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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

THE NORTHERN PASS TRANSMISSION LINE

PROJECT DRAFT EIS

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

PEMBROKE ACADEMY

209 ACADEMY ROAD, PEMBROKE, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03275

March 14, 2011

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1 MODERATOR: First of all, I want to thank
2 you all for attending tonight. This is a very
3 important process. We're glad that you're here.
4 Basic housekeeping items and you people probably
5 know them much better than I. Bathrooms on the
6 other side of that wall. Behind the Army Navy
7 sign if you go out the doors that you came in,
8 arrive directly behind where you're all sitting
9 you've pretty much found the bathrooms.

10 Safety things. There's lots of wires on
11 the floor, and they seem to be growing as time
12 has gone on since I've been here. Be very
13 careful navigating around the room. They're not
14 taped down so be very careful. Is the Fire
15 Marshal here by any chance? No. I heard a
16 rumor that he might be coming tonight.

17 As I had said earlier, we've got an agenda
18 that's originally supposed to start at 6:30 so
19 whatever time it is from now -- I don't have my
20 watch on -- we're going to add to that. But
21 we're going to go through some very basic
22 introductions of some people and then I'll give
23 you some ground rules and then we're going to

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1 have a great meeting. Sound good? Okay. Thank
2 you.

3 Representing U.S. Department of Energy,
4 we've got Brian Mills, Christopher Laurence,
5 Connie Chenn, Ann Finker, Ellen Russell, Dean
6 Lenuik, and Allison Pezzullo back in the corner
7 who helped sign everybody in. Tom Wagner from
8 the U.S. Forest Service. Is there anyone here
9 from the Army Corps of Engineers? Erika Mark
10 from Army Corps of Engineers. Thank you.

11 We've got some Congressional
12 representatives here. We have Chuck Henderson
13 from U.S. Senator Shaheen's office over here.
14 Susan Tezakakis from U.S. Senator Ayotte's office.
15 Harold Parker from U.S. Congressman Bass's
16 office. Thank you. We also have State
17 Representative O'Connor from the town of Derry.
18 Thank you.

19 Court stenographer. Cynthia Foster. If
20 you could all give a hand for Cynthia. I
21 believe she may have the toughest job here
22 tonight. I'm going to hand the microphone over.
23 Brian's going to go off the podium as there's

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1 more microphones there.

2 MR. MILLS: Well, that plus I need to park
3 the pages. My name is Brian Mills. I work for
4 the United States Department of Energy. I'm
5 with the Office of Electricity Delivery and
6 Energy Reliability. I would like to thank you
7 for taking your time to attend this meeting
8 today. Your presence and input are vital to a
9 robust public participation process. This is a
10 Scoping Meeting which is about listening and
11 learning from you. Department of Energy needs
12 to hear what issues you think we should consider
13 in conducting our environmental analysis. The
14 reason we are here is that Northern Pass
15 Transmission is proposing to construct an
16 international transmission line and has asked
17 the Department of Energy for a permit to cross
18 the border. Northern Pass submitted a
19 Presidential permit application to the
20 Department of Energy in October of 2010.
21 Northern Pass proposed to construct and operate
22 an overhead high voltage direct current or DC
23 electric transmission line. The line would have

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1 a 1200 megawatt rating and would start at an AC
2 to DC converter station near Sherbrooke, Quebec,
3 Canada. From there, it will direct current to
4 Franklin, New Hampshire, where the DC would be
5 converted to AC. The AC would be transmitted on
6 a proposed 345 kilovolt line that would
7 terminate in Deerfield, New Hampshire. In New
8 Hampshire, the proposed DC transmission line
9 would run approximately 140 miles from the U.S.
10 border near the community of Pittsburg to a DC
11 to AC converter station in Franklin, from the
12 Franklin converter station to the project
13 terminus at the existing Public Service of New
14 Hampshire substation in Deerfield. The project
15 will consist of 40 miles of 345 kilovolt AC
16 electric transmission lines.

17 Before any facility can be built across the
18 U.S. international border the proponent must
19 obtain a Presidential permit from the Department
20 of Energy. A Department of Energy Presidential
21 permit authorizes a company to construct,
22 operate, maintain and connect electric
23 transmission facilities at the border. The

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1 Department of Energy is involved in this
2 proceeding for one reason. The proposed
3 transmission line would cross the international
4 border. If this line did not cross the border,
5 the Department of Energy would not be here. The
6 Department of Energy has no authority to site
7 this line. Only the State of New Hampshire has
8 that authority. The Department of Energy does
9 not convey the right of eminent domain with its
10 Presidential permits. Nor can the Department of
11 Energy address the issue of compensation for
12 land that would be impacted by the Northern Pass
13 project.

14 Before the Department of Energy can issue
15 this kind of permit, we must comply with the
16 National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA. For
17 this proposed project the Department of Energy
18 has determined that the appropriate level of
19 NEPA analysis to be an Environmental Impact
20 Statement or EIS. The EIS will analyze the
21 foreseeable environmental impacts that might
22 flow from granting the permit. The EIS will
23 also identify steps that might be needed to

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1 mitigate environmental impacts.

2 The other federal agencies involved are the
3 U.S. Forest Service, White Mountain National
4 Forest, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
5 New England District. They have permitting
6 authority for the proposed facilities within
7 their respective jurisdictions. The Forest
8 Service and the Corps of Engineers are
9 cooperating agencies for the Department of
10 Energy in the preparation of this Environmental
11 Impact Statement.

12 We are here to listen and to get your
13 comments and suggestions for the issues we
14 should be addressing in the EIS. We would also
15 like to know any alternative routes for the
16 proposed projects.

17 Once the Scoping period closes on April
18 12th, 2011, we will get to work at preparing the
19 Draft EIS. That will take several months. Once
20 the draft is completed it will be posted on our
21 website and distributed to everyone on our
22 mailing list. If you want to be on the mailing
23 list you can sign up here at the table by the

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1 door using the blue postcards or on our website.

2 There will be at least a 45-day comment
3 period for you to review the Draft EIS and
4 submit comments. During the comment period on
5 the Draft EIS, you will be able to submit
6 comments in writing or by e-mail. We will also
7 hold public hearings to receive oral comments on
8 the Draft EIS.

9 After the close of the comment period on
10 the Draft EIS, we will begin to prepare the
11 Final EIS. Every comment received on the Draft
12 EIS will be included in the Final EIS, and we
13 will respond in the document to every comment
14 received. When the Final EIS is completed, it
15 will be sent to everyone on the mailing list and
16 posted on our website. By law the Department of
17 Energy may not make a final decision on the
18 Northern Pass Presidential permit application
19 until 30 days after publication of the Final
20 EIS.

21 At the completion of the EIS process, the
22 Department of Energy may or may not issue a
23 Presidential permit. If the Department of

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1 Energy were to issue a Presidential permit, the
2 transmission line and associated facilities
3 could not be built unless and until all the
4 other state, local and federal permits are
5 obtained.

6 For this meeting the stenographer is here
7 to write down what you say during your comments.
8 Whether you choose to speak or not, you are
9 invited to send us written comments. All
10 comments, whether written or oral, are treated
11 the same and have equal weight. We will accept
12 comments until April 12th. We will consider
13 your comments submitted after that date to the
14 extent we can.

15 If you have specific questions about the
16 project itself, representatives from Northern
17 Pass are here to discuss them with you. For
18 example, they can describe the proposed
19 alternate routes on the maps that are here.

20 MODERATOR: Thank you, Brian. Do other
21 Federal agencies have any interest in giving
22 public comment? Okay.

23 Ground rules. Everyone will have an equal

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1 opportunity to speak, an equal time to speak.
2 That time at this point is 3 minutes based on
3 the number of people that we have looking to
4 give comments which I want to say is roughly
5 estimated at about 40 people. So if you do the
6 math, we're going to be here a while. So to
7 make things go as smooth as we can, respect the
8 speaker. That means one person speaks at a
9 time. Respect others' opinions so listen in on
10 their comments. There's no need for any other
11 responses from the crowd. If you'd like to clap
12 for them afterwards, that's allowable. Respect
13 that time allotment. Again, if you take time
14 from, you could be taking time from somebody
15 else or, again, you take more time we're going
16 to be here a lot longer, and anybody who's got
17 cell phone or electronic device might as well
18 pull that out of your pockets now and turn them
19 off because those will be a distraction.

20 I'm going to call people based on the order
21 that I have them which is either the way that
22 they were preregistered or the way that they
23 were handed to me. Our first three speakers

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1 will be Diane Watson, Raymond D'Amante and
2 Margaret Jones. And I'll continue to announce
3 who's coming up next, but be ready to come up as
4 quick as you can when your name is called.
5 Diane Watson.

6 SPEAKER: I'm Diane Watson from 396 East
7 High Street, Manchester, New Hampshire. I'll
8 dispense the formalities in order to get to the
9 content. I want the study to explore a weather
10 phenomenon that exists in Columbia, New
11 Hampshire, around the Ray Road area known as the
12 Bungy Bull. This is sustained winds with
13 increasing gusts that shake your house off its
14 foundations. Seems to. I want the study to
15 observe and quantify the velocities and the
16 directional patterns of these winds and stress
17 test them on the proposed structures and lines.
18 I want the study to quantify the decibel levels
19 of the noise pollution that will be caused by
20 these high winds running through the structures
21 and lines proposed.

22 Using the precautionary principle the study
23 needs to quantify the adverse health effects

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1 such as electromagnetic and static electric
2 fields among other harmful effects on humans,
3 livestock and wildlife at incremental distances
4 from the lines and structures. These distances
5 should expand to include all dwellings along the
6 line. This study needs to factor in the length
7 of time of exposure as well.

8 I want you to perform a rigorous and
9 independent economic impact study taking into
10 account the net gains when given depreciation of
11 property values and abatements that will be
12 caused. Please don't use Northern Pass's glossy
13 figures. They themselves admit they're not
14 offset.

15 I want the approach of this study to be
16 comprehensive and longitudinal so that it will
17 capture the true reality of the ecosystems this
18 project will disturb. For instance, a one-day
19 sample does not give the entire picture of a
20 soil's content, water content. A single
21 snapshot of a deeryard population does not
22 provide the total picture of the herds' habitat
23 and habits. This study should observe through

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1 seasons through time. This is after all how the
2 residents of these areas live.

3 I want a detailed environmental justice
4 analysis on the disproportionate impact upon
5 residents on the North Country. Coos and
6 Grafton Counties are the two poorest counties of
7 our state. This proposed project will make
8 millions for its investors, billions, excuse me,
9 for its investors but will devastate the
10 citizens' lives.

11 I also want the study to examine the unjust
12 methods in my opinion of the inherent lack of
13 adequate and timely notification of citizens
14 impacted by the project so that they know to
15 become involved and vocal in this project. From
16 the size of the towers to whether the rights of
17 way will be expanded into their yards. I know
18 that neighborhoods in this area don't know
19 because I've canvassed them, knocked on doors
20 and people with the power lines right behind
21 them didn't even know it would affect them. I
22 myself was not notified that Northern Pass was
23 coming across my property until January 5th when

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1 the deadline to become a Presidential Intervenor
2 was December 18th.

3 I would like the study to examine the
4 practices against a fair and democratic standard
5 so that we are not constantly as citizens behind
6 the curve, and, finally, I would like to say
7 that this project rests on the need for eminent
8 domain for success and yet Amendment 12 A of the
9 Constitution of the New Hampshire state says
10 that this project cannot use eminent domain
11 because it is not a public project. Please,
12 folks, watch your politicians. Who are
13 protecting our rights as citizens and who are
14 not and make sure they pay the price in the
15 polls.

16 COURT REPORTER: Can I ask if somebody has
17 written things that they leave them here?

18 MODERATOR: We have a request from the
19 court reporter, if you have a written statement
20 if they could leave it with her.

21 Next speaker is Raymond D'Amante. Up next,
22 Margaret Jones. After that, Christopher
23 Courchesne.

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1 Another thing. Hold on before you start.
2 I did a bad moderator thing. I do have signs.
3 I will give you, and I apologize, you did a
4 great job. I have signs I can give them to you
5 at two minute, one minute, 30 seconds and when
6 you're done, but for the most part, unless you
7 tell me otherwise, I'll be giving one minute, 30
8 seconds and done. Is that okay?

9 SPEAKER: Thank you. And I'd like to
10 welcome the people from the Department of Energy
11 to New Hampshire. It's a beautiful place and we
12 don't want to destroy it. First of all, my
13 comments will primarily be focusing on the
14 proposed alternate route through Chichester and
15 Pembroke across Plausawa Hill and Garvin Hill
16 although I would point out that on Saturday, at
17 the Town Meeting of Pembroke, the citizens of
18 Pembroke voted to oppose the overall Northern
19 Pass project so that needs to be taken into
20 consideration as well. And in respect to all of
21 these matters, this is what we're asking the
22 Department of Energy to consider to study in
23 their Impact Statement.

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1 First of all, there's been a lot said about
2 the tax benefits that every town is going to
3 realize and Northern Pass puts forth an estimate
4 of roughly 2 and a half million dollars a mile
5 as what will be the tax basis for their
6 improvements. I'd like to suggest that there's
7 a myth to this statement in that, first of all,
8 Northern Pass can ask for tax abatements and
9 thereby reduce their taxes.

10 However, in addition, the Department of
11 Energy should look at the impacts on all other
12 properties because not only will there be a
13 few poles and a few wires to tax but the
14 properties that are impacted. Those that are
15 taken for right-of-way will have the value of
16 their property diminished. That will be a
17 reduction in tax and property values. Adjacent
18 land will be impacted. The view tax, in
19 Chichester and Pembroke there's a significant
20 view tax, will be impacted so it is not simply a
21 two and a half million a mile benefit, and I
22 suggest that as you look at the properties being
23 impacted you'll realize that it's actually a

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1 negative impact on the various communities
2 involved. These factors will eliminate the tax
3 benefits.

4 Going over the hills of Plausawa and Garvin
5 Hill will impact a lot of culturally and
6 historically significant properties. I won't go
7 into the list now. We will be submitting
8 written comments that will give you detail
9 behind all of this. However, one of them is the
10 Humphrey Homestead and Gardens and in the
11 submission that I've given you at your desk, you
12 will find some pictures that demonstrate the
13 views that are involved. One minute left. The
14 views that are involved. And I'd ask you to
15 please take a look at those as well as the
16 properties in the gardens which bring us to the
17 viewshed.

18 This line if taken through that area will
19 impact the views substantially and reduce the
20 taxes collected by Chichester and Pembroke in
21 their view tax. There are conservation
22 easements across the face of Plausawa and Garvin
23 Hills and those conservation easements are there

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1 to protect that property. There's also
2 additional conservation easements under
3 consideration. Those are very important to take
4 into consideration. The layout of 150 foot wide
5 scar across Plausawa and Garvin Hill is going to
6 destroy the impact and effectiveness of these
7 conservation easements, not to mention the views
8 from them and the views of them. There are
9 Native American artifacts involved, including
10 the camp of Chief Plausawa right in the path of
11 the right-of-way.

