

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
NORTHERN PASS TRANSMISSION LINE DRAFT EIS

Public Scoping Hearing
Franklin Opera House
316 Central Street
Franklin, New Hampshire 03235
Tuesday, March 15, 2011

1 (Commence at 6:30 p.m.)

2 THE MODERATOR: We welcome you all for
3 coming here tonight. We know that you have a lot
4 of other things and places that you could be.
5 Um -- we're glad that you're here with us. I'm
6 going to run through some basic information just
7 so we're all aware of our surroundings and make
8 sure we're all safe and everything goes off as
9 planned.

10 So I would like you to take a look around
11 and see where the entrances are. There's two on
12 each level. For you people up top, one over here,
13 one in the back. The one on the side here goes
14 out to a set of stairs. The same thing with the
15 door on the first level, it goes out to a set of
16 stairs, and then you're on the outside. The
17 people up top, it's downstairs and out the side
18 door or you could go out the front. People on
19 this level, you can exit, go either out to the
20 right, down a set of stairs or straight out the
21 front door.

22 As far as bathrooms go, ladies room out
23 the main set of doors to the right. Men,

1 downstairs to the left. A couple stairs down.

2 Safety things. Wires. We've got some
3 wires taped on the floor. So be sure wherever
4 you're walking -- um -- especially there are some
5 wires up top as well that are taped down. When
6 you're walking, be sure to look down. If you're
7 coming up on the stage, be sure to look up because
8 there's not a lot of head room on this side.

9 We're going to have all of the speakers
10 tonight talk from the stage. If you are
11 uncomfortable coming up the set of stairs, we will
12 make arrangements for you to speak from the lower
13 level, but if you're able to come up, we greatly
14 appreciate that.

15 As a general description of how this
16 meeting is going to go, we've got a few
17 introductions of mine and some from Brian Mills.
18 We're going to take care of those, and then we'll
19 go to the public speaking period. I'm
20 anticipating there to be two sessions. One from
21 roughly about 6:40, 6:45 to 7:45, and then we're
22 going to have a break so that our stenographer can
23 have some time to rest her fingers, and then we'll

1 go into another session that will go to the end of
2 the meeting.

3 Since we have a lot of people here, I'm
4 going to go over some details as far as the fire
5 precautions. And in the event a -- an alarm
6 sounds, do not panic. Do not overreact. You've
7 heard where the exits are. Make a slow, orderly
8 progression towards them. We've got a fire crew
9 here tonight, so they have told me that there will
10 be no false alarms. So if you do hear something,
11 take it seriously. And, also, from what I'm told,
12 the siren is very loud, and it will ring for a
13 period, and then it will stop so that if they need
14 to give instructions, they can.

15 Representing the federal agencies who've
16 got permitting authority along the northwest
17 corridor, Northern Pass Project, we have
18 representatives from the U.S. Department of
19 Energy, the Department of Agriculture's, U.S.
20 Forest Service and the Army Corps of Engineers.
21 Representing the DOE is Brian Mills, Christopher
22 Laurence, Connie Chen, Anne Finken.

23 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Connie is in the

1 back.

2 THE MODERATOR: Ellen Russell. We have
3 Dean Lenuik here in the front. He's got the time
4 cards. So people who are on the stage presenting,
5 you should watch him. We'll get to instructions
6 on that in a second. Representing the Forest
7 Service is Tom Wagner. Representing the Army
8 Corps of Engineers, Erika Mark.

9 We also have a number of people in the
10 audience from New Hampshire's Congressional
11 Delegation. We have a representative from U.S.
12 Senator Ayotte's office, Susan Terzakis.
13 Representing Senator Shaheen's office, Mr. Chuck
14 Henderson. And I haven't seen him yet.
15 Representing U.S. Congressman Bass's office, Matt
16 Hagerty. Up at the top.

17 I've also been asked to introduce some
18 local government officials. We have Franklin's
19 Mayor, Ken Merrifield, here. We also have two
20 former Mayors, Tony Giunta.

21 MR. GIUNTA: Giunta.

22 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for that
23 correction. Adrian Pomfrey. Maybe he's not here

1 yet. We also have Franklin City Manager Elizabeth
2 Dragon and others from Franklin. A long list.

3 We've got fire crew. Brad Smith, Josh
4 Lee, Bruce Robert and Steve Desrochers. So
5 they're here to make sure that we're all safe, as
6 well as Police Chief -- Police Chief David
7 Goldstein and Officer Tammy Thorpe. Make sure
8 we're all safe.

9 And last, but not least, Debra Mekula,
10 who is our court reporter, who will be making sure
11 that everybody's comments that are here and said
12 tonight are captured.

13 Next, Brian Mills from the U.S.
14 Department of Energy. Brian is going to give a
15 little bit of an opening statement to get the
16 meeting started, and then after that I'll give you
17 some ground rules for the speaker expectations,
18 and we'll be ready to go for public comment.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. MILLS: My name is Brian Mills. I
21 work for the United States Department of Energy.
22 I'm in the Office of Electricity Delivery and
23 Energy Reliability. I would like to thank you for

1 taking the time to attend this meeting today.
2 Your presence and input are vital to a robust
3 public participation process. This is a Scoping
4 Meeting. It's about listening and learning from
5 you.

6 The Department of Energy needs to hear
7 what issues you think we should consider in
8 conducting our environmental analysis. The reason
9 we are here is that Northern Pass Transmission is
10 proposing to construct an international
11 transmission line and has asked the Department of
12 Energy for a permit to cross the border.

13 Northern Pass submitted a Presidential
14 permit application to the Department of Energy in
15 October of 2010. Northern Pass proposes to
16 construct and operate an overhead high-voltage
17 direct current or DC electric transmission line.
18 The line would have a 1,200-megawatt rating and
19 would start at an alternating current or AC to DC
20 converter station in Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada.

21 From there, it will transmit direct
22 current to Franklin, New Hampshire where the DC
23 will be converted to AC. The AC will be

1 transmitted on a proposed 345-kilovolt line that
2 would terminate in Deerfield, New Hampshire. In
3 New Hampshire, the proposed DC transmission line
4 would run approximately 140 miles from the U.S.
5 border in the community of Pittsburg to a DC to AC
6 converter station in Franklin. From the Franklin
7 converter station to the project terminus at an
8 existing Public Service Company of New Hampshire
9 substation in Deerfield, the project will consist
10 of 40 miles of 345-kilovolt AC electric
11 transmission line.

12 Before any facility can be built across
13 the U.S. international border, the proposed --
14 proponent must obtain a Presidential permit from
15 the Department of Energy. A Department of Energy
16 Presidential permit authorizes a company to
17 construct, operate, maintain and connect electric
18 transmission facilities at the border.

19 The Department of Energy is involved in
20 this proceeding for one reason. The proposed
21 transmission line would cross the international
22 border. If this line did not cross the border,
23 the Department of Energy would not be here. The

1 Department of Energy has no authority to site this
2 line. Only the State of New Hampshire has that
3 authority.

4 The Department of Energy does not convey
5 the right of eminent domain with its Presidential
6 permits, nor can the Department of Energy address
7 the issue of compensation for land that would be
8 impacted by the Northern Pass Project. Before the
9 Department of Energy can issue this Presidential
10 permit, we must comply with the National
11 Environmental Policy Act or NEPA.

12 For this proposed project, the Department
13 of Energy has determined the appropriate level of
14 NEPA analysis to be an Environmental Impact
15 Statement or EIS. The EIS will analyze the
16 foreseeable environmental impacts that might flow
17 from granting the permit. The EIS will also
18 identify steps that might be needed to mitigate
19 environmental impacts.

20 The other federal agencies involved are
21 the U.S. Forest Service, White Mountain National
22 Forest, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New
23 England District. They have permitting authority

1 for the proposed facilities within their
2 respective jurisdictions. The Forest Service and
3 Corps of Engineers are cooperating agencies with
4 the Department of Energy in the preparation of
5 this EIS.

6 We are here to listen and get your
7 comments and suggestions for the issues we should
8 be addressing in the EIS. We would also like to
9 know about any alternative routes for this
10 proposed project. Once the scoping period closes
11 on April 12th, 2011, we will get to work in
12 preparing the Draft EIS. This will take several
13 months.

14 Once the Draft is completed, it will be
15 posted on our website and distributed to everyone
16 on our mailing list. If you want to be on the
17 mailing list, you can sign up at the table by the
18 front using the blue postcards or on our website.

19 There will be at least a 45-day comment
20 period for you to review the Draft Environmental
21 Impact Statement and submit comments. During the
22 comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact
23 Statement, you will be able to submit comments in

1 writing or by e-mail. We will also hold public
2 hearings to receive oral comments on the Draft
3 EIS.

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

15 At the completion of the EIS process, the
16 Department of Energy may or may not issue a
17 Presidential permit. If the Department of Energy
18 were to issue a Presidential permit, the
19 transmission line and associated facilities could
20 not be built unless and until all other state,
21 local and federal permits are obtained.

22 For this meeting, the stenographer is
23 here to write down what you say during your

1 comments. Whether you choose to speak or not,
2 you're invited to send us written comments. All
3 comments, whether written or oral, are treated the
4 same and have equal weight.

5 We will accept comments until
6 April 12th. We will consider comments submitted
7 after that date to the extent we can. If you have
8 specific questions about the project itself,
9 representatives from Northern Pass are here to
10 discuss them with you. For example, they can
11 describe the proposed and alternative routes on
12 the maps that are here.

13 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Brian. A
14 couple ground rules. They apply to everyone in
15 the room. The speakers will all have an equal
16 amount of time to speak. All speakers are equal,
17 and they'll be afforded the opportunity to speak
18 in the order in which they signed up. We're going
19 to go through the list of preregistered speakers,
20 and in the end we will take any open comments if
21 people have them after sitting in the room hearing
22 other people speak, specifically if you have
23 something that is -- that has not been mentioned

1 by the others.

2 Respect the speakers. The person on the
3 stage is going to have everyone's attention in the
4 room hopefully, and try to keep background chatter
5 and things like that down or take it outside.

6 Second, opinions. Obviously everybody's
7 got different opinions, and just respect those who
8 obviously have other opinions. You're allowed to
9 clap after each presentation. We prefer that you
10 clap at the end of it and not during it, although
11 if you want to clap for me, the moderator will
12 accept it.

13 The second, when I'm done everybody is
14 going to be getting three minutes. As I had
15 mentioned, we've got someone down here in the
16 front row. If you would stand up again. He's got
17 a number of cards in his hand. You don't have to
18 clap too loud. He's got some cards in his hand.
19 He's going to hold up a green one. When you see
20 this green one, you've got one minute left. He's
21 got a yellow one. Thirty seconds left. Red or
22 orange, wrap up. So we had some complaints
23 yesterday that people couldn't see the other ones,

1 things going, the first three names -- I'm going
2 to give four names in the beginning. Mayor Ken
3 Merrifield. You're on next. You're up first.
4 Elizabeth Dragon. Tucker Noack, who I do not yet
5 have an understanding is here. David Testerman,
6 who I also don't have a check mark for. Ted
7 Sidley, another one I don't have a check mark
8 for. And then Brad Smith. Douglas Boyd. Thank
9 you. Mayor.

10 THE SPEAKER: I am Ken Merrifield. I'm
11 the Mayor of the City of Franklin. I first want
12 to take a moment to welcome you all to our city.
13 And for those who are from out of town, I hope
14 that you'll come back and pay another visit
15 because we have many, many amenities and events
16 here.

17 As you know, Franklin is planned to be
18 the southern terminal for the DC line, and as such
19 it will be home to a new DC converter station.
20 The estimated taxable value of that station is 250
21 million dollars, which represents roughly 44
22 percent of the entire taxable value of our city
23 today.

1 Franklin and its taxpayers have struggled
2 over the years to provide municipal and
3 educational services for our citizens because the
4 property tax base has not been large enough to
5 support all of our needs. We currently receive
6 more than half of our school budget, in fact, in
7 assistance from the State of New Hampshire.

8 This project would change all of that,
9 and the positive impacts will be staggering for
10 our city and the region. Note that the City of
11 Laconia and its Mayor are in support of this
12 project as well.

