 areas. And, the effect on either ones that are adjacent
 14 to it or near it or people that will see it is a decrease
 15 in value of property, and especially their homes, and it
 16 may be difficult to sell their places.
 17 And, when they bring up the value that
 18 the towns are going to get from this, it may be offset
 19 greatly by the devaluation of nearby properties may bring
 20 that down considerably that it may not be a bump. Even in
 21 Franklin, I think the people that are going to be adjacent
 22 to these towers and lose a lot of their value of their
 23 property may not be too happy about it, maybe the whole
 24 town is, but I really question that.
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1 As to the environmental impact, you have
 2 to look back, the effect on the environment in Quebec
 3 province was disastrous for these dams, and a lot of
 4 carbon dioxide, destroying Indian reservations. And, if
 5 you remember, a number of years ago, Indian leaders were
 6 coming down here and asking us not to buy electricity from
 7 these dams, because they were destroying their culture and
 8 their land in that. And, so, it does have some, maybe not
 9 right in New Hampshire, but it has in the past, and
 10 continues to have as they develop more dams up there, a
 11 major impact environmentally.

12 And, I'm hoping they consider to put
 13 more under -- I'd like to see the whole thing put
 14 underground, but I would like to see more of it,
 15 especially near residential areas, because I live on
 16 Portsmouth Street, and we're one of the areas that is
 17 heavily impacted here in Concord, Portsmouth, Loudon Road,
 18 McKenna's Purchase, and there's a lot of homes in those
 19 areas, and I think they're going to see a rather
 20 substantial reduction in their values and be unable to
 21 sell their properties. Thank you.

22 THE MODERATOR: All right. Thank you,
 23 Mr. Sargent.

24 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*
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1 THE MODERATOR: Ruth Niven.

2 MS. NIVEN: My name is Ruth Niven,
 3 N-i-v-e-n. We've heard a lot of facts and figures
 4 tonight. I'm really wondering sometimes if these facts
 5 and figures are just pulled out of the air and tossed out
 6 to us.

7 I received a copy of the Draft for the
 8 Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental
 9 Impact Statement -- Statement in my email. I scrolled
 10 controlled through the vast number of pages on the
 11 Proposed Northern Pass Project Draft Project Area Form
 12 until I got to the Lakes Region, and I reached my
 13 community, Franklin, New Hampshire. Imagine my surprise
 14 when I read this on Page 29: "From Franklin, the
 15 Winnepesaukee flows south through the Town of Northfield."
 16 This is wrong. Since the Northern Pass is considering a
 17 major converter station in Franklin, they might want to
 18 take a look at a map before they start building.

19 My observation is, if -- with this gross
 20 error, directionwise, how many other errors are there in
 21 this draft? And, who's going to go through it and vet it?
 22 Because, if the U.S. Department of Energy is basing their
 23 conclusions on a faulty document, how valid are their
 24 conclusions?

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1 Just remember, there's north and there's
 2 south, and you can't change the direction of the river.
 3 Thank you.

4 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*
 5 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Mr. Monahan.

6 MR. MONAHAN: Good evening. Mark
 7 Monahan, Franklin, M-o-n-a-h-a-n. I came here tonight
 8 just to say that I don't have any problem with the new
 9 power lines. I think we need to get a new -- new sources
 10 of electricity on the grid as fast as we can. With the
 11 electricity rates going up, climate change, and with coal
 12 and nuclear power plants closing left and right, we should
 13 be very happy to get a thousand megawatts of clean
 14 hydropower on line to help power -- excuse me -- our homes
 15 and businesses. Thank you.

16 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*
 17 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Tony Giunta.

