

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

Public Scoping Hearing
Mountain View Grand Hotel and Resort
Presidential Room
101 Mount View Road
Whitefield, New Hampshire 03598
Thursday, March 17, 2011

1 (Commence at 6:19 p.m.)

2 THE MODERATOR: Ladies and gentlemen, if
3 you can grab a seat, I would appreciate it. We're
4 going to do our best to get this rolling a little
5 bit early because we do have obviously a rather
6 full room and a long list of people prepared to
7 give comment, and we want to be able to make sure
8 we can get through that in a timely manner.

9 My name is George Kervitsky. I'm the
10 moderator for tonight's meeting. And I'll be here
11 to direct the show. So thanks again for coming
12 out, and, like I said, we're going to try to get
13 started as soon as we can. Thank you. Is there
14 anybody that cannot hear me? Holy cow. Mic
15 people.

16 How about now? Is that too loud? How
17 about now? Good? Maybe I'll even try to talk a
18 little softer. For anyone who is still standing
19 but would like to sit, I can see a number of
20 seats. There's a couple. There's two in the
21 front row over here. Two, three.

22 The problem -- the problem with the
23 volume being up, I cannot stand in the middle of

1 the room. Anyhow I got two seats. Mic man, where
2 are you? Is that good now? All right. Can I
3 walk under the speaker? Thank you.

4 So, as I was saying, I had two seats. I
5 only have one in the first row. Maybe it's two.
6 One on each side. I've got four seats in the
7 second row. Make that a correction on that.
8 Anyhow, if you want to, come see where we've got
9 seats available.

10 Also, as far as standing in the aisles,
11 standing in the aisles are okay. Make sure that
12 there is a clear space to walk through each of
13 these aisles and, if possible, along the back. We
14 are over capacity at this time. We do have fire
15 department staff here to make sure that everyone
16 is safe in the event that there is a problem.

17 Other things to keep in mind are when
18 you're walking up here, there are wires, and I was
19 just about ready to trip over this one, so just be
20 careful. For those of you who have been at other
21 meetings that we've had, I think we've got the mic
22 situation taken care of a little bit better
23 tonight.

1 Bathrooms. I'm going to rely on the
2 staff here to help me where the bathrooms are.
3 Does everyone know where the bathrooms are? If
4 not, ask one of your neighbors.

5 As far as exits go, we've got the main
6 entrance that you came through. We also have the
7 one here on the -- on -- on my left side. In the
8 event that there's a problem -- there's that
9 cord -- the fire department will let us know if we
10 can go out the back, too, although we're not
11 anticipating problems.

12 As far as tonight's agenda goes, we're
13 going to have roughly two one-hour and 15-minute
14 sessions -- um -- separated by a 15-minute break.
15 So -- um -- in the event that we're not able to
16 end on time, we're going to kind of keep rolling
17 as long as we can until our stenographer begs for
18 a break.

19 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:
20 You've got the power.

21 THE MODERATOR: Again, my name is George
22 Kervitsky, in case I -- you didn't hear that with
23 all the background discussion going on. Um -- and

1 I am a contractor that was brought in specifically
2 to do the moderating at these meetings.

3 Um -- representing the federal agencies
4 with permitting authority on the Northern Pass
5 Project, we have representatives from the
6 Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture's
7 U.S. Forest Service and the Army Corps of
8 Engineers. Representing DOE, we have Brian Mills
9 and Christopher Laurence. Also, other consultants
10 that are representing DOE tonight in addition to
11 myself is Ellen Russell, Dean Lenuik and Allison
12 Pezzullo. Representing the Forest Service is Tom
13 Wagner, and representing the Corps of Engineers is
14 Erika Mark.

15 We also -- woo. That's bad. We also
16 have a number of people in the audience from New
17 Hampshire's Congressional Delegation. We've got
18 Senator Ayotte's office. Representing Senator
19 Ayo's -- ooh -- Ayotte's office, Simon Thomson.
20 Sorry about the flub, Mr. Thomson. Representing
21 U.S. Senator Shaheen's office, we've got Chuck
22 Henderson.

23 (Applause.)

1 THE MODERATOR: And representing U.S.
2 Congressman Bass's office, Gene Chandler. He'll
3 be here soon. Representing New Hampshire Governor
4 John Lynch's office, we have Richard McLeod.

5 (Applause.)

6 THE MODERATOR: And representing District
7 Two, New Hampshire House of Representatives, we've
8 got Herb Richardson, Evalyn Merrick, Bill Remick,
9 John Tholl. I won't identify them, but I think we
10 all appreciate that they're here because they're
11 guarding our safety, and that is members of the
12 fire department and police officers. And last,
13 but not least, we have the court stenographer,
14 Debra Mekula. She is here --

15 (Applause.)

16 THE MODERATOR: She is here to make sure
17 that absolutely everything that you guys say gets
18 captured in the record. Additionally, to help her
19 out, we want to make sure that anybody that has
20 written comments is able to drop those off to her
21 after they speak, if they can. If not, get her a
22 copy after that. And the other thing would be
23 when you come to the mic, please state your name,

1 your address and your zip code.

2 To give some more opening comments
3 specifically on the project, I invite Brian Mills
4 up. Watch the cord, Brian.

5 MR. MILLS: My name is Brian Mills. I
6 work for the United States Department of Energy.
7 I'm with the Office of Electricity Delivery and
8 Energy Reliability. I would like to thank you for
9 taking the time to attend this meeting today.
10 Your presence and input are vital to a robust
11 public participation process. This is a Scoping
12 Meeting which is about listening and learning from
13 you.

14 The Department of Energy needs to hear
15 what issues you think we should consider in
16 conducting our environmental analysis. The reason
17 we are here is that Northern Pass Transmission is
18 proposing to construct an international
19 transmission line and has asked the Department of
20 Energy for a permit to cross the border.

21 Northern Pass submitted a Presidential
22 permit application to the Department of Energy on
23 October, 2010. Northern Pass proposes to

1 construct and operate an overhead, high-voltage
2 direct current or DC electric transmission line.
3 The line would have 1,200 mega -- a 1,200-megawatt
4 rating and would start at an alternating current
5 or AC to DC converter station near Sherbrooke,
6 Quebec, Canada.

7 From there, it will transmit direct
8 current to Franklin, New Hampshire where the DC
9 would be converted to AC. The AC would be
10 transmitted by a proposed 345-kilovolt line that
11 would terminate in Deerfield, New Hampshire. In
12 New Hampshire, the proposed DC transmission line
13 would run approximately 140 miles from the U.S.
14 border to the community of Pittsburg to a DC to AC
15 converter station in Franklin. From the Franklin
16 converter station to the project terminus at the
17 existing Public Service Company of New Hampshire
18 substation in Deerfield, the project would consist
19 of 40 miles of 345-kilovolt AC electric
20 transmission lines.

21 Before any facility can be built across
22 the international border, the proponent must
23 obtain a Presidential permit from the Department

1 of Energy. A Department of Energy Presidential
2 permit authorizes a company to construct, operate,
3 maintain and connect electric transmission
4 facilities at the border.

5 The Department of Energy is involved in
6 this proceeding for one reason. The proposed
7 transmission line would cross the international
8 border. If this line did not cross the border,
9 the Department of Energy would not be here. The
10 Department of Energy has no authority to site this
11 line. Only the State of New Hampshire has that
12 authority.

13 The Department of Energy does not convey
14 the right of eminent domain with its Presidential
15 permits, nor can the Department of Energy address
16 the issues of compensation for land that would be
17 impacted by the Northern Pass Project.

18 Before the Department of Energy can issue
19 this kind of a permit, we must comply with the
20 National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA. For
21 this proposed project, the Department of Energy
22 has determined the appropriate level of NEPA
23 analysis to be an Environmental Impact Statement

1 or EIS. The EIS will analyze the foreseeable
2 environmental impacts that might flow from
3 granting the permit. The EIS will also identify
4 steps that might be needed to mitigate
5 environmental impacts.

6 The other federal agencies involved are
7 the U.S. Forest Service, White Mountain National
8 Forest, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New
9 England District. They have permitting authority
10 for the proposed facilities within their
11 respective jurisdictions. The Forest Service and
12 the Corps of Engineers are cooperating agencies
13 with the Department of Energy in the preparation
14 of this EIS.

15 We are here to listen and get your
16 comments and suggestions for the issues we should
17 be addressing in the EIS. We would also like to
18 know about any alternative routes for the proposed
19 project. Once the scoping period closes on
20 April 12th, 2011, we will get to work in preparing
21 the Draft EIS. That will take several months.

22 Once the Draft is completed, it will be
23 posted on our website and distributed to everyone

1 on our mailing list. If you want to be on the
2 mailing list, you can sign up here at the table by
3 the door using the blue postcards or on our
4 website.

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

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

22 At the completion of the EIS process, the
23 Department of Energy may or may not issue a

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

6 For this meeting, the stenographer is
7 here to write down what you say during the
8 comments. Whether you choose to speak or not, you
9 are invited to send us written comments. All
10 comments, whether written or oral, are treated the
11 same and have equal weight.

12 We will accept comments until
13 April 12th. We will consider comments submitted
14 after that date to the extent we can. If you have
15 specific questions about the project itself,
16 representatives from Northern Pass are here to
17 discuss them with you. For example, they can
18 describe the proposed and alternative routes on
19 the maps that are here. Thank you.

20 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Brian. Now,
21 prior to kicking off, I'm going to review some
22 ground rules for tonight's meeting. One, respect
23 the speaker. Um -- we've been seeing thus far

1 that there's a variety of opinions that the people
2 of New Hampshire have, and we ask that you respect
3 them all.

4 In addition to that, the speakers are
5 getting a set amount of time of just three
6 minutes, and please reserve all clapping, sign
7 holding and anything like that until the end of
8 the speaker's presentation because we don't want
9 to disrupt them or impact their -- the amount of
10 time that they have.

11 Respect the amount of time. All the
12 speakers are going to be given three minutes, and
13 that same allotted time is given to all of the
14 people in the room. So we have Dean here in
15 front. Dean's got three signs. The green one is
16 one minute. The yellow one indicates 30 seconds
17 left, and the orange one is time to wrap up. And
18 that orange sign does not have any connection to
19 any other orange colors that are being flashed in
20 the room.

21 Limited use of electronic devices. So if
22 you've got cell phones or other things that are
23 going to beep and make funny noises, please shut

1 those off now. And I use the term limited. There
2 are going to be a few of us around the room, Dean
3 included, that's using a smart phone for timing
4 purposes, so don't think that the rules are
5 applying any differently to us, although we are
6 using them just for timing purposes.

7 Like I said, everyone's got an equal
8 amount of time to talk. The process is going to
9 be such that when I call your name -- I've got
10 three chairs up here. I'll try to keep them full
11 at all times so that we've got people able to flow
12 up to the podium, make their comments in the most
13 time-effective manner. But then what we're going
14 to do is I've got a list here of preregistered
15 speakers. I'm going to go through that list
16 first.

17 Anybody else who comes in the room after
18 I've got that list and fills out a piece of paper,
19 they'll be added to it as well, and then we'll
20 go -- once we end that, I will let you know when
21 we hit the end of our approved list, and then I'll
22 look for people who are in the audience who prior
23 to that point in time hadn't thought they were

1 going to talk but had not heard their particular
2 issues identified or, in some cases, they just
3 decide at the spur of the moment that they'd like
4 to talk. I'll invite them up to talk as well.

5 At that point in time I may identify one
6 side of the room or the other as just a place to
7 stand. So that, again, serving the same purpose
8 as the three on-deck chairs, we've got some
9 orderly process of getting people up here. And
10 then at that point in time, once all those people
11 who hadn't spoken and hadn't preregistered to come
12 up and speak, I'll open the floor up to those
13 people who have already spoken once and would like
14 to speak again.

15 Any questions? Excellent. Let's get
16 started. The first names that I have, Selectman
17 Michael Ransmeier. Oh. By the way, I've been
18 butchering names all week, so this list looks good
19 to me, and I'm hoping I'm going to do okay, but
20 please bear with me. Sandy and Jim Dannis.
21 Although they're coming up at the same time,
22 they're not getting -- each of them has three
23 minutes to speak. And then next up would be

1 Valerie Herres.

2 (Applause.)

3 THE SPEAKER: Yes. Thank you. Can you
4 hear me all right?

5 AUDIENCE MEMBES: No.

6 THE SPEAKER: Can you hear me now?

7 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No.

8 THE MODERATOR: Where's the mic man?
9 I'll shut mine off just in case.

10 MR. LAURENCE: He's taking care of it

11 THE MODERATOR: He's taking care of it.
12 Okay.

13 THE SPEAKER: I've come disguised as one
14 of them.

15 (Laughter.)

16 THE SPEAKER: My name is Michael
17 Ransmeier. My address is 1325 Jockey Hill Road,
18 and I'm a 16-year Selectmen in the Town of
19 Landaff. I'm not here tonight to talk about the
20 loss of or the evaporation of any real estate
21 sales in our town, which has already happened.
22 And, incidentally, Landaff is a town of 375 people
23 which is just south of Sugar Hill and east of

1 electricity that this project will be able to
2 bring into the region, it will have a competitive
3 edge over all other local renewable energy
4 providers, including biomass. It will be able to
5 control the market. This state of affairs
6 contradicts the thrust of New Hampshire State
7 legislation over the past three to four years
8 which has sought to promote our independence in
9 terms of electrical generation by promoting the
10 development of local renewable electrical power
11 generation.

12 It would with respect to electricity
13 leave New Hampshire dependent on Hydro-Quebec as
14 our country is presently dependent upon OPEC for
15 oil. It would allow OPEC and Northeast Utilities
16 by virtue solely of the amount of capital they
17 control and their regulatory contacts to dominate
18 the electrical energy market in New Hampshire for
19 generations to come -- I should say the electrical
20 energy market in New England -- all on the backs
21 of the small property owners of northern New
22 Hampshire who will be steamrolled in the process.
23 I urge the Department of Energy to not approve

1 this project for construction.

2 (Applause.)

3 THE MODERATOR: May the tape man come.
4 Thank you for your patience on this. Tape man
5 assured me no feedback. When you're ready.

6 THE SPEAKER: Can you hear me? No? Is
7 that better? Okay. First of all, I'd like to say
8 thank you to Brian Mills and the rest of the DOE
9 staff for being here tonight. My name is Sandy
10 Dannis, and my husband and I are residents of
11 Dalton, New Hampshire. Our address is 123 McGinty
12 Road in Dalton 03598.

13 I'm here also with my daughter tonight,
14 who is not living in northern New Hampshire, but
15 she is also very interested in this part of the
16 state and goes to all of my shows.

17 My family is opposed to this project.
18 When my husband and I purchased our farm 20 years
19 ago, we always said if we own our property, we
20 control it. This process is showing me that is
21 not the case. We are on an alternative route for
22 the Northern Pass line, and if it comes to our
23 area and comes into our alternative route, we will

1 be subject to a taking.

2 Eminent domain is there, and we are also
3 going to be victims of that. And I just want to
4 let you know, rest assured. We will fight it to
5 the end. I'm going to pass this now to Jim
6 because he's going to have more specific comments
7 that we would like the DOE to listen to in this
8 process. So, Jim, I'm going to pass it over to
9 you.

10 (Applause.)

11 THE MODERATOR: Just a correction. You
12 get three minutes as well.

13 THE SPEAKER: Thank you. You have my
14 address, right? Mr. Mills, we have a fairly
15 unusual scoping comment. I'm going to ask -- I'm
16 going to try to get this better here.

17 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:
18 Take it off.

19 THE SPEAKER: I'll take it off. We have
20 a fairly unusual scoping comment. I'd like to ask
21 Sandy to approach you and hand you a formal Motion
22 we're making tonight, and if Anne Bartosewicz and
23 Mary Anne Sullivan are here, my daughter will give

1 you copies as well so we can get the service out
2 of the way.

3 We are formally asking you to put a stop
4 to the DOE proceedings when you get back to
5 Washington and to start all over again. We're
6 asking you to do this because, in our judgment as
7 well as the judgment of nine other intervenors who
8 filed with you more than three months ago, the
9 application filed by Northern Pass does not comply
10 with the rules.