13 Throughout the recession, Franklin has
14 suffered a higher unemployment rate than the state
15 as a whole. Franklin's unemployment rate in
16 January, in fact, was 7.7 percent. And the
17 construction of the DC converter and numerous
18 related economic activities will offer many local
19 employment opportunities for years to come, but
20 the positive impact on Franklin is just a small
21 part of the total economic picture.

22 In January, there were 45,000 unemployed
23 people in New Hampshire. But the construction

1 phase of the DC line will create 1,200 jobs
2 statewide over the course of three years. The
3 total investment in taxable infrastructure in New
4 Hampshire will be one billion one hundred million
5 dollars. So less than a quarter of that
6 investment will actually be in the City of
7 Franklin. The tax benefits will be seen in local,
8 county and the state budget.

9 And in this discussion over Northern
10 Pass, it has been argued that 90 percent of the
11 electricity transmitted by the line will go out of
12 state. And New Hampshire produces more
13 electricity than it uses, and this is technically
14 true because we only have 10 percent of the
15 customers in New England. And it would actually
16 matter, except that the -- if electricity knew the
17 difference between state borders in New England,
18 but it doesn't. Electricity doesn't know about
19 New Hampshire borders.

20 New England is one single electricity
21 market and one bucket of electricity. So a
22 shortage of electricity in New England anytime in
23 the future will mean a shortage in New Hampshire.

1 And a surplus only inside New Hampshire does not
2 help New Hampshire customers at all.

3 And I just point out, I see that I'm
4 running out of time already, and I have a number
5 of other things I wanted to mention, but I wanted
6 to direct the Department of Energy to its own
7 National Electric Transmission Congestion site in
8 August of 2006, which stated that the New England
9 region faces growing electricity supply challenges
10 that new transmission could mitigate. Thank you
11 very much. I wanted to say a lot more. Thank
12 you.

13 (Applause.)

14 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mayor. The
15 moderator made a slight mistake and didn't tell
16 you that at the end of the meeting, once all the
17 preregistered speakers have spoke, anyone who has
18 spoken once can speak again. We'll let the new
19 people, new speakers, come up first, and then
20 we'll let people who have spoken once be given
21 another opportunity.

22 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:
23 Could the moderator also introduce himself,

1 please?

2 THE MODERATOR: Excuse me. Yes. I
3 apologize. George Kervitsky.

4 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:
5 From?

6 THE MODERATOR: I work for a company
7 called BCS, and I am a contractor here.

8 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:
9 Thank you.

10 THE MODERATOR: Sure thing. My apologies
11 for not having stated that. Our next speaker,
12 Elizabeth Dragon.

13 THE SPEAKER: Hello, everyone. I am also
14 here today to talk about the economic impacts of
15 this proposed project not only for the City of
16 Franklin but for the State of New Hampshire. And
17 it's a great time to talk about economic impact of
18 a multimillion dollar project, taxable project,
19 when right now we can't pick up a paper or turn on
20 the news without hearing about the economic
21 hardships and struggles each community is facing
22 across the state, not to mention the struggles the
23 state itself is facing.

1 Each day we are hearing about budget
2 cuts, downshifts, layoffs, shortages in revenue,
3 and communities are not doing necessary projects
4 in their communities simply because we can't
5 afford to do it, and people are losing their
6 jobs.

7 Did you know right here in Franklin,
8 which was once a vibrant mill town, over half of
9 our students are eligible for free or reduced
10 lunch? Over half. That's one out of every two
11 children in this community is living at poverty or
12 below poverty. That's our reality.

13 The City of Franklin has a tax base, as
14 you heard from the Mayor, of just over 563
15 million. This project would add an approximate
16 250 million dollars to the tax base. That's
17 almost half of our current taxable value, and it
18 results in over four million dollars of new
19 revenue for the City of Franklin each year, but it
20 doesn't stop there.

21 The estimated tax benefits are not only
22 for Franklin but several other towns and cities
23 across New Hampshire as well as the statewide

1 education funding system. At a time when funding
2 education for children across New Hampshire is
3 becoming more and more difficult, this project
4 would generate over 7.2 million dollars a year
5 directly to the State of New Hampshire funding
6 system. Several of our economies would also
7 benefit from this project.

8 Tax revenue without impacting local
9 services. Oftentimes when a project comes to your
10 town, there's a tax revenue, but there's an
11 off-setting impact in the municipality. Once the
12 lines and the facilities are in place there's
13 really no additional impact for services in your
14 community.

15 I've heard testimony the last couple
16 months that mention a concern about lower assessed
17 values in communities due to the installation of
18 the transmission line. Unless you are taking
19 buildable property off the tax roll, the impact is
20 negligible. Most of this proposed project is
21 being located in an existing right of way where
22 utility poles are already in existence.

23 Property with existing utility poles are

1 often given a 10 percent adjustment to their land
2 portion only of their assessed value. They are
3 already being discounted for those utility poles
4 that are present.

5 And we all know this is a time when we
6 need jobs, and I've also heard the testimony that
7 there's a concern that there are only temporary
8 jobs. Well, I have to say I'll take a temporary
9 job over no job. And one of the things that's
10 often overlooked is the economic spin-off. That
11 means jobs come with people. This project would
12 bring workers to all of our towns across the State
13 of New Hampshire for approximately three years.
14 These people need lunch. They need a place to do
15 a little shopping, maybe pick up some milk on
16 their way home. It's a temporary boon to our
17 local businesses, and it is just what we need.

18 And I see I'm wrapping up, so I will wrap
19 up. But I just want to say that in reality we all
20 use our cell phones, but we don't necessarily want
21 a cell phone tower in our community, but one can't
22 function without the other. And at a time when we
23 all want to reduce our carbon footprint and have

1 affordable energy to run our homes, we have to
2 figure out a way to get from point A to point B.
3 This project is vital to not only the City of
4 Franklin but to the State of New Hampshire.

5 (Applause.)

6 THE MODERATOR: Do I have Tucker Noack?
7 David Testerman. Ted Sidley.

8 THE SPEAKER: My name is Ted Sidley. I'm
9 from Wanalanot. I'd like to make four
10 recommendations to the Department of Energy, and
11 they are all related -- related to the issue of
12 confidence. Right now the Department is in a lull
13 of confidence and public trust because of recent
14 embarrassing situations. It seems to me there are
15 four things that ought to be done to improve
16 that.

17 First is the question of avoiding
18 conflict of interests on the part of parties who
19 are involved in the project. And I think there
20 are ways of avoiding that according to the way the
21 applications for work on the EIS are handled by
22 the Department and how the Department handles its
23 relationship with Northern Pass.

1 The second is the general principle that
2 when it comes to presenting data to the public
3 that there cannot be too much presentation by the
4 Department, and it seems to me that what the
5 Department ought to do is give the public
6 everything that the Department knows about the
7 project, and that means presenting a tremendous
8 amount of raw data. And I think the place to do
9 it, which the Department is doing it now very
10 nicely, is on the website which has an infinite
11 capacity to do it.

12 Third, I think that the project and the
13 EIS ought to have a statement and a stipulation
14 about whistle-blowers. One of the things that
15 whistle-blowers can and do do is to call attention
16 to malfeasance and misfeasance on the part of
17 people who are involved in activities such as in
18 this project. And if the -- if the Department
19 focuses on the whistle-blowers and ensures that
20 the whistle-blowers have enough funding to support
21 their efforts, that would be a very helpful thing
22 to ensuring a quality product.

23 Finally, I would like to recommend that

1 the Department include an opportunity for a public
2 party appeal of the EIS. It might be that even
3 after all of the activities and safeguards that
4 will have been gone through during the course of
5 the project that there will still be an aspect of
6 it that would be disadvantageous to the public,
7 and if there is an opportunity for an appeal, that
8 gives the Department a final opportunity to get
9 not only input from the public, which they are
10 granting at this point, but the opportunity to get
11 the final decision out of the Department of Energy
12 should that be necessary and even included. So I
13 thank you very much for considering my
14 recommendations.

15 (Applause.)

16 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much,
17 sir. Our next speaker is Brad Smith. Douglas
18 Boyd, if you're ready, please come up. Denise
19 Thibeault, Kelly Wieser or Wieser. Richard
20 Samson. Go ahead, Brad.

21 THE SPEAKER: All set? First of all, for
22 disclosure reasons, I'd like to just let everyone
23 know, if you can't tell, that I'm the Fire Chief

1 here in the City of Franklin, but I speak to you
2 more as a lifelong resident of New Hampshire. I
3 was born and raised in New Hampshire and came back
4 to Franklin to work. So this is my statement as a
5 resident and a stakeholder that lives within
6 viewing distance of one of the primary alternate
7 sites for the transmission line.

8 And I read this morning's coverage of the
9 meeting in Pembroke last night, and one attendee
10 who spoke there quoted her mother as saying never
11 trust a stranger. Well, my mother used to tell me
12 not to carry all of my eggs in one basket. I live
13 less than one mile from one of the proposed
14 routes, and I'm here to say why I support the
15 project.

16 Encouraging the development of clean,
17 renewable energy will have further-reaching
18 effects than what is immediately beneficial to me
19 or the community that I live in. It is about what
20 is important to all of us as a nation. The
21 promotion and the use of these types of energies
22 will help us diversify our energy portfolio and
23 help us stay competitive in supplying goods and

1 services and tightening world markets, goods and
2 services that we all use no matter where we live.

3 As we watch areas of the world
4 destabilize, we need to consider the relationships
5 that we've developed with their governments, the
6 relationships that have in some cases helped us
7 quench our insatiable oil appetite. Chinese and
8 Indian economies are growing at a rate that far
9 surpass our own. These growing economies are
10 consuming natural resources we historically almost
11 exclusively consumed.

12 We teeter so close -- so closely to the
13 balance point of available resources and global
14 demand that any disruption of supply or need,
15 whether it be manmade or natural disaster, sends
16 ripples through our economy. We only need to pull
17 up to the gas pumps and see what we're paying for
18 higher fuel prices to prove that that's the case.

19 The definition of a parasite is one
20 organism living off another. We are but parasites
21 living off the natural resources of the earth.
22 Finding a balance between how we continue to
23 prosper as a nation and competitively provide

1 goods and services to the world and what we take
2 from the earth is the conundrum.

3 People consume energy. Growing economies
4 consume energy, and growing economies provide
5 employment opportunities in all fields. Our
6 nation needs healthy growth opportunities. We
7 are -- we have often been faced with making
8 difficult choices. Sometimes that choice is what
9 is good for the whole and not the individual.

10 Flood control systems like the one that
11 we have here in Franklin have been built
12 throughout our country. These systems provide
13 protection for real estate nowhere near these
14 water impoundment areas. These exist for the good
15 of the whole, saving billions of dollars in
16 property damage yearly.

17 Expanding importation of clean, reliable,
18 low-carbon energy which is just north of our
19 border, as well as continued development of
20 domestic, clean power alternatives like the Cape
21 Wind project and others is good for us all, and
22 it's the right thing to do.

23 (Applause.)

1 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Brad. Next
2 speaker, please. On deck, and I believe I had
3 mentioned this name already -- or names. Kelly
4 Wieser. Wieser. Kate Rose. Richard Samson.
5 David Dobbins. Danielle Barker. You can start.

6 THE SPEAKER: Like I told Brad before the
7 meeting, I feel like I'm at Fenway Park right
8 now. My name is Denise Thibeault, and I've been a
9 homeowner here in Franklin for 22 years. PSNH
10 already passed right through my property in West
11 Franklin. Obviously the preferred route through
12 here, so my home will be further impacted through
13 decreased property values.

14 While I totally understand the enthusiasm
15 for the important revenue in this town, I want to
16 express my opposition. Not only will I be
17 impacted here, but with my immediate family I'm
18 part owner of a working farm on the New Hampshire
19 Canadian border. Part of the land is actually in
20 Canada at the entrance. This is the entrance in
21 Pittsburg. With absolutely no warning, the
22 preferred Northern Pass route, first and second
23 alternates routes were announced. Imagine our

1 surprise when the number one and first alternate
2 route cut directly through our farm.

3 We still weren't contacted for 10 days,
4 and even now, despite my brother giving PSNH all
5 my information as a landowner, I've yet to be
6 contacted. Hydro-Quebec and the local Canadian
7 Government actually did shots here first. To help
8 those -- as the other speaker said, I hope they'll
9 be working more closely with the landowners soon.