18 MR. GIUNTA: I thank you very much.
 19 And, it was a great idea to have us spell our last name,
 20 because mine's a shorty, but a toughie. It's Giunta.
 21 It's G-i-u-n-t-a. I'm a City Councilor from the City of
 22 Franklin. And, I would like to start my comments by
 23 thanking the entire Northern Pass team for listening. I
 24 saw a bumper sticker on my way in here tonight that said
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1 "Bury Northern Pass", and it sounds like you're listening,
 2 because you are burying and quadrupling the amount of
 3 power lines that will be buried.

4 My greatest concern that I want to share
 5 with everybody in this room tonight as a city councilor
 6 is, there's a significant amount of industry in Ward 1
 7 that I represent. There have been rumors and out-and-out
 8 people say from industry "you must do something about
 9 electric rates." I will repeat: We have the highest
 10 electric rates in the country.

11 Now, businesses can sustain that, but
 12 only so long, before the decision is made "we have to look
 13 elsewhere." We had one business leave the City of
 14 Franklin, and they went south; they went to North
 15 Carolina. We recently contacted them and said "would you
 16 like to rethink that move and come back?" And, they said
 17 "absolutely not." So, my fear is, is that, if we lose
 18 industry, they will not come back. That is my greatest
 19 fear.

20 So, you saw the numbers. This project
 21 is a one-in-a-century opportunity for the City of
 22 Franklin. It will make huge differences. But we can't
 23 wait for this project. We need to keep the industries in
 24 our city now. I would say that we're a microcosm for the
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1 rest of the state. That there are industries in the rest
2 of the State of New Hampshire that are suffering from high
3 rates, as well as New England.

4 So, we play here, we enjoy being here,
5 but unless you're retired or independently wealthy, we
6 also have to work here. And, those -- and, that means you
7 need to keep our businesses here.

8 So, my comments would be, please, SEC,
9 take a serious look at this. It is very important. And,
10 move this project as quickly as possible, or we may lose
11 more and more industry that will never come back to the
12 State of New Hampshire. Thank you.

13 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

14 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Walter
15 Carlson, Susan Alfin, and Jerry, begins with "D", if
16 you'll come on up. And, Ms. Schulze.

17 MS. SCHULZE: My name is Eileen Schulze,
18 spelled S-c-h-u-l-l-z-e, also a tricky spelling. I'm from
19 Northfield. Can everyone hear me?

20 FROM THE FLOOR: Lower the microphone.

21 MS. SCHULZE: Short-challenged. I only
22 learned of this meeting just before it was about to begin.
23 So, therefore, because I can't address as much as I would
24 like to on such short notice, we all know at this point
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1 environmental impact studies already indicate the negative
2 effects Northern Pass would impose upon our rare,
3 endangered and protected species, vernal pools, and also
4 cause bedrock erosion.

5 New Hampshire is privileged to boast of
6 its majestic setting for the highest peak in the Eastern
7 United States, Mount Washington. Existing obligations
8 require protection of our conserved lands, and
9 particularly from NP's threat to destroy miles of natural
10 beauty within the White Mountain National Forest. As
11 Northern Pass would also negatively impact cultural and
12 historical sites, air and water quality, the natural
13 environment and geological resources, it must be stopped.

14 THE MODERATOR: Excuse me, Ms. Schulze.
15 Are you almost finished?

16 MS. SCHULZE: I will speed it up.

17 Quality of life, health, and safety --

18 *(Court reporter interruption.)*

19 THE MODERATOR: You can't speed it up
20 because --

21 MS. SCHULZE: I'm sorry. One more point
22 please?

23 THE MODERATOR: Sure.

24 MS. SCHULZE: Northern Pass poses a
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1 they want to bury 60 miles, which is further than
2 originally planned, however, it has not changed my
3 thoughts on killing Northern Pass. I would like to read
4 my response to the DOE in 2013, when they were looking for
5 people to respond.