11 It's pretty clear. We are the public.
12 We've come to this meeting to comment on
13 alternatives for this route. Northern Pass has
14 simply refused to give us any alternatives. True,
15 they give us a little -- a jig here or a jag
16 there, but they have not considered the things
17 that the people of northern New Hampshire and New
18 Hampshire want to see.

19 We want to see the question of burying
20 the line analyzed. We don't want to be told it's
21 uneconomic. We want to see it analyzed. We want
22 to see the question of using the existing route in
23 Vermont analyzed. We don't want to have somebody

1 say well, sorry, we can't do that. We want to see
2 the question of whether this project can be
3 doubled up with Champlain Hudson as part of
4 regional energy policy analyzed. We don't want to
5 see somebody say sorry, we can't do that. We
6 won't make profits that way.

7 It's, in our view, with respect, your job
8 to force the applicant to comply with the rules,
9 and that's why we've put this Motion in today. We
10 are asking you formally to make a decision on the
11 record on the Motions by nine intervenors who have
12 sat there for three months unresolved. Um --
13 how's my time? Okay.

14 MR. LENUIK: A minute left.

15 THE SPEAKER: Okay. So let me turn to
16 just a couple of things in the papers that we gave
17 to you. We're told by Northern Pass that the
18 alternatives that we ask be considered, we're told
19 they're not economic. If you look at pages five
20 and six, we've given some answers to those
21 statements.

22 If you look at paragraph A on page five,
23 you'll see that using Public Service of New

1 Hampshire's own projections, their very own
2 numbers, this project will generate 50 billion
3 dollars -- 50 billion dollars of revenue for
4 Hydro-Quebec over the life of the deal. Average
5 of more than a billion dollars a year.

6 You'll see that Northeast Utilities
7 stands to make 68 million dollars of return on
8 equity the first year of the deal. So excessive
9 that the Public Utilities Commission of New
10 Hampshire just filed asking that that profit level
11 be reduced.

12 With sales and profits like this, it just
13 can't seriously tell the people in this room that
14 alternatives can't be considered. It is not
15 true. We ask you to enforce the rules. We ask
16 you to please have Northern Pass analyze and
17 present these alternatives so the people may
18 comment on them. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. All right.
21 Valerie Herres is our next speaker. Next up to
22 the on-deck chairs, Martha, Marti, Faulkner, David
23 Van Houten, Margo Connors.

1 THE SPEAKER: Hello. My name is Valerie
2 Herres, and I live at 27 Page Hill Road in
3 Lancaster, New Hampshire.

4 First, I'd like to welcome our regulators
5 here to Coos County. May you enjoy your time with
6 us as you walk on the land that we love, and may
7 your hearts swell with the beauty of these hills
8 and fields, forests and valleys, as it does for
9 those of us who are stewards and keepers.

10 I'm here tonight to speak against
11 Northern Pass and urge your recommendation that
12 there be no action taken on the Presidential
13 permit. I request that as part of the
14 environmental study you require a complete cost
15 benefit analysis of the economic impact on Coos
16 County and the North Country Region of Northern
17 Pass in relation to both tourism and the
18 utilization and development of alternative energy
19 production.

20 This analysis should include the number
21 of jobs created or lost, wages in the present
22 economy and with further expansion of both tourism
23 and alternative energy and impacts on providers of

1 services and materials.

2 This is not an exclusive list but,
3 rather, a brief outline of what should be a
4 comprehensive analysis taking into account the
5 potential losses that will most likely occur over
6 the next 25 years at a minimum, recognizing that
7 tourism is the usual means by which future
8 residents become familiar with an area and decide
9 to purchase land and bring even more economic
10 benefits.

11 I would like for you to consider in your
12 recommendation the responsibility of the true
13 spirit of environmental justice as defined by the
14 EPA, which is fair treatment or that no one group
15 of people should bear a disproportionate share of
16 the negative environmental consequences resulting
17 from industrial, municipal and commercial
18 operations.

19 You must, in all your deliberations and
20 recommendations, consider that the residents of
21 the North Country and especially Coos County have
22 lower wages and less economic opportunity and as
23 such comprise such a socioeconomic minority in the

1 State of New Hampshire.

2 I stand before you as a witness and speak
3 for our community of people. So welcome to our
4 home. I will point out that 32,000 people live in
5 Coos, and only -- if you look at the per capita
6 income, there's -- people will make \$22,000 a year
7 as opposed to the U.S. of 27.

8 I would like for you to look at the
9 alternatives of big, green energy, and what I
10 would like you to do is, as an example, is to
11 study alternate forms of energy, including -- um
12 -- biomass, including hydro, and make a comparison
13 from whether or not there will be benefits to the
14 people -- increased benefits to the people using
15 this alternative as opposed to bringing in Hydro-
16 Quebec. We will be losing jobs and other things.

17 Anyway, I hope you enjoy your stay with
18 us and that what you will do is you will take no
19 action on Northern Pass and that you require the
20 study I have noted. Think long and hard, listen,
21 learn and be wise. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Valerie. Our

1 next speaker, Marti Faulkner. Next on deck,
2 Chelsea Petereit.

3 THE SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Marti
4 Faulkner. I live at 558 Dalton Road in Dalton,
5 New Hampshire, and that's 03598. And my little --
6 my little talk is -- um -- much less formal than
7 what you've heard so far, and I -- I hope I make a
8 point.

9 I wish to speak to the lack of merits of
10 the Northern Pass Project. First, New Hampshire
11 does not need additional power at this time, nor
12 will it for the foreseeable future. I understand
13 that New Hampshire produces in excess of 4,200
14 megawatts of power and has an average load of
15 1,250 megawatts. The all-time peak load is 2,300
16 megawatts.

17 The Northern Pass would be a great danger
18 to our economy for tourism, property values and,
19 most importantly, the future of our forest
20 industries. The recent closing of the paper mills
21 in Berlin, Groveton and Gilman, Vermont has left a
22 void in the demand for low-grade wood that can be
23 used to fire biomass power plants.

1 We've been told that the Northern Pass
2 project would create local jobs, but we know that
3 those jobs would be limited and temporary. We
4 need to have future and lasting employment for our
5 citizens in the forest industries.

6 If this project is allowed to go forward,
7 it will hamper efforts for local renewable energy
8 source development, including biomass, hydro, wind
9 and solar. We know that Hydro-Quebec can produce
10 cheap energy, but we have been told by Gary Long
11 of PSNH that they will sell the power from this
12 project for the same rate that is being charged
13 for power produced by fossil fuels.

14 Northern Pass would cause
15 disproportionately high and adverse impacts on the
16 low-income population. Coos County has the lowest
17 per capita income in the state. In many cases,
18 the land that many have owned for generations is
19 their only real asset. Property values will
20 decline significantly wherever these towers are
21 erected or could be seen. Views have value, and
22 that value would be severely diminished if the
23 views are obstructed by towers as high as 135

1 feet. That is more than twice the height of our
2 trees.

3 Okay. I would submit that if there is
4 truly a need for this power in southern New
5 England and beyond, use the present right of way
6 through Vermont and New Hampshire as shown on the
7 maps supplied by the Society for the Protection of
8 New Hampshire Forests. Its origin is the same,
9 and it is several miles shorter than what is being
10 proposed by Northern Pass. I see no logical
11 reason to despoil the Great North Woods.

12 Finally, I do not believe that it is in
13 the best interests of this country to import more
14 foreign power. We need to become more self-
15 sufficient, not more dependent on another country
16 for our energy. This project would put any U.S.
17 efforts to develop domestic power at a distinct
18 disadvantage because Hydro-Quebec could lower the
19 price so that no one could compete, then raise it
20 once they have established a monopoly. This is a
21 bad deal for New Hampshire, and it's a bad deal
22 for the United States.

23 (Applause.)

1 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. The next
2 speaker, David Van Houten.

3 THE SPEAKER: I can't read with my
4 glasses on. Good evening. My name is David Van
5 Houten. I live at 649 Cherry Valley Road in
6 Bethlehem 03574. And I would like to thank the
7 representatives of the Department of Energy,
8 Forest Service and the Army Corps of Engineers for
9 coming to listen to the people of New Hampshire.

10 After spending a few days here, you
11 probably have a better idea of what makes this
12 place so special for all of us. I work for the
13 Coos Community Benefits Alliance, a group of North
14 Country citizens concerned with energy projects
15 such as the Northern Pass and the potential for
16 our communities to see some meaningful, long-term
17 benefit.

18 We would like to see some of these
19 benefits address the problem of our outdated
20 energy system, and I have a list of suggestions I
21 will gladly share with you after the meeting.
22 I'll be in the foyer there. However, that
23 discussion can't really begin until the concerns

1 of the people have been addressed. CCBA does not
2 take a position to oppose any project. We are
3 concerned with reliable information and a fair
4 process.

5 I have some topics that I would like to
6 see the DOE include in the scope of the EIS. I
7 have divided them into four categories:
8 alternatives, energy implications, public interest
9 and process. Please consider these alternatives.
10 No build, all available technologies for burying
11 the line, siting the line on existing electricity
12 rail or interstate corridors anywhere in New
13 England.

14 Please consider these energy
15 implications. The power from Quebec may displace
16 the development of renewable energy projects in
17 New Hampshire. The power from Quebec is not
18 limited to hydro. Hydro-Quebec also has coal,
19 nuclear and natural gas generating stations. It
20 is reported that Hydro-Quebec is paying for this.
21 They do plan to recoup the investment from U.S.
22 ratepayers. Exporting the money we spend on
23 energy undercuts our ability to invest in our own

1 energy systems.

2 If the DOE would find a way to implement
3 a serious nationwide energy conservation and
4 efficiency program, this power would not be
5 needed. Importing low-cost power, especially if
6 it is seen by some as clean power, is actually
7 likely to increase consumption.

8 Please consider these issues that are
9 relevant to the public interest. The use of
10 eminent domain to secure land for the right of way
11 was initially seen as a last resort. It now seems
12 that scores, if not hundreds, of landowners have
13 no intention of negotiating with the developer.
14 Contentious eminent domain proceedings could have
15 a serious effect on the social fabric of New
16 Hampshire.

17 Many conservation easements would likely
18 be affected by the line. Some of these are
19 unfragmented parcels that were to have been
20 protected in perpetuity. While the EIS is not a
21 referendum, the response of New Hampshire citizens
22 has been overwhelming.

23 And, finally, process. If there is any

1 place on the planet that has four seasons, this is
2 it. That's what passes for spring out there
3 actually.

4 (Laughter.)

5 THE SPEAKER: In order to be accurate,
6 any environmental study would have to be supported
7 by field work in each season. I would like to
8 request that DOE release a proposed scope and
9 outline for the EIS for public comment before
10 starting work on the Draft EIS.

11 And, finally, I would like to request
12 that when you do announce your decision you do it
13 here in the North Country at a public meeting.
14 Thank you, and good luck.

15 (Applause.)

16 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, David. Our
17 next speaker, Margo Connor. Next on deck, Mark
18 McCulloch.

19 THE SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is
20 Margo Connors. I am a Selectman from the Town of
21 Sugar Hill, and I'm also on the Conservation
22 Commission. My mailing address is P.O. Box 862,
23 03580, but I live in the Town of Sugar Hill.

1 At this time I would like everyone from
2 Sugar Hill who is here tonight to stand up with
3 me, please.

4 (Applause.)

5 (People in the audience stand.)

6 THE SPEAKER: The Town of Sugar Hill is
7 concerned that there may be serious negative
8 environmental impacts associated with the proposed
9 Northern Pass transmission line which would pass
10 through our community. Our town presently has
11 seven miles of existing right of way with a single
12 row of towers carrying AC lines.

13 This right of way is projected to be
14 widened from its current cut width of 150 feet to
15 a minimum width of 225 feet with the new HVDC
16 towers added. We ask that you give serious
17 consideration to the points we raise in order to
18 provide our town the fullest protection possible
19 from the EIS phase of the permitting process.

20 It is important that the EIS consider the
21 inherent physical changes brought by towers, lines
22 and clearing of the right of way, the
23 electromagnetic field generated by the proposed

1 power line as well as the noise.

2 Conservation land. The Northern Pass
3 proposed right of way impacts six conservation
4 land easements, including the Sugar Hill Town
5 Forest which constitutes about half the conserved
6 acreage in town. We are too small to absorb that
7 blow. We ask that the study evaluate habitat
8 fragmentation and specifically the impact of the
9 power line on wildlife corridors, bird nesting
10 environments and mammal reproduction on these
11 conserved lands.

12 Northern Pass also cuts through two
13 large, unfragmented land parcels that are shared
14 with the Town of Lisbon and as well as the Towns
15 of Easton and Landaff. We ask that DOE consider
16 the intent of conserved land; that is, to preserve
17 land in its natural state and address the
18 question of whether the presence of industrial
19 infrastructure negatively impacts its conservation
20 value.

21 Water resources. The proposed power line
22 would impact half the length of the Salmon Hole
23 Brook, and it would cross the Gale River. The

1 right of way would cross or abut large areas of
2 hydric soils and wetlands. It could negatively
3 impact amphibious and vernal pools and migratory
4 waterfowl on the Gale River and Streeter Pond. It
5 would impact the riparian zones in the northern
6 and western sections of town. The EIS should
7 address all these features of wetland impacts.

8 I don't have that much time, so it also
9 will impact the forest. The EIS should evaluate
10 the total effect on forest lands, on recreation,
11 the visual and auditory impact of these proposed
12 lines and farmland. We fear that the power line
13 will reduce farm development in Sugar Hill. The
14 proposed line crosses areas of prime agricultural
15 soil and existing farms. We also would like you
16 to address public safety, public health and
17 accidents.

18 We ask that the EIS focus on all of these
19 issues. We urge the U.S. Department of Energy to
20 carefully look at these issues and consider all of
21 the alternatives to Northern Pass. Does importing
22 this power benefit Sugar Hill or New Hampshire?
23 Is it needed? Should it be built at all?

1 On March 8th, 2011, the Town of Sugar
2 Hill voted unanimously to oppose Northern Pass at
3 its annual town meeting. It is the town's
4 responsibility to preserve our community for
5 future generations.

6 (Applause.)

7 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. As moderator,
8 I'm required to come back to you guys on
9 something. Thank you. I went over the ground
10 rules in the beginning, and -- um -- included in
11 that was a couple things that I want to review.

12 One of those was that we not clap until
13 the speaker has ended. And I know that -- thank
14 you. We're starting that process of gee,
15 everybody stand up. That's okay, but it
16 compromised your time, and it's starting to set us
17 back. So I'm not trying to be too rough on you.

18 The next set -- the next item. I have a
19 husband and wife team. And, by the way, DOE is
20 paying me to be here, but I'm more or less working
21 for all of you and them to make sure this process
22 goes as smoothly as it can.

23 So I have a husband and wife team who

1 have asked to speak together and get six minutes.
2 Now, I've denied the first couple that. But,
3 again, they challenged and wanted an exemption to
4 the rules, so I'm coming to you guys. And I know
5 how this is a democratic state, and you guys take
6 great spirit in sticking to those things. So the
7 question is do I give this particular couple an
8 exemption to the ground rules that -- hey. Now,
9 that is -- that's something I expect in Chicago.

10 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: I
11 could have been texting him, you know.

12 THE MODERATOR: That's something I expect
13 in Chicago but not here in New Hampshire. Now,
14 the question to you people is do I give them an
15 exemption?

16 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Yes. Yes.

17 (Applause.)

18 THE MODERATOR: Okay. And the first
19 couple that I cut off -- um -- have agreed to
20 that. So this is a one-time exemption, and the
21 next time when the moderator gives you some ground
22 rules and asks the question, and no one speaks up,
23 I'm going to stick to the ground rules. Thank

1 you.

2 THE SPEAKER: Can you hear me now?

3 THE MODERATOR: Can I invite -- hold on.
4 Before you do that, let me get a few people up
5 here in these chairs. Henrietta Moineau, Hawk
6 Metheny, Margo Connors.