10 The power line itself will be 180 miles
11 long. The first 40 miles involve approximately
12 145 property owners for establishing new rights of
13 way. It's estimated that 90 percent of these will
14 involve eminent domain, beginning with us. Donna
15 Gamache, spokesperson for PSNH, referred to this
16 as worthwhile as it's a once in a lifetime
17 opportunity for low-cost energy which will
18 actually go to southern New England.

19 I'd like to state that we already have a
20 gas pipeline through this same farm. That came
21 through the last once in a lifetime opportunity in
22 the eighties. We lost then. We have a gas
23 pipeline. It's unbelievable that they can use

1 eminent domain for the second time in a live free
2 or die state.

3 Northern Pass involves private
4 homesteads, working farms and forests, including
5 the White Mountain National Forest in an area
6 that's already taken a huge economic hit. The
7 inclusive values of these properties is based on
8 their rural, noncommercial status. One-hundred-
9 thirty-five-foot towers every 800 feet will have a
10 large, negative impact with no benefit to us.

11 If Northern Pass is really concerned
12 about what's best for the people, they should at
13 least be willing to discuss alternatives such as
14 underground passage. We were told it's not
15 economically feasible for -- although up there we
16 discussed it, but a similar underground project
17 also by PSNH's partner, Hydro-Quebec, is proposed
18 from Canada to New York City.

19 Northern Pass would be 180 miles long and
20 offers 1.1 billion dollars with 1,200 temporary
21 jobs projected. The Champlain Hudson Power
22 Express, which is also slated for commission in
23 2015, runs twice as long at 355 miles and affords

1 impact of overhead transmission by both
2 underground and underwater at a cost of 1.9
3 billion, and they only estimate up to 200
4 temporary jobs.

5 New Hampshire doesn't need this power.
6 We already export excess. This will just cut
7 through us to get power to southern New England
8 and benefit Hydro-Quebec and Northeast Utilities,
9 PSNH's parent company, which is a private
10 company. Please, at the very least, we would ask
11 the Northern Pass and PSNH be willing to explore
12 more options. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Kelly
15 Wieser. Katie Rose. Richard Samson. David
16 Dobbins. Next on deck, Ruth Niven, George
17 Dzojna. How do you say that name?

18 MR. DZUJNA: Dzujna.

19 THE MODERATOR: Dzujna. That would be a
20 guess. David, you're ready to go.

21 THE SPEAKER: Hello, and good evening to
22 all of you. My name is Dave Dobbins. I live in
23 Gilford. Our town is not impacted by the proposed

1 alternate or primary routes of the Northern Pass
2 Project.

3 MR. MILLS: Use that microphone. Yeah.
4 That's the one.

5 THE SPEAKER: All right to start my clock
6 over?

7 (Laughter.)

8 THE SPEAKER: So, look, I sincerely can
9 appreciate the -- you know, the thoughtful view
10 that Franklin is giving this project and the
11 amount of tax money that may come into the Town of
12 Franklin as a result of the conversion facility,
13 but I feel strongly that it's much bigger than a
14 Franklin, New Hampshire project.

15 This is something that has a very
16 significant and, I think, damaging effect on the
17 entire State of New Hampshire. And I also think
18 it's poor energy policy for our nation to be
19 turning to another nation to reach that vital
20 energy independence that we keep hearing so much
21 about. We have other alternatives available to us
22 right within our borders.

23 Okay. There's a couple of things I would

1 like to direct the Department to take a look into
2 as they examine the application for this permit.
3 I would -- I would direct you to the testimony of
4 James Muntz that he's filed with the Federal
5 Energy Regulatory Commission on December 15th,
6 2010 as part of the Northern Pass request to
7 approve a Transmission Service Agreement with
8 Hydro-Quebec.

9 In his written testimony, Mr. Muntz makes
10 it clear that the first choice for the conversion
11 facility was at the Scobie Pond substation in
12 Londonderry which is owned by PSNH. It would have
13 added a longer DC line and been more economical
14 overall. However, it was ruled out when they took
15 a look at the right of way from Scobie Pond to the
16 Deerfield station. An expansion of that right of
17 way would have impacted land trust areas,
18 conservation easements, commercial buildings and
19 up to 50 to 60 private homes.

20 From the written testimony, and I quote,
21 "It was concluded that the expansion of the right
22 of way would result in extremely negative public
23 and political reaction against the plan and the

1 overall HVDC project."

2 The testimony then goes on to say that on
3 a technical basis the second choice for the
4 converter facility was at the Deerfield
5 substation, but a suitable parcel of land for the
6 facility could not be located there.

7 So Franklin ends up with what will be
8 about 25 acres of land full of high-voltage
9 electrical gear, most of which must be located
10 outside. What kind of development will ever be
11 done anywhere near a facility like that? What
12 kind of branding is that for the future of
13 Franklin? What kind of legacy to be left for
14 Franklin's children and grandchildren? What are
15 the health risks to the citizens of Franklin?

16 What was the real reason that Franklin
17 ended up with the conversion facility? Could it
18 be that the developers thought there was little
19 economic or political power here to stop it? That
20 falls under the whole idea of environmental
21 justice that I want you to examine in this project
22 as it relates to Franklin.

23 The second issue I'd like you to take a

1 look at is I'd like you to perform an extensive
2 study of exactly how many jobs will be created
3 during the construction and operation of the
4 proposed power lines and conversion facility. The
5 study should include how many jobs will exist
6 during the construction period only, how many
7 permanent jobs will exist to manage the lines and
8 converter facility if it were to become
9 operational.

10 It should also include an assessment of
11 the nature of the jobs and what percentage of them
12 will be performed by New Hampshire residents and
13 how many jobs and of what type will be available
14 to Franklin residents during and after
15 construction.

16 And my final note is I would again and
17 very respectfully ask that the DOE examine this
18 project on its overall merit on the basis of the
19 power that's not even needed to the damage that
20 will be done and exercise its authority to fully
21 deny the Presidential permit and to do so as
22 expediently as possible. Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

1 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Next speaker,
2 Danielle Barker. Next names on deck, Joe Drinon.

3 THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I'm a resident
4 of Franklin. I'm a supporter of this project. I
5 support the alternate route presented this past
6 month. First, I want to say people do want green
7 energy. And other than wind, there's no greener
8 energy than this hydro project will provide.

9 I hope the U.S. Department of Energy
10 looks into the facct that the residents of
11 northern New Hampshire who are fighting this
12 adamantly also refuse to have wind energy because
13 with wind energy there are also visible poles.
14 Therefore, the people who are fighting against
15 this project are people who don't want anything,
16 no matter how green it is, for themselves because
17 they don't want to look at it.

18 Second, people want tax revenue. In this
19 community alone, we are looking to increase our
20 tax base somewhere in the range of five million
21 dollars through this project. Our community
22 struggles with a highly transient population.
23 This population puts a strain on the city and its

1 property taxpaying residents as they have to pay
2 more and more social service tabs simply because
3 the city has a lot of low-income rental
4 properties.

5 The reason we have so many low-income
6 rental properties is because no one wants to
7 invest in this city until it can make something of
8 itself and its school district. This money would
9 drastically help us do just that as well as help
10 improve our own energy and failing water and sewer
11 infrastructure.

12 The New Hampshire Society for the
13 Protection of Forests gave their reasons of why
14 they are opposing Northern Pass. They want to
15 protect tourism in the state. Well, good, because
16 I can assure you that the tax money that will be
17 generated for the State through this project will
18 certainly allow people to invest in capital in
19 their hotels, amusement parks and roadways.

20 They argue for the biomass plants that
21 are already up and running in this state. And,
22 yes, we all love biomass. It's another renewable
23 energy source. But I want to ask should we shut

1 down an opportunity of this proportion because we
2 want a couple of businesses in the North Country
3 to be the only game in town? This is America, and
4 I believe in capitalism. We have -- who in their
5 right mind would want to let -- not want to let
6 another country invest a billion dollars into
7 their workers, state and economy?

8 The bottom line is we're in a recession.
9 There are no jobs. We have coal burning up our
10 atmosphere, and letting someone else pay for
11 people to work here is a good idea.

12 I would like people to be made aware of
13 the Weeks Act of 1911, the Weeks Act being the law
14 which enabled individual states to work in
15 conjunction with the United States Government to
16 protect the watersheds and certain areas of land
17 from destruction or development.

18 A little over 100 years ago, a northern
19 New Hampshire logging company clear-cut what is
20 now the White Mountains National Forest. The
21 logging company essentially went into the area,
22 clear-cut it, made their money and left. The
23 Weeks Act prohibited a situation such as this from

1 happening again.

2 Therefore, I'm sure between the U.S.
3 Department of Energy, the Weeks Act, six other
4 federal agencies who would have to approve this
5 project and common sense no one will bring
6 destruction to the White Mountains National
7 Forest. People need to realize the proper
8 protections are in place, and we have had them for
9 100 years.

10 To further accentuate my points here, I
11 would like to quote our President in regard to his
12 energy policy. He states, "As we recover from
13 this recession, the transition to clean energy has
14 the potential to grow our economy and create
15 millions of jobs but only if we accelerate that
16 transition, only if we seize the moment, and only
17 if we rally together and act as one nation,
18 workers and entrepreneurs, scientists and
19 citizens, the public and private sectors."

20 I would argue this is the opportunity for
21 the Northeastern part of the United States to
22 change -- to charge -- to take charge of the
23 economy and its health for its citizens and its

1 surroundings.

2 I believe once the first person comes in
3 and establishes a win-win solution for life
4 necessity of electricity, it will only saturate
5 the rest of the country. So for the people who
6 say I won't take your money for my land, I want to
7 say to them would you rather keep your land the
8 way it is so you are the only one who can look at
9 it and in turn allow people to get cancer down the
10 way because they are being -- still being exposed
11 to the side effects of coal burning or do you want
12 to be part of creating a reliable, clean energy
13 source?

14 And I'm sure if the -- you answer the
15 former, you are a selfish New Hampshire resident
16 who only wants to flood the good intentions of
17 this project which aim to do more for the health
18 and wellness of generations of people, plants and
19 animals to come by using -- by using this
20 sustainable energy than burning coal.

21 (Applause.)

22 THE MODERATOR: Next up possibly -- hold
23 on. It may be Ruth. Are you Ruth? Ruth Niven.

1 And if you could clearly state your name and
2 address for the record.

3 THE SPEAKER: My name is Ruth Niven.

4 THE MODERATOR: Niven.

5 THE SPEAKER: My address is 120 Chance
6 Pond Road in Franklin, New Hampshire. I've lived
7 in Franklin my entire life, 61 years. I just made
8 some very short notes.

9 According to the Northern Pass website,
10 46 towns and cities in New Hampshire could be
11 impacted by this project. In Franklin alone,
12 where there are existing corridors, they will
13 become expanded through the Franklin Falls
14 Reservoir alongside Webster Lake through the Great
15 Gains Memorial Forest and the Daniel Webster
16 Birthplace Historical Site.

17 The existing right of way, yes, but with
18 taller transmission towers, wider corridors which
19 make a bigger impact visually and physically. You
20 can replant trees, but you can't remake a rock.
21 New Hampshire is the Granite State.

22 Many people with degrees and much more
23 knowledge than myself have said this is -- energy

1 generated by this project is not needed by New
2 Hampshire. What we need is diversity. We need
3 multiple, small projects because diversity is
4 always better than a monopoly. Once we get the
5 Northern Pass through the State of New Hampshire,
6 it will become the biggest producer of energy in
7 the state, and many of the smaller projects will
8 fall by the wayside.

9 The image that comes to mind is the trout
10 swimming around in a brook or a cold New Hampshire
11 lake looking for something because they're
12 hungry. And they see that big, fat fly right in
13 front of their grasp, and they snatch at it and
14 realize too late that there's a hook there. No
15 one gives you something for nothing, and that
16 includes the Northern Pass. You asked for
17 alternatives. I say scrap the project.

18 (Applause.)

19 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Thank you.
20 George. You're up next. Next speaker, George
21 Dzujna. I'll let you take care of it. Next on
22 deck, Robert Stephen, Glen Fenner. Feener.