6 I oppose Northern Pass in any form. The
7 DOE held scoping meetings, which I attended. The Northern
8 Pass Project is unnecessary, because New England states
9 and New York possess ample power supply; in fact, New
10 Hampshire exports its surplus. Northern Pass eagerly
11 seeks to devastate New Hampshire's beloved scenery, harm
12 our tourism industry, and reduce property values, with no
13 real benefit to New Hampshire, for a foreign company's
14 greed. Located in Canada, Hydro-Quebec has already
15 destroyed Innu and Cree territory, polluted its own
16 country's terrain with methane gas, caused high mercury
17 levels in fish and interfered with fish migration. By
18 2020, Hydro-Quebec will have flooded 6 million Canadian
19 acres; our entire state is 5.9 [sic] acres. As
20 Hydro-Quebec doesn't care about its own environment, it
21 certainly doesn't care about ours.

22 The monstrosity of 1,500-plus foreign
23 power towers of Chinese steel, up to 140 feet high, would
24 rape our landscape for 187 miles. In addition,
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1 national security risk as a prime target for terrorist
2 attack.

3 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

4 THE MODERATOR: You could submit your
5 statement, if you want, and make it part of the record.
6 Thank you. Walter Carlson.

7 MR. CARLSON: Hi. I'm Walter Carlson.
8 I live in Concord. Carlson, C-a-r-l-s-o-n. And, I want
9 to throw down a challenge to Bill Quinlan, who made the
10 statement that it is -- that "the cost of burying the
11 power line is way more than stringing them up in
12 construction towers", and he says that's irrefutable.
13 Well, I disagree. I would like to challenge him on that.

14 The handout out here shows the
15 construction for putting them up, putting up towers.
16 First, they build up roads, make accessive roads, clear
17 right-of-ways. Then, they have to bring up concrete --
18 well, excavators to dig holes for the bases, put up the
19 structures, then the towers, that have to be made by
20 probably Chinese steel, bring it over and construct it.
21 And, they're probably going to have to have a big title
22 [sic] to get up there.

23 Whereas, for the underground burial,
24 they show they dig a trench, they have an excavator, they
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1 dig a trench, they put it in and bury it. They don't need
2 to be driving up and down mountains in New Hampshire and
3 creating a whole lot of environmental destruction.

4 So, I challenge Bill Quinlan to come up
5 with the numbers that show that not burying that costs
6 less than burying it. In the EIS that they issued, I
7 think it was number 4a alternate route, said coming all
8 the way down Interstate 93, getting off at Exit 15,
9 following 393 out to Route 4, out to 107, down into
10 Deerfield, all underground. And, I challenge you to come
11 up with a cost and show us that it was -- it is going to
12 be way more or even more than it is -- the cost of what
13 you proposed is more than what it would be burying in
14 that, I think it was number 4a. Thank you.

15 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*

16 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Susan Alfin.

17 MS. ARNOLD: Hi. My name is Susan
18 Arnold, A-r-n-o-l-d. And, I'm from Strafford. But I'm
19 here on behalf of the Appalachian Mountain Club. I'm the
20 Vice President for Conservation. The AMC is the oldest
21 conservation and recreation organization in the country,
22 with more than 100,000 members, supporters, from Maine to
23 Washington, D.C., including 12,000 here in New Hampshire.

24 Our 139-year history is punctuated by
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1 Hampshire's most remote and least-developed landscapes.
2 If you can bury the line from Bridgewater to Bethlehem,
3 you can bury the line from Bethlehem to the Canadian
4 border, and it would reduce the route by 15 miles, have
5 fewer expensive above-to-below-ground transition costs,
6 would create more jobs, and would significantly reduce the
7 major environmental impacts to the North Country.

8 For years, the Company has claimed that
9 burial of the line was technically impossible and
10 prohibitively costly. But there are other projects that
11 have determined full burial is practical and economically
12 feasible, including for lengths of over 150 miles along
13 terrestrial rights-of-way, not just underwater. Other
14 northeastern states have demanded full burial, and got it.
15 New Hampshire deserves the same.