7 MS. CONNORS: I was.

8 THE MODERATOR: Oh. Chris Thayer. Thank
9 you.

10 THE MODERATOR: By the way, they've also
11 promised you to be less than six minutes.

12 THE SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is
13 Mark McCulloch. My wife, Chelsea Petereit, and I
14 live on 72 McCulloch Road in North Stratford, New
15 Hampshire. Zip code 03590.

16 Number one, the DOE supports this project
17 as far as we are concerned. So we are directly
18 affected landowners who own 70 acres in North
19 Stratford, New Hampshire where we have lived for
20 the past 24 years. My name is Mark McCulloch, and
21 I'd like to introduce my wife, Chelsea.

22 THE SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Chelsea
23 Petereit. I have a bachelor's degree in

1 environmental science, and I am a seventh and
2 eighth grade teacher in Lancaster with a master's
3 degree in education. My husband, Mark, has a
4 bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering
5 technology.

6 The DOE should not need us to tell you
7 what the social, cultural and environmental
8 impacts of the Northern Pass Project are. You
9 folks at the DOE must be relatively educated and
10 intelligent people. Even my students are aware
11 that a clear-cut swath of forest 150 feet plus
12 wide containing towers 90 to 135 feet tall
13 carrying wires transporting 1,200 megawatts of
14 6,000-volt electricity across the length of New
15 Hampshire will have devastating negative impacts.

16 When we first learned about the Northern
17 Pass Project, I talked to my students about it. I
18 tried to clearly present both sides of the issue
19 and clearly state what I knew to be facts and what
20 my opinions were. My students all know that I am
21 into conserving energy, recycling, composting and
22 protecting the environment in general, and we
23 discussed why I didn't consider this project to be

1 good for the overall environment.

2 Most of my students were shocked that a
3 project of this type was even being considered.
4 As time passed, I kept my students up-to-date on
5 meetings I'd attended, hearings that my husband
6 had attended and general information. I really
7 played up town meeting and how it was important
8 for people to participate in local government and
9 vote. I took the day off from school to attend
10 our town meeting, and I proudly presented the
11 results of our town's vote against Northern Pass
12 to my students, and they also shared results from
13 other local towns.

14 Then I had many students say they were
15 glad that Northern Pass had been stopped, and I
16 had to tell them that while it was a step in the
17 right direction, things weren't over yet, and they
18 were very puzzled. They couldn't understand why
19 the project was still being pursued if all the
20 local towns had voted against it. I've tried to
21 explain that the whole thing is a process, and it
22 wouldn't be over quickly, but they still don't get
23 it, and, honestly, I don't really understand it

1 myself.

2 If the majority of people don't want it,
3 why does this process continue? Who knows? But I
4 guess my only choice is to continue with the DOE
5 process and identify the environmental impacts as
6 they pertain to our property, but we all know that
7 that would be a waste of time to stand here and
8 talk to you about these issues as they relate to
9 our land and solely our property. That would be
10 ridiculous, even though my students totally
11 understand. Do you? I'm sure other people in
12 other hearings have made these devastating impacts
13 very clear. If you and the DOE haven't figured
14 that out by now, you did not receive a very good
15 education.

16 I would like to give you a brief look at
17 our little parcel of paradise. When Mark and I
18 finished college our dream was to build a log home
19 in the middle of nowhere. Of course we had very
20 little money, but we had a lot of drive to make
21 that dream come true. We found our property, and
22 it was the most land we could afford and fit most
23 of our criteria, and we dove in.

1 We dealt with many hardships to make this
2 happen. We lived in a shack which at first had no
3 running water, no toilet and only a wood cook
4 stove for cooking. We lived off the grid for 10
5 years using solar, hydro and a backup generator.
6 I remember grading papers by oil lamp, pulling my
7 laundry up the hill on a sled because my car
8 couldn't make it to the top and continually
9 thawing frozen water lines.

10 Due to a very cold winter with very
11 little snow, our hydrosystem froze solid, and we
12 had to make the difficult decision to hook up to
13 PSNH power, which we've been truly grateful for.
14 Slowly, we made other improvements and then began
15 to build our dream log home. Years later, we
16 finally moved into our home. It's still not done
17 yet, but it is ours. We remember building every
18 inch of it ourselves with a little help from some
19 friends. We love our home and the property
20 surrounding it, and then the Northern Pass bomb
21 dropped.

22 From that point on, we have experienced
23 many sleepless nights and constant worry. The

1 Northern Pass now occupies our every waking moment
2 and every conversation we have. We will see these
3 lines from everywhere on our property. Almost
4 every window will contain a view of them. We will
5 no longer have our hideaway in the woods. From a
6 personal perspective, how could any of this be
7 considered positive for anyone in New Hampshire?

8 So the real question at hand is do the
9 positive impacts, not just for us but for all of
10 New Hampshire, outweigh the negative impacts? We
11 say to you what positives? Here are the positives
12 claimed by Northeast Utilities and Hydro-Quebec.
13 In other words, Northern Pass.

14 First, they claim it is green renewable
15 energy. If an American company wanted to divert
16 natural waterways, relocate thousands of people
17 against their will and flood lands the size of New
18 Hampshire, it would be considered a criminal act
19 and would not be tolerated. We stopped building
20 these types of huge hydro projects long ago, which
21 is why New Hampshire does not recognize large,
22 hydroelectric projects as green renewable energy,
23 even though Governor Lynch, his buddy Gary Long,

1 and Northern Pass tried to change this definition
2 and failed.

3 Hey, Northern Pass, remember House Bill
4 302? The bill was killed in committee, and the
5 New Hampshire Renewable Portfolio Standard still
6 does not consider power generated by large
7 hydroelectric dams to be green energy, but I guess
8 the DOE does, and that doesn't matter since the
9 permitting process still continues.

10 THE SPEAKER: If I understand this
11 correctly, we've already used the majority of our
12 six minutes. All right. Let me just finish up.
13 Now, Chelsea, and I would like to ask all the
14 affected landowners who are here to stand up and
15 show the DOE who you are, and please remain
16 standing.

17 (People in the audience stand.)

18 THE SPEAKER: Most of these people know
19 one sign in particular that made its appearance on
20 January 1st in North Stratford which eloquently
21 states with only five simple words exactly what we
22 think about the positive impacts of the Northern
23 Pass project. These people have a personal stake

1 in opposing the Northern Pass. They now -- they
2 know their personal freedom is being violated.

3 Now would anybody else who opposes the
4 Northern Pass also please stand.

5 (People in the audience stand.)

6 THE SPEAKER: These people, while their
7 personal property is not at risk, still believe
8 that this project is not good for New Hampshire.
9 We stand together because we believe that our land
10 is worth fighting for. Our town meeting voting
11 results also show the support that we, the people
12 of New Hampshire, will not stand by while the
13 beauty of our state is decimated, our economic
14 future is devalued and our health and happiness is
15 ignored.

16 Now, educated people from the DOE, take a
17 close look at the people standing in opposition to
18 the Northern Pass, and tell us what are the
19 positives of the Northern Pass Project, and we'll
20 tell you the same thing that is on our sign.
21 Northern Pass kiss my -- we think -- we think you
22 educated people know what would go in the blank.
23 Have a nice day.

1 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Thank you for
2 your comments. Are you ready, Henrietta? On
3 deck, I've got Robert Berti. Do I have a Robert
4 Berti in the room?

5 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: Bob
6 Berti, he's here.

7 THE MODERATOR: Is he here?

8 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:
9 Yeah.

10 THE MODERATOR: Come on down. Alice
11 Baldwin. Henrietta.

12 THE SPEAKER: My name is Henrietta
13 Howard-Moineau. Can you hear me? I have lived
14 at -- in Lancaster, New Hampshire for 24 years.
15 At present, I live at 16 Hartco Ave., zip code
16 03584. I am a homeowner and was a 23-acre
17 landowner here for 19 years. I have a master's
18 degree in environmental science.

19 I am against the power line for the
20 following reasons. First, let's do the math.
21 There is to be one tower every 800 feet. That's
22 six and a half towers per mile. In 180 miles that
23 includes New Hampshire and Canada, there will be

1 1,170 towers.

2 Second -- I've got to cut this. We would
3 be importing energy from a foreign entity. How is
4 that good for national security? Shouldn't the
5 U.S. develop its own energy resources? This
6 180-mile long power line is proposed to go through
7 10 miles of the White Mountain National Forest.
8 Wouldn't that be illegal?

9 Next, none of New Hampshire will benefit
10 from the electricity produced. Only western
11 Mass., Connecticut and Rhode Island.

12 Hydro-Quebec is a Canadian Government-
13 owned entity. It is not a private company. It is
14 owned by Quebec Province Government.

15 Next, Hydro-Quebec is not environmentally
16 friendly. One example. In the northern section
17 of Quebec Province, Hydro-Quebec encroached on
18 Canadian Indian archeological sites.

19 Another example. A few years ago, Hydro-
20 Quebec opened up at least one of their dams
21 without checking first. A large herd of elk was
22 crossing the river at the time, and some of the
23 elk drowned.

1 Next, the electromagnetism from the lines
2 over a period of time will cause cancer rates to
3 soar. My sister is an example of this. Whether
4 the cables are supported by the towers or buried
5 underground, there is still going to be
6 electromagnetism. Electromagnetism is also not
7 safe because Russia has developed military weapons
8 using it.

9 Recently, the nephew of a friend of mine
10 who is working for the Big Three in Massachusetts
11 said, "The opposition" -- that's us -- "is
12 powerful, but we will win." And I say keep in
13 mind the story of David and Goliath. Who won? If
14 the power line is forced upon us, our quality of
15 life will be destroyed in many ways. The people
16 here don't want the power line. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Henrietta.
19 Our next speaker, Chris Thayer. Next on deck,
20 Frank Lombardi.

21 THE SPEAKER: Good evening. Thank you
22 for this opportunity to provide public comment.
23 My name is Chris Thayer. My wife, Wendy, and I

1 along with our two boys, four-year-old Tucker and
2 16-month-old Riley, live on 216 Hadley Road in
3 Sugar Hill.

4 Our home of nine years, complete with
5 small frog pond, wildlife paths and organic
6 garden, lies on the preferred route planned for
7 the Northern Pass Transmission Project as it
8 passes through our town on the existing right of
9 way.

10 We stand in opposition to the project as
11 currently proposed for the following reasons. The
12 expansive metal towers ranging in height from 90
13 to 135 feet tall will scar the scenic landscape of
14 our town and region affecting quality of life,
15 diminishing property values and town tax bases and
16 our reputation as a scenic rural destination.

17 I respectfully request the Department of
18 Energy to evaluate all project alternatives,
19 including that of no action that allows our
20 northern region to retain the natural assets that
21 have been the lifeblood of local citizens and the
22 source of inspiration and spiritual renewal for
23 all over countless generations.

1 The taller towers proposed for carrying
2 the high-voltage direct current, aerial
3 transmission lines, will necessitate widening
4 existing right of ways, including the possible use
5 of eminent domain to do so and will allow for
6 additional capacity in the future.

7 I respectfully request the Department of
8 Energy and related federal agencies to perform due
9 diligence in studying the impacts to wildlife,
10 wetlands, forest resources, communities and
11 recreation areas along the proposed routes,
12 including most significantly the White Mountain
13 National Forest, a public land area with more
14 annual visitation than Yellowstone and Yosemite
15 National Parks combined.

16 Information to date concerning the
17 project has been incomplete, troubling or at best
18 inaccurate, including the estimate of permanent
19 jobs created, estimates of electricity cost
20 reductions for ratepayers, estimates of tax
21 payments to towns by utilities and the
22 presentation of the overall project as green
23 energy aimed at meeting the state's carbon

1 reduction goals.

2 I respectfully request the Department of
3 Energy to set the standard for an open and
4 transparent process that ensures the public
5 interest is on equal footing with corporate
6 interests.

7 Published health effects of living on or
8 near high-voltage direct current aerial
9 transmission lines are alarming, including higher
10 risks associated with childhood leukemia and
11 chronic lymphocytic leukemia in adults. Our local
12 Profile High School lies directly on the preferred
13 transmission route, affecting the children of our
14 entire tri-town region.

15 I respectfully request the Department of
16 Energy to perform due diligence in studying and
17 reporting on the full effects of such transmission
18 lines on surrounding populations and communities,
19 including proposals for mitigation as accomplished
20 elsewhere in the U.S. and Europe.

21 The proposed project does not consider
22 21st Century solutions aimed at protecting the
23 region's heritage, scenic landscape and people

1 while providing a model for energy transmission in
2 the United States. In short, burying the lines,
3 as is currently being done elsewhere in the
4 Northeast, should be a final consideration.

5 I respectfully request the Department of
6 Energy to challenge those involved in the proposal
7 of this project to put energy innovation and
8 community benefit before shareholder value or
9 profit.

10 On behalf of my family, along with others
11 in our community and surrounding North Country
12 Region, we stand firmly against this project as
13 presented and ask that this public process produce
14 a result that serves the best interests of the
15 State of New Hampshire and those of us who are
16 lucky enough to call it home.

17 (Applause.)

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Our next
19 speaker, Robert Berti.

20 THE SPEAKER: You got that right. Thank
21 you very much. I have attached additional
22 comments with some very brief statements. My name
23 is Bob Berti. I live at 10 Circle Drive, Ashland,

1 New Hampshire 03246. I am a professional
2 forester, and my business is located in Rumney,
3 New Hampshire 03266. And, as I mentioned, I have
4 attached additional comments.

5 Let me just say first, and you've heard
6 this comment before, but the James Bay Hydro
7 Project is an area in size 2.2 million acres
8 larger than the State of New Hampshire. Folks,
9 there's no trees there. They're all gone.

10 This project would not pass environmental
11 review by the EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers,
12 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other
13 agencies. In other words, it would not be allowed
14 in the United States. An international border
15 should not be the prerequisite if something meets
16 environmental standards.

17 The private companies bringing the
18 project forward, Northeast Utilities and NSTAR,
19 can have -- have not and cannot provide us or have
20 demonstrated it to us any stateside projects and
21 alternatives to Northern Pass. They say that they
22 have considered other projects, but when asked to
23 project them forward they have been unwilling and

1 unable to provide us with this data.

2 This energy source is coming from a
3 foreign country. It's not stateside. The United
4 States DOE and other national organizations have a
5 responsibility to provide its citizens with a
6 domestic source of energy. Depending on foreign
7 countries, whether it be Saudi Arabia, Venezuela,
8 Mexico, or even Canada, is not in the long-term
9 interest and security of its citizens to purchase
10 from a foreign power. So I ask you, as I have and
11 I think most of you, to oppose this project.
12 Thank you very much.

13 (Applause.)

14 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Bob. Our next
15 speaker is Alice Baldwin. Next up on deck,
16 Rebecca Brown. Do I have a James McLean?

17 THE SPEAKER: Good evening. Can you hear
18 me?

19 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No.

20 THE SPEAKER: No? Well, what's the
21 problem?

22 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Put it closer to your
23 mouth.

1 THE SPEAKER: Here? Is that better?
2 Sorry. Good evening, representatives of our
3 Department of Energy and others. I'm Alice
4 Baldwin, 75 Middle Street, Lancaster, New
5 Hampshire 03584. I'd just like to start by saying
6 if I stumble, it's because I had read somewhere in
7 the information that we had five to 10 minutes to
8 speak. So I've been desperately cutting. I'll do
9 the best I can.

10 I do wish to draw your attention to the
11 socioeconomic impacts of the project and to point
12 out that we the people of Coos and Grafton
13 Counties ought not be compelled to sacrifice our
14 culture, environment and economic security to
15 enable an international corporation to sell energy
16 in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

17 Indeed, we have a responsibility to
18 protect the environment we have inherited and pass
19 it onto our children and grandchildren. That is
20 in the public interest. When General Stark warned
21 that tyranny would often rear its ugly head and
22 uttered his famous words, "Live free or die," he
23 could not foresee that the Army of King George

1 could be replaced by an army of Canadian-owned
2 towers marching through his beloved state. What
3 would he say of this conflict with the tyrannical
4 Northeast Utilities over land he and his soldiers
5 had fought to free?