23 THE SPEAKER: My name is George Dzujna,

1 and I live at 158 Sterling Drive in Franklin, New
2 Hampshire. My wife and I, we moved here about six
3 years ago, so we're new to New Hampshire. We're
4 new to the community. We got involved right away
5 in the community. Many people before me spoke
6 about the benefits, especially Elizabeth Dragon
7 spoke about benefits, so I'm going to be very
8 brief.

9 And I'm just going to just mention why
10 I'm for it, the idea of the green energy, but in a
11 time when economic benefit could come not only to
12 Franklin but to the surrounding towns that this is
13 going to affect and also to the state where the
14 education funds are going to be given to the state
15 when a time when grants are being dried up, people
16 are losing -- the teachers are losing their jobs,
17 the aides are losing their jobs, and their hours
18 are being cut back, it might be a good time to
19 have some education funding. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, George. Next
22 speaker, Joe Drinon.

23 THE SPEAKER: Drinon.

1 THE MODERATOR: Drinon.

2 THE SPEAKER: My name is Joe Drinon. I'm
3 from Chichester, New Hampshire. The preferred
4 route goes through New Hampshire, but it does not
5 go through my property. Um -- I don't even think
6 I'm going to see the towers, so my concern is, of
7 course, is -- well, for the community of
8 Chichester, but my real concern is -- really is
9 beyond that. It's for the State of New
10 Hampshire.

11 Last night I spoke about the March of the
12 of the Valkyries. That's my favorite symphony.
13 For those of you who do not know what I'm talking
14 about, pull it up on iTunes. It's a wonderful,
15 wonderful symphony, and it really is a useful
16 forum that describes or gives you the feeling of
17 the march of the Northern Pass, how overwhelming
18 this is, what a head start they got on us, and --
19 um -- I just want to -- I just want to tell you
20 that the -- that these scoping meetings are
21 fabulous.

22 It gives us an opportunity to express
23 ourselves, but no one is going to change their

1 mind on the Northern Pass. And listening to our
2 story -- I have a heartbreaking story. I'm not
3 even going to talk about it. We heard a lot about
4 it last night. Believe me, they've heard these
5 heartbreaking stories every time one of these
6 projects goes through.

7 There is only one way we can stop this
8 monster. Governor Lynch, who's not here tonight,
9 by the way, again, he doesn't send a
10 representative. Senator Shaheen, who graciously
11 has a representative here, Senator Ayotte, who
12 graciously has a representative here, and I
13 understand Representative Bass has a
14 representative here. Thank you for being here.
15 At least you're here, and the Governor is --
16 again, doesn't show up.

17 But really it's your local politicians.
18 It's these politicians, your local politicians,
19 that have to join us in the fight to stop the
20 monster. And it's not enough that they assure us
21 of a fair process. There is no fair process. It
22 is -- is it fair that they foul New Hampshire's
23 beauty with these monstrous towers?

1 Is it not enough that -- it is not enough
2 that Senator Shaheen and Senator Ayotte did their
3 job with a conflict of interest. We appreciate
4 that, but that is not enough. They have to join
5 us against this Northern Pass. Please tell --
6 please tell the people that you -- that you work
7 for, the politicians that you work for, that --
8 that this -- if this monster goes through, it is
9 forever.

10 There is no changing our mind and taking
11 it down. Tell your bosses that if it goes
12 through, it will be their legacy. It's going to
13 be their legacy. It will -- it will have happened
14 on their watch. I don't want to have to start
15 referring to the Northern Pass as the Lynch-
16 Shaheen-Ayotte Pass because if it does go through,
17 tell them that it will be their legacy forever.
18 Please give -- please, Governor Lynch, Senator
19 Shaheen, Senator Ayotte, please save New Hampshire
20 from itself. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Rob Stephen.
23 Got one right.

1 THE SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Robert
2 Stephen, and I live out by the lake here in
3 Franklin. I've been here for about 25 years. I'd
4 like the City to please consider the lake area
5 where they're going to come right through with
6 this power, if they do. We only have the one lake
7 that attracts outsiders, and we're having a hard
8 time keeping people around the lake right now. We
9 have a lot of empty houses.

10 What's it going to be like when they put
11 these monster power lines right there? If you're
12 going to come through with this project, please
13 consider your alternative route to stay away from
14 our only pristine natural attraction, which is our
15 lake. I don't know how we're going to sell those
16 houses out there with that big power sore.

17 And a lot of good things were said
18 tonight. What happened to our original generators
19 and all these mills? Can't we reproduce power
20 through the water supplies in our mills? I don't
21 understand why you can't open our mills back up,
22 put our own people back to work and generate our
23 own power. Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Robert. Hold
3 on one second. Actually come over -- um -- hold
4 on one second, though. I want to get some names
5 out. Do I have Douglas Boyd now in the audience?
6 Douglas, come on up to the on-deck circle. I also
7 want to call up Robert Ward and Gerald LeBlanc.

8 Next speaker, Robert Stephen.

9 THE SPEAKER: Glen Feener.

10 THE MODERATOR: Oh. Glen Feener.

11 THE SPEAKER: Glen Feener, Franklin,
12 27-year resident of Franklin. Yes, this can be a
13 great financial boon to the City of Franklin, but
14 let's talk about how this impacts the State.
15 Environmentally, clean reuseable energy for the
16 state is going to be produced. Okay. We're not
17 going to get a whole lot of it, but it's still
18 clean, renewable energy to help the region.

19 This is going to help us reduce the
20 production of fossil fuels. It's going to help
21 reduce our greenhouse gases. This is a long-term
22 initiative from the Federal Government. The State
23 Government, the local government, your democrats,

1 the republicans, your conservatives have been
2 planning this for years. Here's an opportunity to
3 help that towards getting to reduce greenhouse
4 gas. And we know that it's probably far safer
5 than nuclear energy, and we see what's going on in
6 Japan right now.

7 The economic impact to New Hampshire.
8 The community is going to benefit from 15 to 20
9 million dollars in new tax revenues, and with the
10 State of New Hampshire pushing more costs and
11 expenses down to local communities, this is going
12 to be a revenue source for the 46 communities this
13 is going through that's going to benefit from,
14 along with the education tax.

15 From the State standpoint, 1,200 jobs.
16 Yeah, over three years. Hopefully it will
17 continue with the private industry keeping people
18 on over the years. It's also going to help with
19 many economic benefits, as I said earlier, about
20 restaurants and hotels being able to rent rooms
21 and sell food to people who are going to be
22 working in the area.

23 About two to three months ago on WMUR

1 Stephen Colbert had this project as the number
2 four industrial project in the State of New
3 Hampshire that is going to pull us out of this
4 recession. So is this a benefit to the State of
5 New Hampshire? Yes, it is. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Before I call
8 the next speaker, I want to recognize the
9 attendance of State Representative David Palfrey.
10 Welcome, David. There's a seat up front if you
11 need one. Next speaker, Robert Ward. Next on
12 deck, Leigh Webb.

13 THE SPEAKER: My name is Robert Ward. I
14 am a landscape architect and professional plan
15 consultant. I work in the areas of environmental
16 planning and community planning. I am not a
17 resident of Franklin. I am, however, a honorary
18 lifetime member of the Society for Protection of
19 New Hampshire Forests. I had a couple of concerns
20 that I'd like to address. I do support the use of
21 the existing utility rights of way rather than --

22 THE MODERATOR: Robert, could you move
23 that mic up a little closer to you.

1 THE SPEAKER: Is that better? I do
2 support the use of existing utility rights of way
3 over new -- new utility lines -- um -- rights of
4 way because of the obvious benefits of the minimal
5 impacts to the environment of using the existing
6 rights of way. I do feel that the height of the
7 towers should be kept to a minimum. I have not
8 heard a compelling reason why the towers need to
9 be increased in height, and I feel that this is a
10 major issue in terms of the impact on the State's
11 resource.

12 I do recall a number of years ago shortly
13 after the rather large ice storm that hit this
14 area of New Hampshire traveling to Quebec City and
15 seeing transmission towers -- um -- that collapsed
16 under the weight of ice all along my route going
17 through Quebec City, and it seems to me that the
18 higher the towers, the more likely that they may
19 be susceptible to this type of degradation by
20 natural factors.

21 I would urge the Department of Energy to
22 consider alternative means of transmission. I
23 recall a number of years ago reading that there is

1 a significant loss of electricity between the
2 generation facility and the point of use,
3 particularly the longer the distance is for the
4 transmission simply due to the resistance in the
5 electrical transmission lines. And apparently
6 this is a very significant loss of power just
7 simply to push the power over a great distance on
8 transmission lines to their point where the power
9 will be consumed.

10 This leads me to urge you to consider
11 what has been suggested for the Champlain Hudson
12 Power Express, which is underground. I recall
13 reading that the use of liquid Freon cable
14 underground was a much more efficient way and
15 would significantly reduce the losses due to
16 resistance in the power lines.

17 Lastly, I would like to wrap up by saying
18 as a planner I feel that the benefits to the City
19 of Franklin should be stressed in terms of the
20 impact on the landscape. If Franklin becomes a
21 more viable and robust regional center as it once
22 was, and I believe that this project may
23 contribute to a Renaissance in Franklin, then this

1 may have a very positive benefit on the landscape
2 in terms of developments making maximum use of
3 existing infrastructure within the City of
4 Franklin and will be a deterrent to what planners
5 refer to as rural sprawl in the communities
6 outside of Franklin. This, I think, would be a
7 huge benefit on the environmental impact side in
8 terms of impact on the landscape, and because of
9 that, I urge that this permit be granted. Thank
10 you.

11 (Applause.)

12 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Robert. Also
13 I had called Leigh Webb. That's you. Okay.
14 Great. I also call up LEEANNE O'CONNOR. When
15 you're ready, Doug.

16 THE SPEAKER: My name is Douglas Boyd,
17 B-O-Y-D. I'm a resident of the City of Franklin,
18 and I'm proud to say I've been on the City Council
19 here for 10 years. And I've lived in New
20 Hampshire my entire life. My family grew up in
21 Canada before we moved here. And I'd like to
22 speak in favor of this, what is going to be the
23 largest green project in the history of New

1 Hampshire, and we're going to join partnership
2 with the second greatest country on the planet
3 Earth, Canada.

4 They just recently -- the Northern Pass
5 people that are supporting this just recently took
6 over \$24,000 up north. You know, they had a
7 project up there, and they have containment and so
8 forth for them. Public Service has done fantastic
9 things for the State. They talk about taking
10 trees down and all those kind of things. They're
11 going to take five down, put 30 back up. They do
12 a fabulous job.

13 I talked with an individual recently
14 about this project, and one of the things he
15 indicated was the only concern he had was -- is
16 the height of these poles. You know, these -- you
17 know, these towers. And I told him, I said, you
18 know, I've been totally -- totally against it.
19 For instance, let's just say they were going to
20 take -- every 90 feet they were going to put a
21 telephone pole up and hang wires all over it and
22 do it on every street all over the country, I
23 think I'd be opposed to that. But, unfortunately,

1 it's already there.

2 I'd like to point out, also, that many
3 years ago, those of us that remember the nuclear
4 power plant at Seabrook, the Clamshell Alliance,
5 they were all opposed to it, and everybody was
6 opposed to it. It was a terrible thing. It was
7 going to blow up. It was going to cause all kinds
8 of difficulties and this and that. And I would
9 like to personally thank the people that were in a
10 position to decide whether that project was either
11 going to be built or not going to be built, and
12 they had the intestinal fortitude to decide it was
13 in the best interests of -- not only for this
14 country but for the people of our state. And it
15 has been fabulous, and if we didn't have it, we'd
16 have some serious problems today.

17 This is going to be -- this project is
18 going to be incredible. Fifteen -- probably 15
19 billion dollars up and down the State of New
20 Hampshire in terms of taxes. It's going to bring
21 jobs. It's going to be incredible money,
22 businesses up and down the state, tax revenues
23 that help communities.

1 We in this state have always looked for
2 anything that is quality over quantity. This
3 project rises to the level of maybe the best we
4 have seen in many, many years. You know, if not
5 the best ever for this State. It's going to be
6 beneficial not only to the country, to our
7 relationship with Canada, to New England, and New
8 England is us.