12 I would ask Northern Pass to please listen
13 to the people of New Hampshire. People of New
14 Hampshire have a lot of to say here. Please
15 work with them. Hear their voices. The
16 Chichester and Pembroke route is the wrong place
17 to put this. Existing rights of way in Vermont
18 would be the answer to all of the north problems
19 and the problems in Concord, and I would ask for
20 you to bury the lines around Concord Airport
21 where necessary to obtain FAA clearance. If I
22 have a chance, I will make a few more comments
23 later. Thank you.

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1 MODERATOR: I'm going to institute an
2 on-deck circle so that we can keep things moving
3 as fast as we can. So the next speaker,
4 appreciate it if you'd come up, and that would
5 be Christopher Courchesne.

6 SPEAKER: People are part of the
7 environment. My name is Margaret Jones. In
8 North Stratford near the Canadian border my 125
9 acres of land, Civil War home built by one of
10 the original settlers, two turn of the century
11 sugar houses, hibernating bear with this
12 season's cubs, spring water that supplies my
13 neighbor's home with drinking water, clear pond
14 with spawning wild brook trout and maple trees
15 all have a red line through it on a map drawn by
16 Hydro Quebec. I am a real person with a family,
17 and my land and home are real things. There are
18 40 miles of people, home and businesses that
19 have been targeted by Hydro Quebec for seizure
20 by eminent domain. Another hundred miles of
21 real people, real homes and real businesses are
22 on maps showing their properties being likewise
23 destroyed by widening rights of ways and

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1 14-story towers.

2 I am a person and people are part of the
3 environment. I am afraid of losing my land and
4 home. My neighbors are afraid of the same.
5 Hydro Quebec is terrorizing us in the North
6 Country with numerous tactics, disrupting our
7 lives on a daily basis. Tonight I should be at
8 a concert in which my two boys are playing, but
9 I am here defending the land over which I have
10 stewardship and an apparently useless current
11 use plan.

12 Traveling to the State House in Concord to
13 fight Hydro Quebec means missing work. I cannot
14 sleep at night because the injustice of a
15 foreign country under the guise of Northern Pass
16 is being allowed to take United States land.
17 That sits heavily on my mind and on my
18 conscience.

19 On Tuesday, February 8th before speaking to
20 the Energy and Technology Committee, the gravity
21 of Northern Pass's proposed plan hit me hard and
22 fast. I vomited in the lobby restroom and then
23 went upstairs to speak. How many other people

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1 are even more afraid than I. Is there anyone in
2 this room tonight who is not afraid? Anyone who
3 slept well last night? Anyone who is not at a
4 loss for words to describe the terror?

5 We humans are part of the environment and
6 we are not happy. In 1971 Prime Minister Robert
7 Bourassa said, and I quote, "We must conquer
8 James Bay." Then Hydro Quebec displaced and
9 wiped out the entire Cree nation. Hydro Quebec
10 should not be allowed similarly to destroy a
11 substantial part of New Hampshire. Hydro Quebec
12 has no conscience and that is making us in the
13 North Country upset.

14 In September '84 Hydro Quebec released
15 waters that drowned and mutilated over 10,000
16 caribou. Bourassa called it primarily an act of
17 God. This arrogant attitude of identifying
18 Hydro Quebec's actions as God's actions persist
19 today in the manner in which Northern Pass has
20 approached the people of New Hampshire. On
21 Wednesday, March 9th, representatives of Hydro
22 Quebec told an audience in Representatives Hall
23 that our mothers would want us to relinquish our

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1 lands for the Northern Pass project for the good
2 of others. This was a lie. For whom is this
3 project good? Not the environment or people of
4 New Hampshire. Does anyone here have a mother
5 who has told them to give up his land to Quebec?
6 My mother always told me not to open the door
7 for strangers, to fight back against thieves and
8 bullies. Tell Hydro Quebec to stop flying
9 helicopters low over our homes and sugar houses,
10 to stop knocking on our front doors saying that
11 they're there to survey our lands for towers.
12 Let's tell Hydro Quebec to get out of New
13 Hampshire and stay out. Maybe then we can all
14 get a good night's sleep.

15 MODERATOR: Thank you, Margaret.
16 Christopher? On deck, Jane Difley?

17 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is
18 Christophe Courchesne, and I am a staff attorney
19 at the New Hampshire Office of the Conservation
20 Law Foundation. CLF is a member-supported
21 nonprofit organization that uses law, science
22 and markets to protect New England's
23 environment. We will submit written comments as

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1 part of the scoping process so my comments this
2 evening will be brief. I am grateful for the
3 opportunity to speak at this meeting. To date
4 CLF has had serious concerns about Department of
5 Energy's review of the Northern Pass project,
6 but we are encouraged by Department of Energy's
7 willingness to host 7 scoping meetings
8 throughout New Hampshire and by Northern Pass
9 Transmission, LLC's, withdrawal of its
10 consultant from preparation of the EIS. We hope
11 these documents mark a new beginning for this
12 permitting process.

13 CLF's message tonight is simple. DOE must
14 conduct a wide-ranging, independent and rigorous
15 review of the project as NEPA requires. This
16 project is one of the largest and most
17 significant in New Hampshire's history and DOE's
18 review of the project deserves every analytical
19 resource DOE has at its disposal. A world class
20 in-depth analysis is the only way that DOE's
21 decision on this project will reflect the hard
22 book of impacts and alternatives to the project
23 that the law mandates. It is critical that DOE

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1 engage in a detailed and scientifically sound
2 assessment of the many impacts of the project
3 since its effects on New Hampshire scenic
4 landscapes, forests, farms, wetlands, rivers,
5 wildlife and endangered species as well as on
6 historic and cultural resources. In addition,
7 DOE must fully assess the socioeconomic impacts
8 of the project, including on tourism, local
9 property valuation and recreational attractions
10 and its ramifications for New England's energy
11 future.

12 DOE needs to consider the cumulative impact
13 of the project when combined with existing and
14 future projects including renewable energy
15 projects in New Hampshire and its many indirect
16 impacts on the environment and the local, state
17 and regional economies. DOE must also evaluate
18 the environmental impacts of this project in
19 Canada including the effects of Hydro Quebec's
20 related plans to further expand its generating
21 capacity. Likewise, DOE must provide the net
22 greenhouse gas emissions of the project and the
23 electric power that will run through it. Only

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1 with these assessments can DOE and the public
2 judge the truth of the developer's claim that
3 this project will be a source of low carbon
4 clean energy and advance New Hampshire's Climate
5 Action Plan. At the same time DOE needs to
6 document and take into account the public's many
7 other concerns including the opposition to the
8 current proposal which is evidenced in this
9 room. It is vital that DOE conduct a robust
10 analysis and comparison of alternatives. That
11 comparison is the heart of DOE's review.

12 DOE must consider all reasonable
13 alternatives including burial of the
14 transmission lines in railroad rights of way or
15 otherwise and the use of the existing HVDC right
16 of way in Vermont. Above all, DOE's ultimate
17 decision should advance and not hinder an energy
18 future for New Hampshire and the region that
19 reduces global warming pollution, provides safe,
20 reliable power with minimal environmental and
21 socioeconomic impact and is supported by a
22 strong local clean energy economy.

23 Given these issues DOE should take whatever

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1 time it needs to study all the potential impacts
2 and alternatives and should not be limited by
3 the announced timeline. To ensure legitimate
4 public process, encouraging meaningful public
5 environment will be especially important. In
6 this spirit, CLF recommends that the period for
7 written comments on the scope of the EIS be
8 extended for an additional three weeks to May
9 3rd to solicit as much public input as possible.
10 In addition, CLF urges DOE to release a proposed
11 scope and outline for the EIS document for
12 public comment before preparing the entire Draft
13 EIS rather than publishing a simple summary of
14 these hearings as is apparently planned. Thank
15 you very much for your attention.

16 MODERATOR: Thank you, Christopher. Jane
17 Difley. On deck is Laura Bonk. Thank you.

18 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Jane
19 Difley, and I'm the President and Forester of
20 the Society of Protection of New Hampshire
21 Forests which is a statewide private nonprofit
22 membership organization that representing 10,000
23 member households, and we're really glad that

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1 the Department of Energy and the Army Corps of
2 Engineers and our friends at the Forest Service
3 are having these listening sessions, and we
4 thank you for being here to listen to all of us
5 this evening.

6 The Forest Society is a New Hampshire
7 landowner, and we have 171 reservations and 96
8 New Hampshire communities conserving 50,000
9 acres of working forests. In addition, we hold
10 more than 700 conservation easements and over
11 the past 110 years we have participated in
12 collaborative efforts that have created the
13 White Mountain National Forest as well as state
14 parks and state forests and protected privately
15 owned working forests.

16 As the state's oldest and largest land
17 trust, we have both a legal and an ethical
18 obligation to protect and steward the lands we
19 have helped to permanently protect from
20 disruptive and damaging development. We are
21 also committed to defending the broad scenic
22 landscapes we have spent 110 years protecting
23 including the White Mountain National Forest.

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1 In New Hampshire, our landscapes are a very
2 large part of our economy and our culture so a
3 new blight on our landscape is also a new injury
4 to our well-being.

5 We acknowledge that there are a host of
6 questions about this proposal that are today
7 unanswered. We hope your EIS will be broad in
8 scope and geography in order to answer those
9 questions. Given that the impact, the Northern
10 Pass proposal would have on 140 miles of New
11 Hampshire landscape we feel strongly that there
12 must be a determination of true public benefit
13 to New Hampshire citizens. If you find there is
14 no such clear public benefit we urge you to deny
15 the Presidential permit. We also urge you in
16 evaluating the ecological, economic and social
17 impacts of this proposal to envision and
18 rigorously analyze a broad range of
19 alternatives, among them the no action
20 alternative. As a nation we should adhere to
21 the tenet of medicine which is first do no harm.

22 We recommend that you require the creation
23 of the best visual impact analysis that current

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1 technology can provide. That you require a
2 rigorous economic and environmental analysis for
3 each alternative, for both of benefits and the
4 costs. That you collaborate with the State of
5 New Hampshire because your analysis will affect
6 the site evaluation commission. And we hope
7 that you will make this the best ever decision
8 that the Department of Energy has ever made.

9 There's been a suggestion that the
10 opposition, that the opposition to this project
11 as proposed is simply a NIMBY or not in my
12 backyard to a visual blight on ecological harm.
13 It's unfortunate that the proponents of the
14 Northern Pass did not consider 140 miles of the
15 New Hampshire landscape as part of their
16 backyard. We do. In fact, the Weeks Act was
17 signed 100 years ago this month to establish the
18 Eastern National Forest, in large part because
19 the nation recognized that our forested
20 landscape was its backyard and that protecting
21 our timber, water, wildlife and tourism resource
22 was paramount. We believe this is more true
23 today. Not less. Thank you.

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1 MODERATOR: Laura Bonk.

2 SPEAKER: I am the least polished speaker
3 here even though I registered on time. My name
4 is Laura Bonk, P.O. Box 194, Suncook, New
5 Hampshire. First of all, I believe in
6 electricity. I lived for two years in South
7 America without it. It's not fun to wash your
8 clothes by hand and it's not fun to haul water
9 up a 40 foot well so I do appreciate that we
10 have the lights on. However, I urge the DOE to
11 include in their Environmental Impact Statement
12 a rigorous analysis of all the impacts;
13 electric, ecological, economic and social and
14 perhaps you just heard that from the previous
15 speaker.

16 I own 120 acres in Allenstown, New
17 Hampshire. I bought that with my own money in
18 1997, and I saved all my pennies to get it. I
19 lived in a small mobile home in Allenstown for 6
20 years before I had enough money to begin
21 building the house. That land holds tremendous,
22 tremendous value to me. My land is open to
23 everyone. Hunters, hikers, horses, snowmobiles

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1 and I even allow the occasional ATV rider with
2 my written permission.

3 The preferred alternative on this project
4 will pass through my land. It will decimate a
5 small grove of pitch pines. It will decimate a
6 stone wall from the 1930s and a south-facing
7 slope. This slope provides critical habitat to
8 numerous species including the endangered timber
9 rattlesnake.

10 Currently, those of us in Pembroke,
11 Allenstown, Deerfield and other area towns live
12 within a few miles of a 500 megawatt coal
13 burning power plant. Northeast Utilities and
14 their subsidiary, Public Service of New
15 Hampshire, have no intention to decommission
16 this power plant. I have a master of science
17 degree in environmental engineering from MIT and
18 five years' experience working as an
19 environmental engineer at a power plant. I
20 fully understand the environmental degradation
21 of a fossil fuel power plant. I lived it every
22 day in my professional life.

23 Our ponds here in Allenstown's surrounding

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1 communities are full of mercury from Merrimack
2 Station in Bow. This 500 megawatt plant is
3 going to keep operating even after they build
4 the Northern Pass project. They are not
5 proposing to decommission it or convert it to
6 natural gas. Our local environment will
7 continue to suffer and we will continue to
8 suffer as residents of this area. Furthermore,
9 our neighbors in Nova Scotia, takes about 200
10 miles to get smog, will still breathe the smog
11 created by the nitrous oxide that Merrimack
12 Station emits. Acid rain will still fall and
13 the sulfur oxides that Merrimack Station emits.

14 The current proposal offers no long-term
15 benefits to our local community. I urge the DOE
16 to consider the economic impact of choosing the
17 no action alternative. Thank you.

18 MODERATOR: Another moderator mistake. I
19 did not call Zachary Boyajian to the on deck
20 circle. Linda Haggett is invited to the on deck
21 circle. Thank you, Zachary.

22 SPEAKER: Zachary Boyajian. I live at 109
23 Bear Hill Road in Chichester. I'm one of the

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1 potential impacted property owners along the
2 alternative route. I moved to Chichester, New
3 Hampshire, because it was a rural community with
4 farmer's fields and forests that I could wander
5 through and my kids could grow up in. I really
6 would like to see good evaluation of those
7 impacts to the individual people that are along
8 this route, to look at their property values,
9 how they're going to be affected over the
10 long-term. Not that there's some balance
11 between taxes and what people and the values of
12 their property but what happens when you take a
13 property that someone's purchased and maybe is
14 having a lifetime investment or in some cases
15 maybe even generational long investments in
16 their property.

17 In looking at the Notice of Intent that you
18 put out, there seemed to be little bit of
19 misinformation in terms of the proposed routes,
20 specifically those through Concord and the
21 alternate routes in Pembroke and Chichester that
22 would result from the route in Concord not being
23 used. So I certainly would hope that you look

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1 at all proposed and alternative routes that are
2 available, not only here in New Hampshire but
3 other locations as well that could provide the
4 power if that's really necessary. I think you
5 also do need to address what is really the
6 purpose and need of this project. Are you
7 providing a service to those people in New
8 Hampshire, those people most affected, or is
9 this for somebody else. Is this really needed?
10 Is there another way of getting the kind of
11 electricity that we need to have the kind of
12 lifestyle we have. I do also think you should
13 evaluate the indirect and cumulative effects of
14 providing this power to the citizens of New
15 Hampshire and the other people that it's going
16 to serve. The impacts in Canada, impacts all
17 along the route from place to place.