6 We are preparing to celebrate the 100th
7 anniversary of the Weeks Act which protects forest
8 lands throughout the Eastern United States.
9 Senator John Weeks, our native son, initiated
10 protection of our forest from the predatory
11 practices of the early 20th Century lumber
12 barons. Although he could not foresee that the
13 environmental destruction wrought by that industry
14 could be replicated by the bulldozing, blasting
15 and skyscraping towers of a 21st Century
16 conglomerate, what would he say of this conflict
17 now threatening the degradation of our protected
18 lands?

19 In the spirit of the Senator, his family
20 gave Mount Prospect to the State for the benefit
21 of us all. And in that same spirit other families
22 throughout Coos and Grafton Counties have ceded
23 development rights to many organizations. They

1 are our neighbors, our friends and our families.

2 Although they did not foresee this
3 particular conflict with one of the nation's
4 largest utility companies, they recognized that
5 the natural beauty of our environment required
6 their stewardship. What will that say if we fail
7 to defend their generosity and commitment?

8 There is only one thing that can be done
9 here. After 20 townships have rejected this at
10 their town meetings, and after all of you have
11 come here, it is time for this project to be set
12 aside. It is the responsibility of Northeast
13 Utilities to find an alternative means of
14 supplying the needs of our neighbors to the
15 south. I thank you for your attention.

16 (Applause.)

17 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for your
18 comments, Alice.

19 THE SPEAKER: Well, I had to cut this so
20 dramatically I'd rather submit it in writing at a
21 later date.

22 THE MODERATOR: Our next speaker, Frank
23 Lombardi. To the on-deck chairs, David Dobbins,

1 Peter Powell. Go ahead.

2 THE SPEAKER: Testing. Okay. My name is
3 Frank Lombardi, and I live in Whitefield, New
4 Hampshire. Have any of you had the opportunity to
5 read the BioInitiative Report? Anybody heard of
6 the [BioInitiative Report](#)? Here it is here.

7 (The speaker holds up a large sheaf of
8 papers.)

9 THE SPEAKER: It's an easy read. Okay.
10 Now, this -- this report was written by 14
11 scientists from around the world, public health
12 and public policy experts. It was an
13 international effort to provide an overview and
14 recommendations to address biological effects that
15 occur at low-intensity electromagnetic frequency
16 exposures.

17 Current exposure standards are only
18 concerned with heating of body tissue and induced
19 electric currents in the body based on thermal
20 limits only. The current exposure standards do
21 not address nonthermal or low-intensity exposures
22 which are widely reported to cause bioeffects,
23 some likely leading to adverse health effects with

1 chronic, long-term exposure.

2 I am requesting that the United States
3 Department of Energy study the BioInitiative
4 Report in detail, and you can have this copy.
5 Among the conclusions, biological effects may
6 include both potential adverse health effects and
7 loss of homeostasis and well-being.

8 For example, on page 22 of the report it
9 states, "It is no longer acceptable to build new
10 power lines and electrical facilities that place
11 people in extremely low-frequency environments
12 that have been determined to be risky."

13 These levels are in the two to four
14 milligauss range, not in the tens of milligauss or
15 hundreds of milligauss. The existing ICNIRP limit
16 is 1,000 milligauss for ELF, which is outdated and
17 based on faulty assumptions.

18 The new ELF limits recommended in this
19 report is for habitual space, one milligauss, and
20 new construction, two milligauss. Okay. Now,
21 this afternoon I visited a local home which abuts
22 the existing power lines and the proposed line.
23 Their house is probably from this wall and reaches

1 maybe the power lines to that wall or a little
2 further. Okay. And I brought out my Trifield
3 Meter which can detect electromagnetic
4 frequencies, and I was able to check out there,
5 and they reached from five milligauss to 35
6 milligauss, especially right underneath, okay.
7 And obviously we're looking at these new
8 standards. They do not comply. Okay.

9 The antiquated standards in the United
10 States do not reflect current best practices
11 within the industry. With the potential health
12 risks on human beings and wildlife and the vast
13 number of other negative aspects of this project
14 which we've heard tonight, what benefits could
15 possibly outweigh this? Having looked at this
16 report, it is clear to me that the current project
17 is not worth the health risks. This Northern Pass
18 project should not have moved to this stage and
19 should not continue forth from here.

20 Also, I would assume that we're looking
21 for security, and with the war on terrorism, it
22 would be wise that we have any type of energy
23 produced within our own United States where we

1 could monitor it and have security on that and not
2 trust Canada.

3 (Applause.)

4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for your
5 comments, Frank. Our next speaker, Rebecca Brown.

6 THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

7 THE MODERATOR: That's my fault. Go
8 right ahead.

9 THE SPEAKER: I'm Rebecca Brown. Can you
10 hear me? 80 Post Road, Sugar Hill 03856,
11 representing myself and the Ammonoosuc
12 Conservation Trust, which is the North Country's
13 regional land conservancy. Thank you for the
14 opportunity to make these comments.

15 Like many people here, I think, when I
16 first heard about the Northern Pass Project, I did
17 a mental equation of the pros and cons, and the
18 pros are renewable, presumably low-cost energy,
19 supposedly with a low-carbon impact. The cons are
20 that the huge towers would go through my front
21 yard. But my conclusion was that for the greater
22 good we've all got to sacrifice or at least
23 compromise a little bit to get green power, so I

1 thought I'd -- I'd live with the towers.

2 I was wrong. It is clear to me now with
3 more information that Northern Pass is wrong for
4 the North Country, wrong for New Hampshire, wrong
5 for the economy and wrong for the environment. No
6 alternatives or mitigation would make it right for
7 New Hampshire. In terms of public benefit,
8 technology, economy and public policy this project
9 does not add up.

10 It is well-known from PSNH itself that
11 New Hampshire does not need the power. Northern
12 Pass does not represent a public policy
13 initiative. It is a private, corporate, market
14 initiative -- market share initiative. The
15 greatest beneficiary of this project after Hydro-
16 Quebec is PSNH. PSNH has been losing market share
17 for years. It is a failing corporation. Northern
18 Pass represents a last gasp effort to boost its
19 revenues at our expense.

20 Northern Pass is like a private toll road
21 cut through the heart of our region, a toll road
22 with no exits and no on-ramps. We would not
23 receive the power, nor could we use the lines to

1 export our locally generated power.

2 Northern Pass unplugs incentives for
3 locally produced biomass energy in the North
4 Country. Biomass plants are teetering on shutting
5 down. These plants employ our friends and
6 neighbors, real people here using wood chips
7 transported by our truckers from trees cut by our
8 loggers in forests marked by our foresters on land
9 owned by North Country people who need financial
10 return to manage their forest for the long-term.

11 DOE could require a detailed analysis of
12 the impact of Northern Pass on other renewable
13 energy alternatives, including biomass and wind.
14 I'm going to skip right to my conclusion but also
15 to say that, like others, I thought we had a
16 little bit longer time. I'd like to see DOE also
17 do an expert objective analysis of the regional
18 economic impact of these transmission lines.

19 In conclusion, Northern Pass represents
20 yesterday's technology trying to solve tomorrow's
21 needs. Energy experts describe a host of
22 innovations in use now, coming to market or in
23 design that significantly improve the efficiency

1 and lessen the environmental impact of power
2 generation and transmission.

3 It is likely that within a few decades
4 these enormous towers would be relics of a bygone
5 era, yet their scar on our landscape will
6 continue. Therefore, while there are studies the
7 DOE might do, I urge the Department to take no
8 action on this permit application. It is the
9 wrong project, the wrong place and the wrong
10 time. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Rebecca. Our
13 next speaker will be David Dobbins. Next up on
14 deck, Katie Rose. That was me again.

15 THE SPEAKER: Okay. Before I get
16 started -- before you start that clock, I actually
17 have an imaginary friend up here with me, and I
18 request six minutes.

19 (Laughter.)

20 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: I
21 see him.

22 THE SPEAKER: Okay. Good evening. My
23 name is Dave Dobbins, and I live at 167 Gunstock

1 Hill Road in Gilford, New Hampshire 03249. I --
2 I'm not a flatlander, but I'm somebody from down
3 below.

4 (Laughter.)

5 THE SPEAKER: Our town is not directly
6 affected by any one of the primary or alternative
7 routes proposed by the Northern Pass Project, but
8 I'm here tonight as a New Hampshire citizen. I've
9 lived in the state for 54 years. I simply believe
10 that the Northern Pass is a bad deal for this
11 area. It's a bad deal for our state, and it's the
12 wrong direction for national energy policy.

13 The project links a foreign-controlled
14 power source to southern New England states at
15 great cost to New Hampshire's scenic character and
16 quality of life that is enjoyed by so many
17 citizens and visitors. As many people have heard
18 me saying, New Hampshire gets the ugly and
19 permanent scar. Other New England states get the
20 power.

21 Speaking in Franklin earlier this week, I
22 asked that environmental justice be investigated
23 with regard to the selection of that city as the

1 site of the DC to AC converter station. Here in
2 this setting, I ask that the DOE use environmental
3 justice as the lens to review the treatment of the
4 citizens of every other town along the proposed
5 primary and alternate routes of the Northern Pass
6 Project.

7 As was mentioned earlier, environmental
8 justice is the fair treatment and meaningful
9 involvement of all people. Sure, we get to talk
10 now, but it's in a defensive stance against
11 something we didn't ask for and don't want. We
12 even get to spend our hard-earned tax dollars on a
13 federal review of what should be a local and state
14 matter, which really is do we need to obtain more
15 electricity, and, if so, how best to obtain it.

16 When a developer spends three or more
17 years in the planning stage before the local folks
18 get much wind of what's going on, that is not fair
19 treatment or meaningful involvement. I believe
20 that your investigation into the treatment of
21 these citizens and these communities will reveal
22 blatant disrespect for their right to peaceful
23 enjoyment of their properties, disrespect for

1 their livelihoods, their health and security and
2 their contributions to keeping this state the
3 natural wonder that it is.

4 The evidence will show that environmental
5 justice has not been served. For this and many
6 other reasons already presented to you by so many,
7 I ask that you exercise the no action alternative
8 available to you regarding this project and deny
9 the Presidential permit for it. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for your
12 comments. Next up, Peter Powell.

13 THE SPEAKER: Thank you. My name is
14 Peter Powell. I live in Lancaster, and I've been
15 a realtor here for 37 years. As to the EIS, like
16 many, I have served during that time on boards and
17 have been involved with efforts related to the
18 development of economic opportunity for this
19 region as well as for conservation and other
20 organizations related to both natural and human
21 resources. They are one in the same here.

22 The environment and the economy are one
23 in the same. They are inextricable. We cannot

1 sustain the economy if we do not protect the
2 environment. We will not have the means of
3 protecting the environment if we cannot sustain
4 our economy. I like to say that the North Country
5 is the steward of the image which the rest of New
6 Hampshire has of itself but which can no longer be
7 found any longer in much of the state, but we
8 sometimes struggle to maintain it.

9 This is such an example. We fight this
10 hard today because we have been successful in the
11 past, and we still have so much to protect. We
12 don't want to lose it now. Not here where it
13 remains most honest, most natural and most
14 available. This demands that the EIS address this
15 more than symbiotic relationship between the
16 environment and the economy and understand the
17 full context in which this decision must be made.

18 It presents as a community of concern
19 about every aspect of life and commerce here. The
20 impact on real estate values, our tax base, the
21 way in which this project will create an imbalance
22 between the supply and demand for power and the
23 way in which that will affect our forests, our

1 potential for the development of alternative
2 energy sources as one means of bridging the gap
3 left by the demise of the paper industry and with
4 it the loss of that part of our trailable economy
5 which has brought so much capital -- had brought
6 so much capital in our region. It includes the
7 impact on tourism, which is another source of
8 economic strength now and into the future.

9 A large-scale branding effort now in
10 process for Coos County is focused on our need to
11 strengthen that base, knowing it is a sensitive
12 industry based upon perceptions of beauty and the
13 quality of individual experience in order to
14 create loyalty and connection. All these things
15 are under attack by this project, and the EIS must
16 acknowledge how the project impacts the behavior
17 of PSNH and NU as they refuse -- as it refuses to
18 negotiate with existing biomass plants and drops
19 the price paid to small-scale hydro producers in
20 the area.

21 It is a callous approach to existing
22 business, existing infrastructure and the present
23 and future of the people committed to this

1 region. The EIS cannot omit any of this. It must
2 assess current realities and compare, as the
3 process suggests, that the future of this
4 region -- what the future of this region can be
5 without this project against the risks and threats
6 and potential losses it may impose upon our future
7 if it is built.

8 It is why I urge the no-build option as
9 the only possible way to let us continue to build
10 on our strengths and find our place in the global
11 economy. We -- the resources we have must be --
12 must serve the long-term interests of our people
13 and our communities with the best possible job
14 creation and growth within the region that has
15 been and is and will be a delicate process, and it
16 cannot be trashed by something as indelicate as
17 this project.

18 The North Country Council, the Regional
19 Planning Commission, the comprehensive economic
20 development strategy that function beneath that
21 authority have both voted to oppose this project
22 as has TOA, Timberland Owners, and other
23 organizations, as we all know.

1 I'd like to talk more about real estate
2 impacts, about what else we could get from this
3 study, but I'm beyond my time, and I don't want
4 anybody to get upset with me, so I thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 THE MODERATOR: I had promised you people
7 a break at 7:45. As you've noticed, I've gone
8 beyond that, but it appears that there's some
9 people in the front row that would like me to have
10 our next speaker go. Do we agree?

11 MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: Absolutely.

12 THE MODERATOR: The next speaker, so to
13 speak, is Katie Rose.

14 THE SPEAKER: Hi. I'm Katie Rose, born
15 and raised in the North Country, and I am so proud
16 to sing this song in my hometown.

17 South of the Canada border, east of
18 Vermont countryside, some kind of natural beauty,
19 and people came far and wide to view the majesty
20 of the land, one place untouched by human hands.
21 And those that called it home were tougher than
22 the granite stone. But something came out of the
23 darkness, something of a dangerous kind trying to

1 pass legislation to run some high-voltage power
2 lines with no concern for the local man whose
3 great-grandfather had worked that land. The
4 number one priority was the profit of the
5 company.

6 So live free or die, my friend. Live
7 free or die. This is the message that we send.
8 Live free or die.

9 Ads and propaganda littered with half-
10 truths and lies. Anyone else might have been
11 fooled, but countryfolk can survive. They
12 wouldn't stand for the NPT depreciating their
13 property and making their children unhealthy so
14 more people could waste electricity.

15 So live free or die, my friend. Live
16 free or die. This is the message that we send.
17 Live free or die.

18 It's a sad story of oppression by a
19 powerful entity, but it's more about the human
20 spirit and people standing up for what they
21 believe. And when our children are all grown and
22 having kids of their own they'll be thinking back
23 to you and me and the spirit that kept them free.

1 So live or free or die, my friend. Live
2 free or die. This is the message that we send.
3 Live free or die, my friend. Live free or die.
4 This is the message that we send.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Katie Rose.
8 You may now have a 10-minute break, though it will
9 probably be 15.

10 (Break taken at 7:52 p.m.)

11 (Resume at 8:08 p.m.)

12 THE MODERATOR: On the on-deck circle,
13 Peter Riviere. Do I have Edward Craxton? Okay.
14 Thank you. Do I have Peter Ri -- oh, I do. Thank
15 you. Our next speaker will be Andrea Craxton
16 speaking on behalf of her brother, Edward.

17 THE SPEAKER: Hello. I'm Andrea
18 Craxton. I'm a North Country girl. I live on 238
19 Whitefield Road in Dalton 03598. My brother-in-
20 law is Ed Craxton, probably known to a lot of you,
21 and he was scheduled to speak tonight, but he is
22 ill, and he was very sorry that he was not able to
23 come. He had some important things to say. He

1 asked me if in his stead I would simply tell you
2 that he is opposed to the Northern Pass Project,
3 and he will submit a written statement.

4 On a personal note, I would just like to
5 mention that I'm pleased that at our recent town
6 meeting the Town of Dalton unanimously expressed
7 their opposition to the project. The North
8 Country is a beautiful place. Can we keep it that
9 way? I hope so.