9 If we set aside our differences, and we
10 make a list of what's positive on this project and
11 what is negative, everybody that I've talked to in
12 this community, and they all would have loved to
13 have been here, but they said look, we elect nine
14 councilmen and a mayor to represent us, and I
15 believe that it's unanimous with the nine elected
16 officials on the City Council that this is in the
17 best interests of the State, of New England and
18 the community.

19 We need to set aside our differences and
20 let something that is great for our great state go
21 forward without objection. The only objection is
22 that people think that something is going to
23 affect their view. There's billions of dollars in

1 the project. Um -- think of the tremendous
2 specialized skills that workers are going to
3 benefit from. There's 1,200 probably jobs that
4 are going to happen, and a lot of jobs as a result
5 of it are going to linger on, and it's going to
6 produce even more.

7 This project is fantastic. It's going to
8 be great for the State of New Hampshire. And this
9 business about looking at the towers, the project
10 will do anything and everything it can to ensure
11 that -- that it's not all that detrimental.

12 Um -- as an individual, as a father and
13 as a family man and talking with everybody, they
14 would love to see this project go through. I've
15 talked with a multitude of people in this
16 community and communities elsewhere, and they
17 don't know what to say. They just keep saying
18 why -- why would anybody be opposed to this? It's
19 absolutely ridiculous.

20 Well, people have a right to be opposed
21 to anything, and they have the right to give their
22 opinion. And I just gave mine, and I believe that
23 that's the way I feel and a lot of other people

1 feel, also. Thank you for your time.

2 (Applause.)

3 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Our next
4 speaker, Gerald LeBlanc.

5 THE SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is
6 Gerald LeBlanc from Franklin. First, I want to
7 say that I believe that every New Hampshire
8 citizen and resident should have a say in what
9 happens in their community and their backyard, and
10 I appreciate these hearings where everybody can do
11 that in every part of the state.

12 I don't know exactly where the new power
13 lines for the Northern Pass Project will pass
14 through, but hear me out before you say not in my
15 community. My only request is that those who are
16 against the Northern Pass Project take a second,
17 look at the pluses and minuses and weigh them out
18 fairly before you oppose them.

19 I've heard some people say that there's
20 no good that's going to come out of the Northern
21 Pass Project. I can think of one plus for the
22 people in the Northern Country. They'll probably
23 open up -- there will likely be a probability of

1 high-speed Internet coming into your community
2 with this corridor. I would suspect businesses
3 would seriously consider moving into your
4 community once high-speed Internet is available,
5 thus creating jobs, employment, tax revenue and et
6 cetera.

7 So I don't want to repeat what a lot of
8 other people have said so far, so let me just say
9 this. There's one more thing before I say that.
10 For those who point out that the power will not
11 traditionally be used in New Hampshire, please
12 consider future needs. This project will take
13 five years to complete. You don't want to wait
14 until power is needed to start a five-year
15 project. It makes sense to me to have this in
16 place before the need is there, especially in New
17 Hampshire, and its residents won't be spending one
18 cent on this five-year project.

19 For those that don't want a power line in
20 their backyard, please allow me to tell you a
21 little bit about Franklin, New Hampshire. We
22 average about \$8,500 per student in our school
23 system. The state average is about 11,500. We

1 have a Community Action Program that's located in
2 a city-owned building in the City of Franklin that
3 serves people in need for Franklin and the Towns
4 of Tilton, Hill, Sanbornton, Salisbury, Andover
5 and Danbury. Our police and fire departments
6 assist surrounding communities and share
7 services. Our dispatch -- dispatch also serves
8 surrounding communities.

9 On part of the land here in Franklin
10 along the Merrimack River there is a State-owned
11 wastewater collection and treatment facility built
12 in 1979. The Winnipesaukee River Basin Program
13 owned by the State of New Hampshire serves Lakes
14 Region communities from Center Harbor,
15 Moultonborough, Gilford, Meredith, Laconia,
16 Belmont, Sanbornton, Northfield, Tilton and
17 Franklin. When are other communities going to do
18 something for Franklin?

19 On another part of Franklin's land is a
20 municipal waste combustor ash monofill built in
21 1988. This facility processes 177,000 tons per
22 year of municipal solid wastes. It's owned by 27
23 member municipalities of Concord. The New

1 Hampshire Regional Solid Waste/Resource Recovery
2 Cooperative. It's 26 other communities besides
3 Franklin. When somebody -- when is another
4 community going to do something for Franklin?

5 On another part of Franklin's land is the
6 Franklin Dam's -- Franklin Falls Dam built in
7 1943. One of five controlled dams built by the
8 Corps of Engineers in the Merrimack River Basin,
9 and it encompasses 3,900 acres here in Franklin.
10 They claim that this dam has prevented over 165
11 million dollars in damages since its conception.
12 This dam prevents floods and protects numerous
13 communities along the Merrimack River beyond
14 Franklin. This project can do a lot for Franklin
15 and its citizens and its children. I ask when
16 will another community do something for Franklin?

17 (Applause.)

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Now, I
19 promised you folks a break, but I also have two
20 people on my on-deck circle. Are you guys okay
21 with us going through those two speakers before we
22 take a break? All right. Next speaker, Leigh
23 Webb. Ready when you are, Leigh.

1 THE SPEAKER: Thank you for pronouncing
2 my first name correctly even though it's spelled
3 strangely, and I'll try to speak very slow. This
4 is all I'm going to say, so you don't even have to
5 put the cards up. Once I take the glasses off I
6 can't read 'em anyway.

7 There will be an environmental impact to
8 this project. That's not the question. The
9 question is will the sacrifice of some foreseen
10 areas be minimal compared to the benefit for the
11 people of New Hampshire and New England? The
12 policy of the greater good must take precedence
13 over objections by even the most vocal of
14 individuals or groups. If the argument for the
15 greater good is compelling, all other arguments
16 must by necessity be discounted. That's all I
17 have to say.

18 (Applause.)

19 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Leigh. Next
20 up, Leeanne O'Connor.

21 THE SPEAKER: All right. So I am a
22 citizen of Franklin, New Hampshire and a student
23 at Plymouth State University. There are so many

1 problems with Northern Pass. Um -- large scale
2 hydro is not alternative energy. It is
3 detrimental to the environment and causing --
4 causes ecosystem degradation. The citizens of New
5 Hampshire will also be directly affected by the
6 decrease in property values and local businesses
7 potentially drop in revenue. This -- the
8 towers -- property owners value trees, and if they
9 are implanted it will be nearly impossible to sell
10 a house within those regions. Therefore, land
11 sales in these communities will also plummet in
12 those regions and when power lines are implanted
13 along those 15 regions, we can expect tourism
14 dollars -- dollars will significantly decrease.

15 Last summer all along -- um -- last
16 summer alone 1.6 billion dollars came from tourism
17 alone. It would not be in the State's best
18 interests to harm our most productive industry.
19 Franklin continues to be the only town -- one of
20 the only towns that benefits Northern -- that --
21 that seems -- that seem to benefit from the
22 Northern Pass. And, frankly, I don't believe PSNH
23 and the Northern Pass Project is really good for

1 Franklin. We really need the funds, and this is a
2 way to get it. We not only need to consider how
3 our town may be impacted but also how New
4 Hampshire as a whole will be impacted. Please
5 consider the higher New Hampshire for making the
6 decision and taking into consideration all
7 eventualities. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, LEEANNE. We
10 are now going to take a 10-minute break. And I'll
11 start calling you back probably in about eight
12 minutes. Thank you.

13 (Recess taken.)

14 THE MODERATOR: If we could start taking
15 our seats again, it would be greatly appreciated.

16 (Pause.)

17 THE MODERATOR: Our on-deck speaker is
18 Bob Koerner. Kohner. That's close enough to get
19 someone walking. Mary A. Lee. Vincent Ribas.
20 Welcome, Bob.

21 THE SPEAKER: My name is Bob Koerner. I
22 live in Pelham, New Hampshire and own
23 approximately 4,000 acres from Stratford to North

1 Stratford. The power line will run through over
2 two miles of my property. I am against the
3 proposed route because it will destroy my property
4 value, have a negative effect on the wildlife in
5 this area, cut through existing snowmobile and
6 four-wheel trails established by clubs in the area
7 and have a negative impact on the people presently
8 enjoying the quality of live offered in the area.

9 I bought this property for recreational
10 and landscape beauty. These items will be lost if
11 this project is the way it is proposed. The area
12 just below Groton -- Groveton north to the
13 Canadian border presently has no corridor
14 easements, right of ways for the running of power
15 lines. If the property owners are unwilling to
16 support this project in this area, they should not
17 be forced to grant permission for this project
18 through eminent domain.

19 The overwhelming majority of people in
20 the area I mentioned are against this project.
21 The jobs and tax revenues generated from this
22 project are far less to the people of northern New
23 Hampshire than benefit to the people of southern

1 New Hampshire. The people of northern New
2 Hampshire value the beauty and the recreational
3 value our area has to offer over the promises of
4 jobs and tax revenues.

5 I was told by representatives from
6 Northern Pass that the power lines installed in
7 northern New Hampshire would carry DC power to
8 southern New Hampshire, and AC power would be
9 mainly distributed to Massachusetts and
10 Connecticut. It is not right to sacrifice the
11 quality of life being enjoyed by the residents and
12 visitors to northern New Hampshire if alternatives
13 exist.

14 On the impact studies, I ask you to pay
15 close attention to, one, the lost revenues for
16 this area from vacationers, hunters, snowmobilers,
17 four-wheelers and hikers who will go elsewhere for
18 their recreational pleasure. That's going to be
19 loss of revenues for the restaurants, hotels, gas
20 stations and stores, environmental impact on
21 wildlife and habitat, the impact on humans living
22 near or traveling under the power lines, the
23 impact on forestry and wood energy workers, the

1 number of jobs lost due to this project, the long-
2 term effects on business and people living close
3 to the power lines.

4 A corridor for power already exists from
5 the Canadian border through Vermont into New
6 Hampshire next to Franklin and close to
7 Deerfield. Why can't this corridor be utilized?
8 When I met with representatives from Northern
9 Pass, I asked them this question. Their response
10 was it's easier to deal with one state instead of
11 two, and it would cost more.

12 The property owners of northern New
13 Hampshire deserve a better answer than this if
14 eminent domain is being forced on us. I urge you
15 to look at every aspect involved with this project
16 and give equal treatment to all parties involved
17 before making your decision.

18 People live, vacation, visit northern New
19 Hampshire for its beauty, fresh air and wildlife.
20 Don't compromise these values. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Bob. Next
23 speaker, Mary Lee. Careful of that wire. I don't

1 want you to step on the pulse.

2 THE SPEAKER: Are we all feeling the
3 pulse here? Thank you. I want to represent my
4 side of the story. There's two sides to every
5 single coin, and I am in the -- um -- the map of
6 the site of the Northern Pass proposed
7 transmission line, if it's going to go through,
8 would come through my yard. It would impact my
9 well area. It would come through my front yard
10 and my side window. And I'm a resident of
11 Northfield.

12 Northern Pass is not a transparent or
13 forthcoming company or LLC in notifying me, who is
14 most directly impacted and adversely impacted
15 about this proposed project. I was first asked to
16 meet with the engineering firm of Coler &
17 Colantonio on February 22nd by phone message.

18 The application was filed with the
19 Department of Energy in November last year. My
20 first meeting with the engineering firm of Coler &
21 Colantonio was on March 2nd. That was just the
22 first week of this month.

23 Existing power lines within the right of

1 way have heights that now are below the tallest
2 trees that grow on both sides of the buffer to the
3 woods and to my front yard and my well area. The
4 proposed towers would be from 90 to 135 feet high,
5 and I am told the current wood power lines are
6 only 75 to 100 feet high, so you can imagine the
7 higher height of these.

8 Devaluation of my property. I have been
9 a resident of Northfield for 30 years. It would
10 cut a 65-foot swath to expand the existing right
11 of way. I bought the property in 1980. I've been
12 paying taxes here. I'm a resident of New
13 Hampshire. We knew there was a small right of way
14 on the property, but what they're proposing is
15 going to be 65-feet wide, an expansion that would
16 need further easements and have substantial
17 impact.

18 It would cut by the side of my house, the
19 line corridor proposed. When I looked at the map
20 I simply looked at it and said why don't you move
21 it to the other side? It wouldn't impact my
22 property at all. Well, there's a proposed map
23 that could be considered, but I was told that it's

1 not practical, and of course it would be less
2 expensive for the corporation to spend that kind
3 of money.