18 Again, please take your time in evaluating
19 the project and make sure that you recognize all
20 the impacts and that the project is well
21 evaluated. Thank you.

22 MODERATOR: Next speaker, Linda Haggett.
23 On deck Katie Rose.

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1 SPEAKER: My name is Linda Haggett. I live
2 at 722 Cross Country Road in Pembroke. I'm a
3 mother of 6, a grandmother of 13, and, of
4 course, my thoughts go to my grandkids and my
5 kids. Nobody has talked about the EMF fields
6 and what effect they have on everybody's health.
7 If you check out on the internet as far as
8 England, Sweden, Australia who have a lot more
9 of these high megawatt power lines than we do
10 you'd find out that there's a lot of health
11 risks involved with these power lines and it's
12 not only to humans, it's to animals, but I tend
13 to worry about my kids too much, I guess.

14 The Haggetts have lived in the same place
15 for over 175 years. It's been a true tradition,
16 we passed the property down from generation to
17 generation, and to think that we're going to
18 pass down something that could be a health risk
19 to our grandkids, after 6 or 7 generations of
20 carrying on this tradition, having it shattered
21 by the Northern Pass is not something that makes
22 it easy to sleep at night. So I wish you'd
23 really take into consideration what you're doing

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1 to people's lives and to generations to come if
2 these power lines are allowed to come through.
3 Thank you.

4 MODERATOR: Katie Rose in the audience
5 tonight? Going once, twice. Stephanie
6 D'Agostino. You are up next. On deck Christine
7 Schadler.

8 SPEAKER: Thank you for the opportunity to
9 provide comments on the Northern Pass
10 transmission line project. My name is Stephanie
11 D'Agostino. I'm a resident of Concord, New
12 Hampshire, and also a property owner in West
13 Stewartstown, New Hampshire. I'm also an
14 environmental professional with nearly 30 years
15 of experience so I'm no stranger to
16 controversial projects such as this.

17 I'm strongly opposed to the Northern Pass
18 project as it's currently structured. In
19 particular I'm concerned with the proposal to
20 construct an entirely new right-of-way through
21 much of Coos County. Such a right-of-way would
22 negatively impact not only private property but
23 many conservation lands that have been largely

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1 funded with taxpayer dollars. Based on the
2 available information I believe that the
3 potential impacts of the Northern Pass project
4 far outweigh any of the stated benefits.
5 Habitat destruction, water quality, wetland
6 impact and visual impacts from tree removal and
7 scarring of the landscape are just a few of the
8 negative results that will be delivered by this
9 project in the name of green energy.

10 I'm also gravely concerned about the
11 socioeconomic impacts of the project. The North
12 Country depends on tourism and the revenue that
13 its generates. As the owner of a small cabin in
14 West Stewartstown, I can definitively say that
15 if this proposal had been made public while I
16 was searching for property I would not have even
17 considered purchasing property in the area.
18 This project will lower property values and
19 further depress an already floundering real
20 estate market. Owners of vacation properties
21 and other visitors provide a needed boost to the
22 local northern economy. We travel to the area
23 frequently and are currently renovating our

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1 cabin. We're doing so with hired local
2 contractors, purchased products made from
3 sustainably harvested, locally grown and milled
4 timber. We also patronize many of the other
5 local businesses in the area. There are many
6 others like us who come to New Hampshire's great
7 North Woods for its fields, forests, wildlife
8 and scenic beauty which does not include high
9 voltage transmission lines.

10 I'm not convinced that the applicants have
11 demonstrated a true need for this project, that
12 they have adequately considered alternatives to
13 the proposed route nor have they tried to
14 minimize the projected impacts. I urge the
15 Department of Energy to conduct a thorough,
16 objective analysis of the project and all the
17 available routing alternatives including use of
18 the existing transmission corridor in Vermont
19 and/or burying or submerging the line. We want
20 to continue to see trees and farm fields in our
21 North Country unblemished by towers and
22 transmission lines. Thank you very much.

23 MODERATOR: Next speaker is Christine

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1 Schadler. Next on deck David Nesbitt.

2 SPEAKER: My name is Chris Schadler and I
3 am a conservation biologist from Strafford, New
4 Hampshire, and I also am a landowner in the
5 North Woods. While I oppose this project for
6 many social and economic reasons, tonight I will
7 address some of my environmental concerns.
8 Large scale dam projects are not green and
9 particularly Hydro Quebec associated projects.
10 Sustainability and low impacts are fundamental
11 to the principles of green power. Hydro Quebec
12 has dammed every major river in Quebec, flooded
13 tens of thousands of acres of boreal forest,
14 some before it was even cleared, altered the
15 land and thus the lives of Canada's native
16 people. Methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, and
17 methyl mercury, a neurotoxin, are released in
18 large amounts when vegetated land is flooded and
19 native people eating fish from Hydro Quebec
20 reservoirs are now suffering from the effects of
21 methyl mercury poisoning. New Hampshire does
22 not need to abet the misfortune of Canada's
23 native population.

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1 Power lines become corridors for invasive
2 species. The one that I chose to bring up here
3 is Japanese knotweed, but there are many
4 invasive species. Japanese knotweed, once it
5 has taken root, is nearly impossible to
6 eradicate. It's aggressive, it's capable of
7 crowding out all other vegetation. It's listed
8 as a noxious weed that can create a fire hazard
9 in the winter. It will outcompete native plants
10 for resources and degrade habitat for native
11 animals reducing biodiversity. It is a concern
12 of mine as a livestock owner and we bought a
13 property in Strafford that was infested with
14 knotweed, and we will continue battling it for
15 as long as we're there, I'm sure. Opening a
16 major migratory corridor for this and other
17 invasive species to travel will hurt not just
18 native plants and animals, it will also hurt
19 farmers along the right-of-way whose fields will
20 become inundated with this otherwise useless
21 ornamental.

22 I believe that cutting this transmission
23 line through our state is wasteful and abusive

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1 of our natural resources. It is unnecessary for
2 a state that exports energy, and an insult to
3 New Hampshire residents who love our history,
4 love our wildlands and love our freedom to an
5 untrammelled North Country. Thank you.

6 MODERATOR: Next speaker David Nesbitt.
7 Next on deck, Julie Moran.

8 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is David
9 Nesbitt, and I am a history teacher from Alvirne
10 High School in Hudson, New Hampshire. From 1995
11 until 2000 I served as the Cross Country Ski
12 Director and Trailmaster at the Balsams Grand
13 Resort Hotel in Dixville Notch. During my
14 tenure there, I was able to see the impact of
15 the natural and manmade environments on the area
16 we refer to as the Great North Woods. Simply
17 stated, the current state of the environment is
18 a throwback to the 19th century when almost 80
19 percent of the state was cleared for commercial
20 logging and agricultural activities.

21 Up until very recently these activities
22 were still mainstays of a local economy but
23 various factors have reduced them to a shadow of

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1 their former influence. This has had a negative
2 effect on the local economy, leaving only
3 tourism as a viable economic force. In my
4 tenure at the Balsams I have taken many people
5 to the Panorama Golf Course and surrounding
6 lookouts. The sense of wonder and awe that
7 strikes people seeing this landscape, so very
8 different from their own urbanized world, is
9 remarkable. This area is one of the few places
10 that allows people to see into the past. It is
11 a very significant factor in bringing people to
12 a North Country to vacation, recreate and to
13 leave the daily tensions of the urbanized world
14 behind.

15 The view of the past surviving into the
16 present is very much endangered by the proposed
17 utility towers and lines proposed by the
18 Northern Pass project. Why should people drive
19 for hours beyond the notches to relax, hike,
20 cycle, snowmobile and enjoy a historical
21 perspective when it is seriously obstructed by
22 130 foot towers? This is the very thing they
23 are here to escape from.

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1 It is my considered opinion as both the
2 historian and veteran of the outdoor recreation
3 industry that the proposed project will destroy
4 a very unique environment that supports the
5 local economy and a singular irreplaceable
6 resource for the State of New Hampshire. There
7 are viable alternatives to bring power into the
8 region including burying the line as was done
9 with the gas line project ten years ago or to
10 utilize existing rights of way that do not
11 impact this unique cultural and environmental
12 resource. The region has taken a serious
13 economic hit with the loss of lumbering and
14 manufacturing jobs in the past decade. Allowing
15 this project to continue will sink the last
16 viable alternative to the people of this region.
17 I strongly recommend utilizing an alternative
18 that will allow the people of this region to
19 make a living and share the remarkable resource
20 with the rest of the world. Thank you.

21 MODERATOR: Next up, Julie Moran. On deck,
22 Kathy Shigo.

23 SPEAKER: I'm Julie Moran from Colebrook

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1 from the Concerned Citizens. My first concern,
2 I have three. The first one is that incomplete
3 information will invalidate the data and
4 invalidate the Due Process that we deserve. In
5 order for these public hearings to have
6 validity, the Northern Pass should have publicly
7 identified its possible routes. All 500 of
8 them. They have not done so. Neither has it
9 notified those along the possible routes prior
10 to the DOE's scoping meetings. Today we parked
11 right next to some people who are in from
12 Deerfield and had no idea that this was
13 happening. And most of you didn't. That's why
14 I came down to support you because we found out
15 first.

16 Without all the possible route information
17 environmental impact cannot be determined
18 adequately and those who may have information
19 necessary for the EIS may not know that their
20 information is needed. As far as the public is
21 concerned, Due Process for the Presidential
22 permitting for the Northern Pass has been shoddy
23 at best and has been hastily administered. The

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1 Northern Pass has been allowed to hide or
2 neglect important and serious environmental and
3 economic impacts for New Hampshire while it
4 marches through the permitting process that's
5 intended to project us, the public, from its
6 speculative development of a transmission line
7 that will permanently and irreversibly harm New
8 Hampshire's economy and environment.

9 My question to the DOE is how can the
10 environmental impact be determined before all
11 the possible routes are publicly revealed, and
12 my request is that in the best interest of all
13 involved, the Department of Energy should
14 require that Northern Pass immediately publicly
15 release all possible routes so that the
16 environmental impact can be adequately
17 addressed.

18 My second issue is this foreign power does
19 not appear to meet President Obama's call for
20 the U.S. domestic development of renewable power
21 that creates U.S. jobs. Permanent U.S. jobs.
22 In fact, this project has already begun to cause
23 significant questions about whether 880

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1 permanent New Hampshire renewable jobs are going
2 to be lost. I submitted something to you to
3 attest to that. So will the DOE investigate
4 whether or not President Obama intended that
5 foreign power replace and displace a development
6 of domestic renewable energy production, and
7 when they answer this question, will the
8 intervenors be notified. Thank you.

9 My last thing is that the people who stand
10 to lose the most in this, those of us who are in
11 harm's way, should have the most influence on
12 the outcome. All statements are considered
13 equal. However, I contest that the
14 considerations and comments concerning those who
15 are in the swath of this proposed line or any of
16 its 500 alternatives should count far more than
17 the comments of those living in places that will
18 have nothing to lose if this line goes through.
19 Thank you.

20 MODERATOR: Thank you. Next speaker, Kathy
21 Shigo. On deck, Peter Menard.

22 SPEAKER: Thank you for this opportunity.
23 My name is Kathy Shigo, and I'm a resident of

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1 Deerfield and live on a beautiful scenic road,
2 Kate Road, for the last 37 years. My husband
3 and I have 32 acres of open space, beautiful
4 woods and a beautiful hay field facing west with
5 beautiful sunsets, and we also have power lines.
6 And since the power lines have been up though on
7 this property we have had trees that were able
8 to grow because of the height of the power lines
9 so we were able to put trees around it and it
10 hasn't been a problem so far.

11 The substation, though, however, of PSNH is
12 also on Kate Road and it's a very small scenic
13 road and it is in the back and really hasn't
14 been a problem. They've been there since the
15 early '70s. And what I'm trying to do is share
16 a testimony because what happened to us could
17 happen to everyone here. And what happened is
18 that that substation of PSNH has been there
19 without a problem until last year when they came
20 before the Selectmen and residents and said that
21 they were going to bring a transformer up there,
22 and they did and we saw it come through very
23 slowly. You read it in the paper. Ten miles an

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1 hour, all the way up 101 and our Road Agent and
2 Police got involved and got it all there and we
3 had asked them at that point to the Selectmen's
4 meeting, we said is this going to change our
5 property values, is this going to do anything.
6 No, no, no, you might just see a small hum in
7 the wires and that would be it, and -- but they
8 already had the right-of-way for the power
9 station and so that was something that we
10 weren't really considering any big change.

11 However, what happened after that was that
12 this last summer after they got it in, we have
13 had nothing but constructions, we have had
14 cement trucks, we have had traffic galore and
15 I'm talking about a back in the sticks
16 woods-type road. We have had huge 18 foot
17 wheelers. We have had huge 350 foot wire pole
18 put up, and we have had lights all over the
19 place. So we've also had vandalism and the
20 police have come and in fact this week the
21 Deerfield police are meeting with PSNH to
22 discuss about that. I mean, we never had
23 vandalism.

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1 So we're just actually personally feeling
2 this, where you might be feeling one of these
3 days, too, we're actually seeing this at the
4 base where this Deerfield substation is.

5 My bottom line is that this was deceiving
6 to us because we were never told that this was
7 going to be eventually be the beginning of the
8 Northern Pass. I mean, this is it. So the
9 other thing I want to tell you about because the
10 deception was very, very, very evident and we
11 are very upset about it. The residents have
12 gone down to the Selectmen and wanted to have
13 more meetings and stuff like that because it's
14 changed our way of life with traffic, lights,
15 vandalisms.

16 The other thing I want to tell you about is
17 greed because the Northern Pass is not about
18 green. It's about greed. And there has been
19 several -- it is. You know, it's a no winner.
20 And the thing I want to let you know is that
21 greed is because the so-called 25% green gold
22 touted by our New England governors is a link
23 arm with the sway feel-good issue. No one can

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1 reconcile putting all these towns in jeopardy,
2 all these towns and all these people. My heart
3 bleeds for that girl on the North Country and
4 she can't sleep at night because she's so
5 worried about this. I mean, it's awful for this
6 feel-good issue and I feel that they definitely
7 need to understand that this project of greed is
8 something and deceit cannot be good. When you
9 have a project starting with those two words,
10 nothing could come good of this. And I just
11 want to let you know two quick things is that
12 the Public Service is going to not get, they say
13 they're not going to have any profit on this but
14 they are going to have profit, and they're going
15 to also have a huge profit, and it's going to
16 scar our whole state. And I feel that we should
17 not have to pay so terrible of a price for being
18 in the way. Thank you so much.