10 (Applause.)

11 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much,
12 Andrea. Out next speaker --

13 THE SPEAKER: Peter Riviere, Lancaster
14 03584. Is that loud enough?

15 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: No.

16 THE SPEAKER: I'm not shouting. I was
17 telling somebody that I have a speech that is the
18 length of a Frank Rich column in the "Sunday New
19 York Times," and I know you're not going to give
20 me enough time to do that, so let me just say that
21 I second pretty much all the requests for specific
22 EIS analysis of economic impact of this line,
23 whether it's on tourism, business, the built

1 environment, the natural environment and the
2 cultural -- cultural values that we all cherish.

3 And I just wanted to add a couple of
4 comments -- I will submit what I did write -- that
5 are kind of off-the-cuff, and -- and nobody else
6 has covered tonight, but they go without saying.
7 That the cheapest kilowatt is the kilowatt that
8 you don't have to generate. And what we should be
9 doing is looking at the model that exists, the
10 21st Century model that exists in the Northwest
11 where they're meeting all of their vibrant
12 economic development growth needs by conserving
13 power and by having net metering and by looking at
14 a smart grid.

15 This is an archaic paradigm, and it's a
16 failed paradigm. This does not help us move into
17 the 21st Century. This is not something that New
18 Hampshire should ever hang its name to.

19 And I'm sorry to say that one of the
20 companies that's trying to advance this bogus plan
21 uses the words public and service in its name.
22 What we really need here is below-market rates for
23 impoverished economic areas so that we can restore

1 people of New Hampshire would consider a benefit
2 to us. This paradigm does nothing to advance
3 secure power transmission, smart grid technology
4 or decentralized power generation that's locally
5 directed. Those would be New Hampshire benefits.
6 Thank you.

7 (Appplause.)

8 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Next speaker,
9 Miller Martin, Jr. Next on deck Sarah Douchette?
10 Douchay?

11 MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: Doucette.

12 THE MODERATOR: Do I have a Doyle Davis?
13 Ann Hawthorne? Roxie Severance? John Severance?
14 Oh, okay. We have them here. Miller, when you
15 are ready.

16 THE SPEAKER: My name is Miller Martin,
17 Jr. My wife and I reside at 237 North Road,
18 Lancaster, New Hampshire. We both also own
19 Martin's Agway, 393 Main Street, Lancaster, New
20 Hampshire. We have been in business for 34 years,
21 so both of us are well-grounded in northern New
22 Hampshire.

23 Well, what I wrote -- but what I have to

1 say is on the property that I inherited, 170 acres
2 about 15 years ago, there is the preferred route
3 for about a half a mile on the right side of the
4 property. Diagonally across the property is the
5 alternate route. It's all about the land.

6 This land I own, 170 acres, has a past
7 and hopefully a future without this proposed power
8 line. This land grew beans, yellow and green, for
9 a tannery in Maine. This land yielded many a hay
10 crop. This land has provided pasture, past and
11 present. This land nurtured all kinds of
12 wildlife, especially deer. A Russian wild boar
13 was taken on this land. This land has generated
14 thousands of board feet of timber. This land has
15 been in the family for over 70 years. Will this
16 land be sacrificed for the greater good? The
17 question is whose greater good? All we have to do
18 is follow the money trail north. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Miller. Our
21 next speaker, Sarah Douchette.

22 THE SPEAKER: Doucette. I'm Sarah
23 Doucette. I live -- excuse me -- on Newell

1 Lane -- 58 Newell Lane in Whitefield, New
2 Hampshire 03598, and I want to appreciate that we
3 have an opportunity to give testimony and to share
4 with each other what we're experiencing here and
5 to share with people who have the power to help us
6 and make decisions based on our concerns.

7 So my understanding is that our
8 opportunity is really to ask for what we want you
9 to study tonight. So I have a laundry list, and
10 you've heard a lot of this, but I think it's good
11 to keep saying it every chance we get. So among
12 the EIS studies I will ask you to please compare
13 both build and no-build scenarios and also all
14 alternate routes and options, including
15 underground routes.

16 Please consider the following topics.
17 The impact on land, forest, woodlands and others'
18 landscape affected, also waterways, wetlands, the
19 welfare of wildlife populations from vernal pool
20 creatures to larger animals.

21 Second, the depressive effect on New
22 Hampshire's forest industry and wood energy
23 market, the tourism industry to real estate sales

1 and related businesses.

2 Third, damage to our irreplaceable
3 cultural, aesthetic and spiritual values that we
4 have in our landscape, a landscape that's given
5 respite and renewal to people from ancient native
6 populations to the summer visitors of the grand
7 hotel era, from the renowned painters of the White
8 Mountain School of Art who were awe-struck when
9 they discovered the wilderness and the beauty
10 here, to the visitors who come today for
11 recreation. This really is re-creation, seeking a
12 place removed from their homes and commercial and
13 industrial centers.

14 Please study the inequitable loss that
15 this project represents in terms of the well-being
16 of the local people who are deeply connected to
17 the land and its unique bounty. Consider the loss
18 that is permanent for generations to come.

19 Fourth, is this project really in the
20 long-term interest of anyone other than the
21 developers at a time when we desperately need to
22 foster conservation and contain the expansion and
23 industrialization that degrade both the

1 environment and the human experience?

2 Can we not invest our resources in
3 creating an abundance for local energy initiative
4 projects on a scale with a lifestyle that we have
5 chosen in New Hampshire, and should not others in
6 other locations do the same rather than spoiling
7 Canadian land and distant country vistas forever
8 increasing energy appetites and the attendant
9 damage that our planet is sustaining?

10 What will our town's property tax bases
11 really look like after this project has devoured
12 our homes and landscapes? Can the amount of tax
13 relief from Northern Pass, perhaps diminishing
14 over time and only temporary, really offset what
15 will be lost forever? And is Northern Pass
16 operating in good faith with its projections and
17 assurances regarding plans and mitigations?

18 Hydro-Quebec's history in Quebec with
19 their native population and the land arouses
20 skepticism as to its integrity. That skepticism
21 is underscored frequently as we all received
22 glossy public relations mailings about the project
23 shining with assertions that are clearly

1 duplicitous and disparaging to our intelligence.
2 This path does not incline us to believe we are
3 expected at the table where this Northern Pass
4 Project is discussed.

5 So, finally, I just want to ask that DOE
6 please notify the public of the topics that will
7 finally be studied in this EIS work so that if
8 there are topics of interest that are not on your
9 agenda, we would be able to commission our own
10 study to submit as the process continues. So
11 thank you. Um -- I feel if you really look at all
12 these considerations, we will have an easy
13 decision that will evolve from the disastrous
14 effects of this project. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Sarah. Next
17 speaker, Doyle Davis.

18 THE SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is
19 Doyle Davis. I live at 73 Lower Ox Team Road in
20 Dalton, New Hampshire 03598. I would like to echo
21 comments made by Mr. Thayer and Mr. Lombardi
22 earlier about some of the potential environmental
23 hazards of this proposed power line, particularly

1 the area of the magnetic fields and electric
2 fields associated with these wires.

3 I was trained as a physicist, and I was
4 intrigued to hear Mr. Lombardi's measurements of
5 about 35 milligauss. I did a quick calculation,
6 and that agrees with the type of magnetic field
7 you would feel about -- oh, say 100 feet below a
8 wire carrying about 100 amps of current.

9 Now, what's interesting about his
10 reading, though, is that it is about one-tenth of
11 the magnetic field of the earth that we are
12 currently sitting in. So if there are these
13 environmental effects, and I strongly suspect that
14 there may be, there may be other phenomenon
15 associated with this carrying of power other than
16 just the magnetic fields, particularly there's
17 also an effect called a corona discharge, and
18 these wires also have strong electric fields which
19 can strip away the electrons in the air next to
20 these wires and basically create ions which can be
21 blown downwind and subject to us breathing them.

22 So that is another effect that I urge the
23 Department of Energy to consider. Also, I would

1 request the Northern Pass website to place on its
2 website what we can as citizens who would be
3 subjected to these lines -- and I might point out
4 that my view of the Presidentials will also be
5 lost with these lines since I will be about a
6 quarter of a mile away from them and easily see
7 them. But, again, my concern here is
8 environmental health.

9 So I would urge Northern Pass to please
10 tell us what we can expect for currents through
11 these wires so that we can make independent
12 calculations of our own of the magnetic field
13 currents at the base of where we are living, and
14 also tell us more about the converter and
15 rectifier station that will be on these
16 facilities.

17 What can we expect here in Whitefield for
18 one of those types of stations? So that we have
19 better information because currently if you go to
20 their website, you can't -- you cannot find
21 anything really about their -- what these -- the
22 technical information that we -- that we need to
23 know to make rational decisions about the effect

1 of these lines. Thank you very much.

2 (Applause.)

3 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Doyle.

4 Our next speaker, Ann Hawthorne.

5 THE SPEAKER: My name is Ann Hawthorne.

6 I live at 5 Lost Nation Road in Lancaster 03584.

7 Thank you very much for holding this hearing. I

8 want to speak in opposition to the proposed HVDC

9 transmission line through our state.

10 This is a complex subject involving a
11 multitude of issues, all of them tied to the
12 central importance of basic decisions that will
13 drastically alter people's lives on an honest
14 assessment of facts, not on half-truths, outright
15 lies or the cynical presumption increasingly
16 prevalent in our country and elsewhere that money
17 and cronyism trump speech and the real public
18 interest.

19 There are others here who can present
20 incontrovertible facts about how this project
21 would affect wildlife, the physical environment,
22 the economic survival of the humans who live in
23 that environment and the failure of this project

1 to meet an honest definition of renewable energy.

2 For my part, I ask you to reject the
3 proposed Northern Pass Project on the basis of one
4 of your stated criteria for assessment: its
5 placement of an undue burden on an already
6 impoverished minority population. All of these
7 issues, as you well know, are tied to larger ones
8 involving the roles and the integrity of
9 government officials, both elected and unelected,
10 and the highly problematic ethics of close
11 associations between those government officials
12 and vastly wealthy private entities.

13 I want to ask you here to consider the
14 meaning of the term, "public interest," and who is
15 best placed to define it in an honest way. In
16 this connection, I express the hope that you have
17 not traveled through this region in the company of
18 utility spokespeople; that you have preserved open
19 minds and eyes about the realities of life and the
20 landscape in this state.

21 All of us feel great compassion for our
22 neighbors to the south in Franklin with its
23 devastated landscape, already devastated by

1 transmission towers. Tell us honestly. Would you
2 want to live there? Their tax base has been
3 destroyed, and the insultingly small sums promised
4 them by the Northern Pass megalith can never
5 reverse the downward freefall or restore the
6 environment that they have lost.

7 Now, as you drive farther up through the
8 North Country, I hope that you will note the
9 contrast and nearly pristine landscape which
10 people might actually want to visit or where
11 people might actually want to live. I hope you
12 will be able to drive still farther north above
13 Colebrook to see what we have here.

14 We are a small but significant portion of
15 the New Hampshire public whose real interest is
16 involved here, and we are determined not to go the
17 way of Franklin. And we are determined to resist
18 the divide-and-rule strategy adopted by Northeast
19 Utilities and its subsidiaries and shell companies
20 which attempts to pit one small and impoverished
21 community against others. No amount of money can
22 compensate for irretrievable environmental and
23 cultural loss and devastation.

1 Coos County is the least populous and
2 poorest county in the state. I'm sorry. I will
3 go on for another half-minute. Adjacent Grafton
4 County runs second in those categories. Those of
5 us who live in the North Country are a small, poor
6 but identifiably distinct segment of the public
7 that is constituted by the people of New
8 Hampshire.

9 Here, north of the notches, we have
10 nowhere else to travel for jobs that will enable
11 us to hold on by our fingernails because of
12 already lost jobs. Contrary to the
13 representations of Northeast Utilities, those of
14 us who oppose the Northern Pass Project are not a
15 handful of cranks or a small group of unruly but
16 ignorant children. We are poor and few in number,
17 but we are not stupid, ignorant or naive. We know
18 what we risk losing.

19 In 25 town meetings above and below the
20 notches, we have voted either unanimously or
21 overwhelmingly against it. We stand against a
22 megalithic utility with 74.4 billion dollars in
23 assets. We hope that in these hearings our speech

1 is not automatically trumped by immense wealth.

2 I have more to say, but time will not
3 allow me to say it. It is in a statement that I
4 will submit to you.

5 (Applause.)

6 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for your
7 comments, Ann. Our next speaker is John
8 Severance. Next on deck, do I have a Richard
9 Samson? How about Crosby Peck? Michelle Vaughn?

10 THE SPEAKER: I would like to start out
11 by saying thank you for this opportunity. It's a
12 good step in a good direction, I hope. I'm John
13 Severance, 544 Jefferson Road, Whitefield, New
14 Hampshire 03598. I'm speaking for both my wife,
15 Roxie, and myself. Both raised here, grew up here
16 and intend to stay here unless we wreck it, which
17 I hope we don't.

18 We are very much opposed to this project
19 for the sake of northern New Hampshire as a whole,
20 to the numerous landowners that will be directly
21 affected and the impacts upon our own property
22 should this move forward.

23 Currently, the transmission line that

1 cuts through our property is not visible from the
2 upper buildable highlands of our 217-acre
3 property. We enjoy an uninterrupted view of the
4 White Mountains, Cherry Mountains, Cannon Slopes
5 and Kilkenny Range. The installation of towers
6 approximately 120 feet or even 130 feet tall will
7 certainly place a visible scar that 60-foot trees
8 cannot hide. It will be unavoidably seen from
9 most anywhere on the property should this occur
10 and as well as our abutting neighbors.

11 There is no amount of money that can or
12 will compensate for this loss to us as landowners
13 who simply love their land. Some of the reasons
14 for this are -- and things that we do. There are
15 thousands of dollars that could be gained by
16 logging off the property which has happened many
17 times when we needed money for North Country
18 people. We don't do this. And one of the big
19 reasons is because it does indeed hide the
20 existing power line.

21 We have done many wildlife improvements
22 on the property for 14 years and intend to do so
23 continually. We annually keep some small fields

1 open, use the advice of wildlife officials for
2 guidance, and there are also ongoing research
3 studies that have been done for years on this
4 property related to wildlife and a planned
5 diversity of plant life.

6 The majority of our property abuts the
7 Pondicherry Refuge as a continuum of a large and
8 unique matrix of wildlife habitats, including
9 numerous vernal pools, perennial streams, dense
10 softwood cover with documented use by threatened
11 and endangered species such as black-backed
12 woodpeckers, the northern harrier hawk, and it is,
13 in my opinion, very good potential lynx habitat.
14 The plant life is also abundant.

15 And the overall risk of this
16 irretrievable impact to the ecosystem in this
17 rich, diverse area should be sufficient cause to
18 negate any possible benefits for the North
19 Country. And I also have several questions that
20 are rhetorical but need to be answered, however, I
21 don't believe I have time to do that, so I will
22 submit them. Thank you for your time.

23 (Applause.)

1 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, John, for your
2 comments. My apologies to the people of New
3 Hampshire's ears. Our next speaker, Richard
4 Samson. Did I have Crosby Peck?

5 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: He
6 left.

7 THE MODERATOR: He left. How about Jan
8 Marvel? How about Brian Bresnahan? Thank you.
9 Ready when you are.

10 THE SPEAKER: Good evening, ladies and
11 gentlemen and especially members of our State
12 Legislature. I would like to cite four reasons
13 and tell you what my objective is at the end of
14 the reasons.

15 Number one, DOE has no contractor
16 selected for these hearings at this time.
17 Northern Pass has not and continues to refuse to
18 identify the exact routes, both preferred and
19 alternate.

20 Number three, I ask the DOE to consider
21 the injustice of the negative social and economic
22 impact to the entire state as this is a matter
23 that runs from Pittsburg to Massachusetts. What

1 Hydro-Quebec did in Quebec would not be allowed in
2 New Hampshire or the United States. Not only
3 would it be illegal, but at least it would be
4 criminal.