4 Looking at the map, when I proposed that
5 it was going to cut through all the trees that is
6 presently my buffer, that doesn't seem to matter
7 to anybody. The reason I chose New Hampshire to
8 live in is because of my property being where it
9 is, surrounded by trees on every single side, very
10 quiet. If this goes through, there's more
11 trespassing, more traffic with my property. If a
12 65-foot swath is cut through, it's more likely
13 that there's more traffic, dirtbikes, snowmobiles,
14 dumping, littering, unauthorized hunting, et
15 cetera. It will impact.

16 Environmental impact would be more
17 direct. There would be definitely a disturbing of
18 the sensitive ground cover that exists right now.
19 There would be disturbance of the wetlands, of the
20 vernal pools and the brook, all features of a
21 viable habitat for wildlife and for all the birds,
22 all part of a Conservation Zone in Northfield in
23 which I inhabit.

1 Health concerns, also, are a big, big
2 issue. Electric magnetic transmissions are
3 increased. Disturbance from digging large
4 foundations for the towers impacts my well water
5 quality, and the runoff may create further soil
6 erosion in an already sensitive landscape.

7 A couple of years ago PSNH, who had an
8 easement, asked to improve the poles that were
9 existing in these properties, and when they did
10 that they already disturbed the ground water.
11 Only last fall when I was walking up my driveway I
12 noticed that the grass seed that they plopped down
13 and scattered was only starting to grow back. So
14 there's no shrubbery in the place of the habitat
15 that was removed, and it's a whole 65 foot. If
16 you can imagine how wide that is. New cut.

17 Eminent domain is certainly a threat that
18 would be increased to all the residents who
19 already own private property. At present the
20 State Legislature has put on hold House Bill 648
21 and 649 to prevent a private corporation from
22 taking property from all New Hampshire residents.
23 That should be a concern for every one of us

1 sitting here.

2 The power from the proposed project will
3 be sold to a majority of outside users in the
4 southern New England grid through Northeast
5 Utilities and NStar. I do not believe that there
6 is a direct benefit or decreased power rates that
7 would benefit me that could be guaranteed to my
8 utility, New Hampshire Electric Co-Op.

9 Such a large scale of towers will take
10 away my peaceful enjoyment on my property. And
11 there would be additional blight, and I am against
12 this project because of the impact directly to me
13 and to everyone in New Hampshire. Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mary. Again,
16 a reminder. Be careful with time. Watch the time
17 cards that are in front. Our next speaker --
18 actually I've got two guys over there. One of you
19 should be Vincent Ribas. Are you planning to
20 speak? Okay. Actually I should have up there --
21 um -- on the on-deck circle there, Barry Taylor,
22 John O'Neil, who I believe is actually over here,
23 and Tony Giunta. Thank you. When you're ready.

1 THE SPEAKER: Thank you. My name is
2 Vince Ribas. I'm here to speak in favor of
3 Northern Pass. I'm a resident of Franklin, but I
4 do not recommend this project for the monetary
5 benefits. I would support it even if there were
6 no monetary benefits.

7 I speak in favor of this project because
8 this form of energy is preferable to coal or
9 nuclear for the generation of electricity. While
10 I would prefer many small-scale renewable
11 projects, those are not what are on the table
12 right now, and they're unlikely to be so in the
13 near future. I understand those who oppose the
14 project because they think it will slow the
15 movement toward small-scale renewable energy, but
16 I ask them not to let the bad be the enemy of the
17 good.

18 I also understand those who oppose the
19 project due to the negative impact on the
20 environment, but this impact is less than the
21 impact of comparable projects, be they coal or
22 nuclear plants or oil refineries or gas
23 pipelines.

1 Finally, I understand those who oppose
2 the project based on its impacts on the views
3 along its path. Let me suggest the views of slag
4 heaps where mountains have been decimated to mine
5 coal or of body bags from soldiers whose lives
6 were given to protect our access to oil are much
7 less desirable.

8 To the DOE, I urge you to consider the
9 full cost of this project and work to ensure
10 property owners are properly compensated for their
11 losses, and I want to include externalities in
12 those costs, as well as to consider burying the
13 lines wherever possible, which would at least
14 alleviate the view concern and might have a
15 reduced impact on habitat. I thank you for your
16 time.

17 (Applause.)

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Vincent.
19 Barry Taylor, the next speaker.

20 THE SPEAKER: I'm Dr. Barry Taylor. I've
21 been the veterinarian in the town for 22 years,
22 and this project happens to run about 500 feet
23 from my home in Hill, 200 feet from my practice

1 here in Franklin, and right smack dab through my
2 vacation property in Whitefield on Burns Lake. I
3 feel like I'm going to wake up, and it's going to
4 be in my bathroom.

5 But just some things to consider. We --
6 um -- we're talking about energy and energy self-
7 sufficiency here in this country. Well, last I
8 knew Canada was not a part of this country. We
9 are in fact when we do this putting all of our
10 eggs in one basket. Someone spoke about not
11 putting all of our eggs in one basket. That's
12 what this does.

13 It will effectively lower our electricity
14 rates, and that sounds great. By doing that, it
15 will pretty much eliminate a lot of the small,
16 self-generating biomass, wind, solar projects that
17 are out there when those things go down because
18 they can't compete. Once this -- this source is
19 either gone or used up or -- or overused, and it's
20 no longer available to us, these things haven't
21 come along on-line.

22 We need incentive for them to get going.
23 And if we can keep getting our energy the cheapest

1 way, which is what we've been doing now with coal
2 and oil and hydro -- hydro is not entirely without
3 impact on the environment. Obvious things like
4 fish spawning. You know about that. Fish
5 ladders, which will only be anywhere from two to
6 three percent efficient in getting the fish where
7 they need to be, but also by burying all that silt
8 and organic matter -- I should mention, by the
9 way -- you know I'm a veterinarian. I also for
10 eight years was an adjunct professor of the
11 environmental sciences at New Hampshire College,
12 which is now Southern New Hampshire University.

13 By burying all of that green mass,
14 that -- that silt, that debris, that type of
15 effect is done, you get methane production, you
16 get eutrophication of the lakes and loss of oxygen
17 content in the water, death of fish. You do get
18 increased greenhouse gases, not as much as burning
19 coal, but you do. It's not completely without
20 environmental impact when it comes to greenhouse
21 gases, whereas burning biomass you grow the trees
22 back. You grow the trees back as you burn them
23 off. That puts -- takes the carbon back out of

1 the environment that you're burning up.

2 By bringing this project in and further
3 reducing the rates that are being paid to people
4 producing in the small production processes like
5 the biomass and putting them out of business --
6 there are already three that are in very big
7 trouble right now. In Tamworth, Bethlehem and
8 Bridgewater there are little biomass projects that
9 will go under this year. When they go under, 60
10 jobs will be lost. When those 60 jobs go down, so
11 will hundreds of jobs of loggers and suppliers to
12 the biomass to these plants. I would love to talk
13 about other things, but I won't go over my time.
14 Thank you very much.

15 (Applause.)

16 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much,
17 Barry. Next speaker, John O'Neil. If we could
18 also add Teresa Wyman and Neil Beanfree.

19 MR. BEAUPRE: Beaupre.

20 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Sorry.

21 THE SPEAKER: I'll set my own stopwatch
22 just to make sure we get a fair time here. Jobs.
23 Sixteen million dollars. More money. Two point

1 five million per mile. Fifteen billion dollars in
2 tax revenues to the State of New Hampshire. What
3 are we going to do with the money? It's your
4 money. What are we going to do with it?

5 You know, 25 years ago when this project
6 was before us, the State of New Hampshire said no,
7 not in the North Country, not against our views.

8 Mary Lee, I think you need to make this
9 painful to anybody who proposes to take this from
10 you. Monetarily painful to wreck something that
11 seals extrinsic value to you.

12 Fifteen billion dollars. This is
13 something that the Governor, who is not here right
14 now, needs to get on the right side of. He needs
15 to say let's put this power line in the existing
16 corridor. Let's put it underground or let's put
17 it underwater. It can all be done. We're
18 receiving a benefit from it. The Northern Bypass
19 folks are receiving a benefit from it. Everybody
20 gets what they want.

21 Somebody has to pay for it. We get tax
22 revenue. Let's use that to offset and mitigate
23 the problems this thing is creating. You know, 25

1 years ago, there was a movie that had just come
2 out called "Wall Street." Ironically, Public
3 Service of New Hampshire was headquartered on Wall
4 Street. Gordon Gekko is alive today in the
5 Northern Bypass.

6 Let's look at the message that is greed
7 is not good. Green is good. Let's preserve the
8 State of New Hampshire from now into the future
9 with the foresight our forefathers had 25 years
10 ago to say no, not through our most sacred and
11 valuable resource.

12 Thirty-two seconds left. I want
13 everybody to think about this. Existing
14 corridors. I-91, I-93, Connecticut River, beside
15 the Connecticut River, underground. Make a
16 snowmobile trail. We were close to that 15 years
17 ago. Let's get it done. Underground, underwater,
18 in existing or unapproved. That's what this needs
19 to be. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, John. Next
22 speaker, Tony -- and I'll let him pronounce his
23 last name. Also I'll call up Adam Martez.

1 THE SPEAKER: And it's Giunta, not to be
2 confused with Guinta, who's a cousin down in
3 Manchester. You've already put a huge barrier in
4 front of me to limit your former mayor to three
5 minutes. It's very difficult to begin with. I
6 want to welcome you to Franklin and thank you for
7 coming here. We really appreciate your presence.

8 My name is Tony Giunta. I live at 3 Lake
9 Shore Drive here in Franklin. I appreciate you
10 recognizing me as having served this great city
11 for four years as the mayor of this city, and I
12 also worked for the New Hampshire Department of
13 Environmental Services for 15 years.

14 My last four years at the Department, I
15 was a director of the Waste Management Division.
16 I bring that up only because while I was there at
17 the Department we had a mission, and the mission
18 at the Department was the protection of public
19 health and the environment.

20 And I stand here before you tonight in
21 support of this project because of those very
22 reasons, the protection of public health and the
23 environment. How many people in this audience

1 know the term global warming? How many of you
2 have heard climate change? I can't -- well, a lot
3 of people aren't raising their hands, but I think
4 everybody has heard of it, and that's why you're
5 not doing it. It's silly to even ask the
6 question.

7 The fact of the matter is I can't tell
8 you in those 15 years in the Department how many
9 public hearings I sat in and listened to people
10 complain about carbon emissions, about renewable
11 energy, the need for this nation to make the right
12 move and to move into renewable energies and to
13 reduce our carbon emissions.

14 I also can remember the Department
15 standing up and watching their Resources Division
16 predict where the State of New Hampshire would be
17 climate-wise if we are to do nothing about carbon
18 emissions, and what it showed was a steady march
19 southward such that at the end of this century we
20 would be in the Carolinas. So that is what we
21 face as a state if we do nothing about carbon
22 emissions and the climate continues to change. At
23 the rate it's changing now, they predict it will

1 even go faster.

2 So if we are serious about making a
3 change, this is the type of change we are looking
4 to make. This is 1.2 gigawatts of power. This is
5 a substantial change to green energy. There was a
6 comment that talked about the carbon emissions
7 from the actual hydroplant itself or the hydrogen
8 facility itself.

9 This facility has been built, and the
10 most beautiful thing about it is the Federal
11 Government didn't spend a dime building it. So
12 the Federal Government is not involved in
13 supporting this project. There in fact is a great
14 plus to the project. The Federal Government
15 didn't have to spend all kind of money to build
16 it. It's there. The energy is going to go
17 somewhere. I'd love to see it come here into New
18 England.

19 This is an opportunity to make a huge
20 change, not just for New England, for the entire
21 country, and it sends a huge message. We had a
22 mission at the Department. You also have a
23 mission in your respective regulatory agencies.

1 You are -- this is a Presidential permit. The
2 President has made it very clear we need to do
3 something about carbon emissions in this country.

4 How can we go to China? How can we go to
5 India? How can we go to other places when we have
6 an opportunity in our own country to make a
7 difference of 1.2 gigawatts of power in New
8 England and turn that project down and replace it
9 with nothing else but fossil emissions? That is
10 where we are headed because that is the only
11 viable alternative.