19 MODERATOR: Thank you, Kathy. Next
20 speaker. Peter Menard. On deck, David Bowles.

21 SPEAKER: I live about a half a mile from
22 Kathy on Nottingham Road. Do you have the
23 Deerfield map? The pink area to the left is 229

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1 acres of conservation land that I'm speaking
2 for. The other pink area is with Melinda
3 Getties, and the main point I want to make,
4 however, is adjacent piece, here's a diagram,
5 here's the power line. Nottingham Road.
6 Kathy's down here. There's an ice pond there.
7 In 1954 my grandparents negotiated with PSNH to
8 put a barrier, visual and 15-foot tree barrier
9 to protect that ice pond. Subsequently they
10 built a cabin, and we've enjoyed that. That was
11 when the power line was 100 foot right-of-way.
12 They later on expanded it. PSNH in 2002 was
13 quite perplexed that my grandparents had
14 extracted this from PSNH, but they maintained
15 it, they planted trees when they expanded. If
16 this expansion goes, I believe it will go right
17 over the ice pond and possibly over the cabin.

18 My question for the scoping committee is
19 can they consider that the PSNH's agreement with
20 my grandparents, can that be overridden by
21 Northern Pass. If we do not allow Northern Pass
22 subcontractors, how will that affect the
23 process. I don't know how we'll get the answer

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1 to that, but Coler and Colantonio have showed up
2 at our doors, met with some of us, and said that
3 they are representing somebody. We asked if
4 they were Normandeau. They don't indicate they
5 are. They don't have business cards. Maybe
6 they do now. I don't know. It's a bit
7 disconcerting. We don't know who they are.

8 In the interest of fairness I will say that
9 I was under the impression the power line was
10 direct current from Franklin to Deerfield. I
11 learned tonight it's alternating current. High
12 school physics would allow the possibility we
13 might get a benefit that if the wire goes over
14 it might induce a current in the cabin wiring.
15 We might get the electricity. Lord knows. The
16 voltage could be 110, could be 3000. We'd have
17 to get European appliances. We will forgo that.
18 We ask the Scoping Committee to consider these.
19 And we also have yellow spotted turtles. We
20 have visual evidence. I'm sorry. I forgot.
21 Thank you.

22 MODERATOR: Next up is David Bowles. On
23 deck Robert Mann.

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1 SPEAKER: I'm Dave Bowles, northeast of
2 Tamworth but we also own property in North
3 Pembroke. Youngest daughter, family owns some
4 land in Stewartstown so there's two quick
5 things. One is that I hate to see new
6 transmission lines put through unbroken
7 territory, so to speak, like on the north and
8 east side of South Hill area up there in
9 Colebrook. Stewartstown. And then the other
10 thing is, I question the really need for this
11 whole thing and this is something that Northeast
12 Utilities, Public Service and everybody in this
13 room can do and if everybody, I say if everybody
14 changed their light bulbs to efficient light
15 bulbs, if you shut the lights off when you
16 aren't using them, go from one room to the
17 other. Also if you pull the plugs on these
18 stupid little transformers, you think they don't
19 amount to anything for charging all these little
20 fancy electronic things that I don't even like
21 and don't use, it may seem minor, but I've been
22 doing this for several years. It does make a
23 difference. And if everybody did this, I don't

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1 think there would be any need for this thing to
2 begin with. Thank you.

3 MODERATOR: Next speaker, Robert Mann. On
4 deck, Richard Samson.

5 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Robert
6 Mann. I'm chairman of the Chichester
7 Conservation Commission and I've been an
8 environmental professional for over 40 years.
9 This letter, my testimony has to do with
10 possible Northern Pass routes in Chichester. At
11 a meeting on March 1st with the presentation by
12 the Northern Pass representatives we understood
13 that the current project goal is to construct
14 all facilities in the area of the Concord
15 Airport within existing rights of way. Desired
16 route does not fall within Chichester
17 boundaries. However, mapping of Chichester
18 dated February 28th shows a preliminary
19 preferred route and two preliminary alternative
20 routes within our borders. It appears that
21 deviation from the designed route for whatever
22 reason and subsequent utilization of any of
23 these possible other routes could have

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1 substantial effects on the citizens and natural
2 resources within the town of Chichester.

3 The Chichester Conservation Commission is
4 an appointed body of the town of Chichester
5 established under New Hampshire statutes. The
6 statute charges Conservation Commissions with
7 proper utilization of and project of natural
8 resources within the town. To that end the town
9 in 2003 hired the Society for Protection of New
10 Hampshire Forests to prepare a natural resources
11 inventory. Consistent with the recommendations
12 of the NRI, the town also completed with the I
13 assistance of a consultant a high value wetlands
14 study covering 35 wetlands exceeding two acres
15 in area. Both of these documents can be on
16 obtained on the Chichester website.

17 We direct your attention to the preliminary
18 preferred route and two preliminary alternative
19 routes shown on Chichester route mapping dated
20 February 28th. The preferred route and the more
21 northerly of the two preliminary alternative
22 routes each transects unfragmented blocks
23 exceeding 1000 acres. Lynxfield Pond block is

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1 the largest block existing entirely within the
2 town boundaries. These blocks are prized in
3 that they provide important habitat to a variety
4 of species ranging from large mammals to forest,
5 interior birds such as warblers and thrushes.
6 The NRI further recommends both of these areas
7 for concentration of the town's future efforts
8 to preserve open space. Construction of the
9 north Northern Pass facilities within these
10 unfragmented blocks would be contrary to the
11 town's open space conservation goals.

12 Also affected by the more northerly of the
13 preliminary alternate routes are two large
14 wetland and highly valued wetland areas
15 identified in the high value wetlands study.
16 These are of extreme value to the town.
17 Preservation of these wetlands and the
18 unfragmented upland buffers should be given the
19 highest priority for protection. Thank you very
20 much for the opportunity to comment this
21 evening.

22 MODERATOR: Thank you, Robert. Next up
23 Richard Samson. On deck, David Dobbins.

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1 SPEAKER: My name is Richard Samson. I'm
2 from the town of Stewartstown, New Hampshire,
3 and this line does not directly impact me, but
4 it will indirectly impact me. The town of
5 Stewartstown voted unanimously at town meeting
6 to oppose the Northern Pass project in its
7 entirety. Why has Northern Pass not produced
8 the exact route and alternate routes and towns
9 in this proposed project. ISO I believe has
10 asked for this extra capacity. Public Service
11 Company of New Hampshire and Northeast Utilities
12 by their own admission have said that the
13 current need for electricity is not there. It
14 is environmental injustice to the entire State
15 of New Hampshire and the North Country.

16 What Hydro Quebec has done to the land of
17 Quebec would not be allowed in New Hampshire and
18 in the United States of America. Not only is it
19 illegal here but it would be totally criminal.
20 Northern Pass and Public Service Company of New
21 Hampshire are lobbying our own present
22 legislators to pass and introduce bills that
23 would allow Hydro Quebec to become green and

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1 renewable.

2 I have a letter that I would like entered
3 into the record at this time. My wife has made
4 a sign that we have put on our property in
5 Stewartstown and what it says is New Hampshire
6 does not need, New Hampshire does not want so
7 why Northern Pass. Someone else's greed.

8 Dear Mr. Mills. For the written record, I
9 would respectfully object to these Environmental
10 Impact Statements Scoping Meetings for the
11 following reasons. The Department of Energy
12 does not and has not provided a contractor to
13 monitor and participate in these hearings. The
14 Northern Pass project has not made public and
15 refuses to identify the proposed routes for this
16 project. The Department of Energy in
17 corporation with the Northern Pass has this
18 project on a fast track for approval. I request
19 that I be allowed the final question or comment
20 at the end of this hearing.

21 I respectfully share these figures with the
22 audience here tonight and mean no disrespect to
23 the Department of Energy. Their 2009 statistics

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1 say that they have 19,000 employees, 91,000
2 contractors, and the proposed budget for 2011 is
3 26.4 billion dollars, yet our country is not one
4 gallon of gas, one barrel of oil or one kilowatt
5 of electricity independent. Thank you.

6 MODERATOR: Thank you. Next up David
7 Dobbins. On deck Steven Boyson. And that is
8 Steven Boyson.

9 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is David
10 Dobbins and I live in Gilford, New Hampshire.
11 Our town is not on any of the proposed primary
12 or proposed alternate routes for the Northern
13 Pass project, and before I go on to my statement
14 just for the record, my mom doesn't want this
15 project either.

16 I'm here in opposition to this project as a
17 resident of this state that thinks this project
18 is a bad deal for the state of New Hampshire. I
19 also think that this project is a poor direction
20 for our nation to move towards as we continue to
21 consider how imperative it is that the United
22 States develops an energy policy that gives us
23 energy independence which is essential to both

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1 our national security and our national economy.
2 This project is a bad deal for the state of New
3 Hampshire on so many fronts. Actually, on about
4 every front that you could possibly imagine.
5 But the basic ones would include economic,
6 environmental, cultural, visual resources and
7 public health and safety. If allowed to be
8 constructed, the project would cause
9 irreversible damage to the very character and
10 essence of the natural splendor of New Hampshire
11 that is enjoyed by some other of its citizens
12 and also entices so many people from around New
13 England and our nation to come and enjoy. The
14 project, if allowed to be constructed, would
15 leave an ugly and perpetual scar through the
16 center of our state and destroy dozens of small
17 quaint communities all along its path. Hundreds
18 and more likely thousands of property owners,
19 both residential and commercial, along the 180
20 miles of the proposed transmission line project
21 would see their property values plummet and
22 their ways of life altered forever.

23 But for all that damage and destruction our

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1 state character, property values and way of life
2 the most reprehensible and unforgivable aspect
3 of this bad deal is this. The power to be
4 delivered through this proposed transmission
5 line is not needed in New Hampshire. Why would
6 we do such a thing. Can anyone think of any
7 reasons at all? The power that would come
8 through these proposed transmission lines was
9 never intended for New Hampshire. Now or in the
10 future. It never was. Instead New Hampshire is
11 just being used by powerful out of state
12 corporations and a foreign government-owned
13 corporate partner to get foreign-generated
14 electricity to the New England power grid for
15 use by other states. Oh, and it just so happens
16 that this project is going to bring significant
17 investment returns and profits to the project
18 developers.

19 For these reasons, I submit the project
20 lacks merit when viewing its real purpose,
21 compared to its real destructive effects on our
22 state and I urge you, the DOE to deny the
23 Presidential permit. Thank you.

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1 MODERATOR: Next up is Steven Boyson. On
2 deck, Paul Conboy.

3 SPEAKER: Steven Boyson. Hi. I'm going to
4 be nervous so please bear with me. My address
5 is 23 Kate Road. The substation is 27 Kate
6 Road. This is within a couple hundred yards of
7 my house, directly affecting my family. We
8 built our house the best way that we could. We
9 moved from Manchester and we built it as green
10 as possible. Renewable bamboo floors, renewable
11 energy, geothermal. We have an energy efficient
12 house. We built it once and we built it right,
13 and if they're allowed to take our home for this
14 project, we will not be able to afford to build
15 another house to our standards. I'm an Iraq War
16 veteran. My wife was on the Coast Guard ship in
17 control of New York harbor on 9/11. I ask the
18 board to please have a good reason when you drag
19 an extension cord down from Canada to ask us to
20 leave our homes. I feel as though my wife and I
21 have earned the right to live there. We pay our
22 bills, we pay our taxes. This is not something
23 that we want in our house. It's not something

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1 we think we deserve nor do the people in New
2 Hampshire deserve. I have a two year old,
3 beautiful two-year-old little girl who I don't
4 want to have any issues growing up living under
5 these high voltage powers lines. I can't look
6 at her straight in the face knowing that we
7 can't move, knowing I'm placing her in harm's
8 way just so we can have some low carbon, energy
9 efficient, high tension lines over my house that
10 aren't going to benefit me in any way
11 whatsoever. So thank you for your time.

12 SPEAKER: Paul Conboy? In the audience?
13 Paul? Going once. Going twice. Off the list.
14 This puts us at number 20. We are less than
15 halfway through. But I promised Cynthia, the
16 stenographer, a break. We're going to take a
17 5-minute break. Is that good for you. Five
18 minutes.

19 RECESS TAKEN

20 MODERATOR: Robert Strobel. On deck, Kevin
21 Verville.

22 SPEAKER: My name is Bob Strobel. I'm
23 Chair of the town of Northwood's Planning Board

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1 and speaking for the Planning Board and they
2 have authorized me to speak tonight. Couple
3 points. I'll take off that professional or
4 elected hat first. On your website when you
5 first posted the maps I was a bit intrigued that
6 Northwood was left off the website map even
7 though the alternate route goes through a
8 significant portion of our town. I hope that's
9 soon to be corrected.

10 Questions I have for the EIS, the existing
11 right-of-way. Significant portion goes through
12 Northwood. I'd like to find out the impact of
13 upgrading the right-of-way width on specifically
14 the wildlife traffic patterns, traveling
15 patterns. Essentially you're going from an
16 existing 1 foot right of way to significantly
17 more than that. Patterns include, you're
18 essentially changing from woodland travel to an
19 open field. The location of the alternate
20 routes cross, borders two of our conservation
21 overlay zones. One in the west, it's on the
22 southern bounds of that, and more distressingly
23 it bisects the conservation overlay zone that we

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1 have in the southeast that includes most of
2 Saddleback Mountain, essentially, if you're
3 looking at a map of Northwood where the
4 alternate route goes from east southeast to due
5 south. In those conservation zones we only
6 allow residential development.

7 I applaud the use of the Granite GIS for
8 developing your maps. I would encourage you to
9 take a look at the Natural Services Network GIS
10 layer that is there. In specific it contains
11 species habitat locations within the map and you
12 can use those to determine some more information
13 on the EIS. Specifically, on that layer the
14 wildlife crossings, the unfragmented lands. I'd
15 like the EIS to include the total number of
16 acres lost not just for the right-of-way but
17 subtracting out the entire fragmented zone or
18 fragmented acres. And reminder that Granite
19 does not include all of the GIS information in
20 that you need to talk to the Regional Planning
21 Commissions for that. Thank you.

22 SPEAKER: Thank you, Robert. Next speaker,
23 Kevin Verville. Next on deck Joan Hazlett.

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1 SPEAKER: My name is Kevin Verville, and I
2 live in Deerfield, New Hampshire, and while this
3 proposed line doesn't directly affect me and my
4 family, it gives us a grave concern. I don't
5 have written comments, but we certainly have
6 some concerns, and one of the greatest is the
7 use of eminent domain to take people's private
8 property for a private corporation's project.
9 In New Hampshire we stand against that. Private
10 property is what this country was founded on and
11 stealing it for a private venture because that's
12 what eminent domain for these people is going to
13 be. Stealing their property for a private
14 venture is not the New Hampshire tradition.

15 Then we have to think about where the
16 energy's coming from. It's coming from Canada,
17 and I don't care who you voted for, who your
18 President is or who you want him to be, one of
19 the policies that we all agree on is that the
20 United States needs to become energy
21 independent. Importing electricity from a
22 foreign country, although a good and peaceful
23 neighbor that we have good relations with, does

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1 not move us towards energy independence. I
2 would ask what the economic impact of the small
3 towns is. I live in a small town. I moved
4 there for its rural nature, and we want to know
5 what's the economic impact to us. It's reduced
6 property values, it's going to be reduced home
7 sales, it's going to be a lack of desirability
8 for our community to grow. We don't have
9 business. Our primary business is our home
10 businesses. We don't have a business tax base
11 to fall on when our property values decline. So
12 that's very, very important to us.