5 As I did at Pembroke on Monday evening, I
6 gave the four reasons that I oppose this hearing,
7 and I respectfully object to these Scoping
8 Hearings for those reasons.

9 According to the Department of Energy's
10 website, 2009, they employed 19,000 people,
11 ninety-one thousand contractors, of which one is
12 the moderator, and, Mr. Moderator, you have done
13 your job exceedingly well, and you should be well
14 paid.

15 The proposed 2011 budget for the
16 Department of Energy is 26.4 billion dollars, and
17 yet that Department has not been able to make us
18 one gallon of gas, one barrel of oil or one
19 kilowatt of electricity independent, and yet they
20 are being asked to decide the future of this
21 project.

22 I ask the Department of Energy to request
23 denial of the Presidential permit based on no need

1 to the State of New Hampshire. I would also at
2 this time like to bring to your attention the rude
3 manner in which the Northern Pass people reacted
4 to Katie Ross this evening. It was uncalled for,
5 and it was unethical.

6 My wife has made a sign that we have on
7 our son's property on Route 3 in Stewartstown, and
8 that sign says, "New Hampshire does not want. New
9 Hampshire does not need. So why Northern Pass?
10 Just someone's greed." Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Our next
13 speaker is Michelle Vaughn.

14 THE SPEAKER: Hello. My name is Michelle
15 Vaughn, and I live on Route 175 in Thornton
16 03285. My property abuts land that is on the
17 existing right of way within about a thousand
18 feet, and this is the preferred Northern Pass
19 route. It also abuts White Mountain National
20 Forest, which it, too, is crossed by the existing
21 right of way.

22 Among many of my concerns, and I am
23 opposed to the Northern Pass, my concern is the

1 wildlife and the area in which they call home.
2 Moose, bear, rabbit, deer, coyote, owls, hawks,
3 other birds, bats, beaver, et cetera are all on
4 that land. The beaver in particular have created
5 their own dams, turning that area into wetlands on
6 the existing right of way and on the White
7 Mountain National Forest.

8 How are wetlands designed? It is an area
9 of land characterized by swamps, marshes, et
10 cetera that is preserved for wildlife. Preserve.
11 The word's origin of preserve is to protect and
12 observe beforehand. Preserve means, one, to keep
13 from harm, damage, danger, evil, et cetera; to
14 protect and save. Two, to keep from spoiling or
15 rotting. Three, to maintain and protect game,
16 fish, et cetera. Four, any place or activity
17 treated as a special domain of some person or
18 group.

19 This is the fourth EIS Scoping Meeting
20 with the DOE, and my third so far, and thank you
21 to the DOE for these meetings. We have heard at
22 these meetings and again tonight that many live on
23 or near preserves and conservation land. We have

1 also heard that the preferred and alternate routes
2 would run right through these preserves. Whether
3 the towers are 90 feet or 135 feet or taller,
4 erecting such on these hallowed grounds would be
5 in direct violation to the definition of the
6 land. The Northern Pass would harm. It would
7 damage. It is a danger, and it is evil.

8 Large hydro, such as Hydro-Quebec's
9 project, does spoil and causes rot of the
10 indigenous vegetation, wildlife and the land.
11 Affected land in New Hampshire would no longer be
12 special.

13 My concerns regarding preservations,
14 wetlands and wildlife is obvious, which is why I
15 say no Northern Pass, period.

16 Another concern has to do with what's
17 been said by the people involved with the Northern
18 Pass Project. A representative of PSNH has been
19 quoted when asked for alternatives of burying the
20 line, said, "It was too cost-prohibitive, and we'd
21 have to dig wide and deep trenches through
22 wetlands to accommodate the huge cables, and
23 aboveground access points would also have to be

1 constructed."

2 Burying wires through wetlands obviously
3 is destructive, but defacing these same wetlands
4 by excavation, removing and reshaping of land to
5 make way for concrete pads and footings large
6 enough for those 135-foot metal structures,
7 disrupting the habitat, ecosystem and migration
8 paths of local wildlife is okay? I don't think
9 so.

10 That callousness must be stopped. I ask
11 the DOE to stop the Northern Pass and deny the
12 Presidential permit. And I also ask the DOE
13 please conduct a thorough year-long or longer, 10
14 years if need be, study of the land affected on
15 all routes, preferred and alternate, which, as we
16 have learned at all Northern Pass informational
17 meetings, could be just about anywhere within
18 those black lines depicted on the maps.

19 I believe that so much of New Hampshire
20 can be described as special domain by the people
21 of New Hampshire. In other words, New Hampshire
22 should be preserved. No Northern Pass. Not now.
23 Not ever. Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Michelle. Our
3 next speaker, Jan Marvel. Can I have Leo Rideout,
4 Michael Krak, Lucy Wyman.

5 THE SPEAKER: My name is Jan Marvel. I
6 live in Thornton, New Hampshire on Route 175,
7 03285. I wore this necklace tonight with regards
8 to my heritage, which is French Canadian and Cree
9 from Quebec. We are called Metis. I don't think
10 we need to revisit that issue. You all know what
11 they have done to the James Bay Cree and other
12 native tribes of Quebec. You all know they have
13 destroyed the Canadian wilderness, native hunting
14 grounds, fishing, and the way of life of the
15 native people. I have spoken to them face-to-face
16 in Quebec. We in this room care about that.

17 Corporate money is all this is about.
18 There is not a person in this room that does not
19 know that. I was worried as I drove here
20 tonight. What if I don't find the turn and wind
21 up in Canada? So I brought this just in case --

22 (The speaker holds up a passport.)

23 THE SPEAKER: -- because it is a foreign

1 country, right? You can't get in without this.
2 Did you know if this deal went through, that the
3 land beneath and beside the towers would be
4 Canadian land? No. Wait. It gets even better.
5 Remember Sarah Palin saying, "I can see Russia
6 from my house?" The same thing could happen
7 here.

8 If you read the "Russia tycoon eyes
9 Hydro-Quebec partnership: report." Google it.
10 Oh, and China's interested, too.

11 I have many reasons for objection. We
12 don't have time for them all, I'm sure. We've
13 heard probably all of them. I wrote down 19 of
14 them. I could have kept going, but I actually had
15 to do some work today.

16 I will say that I do, as well as everyone
17 here, I'm sure, find the blatant disrespect and
18 disregard for people's homes, their land, their
19 jobs and their way of life, I find that to be
20 despicable. And I asked myself as I sat in
21 Concord several times, and I asked myself as I
22 attended these meetings and watched the
23 expressions on some of the Northern Pass

1 employees, what could make a person so callous and
2 so cruel as to not care about what they're hearing
3 these people say? I came up with a word, and it's
4 called sociopathic.

5 Well, I flushed that all out, and I took
6 that page out of my speech because this project is
7 blatantly cruel, callous and ill-conceived. It is
8 about corporate power and domination. We don't
9 need it. We don't want it. We say no. Not now.
10 Not ever.

11 (Applause.)

12 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Jan. Our next
13 speaker, Brian Bresnahan?

14 THE SPEAKER: Just like it sounds.

15 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Brian.

16 THE SPEAKER: Good evening, everybody. I
17 look around, and I can see a couple of friendly
18 faces here. Mark McCulloch. There's a few others
19 here of us who all lost our jobs when Wausau
20 closed on New Year's Eve, 2007. It's been a long
21 time. Beyond that, all of us are concerned
22 because nobody lost their jobs.

23 We are concerned with economic

1 development, and we're also concerned with job
2 creation. But we're here tonight in orange in
3 opposition to the Northern Pass, but I got a
4 little story.

5 Saigon, February 7th, 1968, Peter Arnett
6 writing for the Associated Press reported a
7 conversation with an unnamed Army major about the
8 battle for the provincial capital of Ben Tre, in
9 which the major reported, "It became necessary to
10 destroy the town to save it."

11 In effect, this is what Northeast
12 Utilities, under the guise of the Northern Pass,
13 is saying about that 40-mile stretch, that 40-mile
14 scar across the scenic wilderness of Coos County.

15 As an 18-year-old, in great pain, I had
16 my appendix removed. Removing it was my cure, but
17 the result -- it resulted in a scar on my right
18 side. Seeing that scar as I showered reminded me
19 of my suffering and that the operation fixed
20 permanently a critical ailment.

21 The proposed scar across the North
22 Country cures nothing for the residents of Coos.
23 There is temporary relief in the form of jobs,

1 eventually shrinking into insignificance. Small
2 business will benefit from sales garnered during
3 construction, but they are not sustainable over
4 the long haul.

5 There are no long-term tax benefits to
6 our communities. Like the owners of the gas
7 pipeline are doing now today, Northern Pass will
8 eventually send a team of lawyers and accountants
9 to demand abatements citing the value of their
10 investment has somehow shrunk.

11 Most importantly, if I had a little more
12 hair, I couldn't even plug in my hair dryer along
13 this route. This is neither a benefit nor a
14 permanent fix for the ailments of the North
15 Country.

16 I know that there is significant benefits
17 for several communities downstream from here. I
18 hear the cry about the greater good as they
19 vocalize their support. Is there awareness that
20 these towers will march the entire length of the
21 state up to their front doors? Remember, as this
22 electricity flows south, a corresponding number of
23 dollars flow north crossing an international

1 border never to be seen again. Where is the
2 energy independence in this?

3 As I looked at my appendix scar before
4 age and food blocked the view, I understand there
5 was -- I understood it was there for my greater
6 good, but now as I envision a line of towers
7 marching through our wilderness and the wanton
8 destruction of our natural beauty that holds such
9 an importance to our cultural base, I wondered
10 this. I wonder is this in essence the same effort
11 to save us that that major talked about oh so many
12 years ago in a land far, far away?

13 (Applause.)

14 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Brian. Our
15 next speaker, Leo Rideout. Oh, Leo is not here.
16 Michael Krak.

17 THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

18 THE MODERATOR: Before we start, can I
19 have Charlie Dursema. How about David Chappell.
20 Edward Latta. Thank you. Go ahead.

21 THE SPEAKER: Good evening. Thank you.
22 Can everybody hear me? No. Okay. Thank you for
23 giving us an opportunity to voice our opinion. We

1 hope that the Federal Government through the DOE
2 pays some attention to what we're saying. I don't
3 think we're getting very much support from our
4 local lawmakers.

5 The idea of constructing these 135-foot
6 towers in areas where you have trees that grow to
7 a maximum height of 70 feet is ludicrous. It
8 desecrates the scenery. It causes an eyesore.

9 As you can tell from my accent, I'm not a
10 native New Hampshireite. I bought property here
11 just a few miles from this hotel in 1972 when I
12 married my wife. We planned on retiring here.
13 Well, as we got older, sold our business, we
14 retired to this area. We retired here because
15 it's beautiful.

16 I lived in New Jersey. You want to see
17 what electric towers look like? Take a drive down
18 the New Jersey Turnpike. I moved away from that.
19 There are a number of other people sitting in this
20 room that are also transplants. We ran away from
21 that type of life. We have come here to live out
22 the rest of our years.

23 I cannot believe that anybody is

1 entertaining constructing these towers and
2 desecrating the scenery. For over 150 years,
3 organizations have been trying to preserve the
4 wilderness in this country for future
5 generations. Many acres of land in this state
6 have been donated free of charge by families who
7 owned it so that it would be here for their
8 grandchildren, and now we have a monster whose
9 only ambition is to make money coming here and
10 planning on raping this landscape. That's
11 ludicrous.

12 You can't let this happen. This is not a
13 benefit to the State of New Hampshire. This
14 project is only a benefit to the people that are
15 financing this construction. This is only a
16 benefit to a foreign country and a minimal benefit
17 to the electric transmission companies in this
18 state. It's going to cost us jobs. It's -- this
19 is just ludicrous. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Michael. Our
22 next speaker, Lucy Wyman.

23 THE SPEAKER: Lucy Wyman, 106 Sand

1 Street, Lancaster 03584. I have to say as a
2 habitual vocal minority, this is somewhat
3 unsettling to see you all here. Anyway, 30 years
4 ago I was living in Colebrook, and the DC power
5 line was proposed, and we started a power line
6 education fund, which you see around today, and
7 who would have thought. Anyway, I was opposed to
8 it then, and I'm opposed to it now.

9 Um -- many objections have been raised to
10 this proposal, and I agree with most of what's
11 been said. My greatest concern having to do with
12 the Department of Energy is their failure to lead
13 this country in an effort to harvest a
14 considerable amount of free energy available
15 through conservation and existing sources. Until
16 the people of this nation can learn to turn down
17 their thermostats, turn off the lights, take fewer
18 showers, et cetera, in other words, alter their
19 lifestyles, our lifestyles, substantially, I think
20 DOE should not support development of any new
21 power sources.

22 There should be no more mountaintop
23 removals, no more oil rigs off our shores, no more

1 purchases of oil from sands extracted by our
2 northern neighbors, no more flooding of native
3 lands, no more nuclear reactors, no more windmills
4 scarring our landscape, and no more power lines
5 until we lean -- learn to live within our means.

6 The failure of this Government to
7 encourage conservation along with conspicuous
8 buyers for private industry, which would allow the
9 taking of private land for private profit, is a
10 further education of the abandonment of Main
11 Street for Wall Street, local economic interests
12 for those of huge national and international
13 corporations.

14 Our forests are our Main Street. It is
15 our forests that provide truly renewable resources
16 for industry and tourism, the pillars of the North
17 Country economy. I think we taxpayers have done
18 more than our share of bailing out Wall Street and
19 lining the pockets of the very wealthy. I believe
20 it's the job of the Government, in this case, the
21 Department of Energy, to take the lead in
22 educating the people of this country about the
23 most responsible and sustainable alternatives

1 available to them as well as to support local
2 initiatives to bring them into play. Conservation
3 should be first on the list. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Our next
6 speaker, do we have a Charlie Dursema? Dursema.
7 Going once, going twice. Our next speaker, David
8 Chappell. Can I have Linda Chappell, Jenny
9 Ricker. When you're ready, David.

10 THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the
11 committee for having this hearing. And did anyone
12 notice the view of the hills when they drove in?
13 Imagine a 135-foot tower right in front of you.

14 MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: No, no.

15 THE SPEAKER: I worked for the State of
16 New Hampshire for over 36 years, and I just
17 retired last October. And if this power line goes
18 in, I'll look at three to five miles of this power
19 line depending on the alternate or the preferred
20 route.

21 When I worked for Murphy Dam -- I worked
22 at Murphy Dam at Lake Francis, which is the head
23 of the Connecticut River, and Public Service had a

1 permit to build a power station at Murphy Dam.
2 They renewed it after two years. They did the
3 whole study on it. I'm pretty sure the whole
4 study was done, and they gave it up because of the
5 lack of money.

6 Now, they have somebody to back 'em.
7 They want to go through with this power line, and
8 the only reason that one didn't go in at Murphy
9 Dam, I think, was -- I was told is because the
10 power lines needed to be upgraded, so they're
11 going to upgrade now and put these here, which
12 won't help us at all.

13 We have a -- we -- through a grant
14 through the State Trails Bureau and also a grant
15 through the Tillotson Foundation, about a mile and
16 a half of limited mobility trail on our property
17 which we built for wheelchairs. It was the first
18 one in the state. And people come to enjoy this,
19 but they won't enjoy it that much if they have to
20 look at these power lines. And from the trail
21 they'll be able to see the power lines if they go
22 the preferred route. And getting there, the
23 alternate route will -- they'll be able to see it,

1 but I would like to suggest as a committee take a
2 ride through -- either up Route 3 or 145 to
3 Pittsburg and go up Old County Road and look at
4 the view.

5 That's where the power line would be
6 coming through. It's about a mile from our house
7 for the preferred route. And look at the view,
8 and then imagine the power lines with the big
9 towers, but I suggest before you make a decision
10 or anybody makes a decision, that whoever is
11 making a decision take a ride up and look at the
12 beauty up there. Right up 145 and back Route 3
13 and see where the crossing is at and take the side
14 routes. I guess I'll leave the time to the next
15 speaker, but I really would suggest that people
16 take a ride up there to see the beauty. Thank
17 you.

18 (Applause.)

19 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for your
20 comments. Our next speaker, Edward Latta.