16 The DEIS provides clear evidence that
17 full burial of the line would provide almost twice as many
18 jobs, have a much smaller impact on property values, and
19 create more long-lasting economic benefits to the region
20 than overhead transmission.

21 At stake here is the future of New
22 Hampshire's forests, scenic vistas, property values, and
23 cohesive communities. Make no mistake: This project is
24 not about providing needed power for New Hampshire. New
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1 battles to protect the places people love. From our
2 advocacy for passage of the 1911 Weeks Act, which created
3 the eastern national forest system and conserved the White
4 Mountains, to protecting Franconia Notch from the
5 intrusion of a multi-state -- the interstate highway in
6 the '70s, excuse me, to more recently protecting the
7 Northern Forest. Open spaces, without permanent scars of
8 industrial-scale development, are a diminishing and scarce
9 resource of high public value that AMC will fight to
10 protect.

11 Our opposition to the Northern Pass
12 transmission project as originally proposed has been based
13 not only on the serious negative impacts of overhead
14 lines, but also the fact that today's HVDC cable
15 technology makes 100 percent burial a viable and
16 economically realistic option. We're encouraged Northern
17 Pass has recently proposed burying an additional 52 miles,
18 but much more needs to be done. Two-thirds of the
19 Northern Pass route remains above ground, and tens of
20 thousands of New Hampshire residents and visitors will
21 continue to be impacted by the proposed aboveground route.
22 And, the preponderance of evidence shows that full burial
23 is certainly doable.

24 The North Country is among New
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1 Hampshire is, and has been for many years, a net exporter
2 of power. The Independent System Operator that maintains
3 the overall grid here in New England has not deemed this
4 project essential.

5 In conclusion, this isn't about the
6 needs for essential electricity. The project is about
7 money, about private profit through the sacrifice of
8 precious resources that belong to all of us New Hampshire
9 citizens. Our state deserves better. If this project is
10 to go forward, every mile of it must be buried. Thank
11 you.

12 *[Audience interruption/applause]*

13 THE MODERATOR: Just a moment. I'd like
14 to call up, we're going to start with the non-county
15 people now. Campbell McLaren, Mike Skelton, Tom Mullen,
16 Jeanne Menard. Yes, sir.

17 MR. DRYEOLCHER: I'll help you out with
18 the last name.

19 THE MODERATOR: Yes.

20 MR. DRYEOLCHER: Jerry Dryeolcher,
21 D-r-y-e-o-l-c-h-e-r.

22 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

23 MR. DRYEOLCHER: Thank you for the
24 opportunity. And, thank you for finally getting to have a
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1 face-to-face with the people from the Northern Pass. And,
 2 it's -- specifically, I want to key off of that, because
 3 the one thing that upsets me the most tonight was the fact
 4 that they think that Concord or the surrounding area is
 5 not concerned about whether the line is buried or not.
 6 And, I feel that that's probably because we really haven't
 7 had the opportunity to respond the way the northern part
 8 of the state has been able to respond. And, I think they
 9 have had the opportunity because they are truly more
 10 affected than some of the other neighborhoods or towns
 11 throughout the transmission line's plan.

12 Well, given more opportunities like
 13 this, I think you'll hear differently. And, it's too bad
 14 that it's, to me, this is the first time. I haven't heard
 15 of any other opportunity, similar to this, where people
 16 can respond. So, I'm not sure who they're talking to that
 17 give them the impression that we're satisfied with more
 18 towers. I'm sure the people who have a residence along
 19 those lines are going to be greatly affected, and you'll
 20 hear more from them, given the opportunity.

21 We need our city, and I'm from Concord,
 22 to give us more opportunities to respond, if Northern Pass
 23 people can't do it. So, thank you.