13 The other thing I would like to say is that
14 the maps -- I've only seen a few maps. Society
15 for Protection of New Hampshire Forests was nice
16 enough to give me this map in the mail, and
17 you'll note that in Canada it runs through an
18 entirely existing line of which goes through
19 Vermont and down slightly west of their proposed
20 line in New Hampshire. Why aren't we following
21 that path or the one that exists in Vermont.
22 Why are we adding into this new path. It
23 doesn't make sense to me that we're not using

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1 what's already there.

2 I would really ask you to look very, very
3 careful at the impact this is going to have on
4 small towns. I'm a member of the Deerfield open
5 space committee, and we worked very, very hard
6 to guarantee open space in the town of
7 Deerfield, and we want to maintain that. I
8 would ask that you get in contact with the New
9 Hampshire Department of Resources & Economic
10 Development as well as Fish & Game to look at
11 wildlife corridors that are existing and what
12 impact cutting this type of swath through my
13 town and all these other towns is going to have.
14 Thank you.

15 MODERATOR: Thank you. Next speaker, Joan
16 Hazlett. Next on deck, Richard Moore.

17 SPEAKER: Hello, my name is Joan Hazlett
18 and I came here tonight -- I only was aware of
19 this meeting yesterday. And I just came with
20 questions, and I do not know if there's anybody
21 here to answer my questions about eminent domain
22 and right-of-way processes for obtaining rights
23 of way. Is there anybody available or can I

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1 just read these questions out and just sit down?

2 MR. MLLLS: Read them. Go ahead.

3 SPEAKER: Who will be obtaining the
4 right-of-way? Who will be owning the
5 right-of-way? Will there be another agency who
6 obtains it and then another agency owns it.
7 Will eminent domain be used? If eminent domain
8 is to be used, what is the process. Is
9 negotiating allowed? Is relocation assistance a
10 available? Is special relocation assistance
11 available provided for the handicapped
12 individuals it will impact. Which government
13 agency will implement or monitor this process?
14 Will it be federal or state? Those are my main
15 questions. Thank you very much.

16 MODERATOR: Thank you, Joan. Next speaker
17 Richard Moore. Next on deck, Chuck Stata.

18 SPEAKER: Thank you for the opportunity to
19 speak. Thank you for listening to us. My name
20 is Richard Moore. I'm from Deerfield. I moved
21 to New Hampshire in 1972. I was fortunate to
22 move to a place called Colebrook. I worked in
23 Pittsburg and West Stewartstown and Colebrook

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1 and Columbia, North Stratford. Then I moved
2 south and I ended up in Deerfield. So this
3 project is hurting me both ends of my life
4 experience in this state. My property in
5 Deerfield will not be impacted directly, but we
6 will all be impacted by this if this goes
7 through as proposed.

8 The landscapes of New Hampshire,
9 particularly the forests and the farm lands,
10 those are so distinctive to our economy, to our
11 history, to our character as communities and
12 people, it will affect all of us so I would
13 simply urge DOE to undertake absolutely
14 everything that all the previous speakers have
15 urged you to do. In particular, I would love to
16 know more about what the previous speaker
17 mentioned, the existing high voltage DC corridor
18 that exists to bring Quebec hydro power that has
19 been there for, I believe, 20 years.

20 Interestingly, it does not appear on those maps
21 and you really have to dig to find out about it.
22 Why that could not be used. If there is another
23 scar put down the face of our state, it will

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1 affect us all. I would urge the DOE to include
2 in thinking about that what is the future for
3 additional transmission lines. The one that
4 exists already has been there for 20 years.
5 We're now having a proposal for a second one.
6 In another 10, 15 years will there be another
7 proposal for another line that maybe will come
8 down in Pinkham Notch this time. The one thing
9 that I would add to, I believe, the list of
10 things to look into is the safety of the towers.
11 In 1998 in the January ice storms it's my
12 understanding that some thousands of pylons in
13 Quebec came down because of the ice. We are
14 experiencing increasingly intense storm events
15 for whatever reasons. Please look into that
16 very carefully as well. Thank you.

17 MODERATOR: Thank you, Richard. Next
18 speaker, Chuck Stata. On deck, Pentti Aalto.

19 SPEAKER: First thing I would like to say
20 to those people who are concerned about the
21 emissions from a power line, I own property in
22 Groton. I lived there, I have that one, I
23 believe, that missing power line that the

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1 gentleman just spoke of that's not on the map
2 coming across into my property about 250, maybe
3 300 feet from my home. It's 350 feet wide cut,
4 it's three lines, two AC, 320,000 volt, and one
5 one-million volt DC line. When we bought the
6 property, my wife was concerned about exactly
7 what kind of emissions might be putting out so
8 we put a stipulation in the Purchase and Sale
9 saying no more than 50 milligauss. Gauss is a
10 measurement that they use for electromagnetic
11 radiation or electroradiation. I got ahold of a
12 gauss meter. I measured not only that, but also
13 all of the appliances in the home. The TV,
14 radios, microwaves, because they all put off
15 radiation. The power line put out 12
16 milligauss, that's a thousandths of a gauss, 12
17 of them, the baby monitor put 1.8 gauss, 1800
18 milligauss. So the baby monitor was far more
19 emitive. The microwave was like 1.2.
20 Television was 800. The power line was 12. We
21 bought the place. We've had no problem with it.
22 And that corridor, 350 feet wide, is a
23 great corridor for wildlife. The birds love it.

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1 We've got berry bushes in there. We've got
2 blueberries in there. The moose like it, the
3 bear like it. I've got a three footed coyote in
4 there right now that's running around. So from
5 a wildlife point of view it's been absolutely
6 wonderful because they like that buffer area.
7 It's like a big field. It really is.

8 As far as placement of the route, I guess
9 the only thing I have to say there is I would
10 much prefer an existing route to have to replace
11 the towers, put in bigger lines, maybe taller
12 towers. Some of those lines that come down
13 through there now, even the one that goes across
14 my property, really aren't that obtrusive
15 really. Aren't that big of a problem. So I
16 really don't have a problem, but I do have a
17 problem with if you go cut all the way around
18 the National Forest because permitting through
19 the forest is going be to a problem. I think
20 that's a mistake. I would take the primary
21 route there. Guess that's it. Thank you.

22 MODERATOR: Next speaker. Pentti Aalto.
23 Next on deck Joe Duven.

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1 SPEAKER: First my name is Pentti Aalto.
2 I'm a little dyslexic so I'm not surprised you
3 can't read the writing. I live at 720
4 Batchelder Road in Pembroke, New Hampshire, few
5 hundred yards from where the AC portion of the
6 line would go through. This is a very heavy
7 line. This is about as much power going through
8 that wire as we'll have through any of our power
9 lines in the state. The towers will be high and
10 probably have an effect on property values. I'm
11 old enough so I'm not too worried about
12 electromagnetic field anymore. Other people
13 might be. I've been in the energy areas for
14 most of my life. I think it's fair to say that
15 if you're going to produce energy by any method
16 there ain't no free lunch. Everything has a
17 cost. This project will have a cost. It's
18 going to be a very substantial cut through many
19 pieces. It's going to destroy land values near
20 it. We do need power. What's the proper
21 balance point where we start doing something
22 with this. Is there some way that this might,
23 the benefits of this might be maximized to the

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1 state. Today there are a bunch of potential
2 power sources up in the north. Again, none of
3 them without cost. Wind and biomass, all of
4 them have their problems. They can't get the
5 power down here because there isn't enough wire.
6 We're going to built a brand new power line, but
7 they won't have access to it. They will not be
8 able to move their power out of the north.

9 What happens when developments occur.
10 Today I can buy if I could afford it a small
11 generator or cogeneration package that for about
12 the same amount of energy that it takes to heat
13 my house of fuel I can produce half my power.
14 Now, the effect of that is because it's so
15 expensive I can't do that right now and the
16 efficiency is kind of lousy still. Stuff that
17 is on its way for the amount of energy that it
18 takes to heat my house I could heat three houses
19 or provide the power for three houses
20 conceivably with some of the new systems that
21 are out there. What happens if we don't really
22 need this wire that much going into the future.
23 Is this an appropriate method for doing it? I

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1 don't have an answer for that. But the fact
2 that this is a what I'll call a merchant wire,
3 it's not a pool planned unit. This is a wire
4 built for the benefit of getting power from
5 Canada to here which may be something we'll have
6 to look at for getting power from North Dakota
7 to here if that's really what's needed. Maybe
8 this is the way to do it. I'm not sure that it
9 is. I rather doubt it. But let's see if we can
10 figure out how more benefit could be done for
11 the citizens of New Hampshire with this type of
12 project. Thank you.

13 MODERATOR: Thank you. Next speaker, Joe
14 Duven. Next on deck, Patricia Humphrey.

15 SPEAKER: My name is Joe Duven. I live in
16 Derry, New Hampshire, but I own land in
17 Stratford. This project, proposed path goes
18 right through the middle of my property. My
19 wife and I bought this property 25 years ago
20 because of the situation up there. It's 11
21 acres on the state-stocked brook trout stream.
22 Only noise pollution we have at night is the
23 babbling brook and the crackling campfire. The

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1 stars are right there for light. It's peaceful,
2 it's our escape in the spring, the summer, the
3 fall from our everyday work lives, the hectic
4 pace of being in the city. We get up there, we
5 get a chance to relax. Now, this project as I
6 said is going right through the middle of our
7 property. My question is where the majority of
8 this electricity coming down is going to be sold
9 out of state there are no benefits, it's not
10 going to lower my electric rates, it's not going
11 to benefit anybody in this state. Why should I
12 give up my property for a project that's not
13 going to benefit any of us. In the southern
14 part of New England, they have tidal resources
15 in Narragansett and Mount Hope Bay. Let them
16 put up some type of facility down there to
17 generate the electricity that they need in Rhode
18 Island and Connecticut and leave us alone.
19 That's really all I have to say on the matter.

20 One other thing I do want to add, though, I
21 did not sign the permission for my property to
22 be surveyed by Northern Pass. I would recommend
23 anybody here that is approached do not sign, do

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1 not give them permission and do everything you
2 can to hold on to your property. Thank you.

3 MODERATOR: Our on deck speaker has
4 declined to speak at this point in time. So
5 next up, sorry for the short notice. Mark
6 Chronis. Mark, are you available? Sorry for
7 the short notice. On deck, Edward Haggett.

8 SPEAKER: Hi. I don't have a script, but I
9 do have a short story that's going to, I hope,
10 relate how environmentally emotionally damaging
11 this is to the people of this state. And what I
12 want to tell you about is like this if I can in
13 this analogy is like there's three pieces of
14 property, and they're all next to each other,
15 they all have their own power source and
16 everything is going along fine. They all have a
17 nice front lawn, and we're the middle piece of
18 property, and the property to our left has had a
19 couple of opportunities to build a couple of
20 power generating stations recently, and they
21 didn't like the idea of that because they didn't
22 like looking at it so they kind of -- but
23 they've got enough power to get by right now.

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1 Property to our right happens to have a
2 brook so they dam it up and they got excess
3 power so they come up with this idea about well,
4 we've got to get the power over to here. And
5 now I'm looking at this and you look out in the
6 front and the idea they come up is they're going
7 to take this huge extension cord and run it
8 across our front lawn, driveway, sidewalk. Now,
9 that could be kind of great if we wanted this
10 huge speed bump in the state, but we really
11 don't. And I'm just trying to give a message of
12 our sentiment that what is, the more you look at
13 this and the more you think about this and for
14 every reason that's been stated here, I can find
15 nothing good about this for the state. And I've
16 got to just say to myself what does Northern
17 Pass think. Is this, do they think that the
18 State of New Hampshire is going to lay down and
19 die? It's live free or die here. I've got to
20 believe by the end of this week they're going to
21 be seeing orange in their sleep. So thank you.

22 MODERATOR: Edward Haggett. On deck James
23 Haggett.

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1 SPEAKER: Oh, yeah. Fight, brother. I'm
2 Ed Haggett. I'm the fifth generation on the
3 same farm in North Pembroke. We've been living
4 there since, gosh, how long is it? 1800s. Yes.
5 Down there. My great, great grandfather bought
6 the place, added to it and we've been adding to
7 it for a long time. And gee, we're going to get
8 two million dollars for our land because they're
9 going to run a mile through our land. There's
10 300 acres there and they're going to start at
11 one corner and run right through a mile to the
12 other corner. And I don't think so. Take an
13 alternate route or don't do it at all. That
14 Vermont pass, it's already there. Put it right
15 there. And you know, I've got this land that
16 I'm going to give to my granddaughter which is
17 going to make it the 7th generation on the same
18 farm, and I don't want her to have the power
19 line there. I don't even want her to pay the
20 taxes because I own it, and I'm going to give it
21 to her. Do I give her something, a present, or
22 do I give her a burden? Because every year
23 she's going to be being taxed on that. She's

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1 five. She can't make a living yet, and her
2 father's got his own problems. So I can't see,
3 if you want to pay my taxes, give me a light
4 bill, you know, no lights at all, and everybody
5 in New Hampshire that has to look at that thing,
6 pay their taxes, pay their light bills. If
7 you're going to make money, you might as well.
8 That's all it's about anyway is money. You
9 know? You can give me two million bucks, but I
10 don't want to take it because I like that land
11 better. I'm going to keep the land. So go
12 around. Go some place else. Why don't you just
13 take the old power plant down there and put a
14 paddlewheel on the Merrimack River which is the
15 fastest river in New England and paddle the
16 electricity that way. You know? You've got
17 water all the way around here. Use it. Down
18 Merrimack, down by the mills, running water all
19 the time. Haul it out of Manchester. Set up
20 small mills. Less effect on us. Please wake
21 up. Oh, wrap up. Oh, okay. Well, I was going
22 to wake up, but I guess I'll just wrap up.

23 MODERATOR: James Haggett. Next on deck,

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1 Linda Haggett.

2 SPEAKER: My name is James Haggett. 722
3 Cross Country Road in Pembroke. Boy, that's
4 going to be a hard act to follow, isn't it, huh?
5 Most of everything I am going to address has
6 already been addressed, my concern's already
7 been addressed so I'd just like to say that this
8 is going to affect me directly because it's
9 going through my property, coming out, where it
10 crosses the road it's going to be within 200
11 feet of my house. I think that's a little bit
12 too close. I don't want it. This is on the
13 Chichester/Pembroke preferred route that doesn't
14 have a right right-of-way so it will be a new
15 right-of-way cut through the property, and it
16 will affect the property value, of course, and
17 then I'm concerned about the health problems
18 with it. And I don't, if this goes through,
19 Northern Pass will be providing me with lawn
20 ornaments that are large enough to be seen from
21 the moon, and I don't think I need those.