12 I will ask you right now. It was
13 mentioned by Councilor Feener. What is happening
14 in Japan as we watch every night? What is
15 happening to those nuclear plants with the
16 explosions day in and day out? Public opinion in
17 this country is turning against nuclear power. I
18 doubt that is going to be an option.

19 Vermont Yankee. The State Senate in
20 Vermont has already voted not to renew the permit
21 for Vermont Yankee. Public opinion will only push
22 that decision further in saying no to Vermont
23 Yankee. Guess how much energy Vermont Yankee

1 produces? One point two gigawatts of power. This
2 is the perfect replacement for what is already a
3 low-carbon emitting power source.

4 I ask you to make the right decision, do
5 what is right for New England and this nation and
6 the State of New Hampshire and approve this
7 project. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Tony. Next
10 speaker, Teresa Wyman.

11 THE SPEAKER: I live at 400 Shaker Road
12 in Canterbury, New Hampshire. Can you hear me?
13 Okay. First of all, I want to say Canterbury, New
14 Hampshire is what years ago was called East
15 Canterbury. This in no way impacts me in the
16 slightest. I really couldn't care less on one
17 level. On another level I have a number of things
18 floating about in my head that raise a couple
19 questions that I think are pretty important.

20 I have a number of friends who live in
21 Canada. Several years ago, our friend who lives
22 north of Quebec City, mentioned that although we
23 don't have to put up with it in this country,

1 they're green if these folks had to take them to
2 court? There's some dishonesty there. When we
3 talk about the long-term and sustainability, the
4 big catchword today is local. Well, local
5 woodchip plants -- and I love the idea of doing
6 something with the -- the river here in Franklin.
7 We talk about local farming. Isn't that something
8 to look at that provides other -- more safety in
9 our lives than some big, huge project with a bunch
10 of folks that my sense is are more interested in
11 money than anything else?

12 Another thing that comes to mind. I
13 worked in Concord for a number of years, and the
14 people in Bow said oh, yeah, our taxes are great.
15 Well, they aren't as great as they used to be with
16 the PSNH plant there. So you better look at that
17 goose that's laying the golden egg and wonder
18 about it.

19 And I realize Franklin is not the
20 wealthiest town around. I've lived in New
21 Hampshire all of my life. I've lived in
22 Canterbury much of my life, but I think you might
23 see people being bought off kind of cheap, and

1 speaker, Neil --

2 THE SPEAKER: I'll tell you.

3 THE MODERATOR: Neil.

4 THE SPEAKER: It's Neil -- it's either
5 Beaupre or Beaupre. I prefer Beaupre.

6 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

7 THE SPEAKER: And, as you can tell by my
8 attire, I had no intention of speaking tonight. I
9 have three things that I think are very
10 important. Number one, the real issue here that
11 nobody has really said is not in my backyard.
12 Nobody wants a power line in their backyard.
13 Nobody wants a nuclear reactor in their backyard,
14 and nobody wants a wood-burning, you know, in
15 their backyard, but we got to face the future and
16 that we are going to need more electrical power.

17 Seabrook is not going to run forever.
18 They're going to shut it down. We have to replace
19 this. Yes, some of it is going to be in your
20 backyard. Mrs. Lee, I understand that. And
21 you're right for your individual purposes, but
22 like somebody else says, you got to do for the
23 good of all.

1 Next speaker, Adam Martez. Adam Martez. Martiz?
2 How about Stephen Pascucci? Anybody with the name
3 Stephen Pascucci? Okay. That actually --

4 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:
5 He's on his way down.

6 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:
7 He's upstairs.

8 THE MODERATOR: Oh, here we go. Adam or
9 Stephen?

10 THE SPEAKER: Stephen.

11 THE MODERATOR: Oh. Stephen. He'll tell
12 us his last name correctly.

13 THE SPEAKER: Stephen Pascucci and
14 citizen of Franklin, and I'm the teacher in a
15 local high school in Farmington, and -- um -- so
16 I -- you know, I've been up here. I'm from Rhode
17 Island, and I'm newly married, so I -- I'm really
18 nervous, so I apologize. I understand living in a
19 community that is not a real wealthy community,
20 and I know how much this project could mean as far
21 as jobs. I see that. And there -- um -- I think
22 a lot of us, whether it's a wealthy community or
23 not, is looking at the nation as a whole and

1 saying oh, man, you know, if we can just get a
2 boost of that. I hear you.

3 So what I'm going to say, I understand
4 some of you are opposed to this project. Um -- we
5 talked about a lot of benefits to our community,
6 and so what I would like to do is talk about
7 community. We live in New Hampshire where we
8 believe in a free way of life and where we still
9 have smaller communities up here, not the same --
10 um -- urban sprawl as we have in Rhode Island
11 where I came from and Massachusetts, and I think
12 we take a lot of pride in having a different way
13 of life up here -- um -- where we still know each
14 other, generally speaking. It's not perfect, but
15 it's our way of life, and we value it.

16 Um -- in northern Quebec there's another
17 community much like our own. A community that
18 values the land as much as we value our land, and
19 they value the land, and they look out for the
20 land, and they love the land just as we say that
21 we do our own. And -- um -- massive political
22 pressure and hundreds of millions of dollars
23 change that. They turn people against each other

1 in those communities, people who had good
2 intentions for the communities. Everybody thought
3 they were doing the right thing. Um -- and they
4 had a way of life forced upon them that they never
5 asked for.

6 Damming the rivers in Quebec for this
7 power is where the Northern Pass -- um -- the
8 energy is coming from. They destroyed river
9 systems that were irreplaceable for the Quebec
10 wilderness.

11 In New Hampshire, we value our own
12 wilderness, and the Pass project is not going to
13 destroy our ecosystem, but we're going to be part
14 of that. Anybody who consumes this electricity is
15 going to be part of that, what happened to those
16 communities, and I just feel like forcing a
17 culture upon a weakened community, as we can be
18 considered weakened because of our economic state,
19 rerouting entire rivers practically since the ice
20 age, I mean flooding massive tracks of land, the
21 environmental damage. Nothing is perfect. You
22 have to use coal and use wood. There -- and
23 nuclear, and we don't have any perfect answers,

1 but I don't feel like treating other human beings
2 the way we have in Quebec is the right thing, and
3 I don't support it.

4 I don't think it's the right thing to
5 do. I just -- I can't wrap my mind around it.
6 I'd rather -- you know what? I have no problem
7 with living in my backyard. I'd rather have a
8 nuclear power plant in my backyard than do what we
9 did to those communities up in northern Quebec. I
10 mean that's what I believe in. I think we should
11 do the right thing. Thank you for your time.

12 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Stephen. That
13 concludes our list of preregistered speakers,
14 although I'm going to go over the names of those
15 that -- um -- did not come up when called just to
16 make sure that any late arrivals still have their
17 opportunity to speak. After that, I'll have --
18 we'll have an open floor. Anybody who wants to
19 speak can come up. Tucker Noack. David
20 Testerman. Kelly Wieser. Katie Rose. Richard
21 Samson. Adam Martez or Martiz. Okay. That's
22 done. Anybody else? And actually let's get a
23 full set of hands at this point if you have

1 interest in speaking. Miss.

2 THE SPEAKER: George, may I speak from
3 here? I have a loud voice. That's okay. I can
4 do it.

5 THE MODERATOR: Anybody that's
6 interested, come on down. Get ready.

7 MR. LAURENCE: George, do you want me to
8 get a list going?

9 THE MODERATOR: Yes. Come down.

10 THE SPEAKER: Can you hear me?

11 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No.

12 THE SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is
13 Susan Schibanoff. I live in Easton, New,
14 Hampshire which is a suburb of the greater City of
15 Franconia. I have prepared longer comments for
16 speaking tomorrow, so I'll make this brief. And
17 I've written to Brian, so he knows probably what
18 I'm going to say.

19 Franklin, this project will help your
20 community. Now, Franklin, I ask you to listen to
21 other communities. The following 28 towns in New
22 Hampshire have voted to oppose the Northern Pass
23 at town meetings this past week. Bath, Bethlehem,

1 Bridgewater, Campton, Chichester, Clarksville,
2 Colebrook, Columbia, Dalton, my hometown Easton,
3 Effingham, Haverhill, Holderness, Jefferson,
4 Lancaster, Landaff, Lincoln, Littleton,
5 Northumberland, Orford, Pembroke, Pittsburg,
6 Stewartstown, Stratford, Sugar Hill, Thornton,
7 Wentworth, Woodstock.

8 Earlier in December, the Plymouth
9 Selectmen registered town petition in filing for
10 intervenor status. They did not think it was
11 necessary to do so again. Twenty-eight towns --
12 29 actually stand to lose a great deal if the
13 Northern Pass has its way. If it looks to good to
14 be true, look at it again, please, Franklin.
15 Thank you.

16 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Our next
17 speaker is Dawn.

18 THE SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Donna
19 Spitzer, and I live in Gilford, New Hampshire, so
20 this doesn't affect my property at all. My only
21 question is why? Renewable energy, to me, means
22 solar or -- um -- wood -- um -- wind. And I just
23 don't understand why we have to do it this way

1 through electricity. Just try another another --
2 another way. Maybe it's more expensive to do
3 solar and wind in the beginning, but it -- won't
4 it work out in the long run?

5 (Applause.)

6 THE SPEAKER: I just think -- I get
7 frustrated when I hear all these big corporations
8 coming in and not listening to the little people.
9 Um -- I just want to say that New Hampshire has
10 already lost one icon with the loss of the Old Man
11 in the Mountain, and now they're proposing to put
12 these huge towers along Route 93 North. I mean is
13 New Hampshire going to have to lose its beauty,
14 also? Thanks.

15 (Applause.)

16 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Dawn. Mary
17 Lee.

18 THE SPEAKER: Again.

19 THE MODERATOR: Again.

20 THE SPEAKER: Did someone grab my yellow
21 pad?

22 MR. LAURENCE: Yes, we did. Right here.

23 THE SPEAKER: I just want to say the

1 other side is the real human impact, social
2 impact, and, standing before you, it's not a small
3 impact. Someone of this state, in New Hampshire
4 who pays taxes for 30 years, worked here in your
5 institutions, work for your nonprofit, work for
6 your Community Action Program, serves on the Upper
7 Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee, serves
8 as a protectorate at the polls, served in your
9 Town Government as a volunteer. That's not a
10 small impact. And the greater good is really me.
11 Just keep that in mind.

12 And the visual blight. Everybody talks
13 about view. It's not about the view. It's about
14 visual blight. If you put up taller towers and
15 they're closer together -- I think it was 800
16 feet -- it's going to be a wider and more numerous
17 impact. Right now I'm living with -- I can see
18 through the trees a little wire, and it's quite
19 unnatural because it comes up vertical.

20 I know we all use power, but if you add
21 135-foot tall configuration, we cannot know right
22 now -- we don't know what it's going to be. And
23 we're told it could be a single monopole, and it

1 would have little arms hanging off of it, but we
2 don't know. It looks like a Hydro-Quebec site,
3 and there are numerous configurations. If we can
4 figure out which one you would like, then we could
5 vote for it. What would you like to look at?

6 I'm against expansion of more power.
7 Instead, doing what I try to do personally. Just
8 conserve and consume less. And I believe that
9 Hydro-Quebec is a corporation that wants to sell
10 more power to increase more profits at the
11 environmental and social expense of folks who just
12 live here for the beautiful landscape. I don't
13 call it a view because where I live it's my home.

14 New Hampshire has enough power right
15 now. I believe PSNH is negotiating to buy only
16 100 megawatts of power out of the 100 -- out of
17 the 1,200 megawatts if this project is built. I
18 question the necessity of this proposal.

19 Can we trust Northern Pass, LLC, their
20 tactics and their promises to give jobs locally
21 that are sustaining? Do we believe their
22 marketing about long-term benefits to New
23 Hampshire? After such a project is built, we

1 would be left with a scarred landscape, devalued
2 property and dangerous increased emissions as a
3 souvenir when they leave. Such long-term effects
4 are not benefits.