21 THE SPEAKER: Can you hear me all right?

22 MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: No.

23 THE SPEAKER: I'll speak a little

1 louder. My name is Edward Latta. My wife and I,
2 Mary Ann, reside at 19 Sugar Bush Lane in Easton,
3 New Hampshire. We have behind our development a
4 right of way that exists already that is part of
5 the Public Service of New Hampshire's line
6 distribution system, and that is one of the
7 apparently preferred routes that they intend to
8 run this line through.

9 As a speaker earlier said, you can
10 probably tell from my accent or lack thereof, my
11 wife and I are definitely not from New Hampshire.
12 We are from a place called Lansdale, Pennsylvania,
13 which is just outside of Philadelphia. We are
14 quite familiar with New Jersey. We have a place
15 there in New Jersey as well, and we know all about
16 high-density populations. We know all about power
17 distribution in terms of what it does for us.

18 I worked for a company in Jenkintown,
19 Pennsylvania and made precision fasteners for
20 airplanes and the space shuttle and the like. I
21 worked as a plane engineer, industrial engineer
22 and a safety officer. I have an idea what noise
23 is all about, and that's one of the issues here

1 with regard to this line.

2 But we moved up here because of the
3 beauty of New Hampshire. The place that we built
4 ultimately is in a development known as Pepper
5 Brook, and this public right of way is just to the
6 west of our development. If this goes through and
7 these towers go up as proposed, it's definitely
8 going to destroy the value of our property.

9 We sold our place in Lansdale and came up
10 here on my retirement, and we came up here because
11 we see the White Mountains just like you see it
12 from here, and it's a beautiful site. We love the
13 town. We love the wildlife that's there. We love
14 the people around. And we are definitely against
15 because of the economic depreciation of our
16 property that this would go through as proposed.
17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Edward. Next
20 speaker, Linda Chappell. Do I have a Nancy -- and
21 I apologize because of the handwriting.
22 Lockwood. Lockwood. Nancy Lockwood. Stockwood
23 or something similar? How about Mitch Perry?

1 Howard Moffett? Ready when you are.

2 THE SPEAKER: Okay. I'd like to echo so
3 much of what's been said tonight. My name is
4 Linda Chappell. I live at 32 Bressette Road,
5 Clarksville 03592.

6 My great-great-grandfather moved to the
7 Town of Clarksville over 150 years ago,
8 approximately the time that the Town of
9 Clarksville became incorporated, and so this is
10 near and dear to my heart and the hearts of my
11 children.

12 I do know we are in a global economy.
13 One of my children will be moving later this year
14 to China just to find employment, so, believe me,
15 I do know we are in a global economy.

16 Maine and Massachusetts, my
17 understanding, have rejected large power projects
18 in their own states. And if they don't have
19 enough need to accept new projects, why should we
20 as their neighbors assist in their energy needs?

21 Now, it's my understanding that the real
22 design of this project is to get power to New
23 York. There are other means -- um -- headed down

1 through the State of New York. Those people
2 aren't going to be any happier than we are, I'm
3 sure. I don't know if anybody's considered having
4 them put it underground in international waters.
5 That's another option.

6 But one thing I haven't heard said is
7 because of where we live, which is up by the
8 Canadian border, within sight of Canada, we have
9 more French-speaking television stations and radio
10 stations that come into our home than we do
11 English. Because of that, we do hear the news
12 from Quebec that on a regular basis they vote
13 whether or not to secede from the country of
14 Canada.

15 I have not heard anybody talk about the
16 fact that what happens if Quebec, who has -- is --
17 as a province is willing to destroy their own
18 economy or their own ecology, if we make a deal as
19 Americans with Quebec, and Quebec indeed secedes,
20 then we are dealing with a nation that undermines
21 so much of what we stand for.

22 Furthermore, because we're at the border
23 crossing I don't read in the paper work that it --

1 it states that at the border crossing, whether
2 it's the first or the second or the third route,
3 they all require new rights of way. I want to
4 remind all of our government officials we have the
5 right to life, liberty and the pursuit of
6 happiness. And we will not be happy if this goes
7 through. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Linda. Our
10 next speaker, Jenny Ricker. Could I have a Harold
11 Janeway. And, before you start, just -- I figured
12 I would give you guys an update. There are about
13 14 speakers left on my official list right now.
14 You're free to go.

15 THE SPEAKER: My name is Jenny Ricker. I
16 live at 12 Spruce Lane here in Whitefield, New
17 Hampshire 03598. I'm against Northern Pass for
18 several reasons.

19 MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: We can't hear
20 you.

21 THE SPEAKER: Can you hear me?

22 MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: Yes.

23 THE SPEAKER: I'm against Northern Pass

1 have somebody take it away is not good. Canada
2 already owns our dam. And, as a government
3 agency, the Department of Energy, please don't let
4 this go through. They already own our dams. We
5 don't need anything else taken away from us.
6 That's it. Sorry.

7 (Applause.)

8 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for your
9 comments, Jenny. Our next speaker, Mitch Perry.

10 THE SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is
11 Mitch Perry. I live at 95 Simonds Road in Dalton
12 03598.

13 First, let me say I agree with all the
14 previous speakers, and I'd like to go on record
15 with the DOE as being strongly opposed to this
16 project. It's -- um -- very obvious that no one
17 has spoken in favor of this project, and I hope
18 DOE will also note that.

19 I think most of us have gotten a brochure
20 from Northern Pass. The color -- the color
21 brochure with the children playing baseball and
22 the people holding hands and the elderly people
23 smiling. Yeah. I'm not sure what they're smiling

1 about because it's certainly not because they're
2 going to get a power line in their backyard.

3 I would like to say that at the Dalton
4 town meeting where we voted unanimously against
5 the project, it was the only warrant article that
6 did pass unanimously. After the meeting, there
7 was a detailed map of the proposed line, and there
8 was an elderly gentleman probably 80 years old
9 looking at the map. And when he realized the line
10 would go right next to his house, he looked so
11 dejected, so sad, and he had -- literally had
12 tears coming down his face. And I think maybe
13 Northern Pass probably ought to include a picture
14 of him in the brochure.

15 (Applause.)

16 THE SPEAKER: It's very misleading.
17 The -- Gary Long, who's the chief operating -- I
18 forget his title, but he's in charge of PSNH. He
19 recently had an op-ed piece in the Lancaster paper
20 in which he said -- in the very first sentence he
21 was very misleading. The very first sentence he
22 said that the project, quote, "will bring
23 hydroelectric power from Canada into New

1 Hampshire." He should have said it will bring
2 power through New Hampshire because the intent of
3 this project is not to bring us power. It's to
4 bring power to Connecticut and to Massachusetts.

5 The issue of eminent domain. The idea
6 that a Canadian company could actually profit from
7 taking away, usurping Americans' rights to
8 property, it's -- it just strikes me completely
9 wrong. It's completely un-American. It's not --
10 it's not -- it's just plain wrong. I could go on
11 all night about that, but I won't.

12 My main concern here is money talks, and
13 little people walk. And I hope this -- I hope
14 that in this case that the local process actually
15 works, the state and local process works. I know
16 that in Washington money does talk, and little
17 people walk, but maybe if we stick together, and
18 it's amazing that -- I've never seen an issue here
19 in the North Country unite so many people of so
20 many different political persuasions,
21 conservative, liberal, republican, democrat, all
22 ages, all backgrounds. We all come together. And
23 the fact that so many have spent -- I don't

1 know -- I don't even know what time it is, but
2 we've been here a long time, and the fact that so
3 many of us have actually been here through all
4 this shows me how strongly we feel about this, and
5 I hope the DOE will take notice of this.

6 Again, nobody has spoken in favor of
7 this. Nobody here wants it. So I've said my
8 peace, and thanks very much.

9 (Applause.)

10 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much,
11 Mitch, for your comments. Our next speaker,
12 Howard Moffett. Next on deck, Charles Young,
13 Peter Powell. Nancy Czarny.

14 THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Can you hear
15 me? Thank you for being here, Mr. Mills, Miss
16 Mark, Mr. Wagner. I'm Howard Moffett. I'm from
17 down south in Canterbury. I'm a trustee of the
18 Forest Society, but I'm not going to speak on
19 behalf of the Forest Society tonight. They do
20 very well for themselves. I also practice energy
21 law in Concord, but I'm not here representing any
22 client. So I'm just speaking for myself.

23 I'd like to take a couple of minutes to

1 talk about a very boring subject. It's an order
2 from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
3 called, "Order Number 888," and it requires public
4 utilities that own and operate high-voltage power
5 lines for the bulk transmission of electric power
6 to provide nondiscriminatory open access to any
7 generator who seeks to use those lines to transmit
8 bulk power at wholesale in interstate commerce at
9 nondiscriminatory rates. In other words, to act
10 as a common carrier.

11 The proposed Northern Pass Project would
12 not meet this standard. The Transmission Service
13 Agreement approved by FERC on February 11th gives
14 Hydro-Quebec, which is fronting the costs of the
15 project, the exclusive right to use the line,
16 shutting out all other possible users.

17 Why should we care about that? There are
18 two reasons. First, as a nation, we don't want
19 large-scale transmission lines proliferating
20 across the landscape for the same reason that we
21 don't want three or four different sets of
22 telephone and electric distribution lines running
23 through our residential neighborhoods.

1 Transmission is a natural monopoly function, but
2 it can only work that way if it provides open
3 access to all potential users at nondiscriminatory
4 rates.

5 Equally important for purposes of this
6 Presidential permit application, the monopoly open
7 access transmission model assumes that a
8 regulatory agency has made a finding of need
9 before the siting and construction of a large-
10 scale transmission line is given the go-ahead. I
11 don't see anyplace in this process where a finding
12 of need is going to get made. What I understand
13 is that DOE is required to make a finding that
14 issuance of the permit would be quote, "consistent
15 with the public interest."

16 My question to you, Mr. Mills, is what
17 does that mean? Who decides? Does it mean that
18 the benefits outweigh the costs? And if so, where
19 in this process is there a public evaluation of
20 the claimed benefits of the project? PSNH and
21 Northern Pass have made a number of major benefit
22 claims. They say that New Hampshire and New
23 England need the power.

1 Well, we've got 33,000 megawatts of
2 capacity in New England. And let's get past the
3 New Hampshire bit because it's an integrated
4 market. The six states of New England have a
5 single power market, but we have 33 megawatts --
6 33,000 megawatts of installed capacity right now.
7 Yesterday, according to ISO's Morning Report, we
8 used in New England 16,960 megawatts of power.
9 Roughly half that amount. We have never used more
10 than 28,130 megawatts. That was on August 2nd of
11 2006. So we don't need the power. Listen, I've
12 got a lot more to say, but I'm going to let other
13 people go ahead.

14 (Applause.)

15 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for your
16 comments, Howard. Our next speaker, Harold
17 Janeway. Can I have Julie Moran?

18 THE SPEAKER: Good evening.
19 Congratulations to all of you for lasting this
20 long. My name is Harold Janeway. I live at 225
21 Tyler Road in Webster, which is two hours south of
22 here, but my alternate address is Lost Nation
23 Road, and that's where my heart is.

1 Unfortunately, Lost Nation is no longer lost. Now
2 it's on the map in big red type. Very upsetting.

3 I'm here because I am a survivor of what
4 I called the Great Scrubber Wars which took place
5 a few years ago. This is a project which the
6 Legislature passed, worked out with PS New
7 Hampshire to get the mercury out of the very dirty
8 coal-fired plant called Merrimack Station, but
9 during the course of that suddenly it became a
10 450-million dollar project, and some of us -- I
11 was in the Senate for two terms. Some of us said
12 hey, wait a minute. A lot has changed since that
13 initial decision was made, including the cost.
14 Let's just slow down and stop and restudy this
15 issue because now there are alternatives. The
16 economics aren't what they were then.

17 And that was really all we sought, and if
18 that sounds familiar -- and the reason I'm talking
19 about it is because we're now faced with the same
20 situation again. Reconsideration is not in their
21 dictionary. It's as simple as that. They are
22 used to getting their way, and they expect to get
23 their way, and it's very difficult to get in the

1 way. I can testify from personal experience.

2 So the point is this leaves it to the
3 reviewing agencies to do the reviewing, including
4 alternatives, and I want to say there now is an
5 alternative. There is a company down in
6 Massachusetts, and I will leave this with the
7 listeners, called American Superconductor which
8 has developed a new, high-tech way of moving high
9 volumes of power in a very small pipe which can be
10 buried. And I mean very high volumes.

11 They have a schematic with three huge
12 high-tension lines. Next to it -- and that's a
13 600-foot right of way. Next to it, a 60-foot
14 right of way with a small buried pipe carrying the
15 same amount of power. So don't believe that there
16 aren't other ways of doing this. I would just say
17 the old saying fool us once, shame on you. Fool
18 us twice, shame on us. If we can't bury this
19 project, at least bury the line. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much for
22 your comments, Harold. Our next speaker, Charles
23 Young. I'd like to call up John O'Neil.

1 THE SPEAKER: I'm not a very good
2 speaker, so bear with me. I've never spoke in
3 public really before. The people in the North
4 Country have the tools and intelligence to
5 understand the economic aspects of industry. More
6 importantly, though, they understand the economic
7 values of not having it. For well over 200 years,
8 towns in the North Country have been economic
9 contributors, and yet there are still towns that
10 have yet to adopt zoning laws.

11 With that in mind, maybe it's time for
12 other areas, especially those that feel it's
13 necessary to rape the North Country to feed their
14 energy needs, to take another look at their zoning
15 ordinances and building codes. In areas where
16 industry is a way of life, and it's exceeding its
17 supply of energy needs, instead of making enemies
18 by invading others' way of life, they should look
19 for alternatives. Being in an industrialized area
20 undoubtedly means that they're not strangers to
21 zoning regulations and building codes.

22 They should reevaluate the zoning and
23 building codes in these areas and mandate that all

1 homes and businesses over a specified period of
2 time conform to installing a standard amount of
3 solar energy panels to equal or exceed that area's
4 energy deficit. In this type of area, surely
5 there are enough brilliant engineers, designers
6 and architects to create efficient yet beautiful
7 structures to meet this goal.

8 Moreover, while making this transition,
9 their economy would be boosted with even more
10 jobs. Manufacturing of the materials needed to
11 make this change would increase. So, too, would
12 there be a need for a steady stream of sales
13 teams, installers, maintenance workers and many
14 others.

15 As an added bonus, instead of getting
16 blame for destroying their neighbor's land to the
17 north, some of these areas would find themselves
18 being paid for creating excess energy instead of
19 paying some other company billions of dollars.

20 When you have major oil companies such as
21 Chevron backing the idea of creating and using
22 alternative energy sources, there has to be
23 something to it. Here's a billion-dollar industry

1 that makes most of their profits from a particular
2 energy source, but yet they concede other options
3 need to be explored.

4 No one knows all the answers. All of us
5 strive to make life as perfect as possible.
6 However, with so many unanswered questions out
7 there, why should we be so hasty to make mistakes
8 only to find out down the road those mistakes
9 can't be reversed.

10 There are numerous ongoing studies to
11 determine the risk of high-voltage power lines.
12 Studies to determine health risks are at the
13 forefront. There is much controversy, but the
14 bottom line is that the results are inconclusive.

15 Those in favor of this form of energy can
16 argue you can't prove it's dangerous, so we should
17 be allowed to put it through. Those against can
18 simultaneously argue you can't prove it doesn't
19 pose a health risk, so why should we jeopardize
20 the health of our children to thicken the power
21 company's wallet.

22 Regardless of what side of this debate a
23 person is on, the outcome should not ultimately be

1 which side ended up being right. Rather, it
2 should be concluded that both sides did the right
3 thing. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for your
6 comments, Charles. Our next speaker, Nancy
7 Czarny. Last call on John O'Neil.

8 MR. LAURENCE: He's right here.

9 THE MODERATOR: Oh, you got him. And
10 then Tom Mooney.

11 THE SPEAKER: Nancy Czarny. Swazey Lane,
12 Bethlehem, New Hampshire 03574. Much of what I
13 have to say has been said tonight and probably
14 more eloquently, but I do have a voice, and I plan
15 to use it.