22 And at first, my main concern was keep this
23 on the existing right-of-way that goes by the

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1 Concord Airport which they had a problem with,
2 and my main concern was keep it there, and we
3 fought to try to get them to see that it could
4 be buried there or find some way that it could
5 be kept on the existing right-of-way. But my
6 thoughts have changed lately. I say not in my
7 backyard, but I also say not in your backyard
8 and not in anybody's backyard.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you, James. Next
10 speaker, Linda Haggett.

11 SPEAKER: I already went once.

12 MODERATOR: Linda Haggett has already gone
13 once. Next up, Fred Martin. Next on deck Susan
14 Geiger.

15 SPEAKER: My name is Frederick Martin, and
16 I'm the current owner of the family farm in
17 Stratford way up north. I'm a veteran of this
18 process because there was a 24-inch natural gas
19 pipeline built through our farm, and I'm warning
20 you that eminent domain is extremely powerful.
21 When the line is decided, it's only a matter of
22 the price. The result in our place was that a
23 beautiful and fruitful agricultural land was

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1 converted into a paved highway with ten-inch
2 stones at the surface and the good soil down
3 around the pipe such that there will never be
4 agriculture there again. And my message here is
5 why does the State of New Hampshire want to do
6 this to itself in larger form. It's not only,
7 at the hearing on New Hampshire legislation
8 about locally generated electricity that was
9 held recently in Concord, a man from one of the
10 towns along the Pemigewasset River pointed out
11 the towers of the power line were parallel to
12 Route 93 as it travels up the center of the
13 state and will stand in the view of Franconia
14 Notch and White Mountains that all tourists see
15 as they travel north for their vacations. This
16 is a signature view, an icon of the publicity of
17 the hospitality industry. Why would the State
18 want to do this to itself? And it's not only
19 the hotels and restaurants that will lose. It's
20 also the economy of the state as a whole. There
21 will be some unspecified amount of power that
22 comes off the line to help southern New
23 Hampshire, but the rest -- and some of it will

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1 be shipped around the state and back up to the
2 North Country where it will be used there.
3 That's in competition with getting power from
4 the North Country down to the south and the
5 so-called Coos Loop power line which is already
6 built. Somebody else referred to the fact that
7 the power can't get here.

8 Coos County is a poor region. In more
9 specific terms the EPA manual, Final Guidance
10 For Incorporating Environmental Justice Concerns
11 in EPA's NEPA Compliance Analyses, says that
12 once a low income population is identified the
13 EIS should include a comparative study of that
14 group to control group. I would say that the
15 group should be the State of New Hampshire and
16 control group should be the banks of the Hudson
17 River. The competing power line could be buried
18 in the water of the Hudson River, and that is an
19 actual proposal now, and as a result of that
20 study I think that the EIS should recommend that
21 the power line not be built.

22 I hope that the State's Senators and
23 Representatives will write letters to the

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1 Department of Energy on this issue. They have
2 asked for opinions about the advisability of the
3 Presidential permit, particularly on whether
4 there should be a favorable price for Canadian
5 energy or an equal price. So Senators and
6 Representatives and Congressmen, please write
7 in.

8 MODERATOR: Thank you. Next speaker Susan
9 Geiger. Next on deck, Ammy Heiser.

10 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Susan
11 Geiger, and I live in on Oak Hill Road in
12 Loudon, New Hampshire. I was born and raised in
13 New Hampshire, and I now live on Okay Hill Road
14 in Loudon very near one of the proposed
15 alternative routes for this project. Also I'm
16 an attorney in Concord who represents a number
17 of developers of renewable energy projects so in
18 the interest of full disclosure I want to say
19 that the views that I'm expressing are my own,
20 and they do not necessarily represent those of
21 my clients. I'm also a former Public Utility
22 Commissioner for the State of New Hampshire, and
23 I've been very involved in a number of energy

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1 projects throughout my, at least the last 17
2 years either regulating them or now advocating
3 on behalf of developers.

4 I'm against this project for several
5 reasons. Economic, environmental, and just
6 plain common sense. As far as economics goes,
7 as many speakers have indicated tonight we don't
8 need this power. Representatives from the
9 Public Utilities Commission have testified
10 publicly that the state and the region are in an
11 excess capacity mode for the next five years.
12 Even if we did need electricity here in New
13 Hampshire or in the region, there are many other
14 developers of renewable, clean renewable energy
15 developers who are ready, willing and able to
16 build power plants here in New Hampshire that
17 can provide jobs to New Hampshire citizens for
18 the long-term, not the short-term.

19 This line will hurt the competitive energy
20 market in the region and harm our countryside in
21 the process with no upside benefit to New
22 Hampshire. The bulk of this power is going to
23 Massachusetts, but New Hampshire is going to be

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1 sacrificing our landscape. Environmentally, the
2 project will harm those areas in which new large
3 swaths of land will be cut. In my own
4 neighborhood, the proposed alternative is just
5 down the road from an existing power corridor in
6 which high voltage transmission facilities are
7 currently located. It makes absolutely no sense
8 to me to develop another alternative route in
9 such close proximity to one that currently
10 exists.

11 You've heard from others tonight about why
12 this project should not go forward, and I won't
13 belabor those points. I'll just urge you to
14 listen very carefully to the comments that have
15 been made and read the comments that will be
16 submitted in writing. Just because large
17 utility companies want this project doesn't mean
18 it's right. Please do the right thing.

19 MODERATOR: Thank you, Susan. Next speaker
20 Ammy Heiser. Next on deck, Steve Boyson.

21 SPEAKER: Good evening. On behalf of the
22 Pembroke Conservation Commission, I'm here to
23 speak against this project. My name is Ammy

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1 Heiser. I live on 374 Academy Road. I'm an
2 appointed member of the Conservation Commission
3 and our job as the Conservation Commission is to
4 act as stewards to our conservation lands in
5 this town and also our town's natural resources.

6 This project, I don't want to beat a dead
7 horse here. We've all heard all the reasons why
8 this is going to negatively impact our
9 environment. It's going to scar our landscape.
10 It's going to disrupt our wetlands. It's going
11 to compromise our aquifers, and it's going to
12 fragment our open space. In this past year
13 central New Hampshire Community Regional
14 Planning helped the town of Pembroke develop an
15 open space plan. We met as a committee, ten
16 people from our community all joined together as
17 part of the open space committee, and we looked
18 at our towns resources and where we felt the
19 priority lands in our town were. We developed a
20 greenway based on the co-occurrence of natural
21 resources in our town, and this greenway goes
22 all the way up the North Pembroke region of this
23 town. This Northern Pass preliminary preferred

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1 route dissects that land. The future of
2 conservation is going to be greatly impacted if
3 we allow this to happen. I also am concerned,
4 I'm a landowner who owns land, and we weren't
5 notified until just recently that the power
6 lines are going through our own property. We've
7 owned the property for over 30 years because we
8 love open space, and we wanted to do our part to
9 preserve it.

10 I feel for all of you people out there who
11 are directly impacted. If you have to walk out
12 your back door and have to look at these power
13 lines and feel the electromagnetic effect of
14 these, I personally feel that this is not even,
15 should not even happen and I feel that all of us
16 should join together in a show of solidarity for
17 all of those people to do our best to fight
18 this.

19 MODERATOR: Thank you, Ammy. Our next
20 speaker is Steve Boyson. On deck is Denise
21 Greig.

22 SPEAKER: My name is Steve Boyson, East
23 Hampstead, New Hampshire. Living in New

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1 Hampshire about 30 years now. My son spoke
2 earlier. Little while ago. They spoke about
3 the fact that he's going to be about 200 yards
4 away from the one of the structures. He's right
5 near the substation in Deerfield. Took a look
6 at a picture of one of these. I don't know if
7 you saw it in the paper where they have a person
8 about 6 feet tall and they have the tallest pine
9 tree you can see and in this thing dwarfs that
10 at 130 feet. It's incredible. I mean, it looks
11 like it comes from another planet. I've never
12 seen anything like it in the picture but you can
13 all take a look at the website.

14 I spent 35 years as a banker. Therefore, I
15 look at it from a financial point of view. This
16 is a money maker. This whole deal is about
17 making money. That's what the bottom line is.
18 And you asked who Northern Pass is. Northern
19 Pass, LLC. They're a corporation with limited
20 liability formed in New Hampshire. For what?
21 To make money. Northeast Utilities, NU, PSNH,
22 and Nstar. Nstar used to be, well, Nstar
23 formerly known as Boston Edison. So you've got

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1 some pretty big players here. They're going to
2 push hard. And they call them a Members
3 Committee instead of Board of Directors that run
4 this thing, but it's all public information.
5 You can find out who they are. I'm curious if
6 any of the Members Committee or Board is here
7 tonight from Northern Pass LLC. Could you raise
8 your hand if you are? Not one.

9 This is the stated purpose of the project
10 by Northern Pass. Project is designed to
11 provide New Hampshire with reliable power for
12 decades to come at prices that are competitive
13 in the overall regional market. The focus of
14 this project is not to be cheaper than any
15 particular fuel or individual power plant but to
16 supply low carbon renewable electricity at a
17 competitive price.

18 Does anybody really believe that? I don't.
19 There's so much information that can be found
20 about this company. Just one other thing, too.
21 The fact that there was a press release --
22 couple things, actually -- March 7th about
23 Normandeau Associates. If you're in real estate

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1 and you have a buyer that comes in, the buyer's
2 going to pick the person that's going to do the
3 home inspection. Why? Because they're getting
4 paid to determine all the bad things that are
5 wrong. In this case, Normandeau Associates,
6 they can't separate themselves because they're
7 being paid or they were going to be paid up
8 until the two senators said no, we want somebody
9 impartial. So just look where the trail is.
10 The trail goes back to the money. How much
11 these companies and it's called a transmission
12 service agreement. That's how they get paid.
13 Okay? Hydro Quebec is going to pay these
14 companies I mentioned, Northeast Utilities, PSNH
15 and Nstar for the use of those lines. Big, big
16 money. Thank you.

17 MODERATOR: Thank you. Next speaker.

18 Denise Greig. Next on deck, Dr. Ernst Kastning.

19 SPEAKER: My name is Ernst Kastning. I'm a
20 retired university professor of geology. Taught
21 geology for 28 years and most of that was in
22 Virginia and moved up here four years ago. I'm
23 originally from the northeast, as is my wife.

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1 I just want to make one comment that
2 Northern Pass, the project is very green.
3 (Holds up cash.) Now that I have your
4 attention, I'm reminded of the way I came to
5 know power lines, and I was a Scoutmaster in
6 southwest Virginia. I still own a home there.
7 It's in the Valley & Ridge Province. And I
8 would take my boys on long hikes. The
9 Appalachian Trail runs through there. Same
10 Appalachian Trail that runs through what we're
11 talking about up here. And we did an overnight
12 hike. We were in the deep woods. It was great.
13 And then suddenly we entered a corridor of a
14 power line. It was a hot day. Suddenly there
15 was all this sun. And there was a very
16 distinctive loud humming noise. And basically
17 ruined our trip because we were suddenly thrust
18 into that.

19 By the way, if you take one of these
20 fluorescent lines and go under one of those
21 power lines of that size, hold it up in the air,
22 it will glow. I'm not going to speak to because
23 I don't really know for sure, I think the jury

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1 is still out on the effects of EMR on humans
2 from power lines. So that was my first
3 experience.

4 Then I learned of something very similar to
5 what's happened here. That is a power line that
6 was going to run over our community from West
7 Virginia, from coal mine derived, coal derived
8 electric energy which by the way comes from
9 mountain top removal and other things like that
10 in that part of the world, over our heads to go
11 due east in Virginia and come out at the
12 populated areas on the East Coast. Very similar
13 to here. No one was going to benefit from it
14 where I was.

15 The other thing I want to mention is along
16 those lines and I really want -- two main things
17 real quickly. One is that for 6 years I worked
18 as a consulting geologist, not during my
19 teaching duties but as a private consultant,
20 battling power lines. We were moderately
21 successful in getting the route, at least
22 through not the most sensitive area and I had
23 that experience.

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1 The other experience and I think this is
2 what, I would quickly mention this because
3 here's the fundamental problem. We have a
4 bigger problem than just buying power. I know a
5 lot of you have flown on airplanes at night and
6 looked down at cities, looked down even not at
7 cities, just rural areas and seen all the lights
8 that are on at night. Parking lots that are lit
9 up. There's nobody in them. We can go a long
10 ways doing that, and the Department of Energy,
11 that's where one of the focuses needs to be
12 nationally is on the use of this energy. Thank
13 you.

14 MODERATOR: Thank you, Ernst. Going to
15 make another call for Denise Greig. Is she in
16 the room? Okay. People in the crowd say she's
17 not here. Next up. Sorry for the short notice.
18 Joel Harrington. Joel. Are you in the room?
19 Next on deck Stephen Keith.

20 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Joel
21 Harrington. I'm the Director of Government
22 Relations of The Nature Conservancy in New
23 Hampshire, and TNC appreciates the opportunity

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1 that DOE has provided to the corridor
2 communities to hear from the people of New
3 Hampshire.

4 We are in an international nonprofit
5 organization, the largest conservation
6 organization in the world. Our on the ground
7 conservation work is carried out in all 50
8 states and in 30 countries with the support of
9 approximately one million members. To date we
10 have helped conserve more than 119 million acres
11 of land and 5,000 river miles around the world,
12 and for 50 years The Nature Conservancy has
13 helped to protect over 270,000 acres in New
14 Hampshire by utilizing sound conservation
15 science and working with a wide variety of
16 public and private partners.

17 As one of the state's largest land trusts
18 we own and manage 30 preserves comprising 25,000
19 acres of land throughout the state and hold
20 conservation easements on more than 37,000
21 acres. Two of the proposed tracts that are
22 involved that the alternative proposal would go
23 through are two tracts that we currently own and

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1 manage. One is called the Vickie Bunnell
2 Preserve, and many folks in the North Country
3 remember Vickie Bunnell. This is a very special
4 place. 10,330 acres that Vickie used to visit
5 before she was fatally shot. And Potter Farm
6 which is one of the most historic places in the
7 state where Colonial soldiers set up Fort
8 Wentworth and is now a huge hay field in
9 Northumberland. Both alternative routes would
10 cross both of those properties. So we stand
11 here tonight with the landowners in the North
12 Country to ensure that the places they helped us
13 protect are here for generations of Granite
14 Staters.

15 When we think of the North Country we think
16 of the Northern Appalachian region also known as
17 the Northern Forest spans two countries, four
18 states, four provinces and is 80 million acres.
19 Let's not just look at New Hampshire alone, but
20 look at this entire resource and how it affects
21 the economy and resources of our state. It
22 contains rare alpine vegetation, at risk
23 species, old growth forests and is the most

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1 intact forest closest to most people. 5.4
2 million people live near it. EIS should address
3 these investments. They should look at other
4 assessments and the wildlife action plan,
5 conservation, plan for the Conte National
6 Wildlife Refuge that is a disappointment that
7 even in the Presidential permit application
8 wasn't even considered. All of these planning
9 processes in each of those communities had
10 significant community engagement. If we rely on
11 just federal plans and federal wetland maps and
12 flood plan maps, you're missing a key ingredient
13 that had community involvement for years.