24 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
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1 in New Hampshire, and what that means for our economy. I
 2 think the need is clear, and that debate has really been
 3 settled. The past few years what we've seen in the energy
 4 market has indicated that we, as a state and as a region,
 5 need to secure new sources of energy. And, if we don't,
 6 absent action on that issue, our organization, along with
 7 many business leader, believes that jobs here in New
 8 Hampshire are at risk, and our economy is at risk. Our
 9 ability to grow and thrive and prosper as a state is at
 10 risk.

11 I want to give an example that really is
 12 the worst nightmare for a chamber executive, such as
 13 myself. Last winter, I spoke with a member of my
 14 organization, a large employer in the greater Manchester
 15 region, in the manufacturing industry, that had seen the
 16 cost of energy as a price of doing business triple in just
 17 the last few years, and it was continuing to escalate.
 18 And, they were forecasting it would grow far beyond that
 19 in future years. This organization has other facilities
 20 in other parts of the country and other parts of the
 21 world. They can make a decision to leave New Hampshire.
 22 And, if they leave, they will bring hundreds of good
 23 paying jobs that will impact our economy.

24 Real quickly, as I'm running out of
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1 *[Audience interruption/applause.]*
 2 MR. SKELTON: Good evening. Thanks for
 3 the opportunity to speak. My name is Mike Skelton,
 4 S-k-e-l-t-o-n. I'm the President and CEO of the Greater
 5 Manchester Chamber of Commerce. The Greater Manchester
 6 Chamber of Commerce represents about 900 businesses from
 7 across the southern New Hampshire region. And, we
 8 endorsed the project in 2012. Our Board of Directors
 9 voted to endorse the Northern Pass Project. And, many
 10 chambers worked together on a variety of issues. So, I
 11 did want to mention, as part of my comments, that while my
 12 colleagues at the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce and
 13 Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce could not be here
 14 this evening, they also stand with us in support of this
 15 project.

16 There's been a tremendous amount of
 17 dialogue and information tonight. So, I'm going to try
 18 and keep my comments brief and not repeat information
 19 that's already been stated. But I did want to emphasize I
 20 think three points in my comments. Really, the three
 21 themes are need, balance, and the process.

22 And, I think I want to start with need,
 23 because that really is the issue that is most important to
 24 my organization. The need for new sources of energy here
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1 time, I wanted to also mention on balance. If we're going
 2 to meet this need, we have to strike a balance. And, I
 3 think the proposal that's been raised today and brought
 4 forward does just that. Whether it's any major
 5 infrastructure project, whether it's a highway or a
 6 pipeline or a transmission project, we have to strike
 7 balance.

8 And, in conclusion, the way we strike
 9 balance is by trusting the process that we have
 10 democratically put in place in this state to improve major
 11 sources -- major infrastructure projects. We have the
 12 process. The Legislature has looked at how to improve it.
 13 They have made some steps to do that. Now is the time
 14 that we in the state come together and trust that the
 15 process will address those concerns that are made.

16 So, thank you very much for the
 17 opportunity this evening.

18 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you. So, I
 19 have these people now who have put in sheets to comment.
 20 Oh, okay. I didn't see you. Mr. Mullen?