5 Also, I think you all should be learning
6 about this because I learned about it only because
7 I went and did the homework. Useful sites for
8 keeping informed should be their own site, which
9 is www.northernPassEIS.com. Environmental Impact
10 Statement, EIS. There's also a site that is
11 presenting the other side of the coin,
12 www.LiveFreeorFry.com. All of these sites provide
13 a lot of information that should be sent every day
14 to the media, especially to all towns affected.

15 I asked my Town Manager in Northfield if
16 he knew about the project. His answer was no.
17 We're enduring the impact, and we don't have the
18 information that we need to make a really good and
19 just decision.

20 Has there been consideration given if
21 this project goes through to put all these lines
22 underground? It can be done, and it has been
23 done.

1 To remain truly independent, as we are in
2 this state, in energy production, I recommend that
3 we use locally produced energy and not become
4 dependent on foreign countries. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 THE MODERATOR: Is there anybody else
7 that hasn't spoken yet? Come on up. John O'Neil.

8 THE SPEAKER: Mary seems to be my good
9 luck charm. Three words for you. Class action
10 lawsuit. Mary, make it financially painful.
11 Financially painful. Appraise your property.
12 Intrinsic value that they have taken, plucking it
13 from this State and plucking from you. Anybody
14 within view of this needs to say you have taken
15 money out of my pocket. It's no different than
16 coming in, grabbing my wallet and plucking it out
17 of my pocket.

18 This is what corporations are saying.
19 Greed is good. Greed they understand. Green is
20 good, folks. This thing, we have the money. Put
21 it underground for 40 miles, put it under the
22 water for 40 miles, put it under a snowmobile pass
23 for 40 miles.

1 The Governor, other folks in our state
2 need to get behind this, and say hey, you know,
3 enough is enough. We denied this 25 years ago in
4 our state with Northern Woods, in -- in one of the
5 most precious resources we have, the White
6 Mountains. You know, look -- look at the map.
7 You're circumventing the whole western side of the
8 White Mountain, Great North Woods in going through
9 with the 150-foot tower. We don't know how big
10 they are.

11 I want to see why you can't go
12 underground. I want to see why you can't go
13 underwater or I want to see why you have to bring
14 this down through the State of New Hampshire,
15 period. Make it financially painful. Get on
16 board. Sue them. Period. That's all I got.

17 (Applause.)

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Next
19 speaker. We do have more if you want to hear
20 more. William Porter.

21 THE SPEAKER: I'm William Porter --

22 THE MODERATOR: Address.

23 THE SPEAKER: Hello. I'm William Porter

1 from West Franklin on 54 Sterling Drive. And I
2 haven't heard anybody bring up as far as the noise
3 pollution. If they build this big substation, and
4 then once it's built, if the noise starts to
5 increase after a year because maybe the
6 transformers are -- or the generators break down,
7 what recourse do people a quarter of a mile
8 have -- away have to say about the noise? Because
9 I live near the industrial park, and they make as
10 much noise as they want once they're in there, and
11 you don't have any recourse.

12 And another thing. As far as why is
13 this -- there's been electromagnetic waves on the
14 high tension wires that there's been studies
15 about, and people living under, near those wires
16 what effect it will have on them. And these
17 things should be taken into consideration. And
18 half -- as far as property, people that live in
19 those areas, their property value is going to go
20 down. Will they be compensated? That's all I got
21 to say.

22 (Applause.)

23 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, William. Next

1 speaker, Darlene Jennings.

2 THE SPEAKER: Can somebody from Franklin
3 tell me how much you pay in property taxes?

4 THE MODERATOR: Excuse me. One second.
5 Name.

6 THE SPEAKER: Darlene Jennings. I'm from
7 Campton.

8 THE MODERATOR: Address.

9 THE SPEAKER: 57 King Road.

10 THE MODERATOR: Zip code.

11 THE SPEAKER: 03223.

12 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

13 THE SPEAKER: Can somebody from Franklin
14 tell me what your property taxes on your homes
15 are?

16 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:
17 Thirty-six hundred dollars.

18 THE SPEAKER: Per thousand?

19 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: Ten
20 dollars.

21 THE SPEAKER: Your tax evaluation is \$10
22 per thousand?

23 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:

1 Twenty-one.

2 THE SPEAKER: Pardon?

3 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:

4 Twenty-one dollars per thousand.

5 THE SPEAKER: I was listening to your
6 representatives from your town, and they were
7 going on and on about the school getting tons and
8 tons of money -- um -- and I wanted you to know
9 that if you go on-line, you'll find that the
10 utilities pay a flat rate of \$6 per thousand.
11 That's it. That's all. That's all they pay.
12 Now, if you pay \$21 per thousand, you're paying
13 more than they are going to, and you're going to
14 lose the value. Your homes are going to be the
15 ones that are impacted.

16 Every house within a half a mile is going
17 to be impacted because the people's perceptions of
18 health issues. Every home that is within view of
19 those towers is going to be impacted, and nobody
20 is going to pay anybody for the value that they've
21 lost except for the right of ways, the simple
22 right of way that they're taking in addition to
23 what they already have. So when you start

1 thinking about that for a minute, you start
2 realizing that it's not as much as you think
3 you're going to make. Have a good day. Thank
4 you.

5 (Applause.)

6 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Darlene. Our
7 next speaker, State Senator?

8 THE SPEAKER: Yes.

9 THE MODERATOR: Jim Forsythe.

10 THE SPEAKER: Thanks. I'm over from
11 District Four. I just want to thank the
12 organizers for putting this on and everybody else
13 for taking the time out of their busy schedule to
14 come down here tonight. I'm from the district
15 serving Alton, Barnstead, Belmont, Gilford,
16 Gilmanton, Laconia, New Durham, Strafford and
17 Tilton. I just want to offer that they can come
18 up to me afterwards and talk to me about the
19 issue. I'd be happy to speak with them. Thank
20 you.

21 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Elizabeth
22 Dragon.

23 THE SPEAKER: Just so the people who are

1 from Franklin understand how it works. It's \$6.50
2 per assessed value. The assessed value is 250
3 million dollars for the piece that's in Franklin
4 alone with the assessed values of the property in
5 the State of New Hampshire is what they're
6 actually paying. So it is seven million dollars
7 of property taxes that is paid directly to the
8 State for education funding, and I do have those
9 charts for anybody who wants to see them.

10 (Applause.)

11 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Elizabeth. Do
12 we have anyone else who would like to give public
13 comment on the record? Come on up. David
14 Dobbins. Are there any others? Show of hands
15 before we close down? If so, come on down.

16 THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I think
17 everybody already knows how I feel. I probably
18 already know how you feel about the project. I
19 just really want to make a point of order, and
20 that is because so many people have mentioned
21 Seabrook, the Seabrook station. Um -- about three
22 weeks ago I was in a meeting in an office building
23 in Concord, and the president of PSNH, Gary Long,

1 was there along with myself and many other folks.
2 And, just so that everybody is aware, that's all
3 -- um -- the Seabrook station is about 85 percent
4 owned by Florida Power and Light, and the
5 remaining ownership is by a Massachusetts
6 utility.

7 And the point about Seabrook is not a
8 single -- not a single volt of power from Seabrook
9 goes through New Hampshire at all. That's kind of
10 representative of the amount of excess power that
11 is produced in New Hampshire already. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Any other
14 last speakers? Last chance.

15 THE SPEAKER: Right here. Can you hear
16 me? I just wanted to ask you to look at all the
17 facts before you make any decision, and you really
18 should consider both sides. The personal impact
19 as well, as so-called, because we are the greater
20 good. I want to say the answer to the man about
21 the noise from transmission lines. Right now I
22 live in a parcel where we have a little piece of
23 pie, a wedge going under the railroad lines that

1 are the power lines, and as you walk up my right
2 of way under the power lines, if you go to the
3 right, go right under it and then in my yard,
4 well, if you're walking under the power line, you
5 here a buzz. And these are not high-
6 transmission. I don't know what they are
7 actually. They belong to PSNH, and they do
8 frequent every so many years, and they ask
9 permission if they can spray, cut the brush.

10 I have to maintain my right of way, but
11 if you're walking the dog or if you're walking
12 along, you do hear a buzz. And I try to walk
13 fast, but I don't think it does me any good.
14 There is a health site. Mayo Clinic has one, also
15 the National Institute for Health has a website.
16 If you look up EMT or electric magnetic
17 transmission, if you have a power line or whatever
18 they call it, megawatt. So there is a noise that
19 comes out of it. Not all the time.

20 The other factor, effect of Merrimack
21 River is I live -- you can walk to the Merrimack
22 River, to the bank, within half an hour. And as I
23 am walking down there, there's a very, very

1 fragile ecosystem. It's mostly sand because of
2 the riverbank, and it's -- the cover is very, very
3 light. You can actually kick it. The -- you can
4 kick it. You can destroy it yourself.

5 The other thing I want to point out is
6 that right now if you walk under the power line
7 and you take a walk, you hear it frequently. The
8 other thing that appears frequently is after a
9 rain when the sand is all smooth, it's all
10 smooth. It looks really beautiful. The waves and
11 the ripples from the rain. It will be disturbed.
12 You'll come across a crack in the earth. It's
13 like volcanic fissures. You have two places that
14 come up against each other. And I've asked them
15 what is that -- all that about? Well, they have
16 no answer because they don't see it all the time,
17 just as they don't hear that crackling sound when
18 you walk under the power line underneath. So I
19 just want to say that I know a little bit about
20 the power line. I have no idea about the big ones
21 to come. Thank you.

22 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mary. Anyone
23 else? Okay.

1 MR. LAURENCE: If anyone has found a
2 green folder, it belongs to the woman sitting over
3 there. If anyone has found a green folder, it
4 belongs to her. Thank you.

5 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Chris. I'm
6 going to close out this meeting. I'd like to have
7 a round of applause for the speakers tonight.

8 (Applause.)

9 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. I'm going to
10 tell you that we appreciate the hospitality that
11 we've gotten here tonight. We appreciate the
12 police that have come out, the Fire Marshal coming
13 out and his crew, making sure we're all safe
14 tonight.

15 As far as -- as you know, this is the
16 second meeting that we're holding. I'll go
17 through the other locations for the sake of going
18 through them. You're welcome to come to all.
19 Lincoln, New Hampshire, the Mountain Club on Loon,
20 Hancock Room. Whitefield, New Hampshire, the
21 Mountain View Grand Hotel, Presidential Room. Oh,
22 sorry. The first one, Lincoln, is on the 16th.
23 Whitefield is on the 17th. Plymouth, New

1 Hampshire, Plymouth State University at the Senior
2 Center. That's Friday, March 18th. Those
3 Wednesday, Thursday and Friday meetings are all
4 six to nine.

5 In Colebrook, New Hampshire at the
6 Colebrook Elementary School, Saturday the 19th,
7 from one to four. And Haverhill. Haverhill. Let
8 me get that right. I still got five more days.
9 At the Cooperative Middle School, Sunday,
10 March 20th from one to four. You can follow the
11 process on the website. I think that Brian had
12 given information on the details. You can again
13 find them on the website, which is, Brian?

14 MR. MILLS: The EIS website is --

15 THE MODERATOR: Northern --

16 MR. MILLS: Northernpass --

17 THE MODERATOR: Www.NorthernPasseIS.

18 MR. MILLS: Dot U.S.

19 THE MODERATOR: Dot U.S. And with that,
20 you can check the time. We officially adjourn the
21 meeting

22 (Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.)

23

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 I, Debra L. Mekula, a Licensed Court
3 Reporter and Justice of the Peace of the State of
4 New Hampshire, do hereby certify that the
5 foregoing, to the best of my knowledge, skill and
6 ability, is a true and accurate transcript of my
7 stenographic notes of the Northern Pass
8 Transmission Line Draft EIS Public Scoping
9 Hearing, taken at the place and under the
10 circumstances present on the date hereinbefore set
11 forth.

12 I further certify that I am neither attorney
13 or counsel for, nor related to or employed by any
14 of the parties to the action in which this
15 hearing was taken, and further that I am not a
16 relative or employee of any agent or consultant
17 employed in this case, nor am I financially
18 interested in this action.
19
20

21 _____
22 Debra L. Mekula, LCR, RMR
23 Licensed Court Reporter
Registered Merit Reporter
N.H. LCR No. 26 (RSA 310-A)