14 I also think the Department of Interior's
15 goals for this landscape conflict with the
16 Department of Energy's goals, and I think if you
17 look at the administration's America's Great
18 Outdoors Initiatives, I think you'll see what I
19 mean. This area has been known for hunting,
20 fishing. It's world class, and we offer public
21 access to all of our properties. The grand
22 resorts, the value of the economy and the
23 partnership we have with the Balsams Grand

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1 Resort. We have to ensure that this project
2 does not just become the extension cord to New
3 England. Thank you.

4 MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Harrington.
5 Next speaker, Stephen Keith. Next on deck,
6 Crawford Lyons.

7 SPEAKER: Hello. My name is Stephen Keith.
8 I'm an electrical engineer and I may or may not
9 be able to see the lines that go through North
10 Pembroke. I do live in Pembroke.

11 Just a quick bit of my background, I'm an
12 electrical engineer. I have two patents. I
13 have taken products that plug into the wall
14 through UL which is no easy task, and I've had
15 products on the Space Shuttle. Most people here
16 are too young to remember the 1965 power
17 blackout. Some of us remember it. I was
18 kicking the radio couldn't figure out why in the
19 car why it wouldn't work anymore. That was
20 caused because all of the generators, if you
21 understand anything about electricity, all have
22 to march like an Army. They all have to go in
23 step. One of the advantages of the DC line that

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1 comes down and goes to Littleton, Massachusetts,
2 is that at the end they change it back into AC.
3 And if the AC starts to drop, the frequency of
4 it, the 60 times per second change starts to
5 drop, they can follow it down. In the '65 power
6 blackout instead of being 60 times per second
7 one down to 58.9 times per second which meant
8 generators started bucking each other. That's
9 what finally broke the back of the grid that
10 day. A DC line can tolerate it.

11 One of the other things that's been
12 mentioned a lot is putting the lines
13 underground. In New Hampshire you basically
14 have sand and gravel by rivers and you have
15 granite. Anybody that's tried to go down more
16 than four feet into the ground away from a river
17 or something where there's usually a sandpit
18 will know what I'm talking about. Trying to
19 insulate that much voltage underground
20 especially is quite a trick, let me tell you,
21 and it's very expensive. You're going to be
22 blasting a lot of the way if you try to put it
23 underground. A lot of people don't understand

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1 how much electricity takes to do something.
2 Your dryer takes up to 6,000 watts, if you have
3 an electric dryer. Your stove on Thanksgiving
4 can take up to 10,000 watts if you're running
5 everything. You know everybody talks about
6 clean power, green power. You have the wind;
7 what do you do when the wind dies down? You
8 have to have some other source of electricity to
9 carry it out. You can't just instantly turn on
10 Seabrook or the Bow Station, you have to have
11 them either running almost at full speed so they
12 can jump right in if necessary or you have to
13 have a jet turbine like they have down by New
14 York.

15 So I would suggest that you think about
16 some of these things and when you turn on your
17 light when you go home think about whether where
18 your electricity comes and how it got here
19 because all of these generating plants are all
20 connected together and when Seabrook goes down
21 or Bow goes down they have to get the
22 electricity some place else, and it has to come
23 in by a transmission line from some place else.

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1 Thank you.

2 MODERATOR: Thank you, Stephen. Next
3 speaker, Crawford Lyons. Next on deck, Jeff
4 Eames.

5 SPEAKER: Hi, I'm Crawford from Concord.
6 None of my land abuts any of the proposed lines
7 so in no way can I ever be accused of being a
8 NIMBY up here.

9 My first point is that I'm not a NIMBY. I
10 have no land that will touch any of this so I
11 can't be accused of having some kind of agenda
12 that just impacts me. I'm up here because I
13 see, what I see right now is PSNH and their
14 backers trying to pass through I think a pretty
15 big injustice to the people that live in New
16 Hampshire in general. My first point that I
17 would like to make to the DOE is that if one of
18 their objectives in this study is to look at
19 possible alternative routes that will minimize
20 the environmental impact of bringing power from
21 basically a foreign country. I mean, we are
22 talking about the Province of Quebec. They're
23 the ones that own this power. That they spend a

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1 lot of effort in looking at alternative routes
2 that will minimize this impact. I spent a few
3 hours talking with some folks last week at the
4 State House when there was a discussion about
5 what the state could do to take away eminent
6 domain, and I think that is where all of us
7 ought to be pressing our efforts right now, but
8 one of the things that we talked about were
9 alternative routes that somehow weren't
10 seemingly forthcoming from PSNH and their
11 backers and that is throwing these power lines
12 down existing federal highways. If the federal
13 government is so, if they have a vested
14 interest, then I'm sure they would be more than
15 willing to give up their land along highways
16 which are already pre-existing scarred
17 industrial avenues to bring power from Canada
18 down. And if you need particular details beyond
19 what I give you today, my number is on the piece
20 of paper I signed today.

21 The routes that I am fully aware of are
22 Interstate 89 that goes right by Burlington. I
23 think Burlington might want to actually siphon

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1 some power off of this based on how the
2 discussions are going with Vermont Yankee and
3 that is right on the border of New Hampshire.
4 Thank you, Vermont. So in return there is also
5 another interstate, I-91, that goes all the way
6 down into Massachusetts. These all lead down to
7 Massachusetts which are the primary end users as
8 well as Connecticut. The road keeps on going
9 right to Connecticut. So you guys can follow
10 those interstate routes, and I suggest, I don't
11 care if there are giant towers in Vermont or
12 not. They can bury it. They can have 400 foot,
13 500 foot towers over there. Doesn't matter to
14 me. But they're big supporters of green power,
15 too. It's in their name. Vermont. That's
16 French. So they'll get along very well with
17 Quebecois Hydra so that's one aspect of this.

18 The other is is that I always feel like the
19 people that are going to be using the power or
20 are using whatever it is that they're using
21 ought to be the primary people bearing the costs
22 of this. Notice how Massachusetts is wanting to
23 get this conduit down from Canada through New

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1 Hampshire, their playground, but they aren't
2 willing to put up the windmills and everything
3 else in their own state. I find that very
4 hypocritical. Same for Connecticut.

5 And finally if the New Hampshire citizens
6 are forced to swallow this bitter pill, I'm
7 hopeful and this is where we need to press our
8 legislators in New Hampshire that the owners of
9 the land will be able to rent at fair market
10 value the land. Rent, not taken away. That
11 they would rent at tower prices and you can find
12 out all these tower prices, they're very
13 expensive, for telecommunications and that would
14 be I think at least approaching a fair deal and
15 for our Quebecois Hydro friends, je me souviens
16 aussi.

17 MODERATOR: Thank you. Our next speaker,
18 Jeff Eames. Next on deck, Kathy O'Connor.

19 SPEAKER: For the record, my name is Jeff
20 Eames. We're a forestry based, I own a forestry
21 based company. It's the Four Mountains Company
22 based in Allenstown, New Hampshire. We work
23 with landowners throughout the region helping

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1 them manage their forest resource. Some of the
2 holdings that we have, we have conservation
3 easements on those holdings, and some of those
4 conservation easements, the deed is about that
5 thick. It regulates what our clients can do.
6 In particular, a piece of property that my
7 family owns which 225 acres. 225 acres of land
8 that isn't posted, is open to the public, that
9 is a tremendous contribution to the state's not
10 million dollar tourism business but billion
11 dollar tourism business. It's huge. So I would
12 guess what I'd like the Department of Energy to
13 go back with is these people have given up
14 thousands of dollars to have that land
15 undeveloped, and to make sure in event that this
16 does happen that they are very sensitive to
17 these people who have made these concessions. I
18 guess in closing, is everybody warm tonight? I
19 think everybody's really warm. Well, the energy
20 that came from this building came from wood
21 chip. Something that was produced locally.
22 Something that's renewable, something that helps
23 New Hampshire's economy. From what I

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1 understand, this project is going to boil down
2 to about five extra jobs in this state. Okay?
3 So with that in mind, thank you very much.

4 MODERATOR: Thank you. Next speaker.
5 Cathy O'Connor. Next on deck, Sarah Hyland.

6 SPEAKER: (Cathy O'Connor) I do live sort
7 of near where one or more of the power lines are
8 going to go. My daughter's fiance lives
9 underneath one of the ones, the one on Loudon
10 Road. Literally underneath it. And the
11 alternative route that goes by Josiah Bartlett
12 Road will be probably a mile and a half from me
13 so I have some very much concerns.

14 Environmental. How close can these be and
15 impact someone and what is the impact on humans,
16 animals, pets? How about beef critters which
17 you're going to eat or the milk that you're
18 going to produce that you're going to drink or
19 the wildlife that have no recourse for being
20 able to move. We can move but they can't. They
21 live there. The maps are inaccurate from what I
22 can see or they're so small that are you are
23 hard pressed to figure out where the lines are

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1 in relation to where you actually live. That
2 offends me. To me that's almost an obvious
3 intentional misdirection. I resent that
4 entirely.

5 My other questions are and these have been
6 raised before, but I want to reiterate. Who
7 pays for all this. Are they going to bear all
8 the cost of creating these power lines? We
9 certainly aren't going to benefit so if we don't
10 benefit why are we even having anything to do
11 with it? I don't use PSNH. I'm a Unitel
12 person. They can say well, that's on the grid.
13 I'm sorry. Unless we finally get some money
14 from this, and it's going to be substantial,
15 enough to make it hurt, why should we? They
16 want something for free? No. No. Just no.

17 MODERATOR: Next speaker Sarah Hyland.
18 Next on deck, Joe Drinon.

19 SPEAKER: I'm Sarah Hyland. I live on
20 Batchelder Road in Pembroke, and I share a lot
21 of the concerns that have been expressed
22 tonight, but I want to take this opportunity to
23 ask the Department of Energy to elevate

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1 conservation to its highest priority in meeting
2 our energy needs for the country as well as for
3 the region. I think there's a tremendous
4 potential there that is not being exploited.
5 That there needs to be funding, better funding
6 and better programs to make conservation work to
7 meet our energy needs in this country. Thank
8 you.

9 MODERATOR: Next speaker, Joe Drinon.

10 SPEAKER: My name is Joe Drinon. I live in
11 Chichester. The line is not going through our
12 property. I don't even think that we're going
13 to see it. So my comments here are really
14 larger than Chichester's interest. That is for
15 the whole state, the state that I love. Is
16 Senator Shaheen's representative still here?
17 Great. Thank you for being here. Very much
18 appreciated. Is Senator Ayotte's representative
19 still here? Thank you very much for being here.
20 Is Governor Lynch's representative here?
21 Governor Lynch's representative, please? Sorry.
22 I guess they didn't show up tonight. Thank you
23 very much for the two Senators having their

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1 representatives here.

2 I lived in the Seacoast in 1970s, and
3 Aristotle Onassis was going to put an oil
4 refinery on the Isle of Shoals. Some of you may
5 remember that, and it seemed like it was going
6 to be a fait accompli until an activist, at the
7 time she was an activist anyway, I hope she
8 finishes her political career as an activist and
9 that is Senator Shaheen was very active in
10 preventing Aristotle Onassis from putting that
11 refinery up on that beautiful seacoast of New
12 Hampshire. And this whole project is like the
13 symphony, the Ride of the Valkyries. I kind of
14 feel like the Department of Energy is like the
15 Ride of the Valkyries, and it's almost like it's
16 overwhelming power. There's just nothing you
17 can do about it. They hold these Scoping
18 Meetings so that we can hear the kids vent
19 because we're eventually going to have this
20 anyway.

21 There's only one way that we're going to
22 prevent this thing from happening. It's not the
23 Scoping Meetings. It's going to be Senator

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1 Shaheen, Senator Ayotte and our absent Governor.
2 We have got to get them not just to make sure
3 that there's no conflict of interest when it
4 comes to the environmental study. It's not just
5 so that we have nine Scoping Meetings instead of
6 six Scoping Meetings. They have got to come out
7 against this thing and be an activist in
8 preventing this thing from happening. Thank
9 you.

10 MODERATOR: Thank you, Joe. In case you
11 didn't notice, I didn't give a next speaker. So
12 we have concluded the list of people that we had
13 scheduled to speak. And we now open up the
14 floor to anyone else if they have not heard
15 their points put forth as of yet. Or if you
16 have already spoken and would like to speak
17 again. And I see a couple hands up for that.
18 So I'm going to go from the back forwards since
19 this was the way it was organized at least as
20 people were jumping up.

21 In doing so, I need your full name,
22 address, zip code.

23 SPEAKER: Alan Bartlett. 467 Josiah

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1 Bartlett Road in Concord. I do have a point
2 that no one else had made because not too many
3 people do what I do, and that's milk cows, and
4 the alternative route is 100 to 200 feet beside
5 our barn. And I was talking with a guy that did
6 some electrical research for me a couple of
7 years ago. We were having electrical problems.
8 There's no way you'll maintain a dairy herd with
9 electricity that close to the cows. He said you
10 would want it at least a quarter mile from the
11 farm because electricity makes it difficult to
12 get animals bred and they're uneasy. And when
13 you've got in the middle of the winter and the
14 cows are switching their tails like they have
15 flies on them, it's electricity. And we think
16 we've eliminated most of our problems. Things
17 seem to be going better now. But there's no
18 choice of whether you do or don't if the
19 electricity comes the alternate route. That
20 would be the time that we'd have to quit. Thank
21 you.

22 MODERATOR: Kelly Normandeau and currently
23 I live in Henniker. However, tomorrow we're

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1 closing on a property at 56 Sanborn Road in
2 Concord, New Hampshire. Currently at that
3 property there is the existing power line so we
4 know what we're getting. However, we're not
5 really sure what's coming down the pike. The
6 property that we're purchasing is a horse farm.
7 It's been mine and my sister's dream forever to
8 own and operate a horse farm. I currently work
9 at a local farm here in town, Gelinas Farm, and
10 now we, due to the economy and somebody else's
11 misfortune, are purchasing this foreclosed
12 property. We're not really sure what's going to
13 be happening since it runs through the nine
14 acres of our pasture land, and it's of great
15 concern since it's already existing. What are
16 the rights of people who own property such as
17 this that already have the power lines there
18 where we can't really put a stop to something
19 coming through the line that's already there but
20 how are these towers that going to be 130 feet
21 tall, how are they going to impact the livestock
22 that we have, the safety for the people that
23 will be boarding their horses with us, as

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1 Mr. Bartlett was just talking about the impact
2 that it will have on his cows, how about the
3 horse situation.