21 MR. MULLEN: Yes.

22 THE MODERATOR: Okay. And, I have --
 23 let me, before you begin, Mr. Mullen, I also have Campbell
 24 McLaren, Jeanne Menard, Susan Alfin, and Michael Van
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1 Natta. Are any of those people still here?
 2 [Show of hands.]
 3 THE MODERATOR: Okay. What is your name
 4 please?
 5 MR. MULLEN: Tom --
 6 MS. MENARD: Jeanne Menard.
 7 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Okay. All right.
 8 Mr. Mullen, go ahead please.
 9 MR. MULLEN: Thank you very much. My
 10 name is Thomas Mullen. And, I live in Campton, New
 11 Hampshire. Until recently, I was the owner and developer
 12 of the Owl's Nest Resort & Golf Club. We learned in
 13 October of 2010 that the Northern Pass was going to come
 14 directly through our project. And, from that day forward,
 15 until we lost it to forecloser back this past January, we
 16 were unable to sell one single piece of property.
 17 Now, before I go a little bit further, I
 18 was hoping I would have a chance to say hello to
 19 Mr. Quinlan again. When I spoke about you folks not being
 20 up here, I didn't see you, but I clearly didn't see him
 21 with his tan jacket. I don't know where Mr. Quinlan is,
 22 and I don't know where Mr. Muntz is, and I think they
 23 should be in this room listening to all of us.
 24 I want to congratulate Mr. Quinlan, and
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1 put it into undergrounding that you're going to do into
 2 other things, if you sold that 5,000 acres and put that
 3 into undergrounding, you just might find that you'd be
 4 able to afford the undergrounding process. And, it's not
 5 too late to get on top of that.
 6 It's very clear to me that you listened
 7 to the people up north that, where you've chosen now to go
 8 undergrounding, but you haven't heard enough from
 9 everybody else. So, those of you who are here from the
 10 Concord area and areas further south, get on your
 11 neighbors and friends, you can change this project, before
 12 it ruins your property values, like it ruined mine and my
 13 business. I hope you do this.
 14 [Audience interruption/applause.]
 15 MS. MENARD: Good evening. Jeanne
 16 Menard, from Deerfield.
 17 THE MODERATOR: M-e-n-a-r-d?
 18 MS. MENARD: Yes. Thank you. Twice
 19 this evening Eversource maintains that it has reached out
 20 to municipalities over this past year, engaging in
 21 discussions and community relations. I and other members
 22 of my community of Deerfield have waited month after month
 23 for meaningful information regarding technical details of
 24 this project, only to have to seek this information on the
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1 I would have done that -- Mr. Quinlan is here. I will
 2 congratulate him as he's walking down this way. And, I
 3 will tell you that I have seen what I would call a pretty
 4 significant change in the corporate philosophy of
 5 Eversource, whatever it's called correctly today, since
 6 Mr. Quinlan took over the helm. So, thank you, sir, for
 7 your impact on this company.
 8 However, I am, obviously, not
 9 particularly happy with how you've handled this situation
 10 in my particular area, and I am clearly not happy about
 11 the fact that you are still going overhead in so many
 12 parts of this great state of ours.
 13 And, I think that you've got to look
 14 back at this situation and do something more positive
 15 about undergrounding in more areas of the state. It's
 16 very clear to me that, if the gentleman, what's your
 17 Chairman's name?
 18 THE MODERATOR: Sir, just go ahead and
 19 comment.
 20 MR. MULLEN: Yeah. The Chairman of your
 21 company, if he were to give up some of his multi,
 22 multimillion dollar salary and put it into the
 23 undergrounding here, I think we'd be a lot better off.
 24 You could afford it, if you took that \$200 million and you
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1 internet. I do not feel Eversource fulfilled this
 2 promise.
 3 Going forward, if you say you are going
 4 to reach out to the municipalities, do so. Please do so,
 5 not because it's a checklist item, but, rather, do so so
 6 that you can hear what we might have to say. Thank you.
 7 [Audience interruption/applause.]
 8 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Last call for
 9 Campbell McLaren, Michael Van Natta, and Susan Alfin?
 10 (No verbal response)
 11 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Do we have any
 12 more? Okay. I see no -- having no more questions [sic]
 13 having been submitted, --
 14 MR. WROBLEWSKI: I put one in.
 15 THE MODERATOR: You did?
 16 MR. WROBLEWSKI: I did.