4 The only reason that I even know anything
5 about this, anything about this is because of
6 the 107.7 Pulse radio station, and I don't know
7 if any of you listen to Bulldog Brian Tilton but
8 I urge you to do so because he puts the interest
9 of the State of New Hampshire and the people
10 that live here on the forefront, and I thank you
11 very much for doing so on a daily basis. And
12 like everybody else was talking about earlier, I
13 didn't even know there was already a corridor
14 through the State of Vermont. And so since
15 everybody's all about recycling, why can't we
16 just go through there that's already there.
17 That just seems like a no-brainer. And if the
18 Old Man in the Mountain was still with us, he
19 would probably jump to his demise with the
20 project going through. Just say no.

21 SPEAKER: I'm Joe Duven. I want to bring
22 up one other point. I mentioned our property up
23 in Stratford. My wife and I have owned it for

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1 about 25 years. About 8 years ago we did lose
2 it by eminent domain and it took us two years
3 battle to get it back. The process sucked. We
4 were given no where near what the property was
5 worth for it, but that's what the appraisers for
6 the town said it was worth. At that time when I
7 did get it back I had it a clause put in my deed
8 that it can never be taken by eminent domain
9 again. So protect what you have because if you
10 lose it it's a bugger trying to get it back.
11 And we've been there and I hope for everybody's
12 sake that we can stop this project because it's
13 only going to hurt us.

14 MODERATOR: Anybody else who hasn't spoken
15 yet that wants to have a shot? By the way, for
16 the people who are leaving, thank you very much.
17 We appreciated your hospitality, and it goes to
18 the guys that are still sitting here.

19 SPEAKER: My name is Donna Tilton. I live
20 on 729 Cross Country Road in Pembroke. 03275.
21 I don't usually speak at these things, but I did
22 want to make a point. When we first went to a
23 meeting with the Northern Pass they were there

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1 giving us all this direction on what's going to
2 happen and eminent domain, right-of-way. I had
3 asked them if there was other alternatives and
4 they said that yes, there was 66 other
5 alternatives but the 67th one was the most, had
6 the most bang to the buck as they say. So I
7 just want to basically point that out. That
8 there is other ways to have the project. And as
9 far as our property, I don't know what's going
10 to happen. Nobody's, they contacted me on my
11 cell phone once. It was a Saturday afternoon.
12 They called me up. I didn't want to talk to
13 them, I didn't know how to talk to them, and I
14 don't want to talk to them and so that fear of
15 losing my property or my easement. Also if
16 you've got -- they want 75 feet right-of-way.
17 And they also wanted to come right through my
18 driveway. So my well house is there, it's a dug
19 well. What are they going to do with that?
20 Does that mean that I lose my entire property
21 because I can't relocate that? Or you know,
22 who's going to pay for that stuff? So
23 environmentally, yes, what things are going to

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1 have to move in all these homes.

2 MODERATOR: Thanks. Anyone else who hasn't
3 spoken that wants an opportunity? Okay.

4 SPEAKER: Ernst Kastning again. I don't
5 think I gave my address. It's 1513 Alton Woods
6 in Concord and that's 03301. One of the people
7 back here after I sat down said, well, how did
8 you stop that thing in Virginia. And that was
9 something I didn't have enough time to bring up
10 but one of the suggestions I have for the
11 environmental study is to look at a few
12 geological kinds of things. We've heard about
13 the partitioning of the land biologically and
14 all of that, but geologically one important
15 aspect that I found out to be true in Virginia
16 which is mountainous, that part of the state
17 down there is very much like up here. Very nice
18 beautiful areas. And that aspect is erosion of
19 land along the power line corridor, and then
20 there's also the application of herbicides. It
21 depends on what you're looking at, soil, ground
22 water-wise there. Those two things were what
23 convinced the State Corporation Commission which

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1 is equivalent to whoever is going to do it here
2 in the state, remember they said it was the
3 State that's going to determine this ultimately
4 if it gets that far. But those are issues.

5 Now, the one way to find out about that is
6 to actually have one of your folks or somebody
7 that you know is going to be impartial to walk
8 an existing power line and see what kind of
9 caretakers these power companies are. You will
10 be surprised at what kind of land stewards they
11 are when you walk the power lines. I was
12 absolutely shocked about that, and it was that
13 argument that allowed us to eventually -- yes,
14 we got the power line, we didn't really want it
15 but at least it went into an area with the least
16 environmental impact. So those are two positive
17 suggestions I have for your study. Erosion and
18 herbicide application.

19 MODERATOR: Thank you.

20 SPEAKER: Ray D'Amante again. First of
21 all, I'm pretty proud of whatever everybody's
22 had to say this evening. Thank you very much.
23 Incredibly great comments. There's two things

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1 I'd like to bring to everyone's attention, and
2 particularly, to the Department of Energy's
3 attention. When you look at those maps over
4 there, they've got a lot of red lines and a lot
5 of blue lines. Alternate and alternate and
6 alternate. Something to keep in mind from the
7 day those maps went on line, from the day they
8 became public, everybody who owns a piece of
9 land nearby has to, and they want to sell, they
10 have to have their broker disclose the fact that
11 their land is subject to the new line, that
12 their land will be near it, land will be taken
13 for it. And what that does to the value of
14 everybody's land, even if in two years it
15 doesn't happen that particular line is used,
16 what that does to their property is incredible.
17 The people's properties are, their values are
18 being depressed right now. Anybody that's
19 trying to sell, the broker has to disclose it
20 right now. In the North Country I have many
21 clients who are trying to sell their property
22 and people are going elsewhere. So the sooner
23 the Department of Energy can eliminate -- and

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1 Northern Pass, too. I would say to Northern
2 Pass have some concern, you've written, put down
3 a lot of lines. Some of them, are you really
4 going to do through Northwood? I don't have any
5 clients back there that have asked me to speak.
6 But are you going to go through Northwood? If
7 not, take it off. Get rid of that so they don't
8 have to disclose it for the next two years while
9 this process is going forward. Give these
10 people some relief.

11 Second, we've all heard the discussions
12 about how much, there's a lot of money involved
13 and a lot of money involved. I'm going to give
14 you a couple numbers, and these numbers come
15 from two sources. First of all, Public Service
16 in a recent report to the PUC gave a projection
17 of how much money, how much revenue Northern
18 Pass would make if at full capacity and at a
19 certain rate they were utilizing this line. I
20 haven't heard the number tonight. It's one
21 billion dollars a year. One billion a year. If
22 you go to their FERC application you'll notice
23 that the profit is 12 percent. Any business

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1 person here, how would you like to have a
2 guaranteed 12 percent? Guaranteed 12 percent
3 profit. What does that mean? What do every
4 year 120 million dollars in profit. Think they
5 can help New Hampshire a little bit here and be
6 concerned about our citizens?

7 SPEAKER: Joe Drinon. Chichester. I
8 forgot to mention that State Senator Sylvia
9 Larsen was here tonight, too. She took the time
10 out of her evening with her family to attend
11 here tonight. I don't know if she's still here,
12 but thank you very much.

13 One thing I'd like to mention, that is the
14 glossy representations that you get handed out
15 by the Northern Pass folks at the various
16 meetings, there's an economic study in there by
17 Dr. Lisa Shapiro and Dr. Lisa Shapiro is the one
18 that's coming up with all these great economic
19 benefits that the Northern Pass is going to
20 bring to the folks of New Hampshire. I just
21 want to mention that she is employed by
22 Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell which is a
23 leading law firm in the state and in Concord,

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1 New Hampshire, and one of the most powerful
2 lobbying groups in the state. I don't disparage
3 them that. They have a right to lobby, and they
4 do an excellent job, by the way, but she is
5 employed by them. Let alone, she's employed by
6 them, but she's also making these
7 representations on behalf of Northern Pass at
8 the same time Northern Pass is hiring Gallagher,
9 Callahan & Gartrell to do their lobbying, one of
10 the many, many lobbyists. Thank you.

11 SPEAKER: Sarah Hyland, Pembroke. Just as
12 a followup to my comments before about energy
13 conservation and energy efficiency. I would
14 like to recommend that everybody here including
15 the Department of Energy representatives watch
16 the film Kilowatt Ours. It was put together by
17 a film maker from the Tennessee area, and it was
18 about the mountain top mining that was
19 previously mentioned, and how the destruction
20 that caused in the area and how it could be
21 offset by energy conservation measures and with
22 examples in other parts of the country. So
23 please, Kilowatt Ours. Maybe we can get

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1 somebody set up at the libraries around. Thank
2 you.

3 SPEAKER: Richard Samson, Stewartstown, New
4 Hampshire, 804 Piper Hill Road, 03576. I'd like
5 to start off by thanking Mr. Mills and his staff
6 even though I object to the hearings and,
7 Mr. Moderator, you've done a excellent job here
8 this evening of controlling this, and I thank
9 you for that.

10 I just have a couple of quick things.
11 Crawford Lyons, I would like to see you after
12 this meeting, please. And as far as the farming
13 goes, in 1982 when they proposed this line in
14 northern New Hampshire we had a couple of
15 farmers up there that did extensive research on
16 this project and not only the birth defects were
17 involved but mastitis which is an infection of
18 the udder and makes the milk unsalable is a
19 frequent occurrence for any dairy herds that are
20 near power lines. The next to the last thing is
21 that on Thursday at 9:15 a.m. in Concord Senate
22 Bill 118 is going to be heard before the Senate
23 Environmental Committee, and it is a very

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1 important bill, and in that they are going to
2 try to say that Laidlaw biomass plant in Berlin
3 will be classified as green and renewable but
4 the hidden cause is to make Hydro Quebec green
5 and renewable.

6 My last question is could I have a show of
7 hands here this evening, please, of the number
8 of people that are here in favor of this
9 project? Could I have a show of hands of the
10 number of people that are still left here that
11 are opposed to this project? And would the DOE
12 make note of that? Thank you very much.

13 SPEAKER: I'm not brave. My name is Becky
14 Bennett. I live at 834 Prevy Lane in Pembroke.
15 03275. Mostly my neighbor is going to be
16 majorly affected, and he has cows. My neighbor
17 has cows and he's going to affected, and my
18 other neighbor is going to be affected. I have
19 37 acres. I have rescue horses and I just, I'm
20 very opposed to this. I'm more concerned of the
21 look is really. I moved here from Niagara
22 Falls. I lived there ten years. It got so
23 crowded I moved to Falmouth on the Cape. My

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1 backyard was beautiful, and then they started
2 trimming trees. I lived there five years and to
3 maintain power lines behind me which I couldn't
4 see them because it was like a hundred feet, but
5 the maintenance took a month of listening to a
6 chainsaw from early morning to until the sun
7 went down, and I'm concerned that is this going
8 to be one of the maintenance of it if they don't
9 use chemicals? So I was concerned of the sound
10 and the noise because it does echo. Anything
11 that happens down on 106, I can hear. So the
12 idea of chainsaws going 24/7 the whole length of
13 this concerns me. But my husband works in
14 industrial boilers. Waste energy. And I can't
15 understand, think of how many acres we're going
16 to kill when you can put a power plant, you
17 know, burn garbage and make energy. Smaller
18 environment affected compared to going all the
19 way down through the top of the state. I just,
20 trying to figure it out. If they really need
21 energy, we do need another power plant somewhere
22 along the East Coast. And if that's what we're
23 going to need, I think take in 50 acres instead

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1 of going from the tippy top umpteen million
2 acres wide down through. You have to think of
3 that or do the other routes that other people
4 have chosen that seem much better. I'm just
5 speaking for my neighbors to help them out.

6 SPEAKER: Ginny Menard. 36 Mountain Road,
7 Deerfield. 03037. I have an ethical concern.
8 What scares me is that I'm hearing people being
9 concerned about receiving phone calls from a
10 business entity in a very unbusinesslike way in
11 terms of a Saturday afternoon phone call. This
12 is a vitally important piece of communication
13 that needs to take place, and I feel that
14 professionally if I were an entity reaching out
15 to private citizens that professionally there
16 needs to be a buffer to protect that other
17 person. As a realtor if I were to be personally
18 interested in either buying or selling a
19 property I have to disclose that and I have to
20 ensure that the person on the other side is
21 fairly and adequately represented. So when you
22 have a corporation calling people like myself or
23 other landowners that could be taken advantage

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1 of, that's wrong. And I think the State of New
2 Hampshire needs to ensure that there are
3 appropriate channels for good communication and
4 for fair communication and fair decision making
5 on the side of for both parties so that a larger
6 entity can't take advantage of us as
7 individuals, and it really bothers me that it
8 seems like people are getting information from
9 various sources and that to me doesn't seem
10 right. And I don't know how to clean that up.
11 But I think there has to be a huge improvement
12 from what we're seeing in terms of the reaction
13 of why a lot of us are here and how we came to
14 be here is not a clear business professional
15 manner. So thank you for considering that.

16 SPEAKER: (Frederick Martin) I would like
17 to make one more comment on the local generation
18 of green energy. As an alternative it should be
19 studied, the Coos County has wind farms. There
20 are wind farms in the middle part of the state.
21 The lady just mentioned power from garbage.
22 There's Berlin plant for wood generation of
23 electricity, and what's lacking is the power

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1 lines to bring New Hampshire energy to southern
2 New Hampshire. And this is an alternative that
3 should be studied for generation of power within
4 the United States and shipment of that power
5 down a U.S. built power line rather than
6 bringing the power from Canada down to southern
7 New Hampshire and shipping it back to Coos
8 County where they have to pay more for it so
9 local generation of green power in New Hampshire
10 should be studied as an alternative.

11 MODERATOR: Anyone else? I take that as a
12 no. But before you leave, since you've already
13 been doing it you might as well give a round of
14 applause for all the speakers.

15 Few reminders. You can continue to follow
16 the process via the website and you can submit
17 comments until April the 12th of this year. The
18 dates of our other locational meetings and
19 you've heard there are 7 this week. This is the
20 first. We have a meeting in Franklin at the
21 Opera House, Tuesday the 15th. At the Mountain
22 Club on Loon, the Hancock Room in Lincoln, New
23 Hampshire, on Wednesday the 16th. Whitefield,

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1 New Hampshire, the Mountainview Grand Hotel, the
2 Presidential room on Thursday. Plymouth at
3 Plymouth State University on Friday. All of
4 those times are from 6 to 9 like this meeting.
5 Colebrook at the Elementary School on Saturday,
6 March 19th from 1 to 4. And Haverhill, Sunday,
7 the 20th from 1 to 4.

8 I want to thank you guys for your
9 hospitality. I think this was a good meeting.
10 I hope the others go as well, and for the
11 record, unless anyone has any other comments we
12 will officially adjourn, and you can record the
13 time. Thank you.

14 HEARING ADJOURNED AT 9:27 P.M.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Cynthia Foster, Licensed Court Reporter for the State of New Hampshire, hereby certify that on March 14, 2011, I took public comment at the Public Scoping Meeting at Pembroke, New Hampshire, on March 14, 2011;

That the foregoing testimony was taken by me in Shorthand and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me, and pages 2 through 130, inclusive, comprise a full, true and correct transcription of my verbatim stenographic notes of the public comment;

Dated at West Lebanon, New Hampshire, this 18th day of March, 2010.

Cynthia Foster, LCR

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