 17 THE MODERATOR: What's your -- I know
 18 you told me you did. Well, get up here.
 19 MR. WROBLEWSKI: All right.
 20 THE MODERATOR: Oh, here it is. They
 21 thought it was a written comment. So, --
 22 MR. WROBLEWSKI: Yes. My name is Ron
 23 Wroblewski. I own a business in Concord here.
 24 THE MODERATOR: You're going to have to
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1 spell that last name.
 2 MR. WROBLEWSKI: W-r-o-b-l-e-w-s-k-i. I
 3 own a business here in Concord, right on Route 4. And,
 4 appreciate the fact that, you know, I could always use
 5 lower energy rates. But what year is it? It's 2015,
 6 isn't it? Right? Why are we putting up poles like they
 7 did in Thomas Edison's time. I mean, you say "move
 8 forward", you're moving backward, you know? Am I right?
 9 Am I right?
 10 [Audience interruption/applause.]
 11 MR. WROBLEWSKI: You know, you're
 12 putting up these poles, that goes back to Thomas Edison
 13 and Tesla's time and stuff like that. And, you know, my
 14 daughter's property is -- she's about 150-200 feet away
 15 from the line. And, you know what nobody -- nobody has
 16 brought up, what are the health things? What are the
 17 health problems with that? My son-in-law is an
 18 electrician. He can go out next to line, near the house
 19 right now, with a fluorescent light, and it lights up.
 20 All right?
 21 Now, I don't know what the megawatts or
 22 whatever it is. What's going to happen with more power
 23 there? I got two grandchildren, three and six years-old.
 24 Their property has dropped, just like you said. She can't
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1 effect. But, boy, you put it on the AC power, and all of
 2 a sudden little gremlins come out of the wires and stuff
 3 like this, you know?
 4 Everybody here, 99 percent of the
 5 people, except for the people from Franklin, which they're
 6 going to get a lot of money out of this, said "put it
 7 underground", and nobody will complain. It's 2015. And,
 8 you want to keep it aboveground, like we did 100 years
 9 ago. Come on.
 10 I live in apartments built in 1975,
 11 Brickville [sic] Park, in Merrimack. I have a house
 12 there. You know what? All the lines are underground
 13 there. They can do it back in 1975, and we can put a man
 14 on the moon, you guys can put it underground.
 15 [Audience interruption/applause.]
 16 THE MODERATOR: All right. Well,
 17 everybody who signed up to comment has commented. So,
 18 this will end this session. Thank you all very much for
 19 coming out, and thank you for the respectful discourse.
 20 (Whereupon the Public Information
 21 Session was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.)
 22
 23
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1 sell the property for what she paid for it ten years ago,
 2 and she put up a \$100,000 barn, you know?
 3 So, I mean, you know, if they can build
 4 a tunnel underground, they can go through mountains
 5 underground, you guys can do it. I've talked to two or
 6 three people, "can you put it underground?" "Sure." They
 7 stated it right in here, "Yes. It's going to cost more."
 8 What's are the long-term benefits? How long is this line
 9 going to be around for? What are going to have to pay for
 10 maintenance, when, like ten years ago, when we had the ice
 11 storm, all the friggin' lines came down? What kind of
 12 maintenance do you do on a line that's underground?
 13 You're looking at short-term, for the
 14 money you're going to spend now, but you're not looking at
 15 the long-term benefits. How long is this line going to be
 16 around for? Fifty years? One hundred years? What's the
 17 maintenance factor on something that's underground versus
 18 something that's on top of the ground?
 19 I would think that, you're looking at a
 20 short-term thing, you should be looking at a long-term
 21 thing. And, again, what are they -- nobody has brought up
 22 about health. What does this do to people, with this
 23 electromagnetic stuff and everything else? The charts
 24 over there shows DC power doesn't have that much of an
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1
 2 CERTIFICATE
 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
 10 counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the
 11 parties to the action; and further, that I am not a
 12 relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed
 13 in this case, nor am I financially interested in this
 14 action.
 15
 16 _____
 17 Steven E. Patnaude, LCR
 18 Licensed Court Reporter
 19 N.H. LCR No. 00052
 20 (RSA 310-A:173)
 21
 22
 23
 24 {SEC 2015-06} [Concord Public Comment Session] {09-02-15}

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