16 I'm a full-time resident of Bethlehem,
17 which, some of you may not be aware, already bears
18 an albeit comparatively small scar on our
19 landscape for the collective good of our neighbors
20 in the southern part of the state and beyond,
21 better known as the NCES Landfill.

22 You've heard or will hear about how the
23 proposed power lines will affect both our property

1 taxes and the greatest asset that the North
2 Country of New Hampshire has to offer, its
3 beauty. And I would like to focus on three
4 issues: my concerns about the reliance on
5 nondomestic energy sources, who will ultimately
6 benefit, and what happens next.

7 Canada is our friend, a great neighbor,
8 and I'm sure the United States and Canada will
9 have a long future of peace along our borders.
10 However, if we have learned anything from the
11 current conflicts that are occurring in the
12 Mid-East and our involvement in the Mid-East, it
13 should be that we must have control over our own
14 sources of energy. We should not generate one
15 more circumstance where we are dependent on
16 another country for our basic needs.

17 It's my understanding that our own power
18 plants are underutilized to such a degree that
19 many are on the verge of closing. Shouldn't our
20 focus be to first support our own U.S. energy-
21 producing resources before looking at sources
22 outside of the United States? And shouldn't we
23 focus on reducing our dependence on foreign energy

1 sources by conservation and alternative energy
2 production in our state and in our country?

3 Wouldn't the work force that would be
4 used to clear our lands and build and maintain the
5 towers be better utilized to work towards
6 developing localized alternative energy sources
7 like solar and wind energy such as the wind tower
8 that you see here at the Mountain View Grand?

9 I'm a consumer of energy. The U.S.
10 population in general, we're ferocious --
11 voracious in our use of electrical power, but,
12 again, we must learn from recent events that we
13 need to reduce our consumption of power if we want
14 to be able to say no to outside companies and
15 governments who want to push their energy agenda
16 on us, which can include nuclear power and the
17 proposed electrical power transmission line. What
18 would happen if we were to reduce our power
19 consumption by only five percent? The power
20 companies would lose money.

21 And that brings me to my second concern.
22 Who would benefit from Northern Pass? And who
23 pays? If this goes through, Public Service of New

1 Hampshire, which is a subsidiary of Northern
2 Utilities, would benefit, and Hydro-Quebec would
3 benefit.

4 Northern Utilities is a company to whom
5 we pay for our electricity. It is a publicly
6 owned company with shareholders. It is Northern
7 Utilities' job to make the shareholders money.
8 Although public service is in their name, it is
9 the shareholders who will benefit.

10 According to the information on the
11 Northern Pass website, quote, "Hydro-Quebec will
12 pay for the cost of the construction of the line.
13 PSNH customers will only pay for the energy that
14 they receive from the Northern Pass." And who
15 controls the cost of that energy? Hydro-Quebec.

16 And my last concern is what happens
17 next. If we allow for Hydro-Quebec to walk -- to
18 set their foot in the door, what will happen the
19 next time they want to expand upon that line?
20 Once again, if there's one power line, when would
21 a second power line be proposed for the public
22 good? Now is our time to say no to the proposal.
23 Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for your
3 comments, Nancy. Our next speaker is Julie
4 Moran. Next on deck, Steve Hight, John Tholl.

5 THE SPEAKER: I am Julie Moran. P.O. Box
6 447, Colebrook, New Hampshire. We lived here for
7 five years, moved up here from below the notch,
8 and we really wanted to stay here. We're planning
9 on expanding our house and our property, and all
10 of a sudden, lo and behold there comes this
11 October announcement.

12 What I'd like to ask the DOE today is to
13 quickly ascertain that the Northern Pass Project
14 is inexpedient to permit. Please quickly form
15 your EIS that clearly states that the Presidential
16 permit to the Northern Pass Transmission Project
17 to be completely denied in regard to any entry
18 into New Hampshire.

19 Number one, the import of this foreign
20 energy will contribute 1.1 billion dollars to the
21 U.S. trade deficit every year. If that same
22 amount of energy were produced domestically, it
23 would contribute 1.1 billion to the local economy,

1 right? And it's estimated that local dollars
2 circulate about six times in the local economy.
3 Wouldn't that help six local businesses for one
4 local energy producer?

5 I ask you, Brian and the rest, to please
6 evaluate this, study that domestic model as a
7 viable alternative to the proposed project.

8 Number two, if the State of New Hampshire
9 continues to lose home sales and the land values
10 decrease, then it stands to lose a significant
11 portion of state revenue. I've heard that the
12 State of New Hampshire receives \$15 for every
13 \$1,000 in sales of homes in a transfer -- a real
14 estate transfer tax.

15 Already many homes and second homes and
16 land in northern New Hampshire have been lost
17 because of the announcement of this project. If
18 this continues for two, three or five years, will
19 the State of New Hampshire be able to pay our
20 state bills? Will the presence of the Northern
21 Pass towers force the State of New Hampshire into
22 a much opposed, much hated, much dreaded income
23 tax to make up for the loss of the real estate

1 transfer tax that the Northern Pass causes us?

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much for
5 your time. Our next speaker, John O'Neil. Next
6 on deck, Stephanie Eaton, and this is the last
7 five people speaking. Maybe. Maybe.

8 THE SPEAKER: Does that mean that we're
9 going to get an extra round perhaps?

10 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: No.
11 Oh, no.

12 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: I
13 hope so.

14 THE MODERATOR: There you hear it.

15 THE SPEAKER: Because I wrote two. So
16 I'll start with three words for you. Underground,
17 underwater or unapproved. John O'Neil. Hollis,
18 New Hampshire. Originally I'm from Dalton, of
19 course. Some of you might remember me. Class of
20 1980. White Mountains Regional is my alma mater.
21 My folks are buried in the cemetery downtown.

22 The politicians that are out here and
23 their representatives have to understand

1 something. You should and can prohibit this from
2 going through one of New Hampshire's most natural
3 wonders. If you can't get on the right side of
4 this, you have to get out of office, period. This
5 has to go underground, underwater or it shouldn't
6 be approved. And that's the message that I hope
7 you folks will bring back to Washington.

8 Rick Samson here reminded us of greed and
9 how it's flowing northerly as the power flows
10 southerly. Twenty-five years ago I sat at a
11 hearing similar to this one when I was almost a
12 child just going to school. And the same thing
13 was in front of us in the same North Country, and
14 it was rejected. It was rejected for very similar
15 reasons.

16 This, coincidentally, was a time that a
17 very popular movie called "Wall Street" was out.
18 There was a gentleman by the name of Gordon Gekko
19 who espoused that greed was good, for a lack of a
20 better word. We have to tell the billion-dollar
21 corporation that green, for the lack of another
22 word, is good, not greed. And that's something
23 else that Washington should understand.

1 So for the people like Sonny Martin,
2 who's been farming his land with his family for 70
3 years, and Aaron Godbout, who has two generations
4 of home ownership, and the power lines will cut
5 through everything that they hold near and dear,
6 what the company understands is greed. We have to
7 make this painful to them, and by painful I mean
8 expensive. Painfully expensive. Class action
9 lawsuit expensive. Tobacco settlement expensive.

10 Send them the message that this extrinsic
11 value from the natural wonders of the world of New
12 Hampshire that they're trying to take for
13 pittance, they can't have, not without paying.
14 And I can put a price on it. My price is 2.1
15 billion dollars, and that's in addition to what
16 they pay you for your land. And then they should
17 be putting stock ownership to everybody in New
18 Hampshire. Not just everybody north of Ashland
19 because, folks, we're trading a power line by
20 reengineering, reverse engineering a natural
21 wonder of the world, the White Mountains, and we
22 cannot and shall not allow this.

23 I think we need to send a message. Go

1 ahead, please. Everybody try. Underground,
2 underwater or unapproved. Let it roll off your
3 tongue. Anyone. Help me with this. Underground,
4 underwater or unapproved.

5 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE:
6 Underground, underwater, unapproved.

7 THE SPEAKER: Underground, underwater or
8 unapproved. Underground, underwater, unapproved.

9 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE:
10 Underground, underwater, unapproved.

11 THE SPEAKER: We'll take the unapproved.
12 Thank you.

13 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for your
14 comments, John. Should I cover that ground rule
15 about holding it until afterwards? The next
16 speaker, Tom Mooney.

17 THE SPEAKER: My name is Tom Mooney from
18 Berlin, New Hampshire. 391 Goebel Street.
19 G-O-E-B-E-L. 03570. I just stood -- I'll try to
20 keep my comments brief because we've all been
21 here, and I have been here most of the day.

22 I work here, but I'm not representing the
23 Mountain Grand View right now. I'm actually

1 representing the Androscoggin Valley Fish and
2 Game, which I am on the board of directors, as you
3 all know I am part of in the state.

4 Over the past 11 years, we've seen a
5 paradigm shift in the North Country. We've had
6 paper mills close, and wood is now being trucked
7 to other states where the mills are still in
8 operation. For example, Rumford, Maine. Other
9 timber products are brought to right here in
10 Whitefield where there's a former renewable energy
11 right here in town.

12 This paradigm shift is from the timber
13 and paper industry who want folks to know the
14 beauty of the region and their regional
15 opportunities for this region. This is what the
16 Androscoggin Fish and Game represents and fights
17 to preserve. I'm also a hunter, certified bow
18 hunter and instructor for the State of New
19 Hampshire under the New Hampshire Fish and Game.

20 I moved up to this area four years ago.
21 My wife and I both work here 30 miles from home
22 because it's the only job we could find. But the
23 beauty of this area brings guests to this hotel.

1 ahead.

2 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:

3 We've all cried.

4 THE SPEAKER: So -- goddamn it. They put
5 the -- the DC line in to the dam down in Comerford
6 years ago, and one of the famous characteristics
7 that happened right afterwards when -- when we
8 were haying the fields you could see the storms
9 coming across the -- up the ridge.

10 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: We
11 can't hear you.

12 THE SPEAKER: The ridge, the storms --
13 the weather patterns would come across the ridge,
14 and about 20 minutes when we were haying that's
15 how much time we had before the storm would come.
16 They put the DC line up, and it was just like a
17 force field. The storms come across and go up the
18 river, and about where the -- um -- Portland
19 Pipeline crosses --

20 THE MODERATOR: I'll hold it for you.

21 THE SPEAKER: Where the Portland Pipeline
22 crosses the DC line, if you watch the weather, it
23 always changes right there and kicks over to

1 Lancaster. And so where we all go parking up
2 there in Dummer, Stark, over there for snow
3 machines, that's where your heavier snow picks up
4 and goes north.

5 So I'm kind of wondering about parallel
6 line here is our -- um -- dependency on the
7 weather up here, and so I'm just wondering if you
8 put a second state -- well, tonight I just learned
9 that the power company is dismantling the DC line
10 down in Comerford that -- goddamn it. They're
11 dismantling the power station in Comerford, and
12 this line that's already there from Canada down
13 here, they're not going to do anything with it.
14 So why can't they plug it in as an extension cord
15 instead of building another one?

16 (Applause.)

17 THE SPEAKER: So I don't know if there's
18 an electromagnetic field involved with this that
19 Doyle was speaking about, but the other thing is
20 that I was a promoter and a -- and a educator when
21 solar panels went in. There is no provision in
22 this, and people have said there's no benefit to
23 New Hampshire. It's a slap in the face, and you

1 put this thing in, and that's fine, but the people
2 of New Hampshire with all this country that it's
3 going to go through, without having even an
4 opportunity to tie into existing transmission
5 lines is just absolutely idiotic.

6 The other thing, snow machines. Okay.
7 Snow machines. No big deal. But there's no --
8 people, the taxpayers, the residents of the state
9 can't get permission to put in trails through the
10 National Forest, but a foreign country can come in
11 here and drive a --

12 (Applause.)

13 THE SPEAKER: I say it's not exactly
14 right that a foreign country can come in and like
15 a knife run right through our forest when we, the
16 taxpayers and residents, can't get a trail through
17 the forest. That's all.

18 (Applause.)

19 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for your
20 comments. Our next speaker, John Tholl.

21 THE SPEAKER: I'd like to thank everybody
22 that's still here. You've put up with a lot of
23 talk and everything else, and I also -- my name is

1 John E. Tholl, Jr. I live at 41 Kimball Hill Road
2 here in Whitefield. 03598. I have the honor of
3 representing Coos District Two, one of four
4 representatives, which all four of them were here
5 tonight. I also have the honor of being the
6 chairman of the Coos County Delegation, which
7 consists of four -- 11 representatives from the
8 county.

9 One of the things that some of the
10 representatives have done is, as many of you know,
11 sponsored House Bill 468 which deals with the --
12 or tried to prevent the taking of property by a
13 corporation or a company. I happen to be -- have
14 the honor of being a co-sponsor of that bill.

15 (Applause.)

16 THE SPEAKER: On our meeting in December,
17 the Coos County Delegation, all 11 of us strong,
18 voted to oppose North Country Pass until we get
19 with the evidence given to us. Basically we don't
20 support something we don't understand, and we
21 don't get the right information, and we're going
22 to continue to oppose it.

23 So the -- there are a number of

1 politicians in this state, not just in this area
2 but also in the Haverhill area and others that
3 have sponsored legislation and are working to make
4 sure that property owners keep their property,
5 that no one can take it away from them. Thank
6 you.

7 (Applause.)

8 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, John. Our
9 next speaker and the final of the preregistered
10 speakers, Stephanie Eaton.

11 THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am
12 Stephanie Eaton. I live in Littleton, and I'd
13 like to read to you something I submitted to -- um
14 -- to the press about three weeks ago which I
15 entitled, "A Significant Slant."

16 We of northern New Hampshire have
17 maintained a spirit that our forebears believed
18 in, a spirit that beckons and helps to maintain
19 us, a resiliency that keeps us going when times
20 get tough. We hold on and so are true to the
21 belief that hardship and challenge are worth
22 standing up to. We're going beyond our physical
23 endurance for a belief in our ideals and in

1 ourselves.

2 And the majesty of nature in its
3 mountains, streams, valleys, vistas reaffirm that
4 belief. We deliberately visit, gaze upon, walk
5 and climb nature. We rub shoulders with the
6 peace, quiet and sustenance which often exceed the
7 confusion of the hurly-burly of this life.

8 Now our North Country is once again
9 challenged. The allure of money to be made is
10 beckoning and so challenges our pristine North
11 Country. The challenger's name, Northeast
12 Utilities of Southern New England which owns
13 Public Service of New Hampshire, has contracted
14 with Hydro-Quebec to bring a significant
15 electrical transmission line from Canada to and
16 through northern New Hampshire.

17 And the reality is that New Hampshire
18 already produces twice the electric power that New
19 Hampshire uses. So there's no need for more
20 electricity being produced here, and the new,
21 metal trunk line through New Hampshire would not
22 meet an electric need in New Hampshire. Rather,
23 it would make money for Hydro-Quebec, Public

1 Service contracts, an international legal
2 agreement.

3 Is it worth it? And I ask you all that
4 question, including my niece and her husband whom
5 I see in the audience. The pristine calm of
6 nature's balm terminated once gone, gone forever.
7 Think and act. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Thank you
10 very much, Stephanie. That concludes our official
11 list of preregistered speakers. I'm now going to
12 open it up. I want to see a set of hands for
13 someone who hasn't spoken yet but would like to.
14 All right. The first one I've got is Bill. So,
15 Bill, if you would.

16 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:
17 Carolyn Hunt.

18 THE MODERATOR: Come on up, Carolyn.
19 Anyone else who hasn't spoken yet but wants to?
20 Anyone? Last call. And then after this we're
21 done. We'll have people who have spoken once
22 already. So I have three, four. And the
23 important part of this session, since we don't

1 have your name or other information, name, address
2 zip code.

3 THE SPEAKER: Good evening. Most of
4 you -- is this thing on? Can you hear me back
5 there?

6 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:
7 Name, address, zip code.

8 THE SPEAKER: Can you --

9 THE MODERATOR: Yes.

10 THE SPEAKER: I'm Representative Bill
11 Remick. I represent you for the Coos District Two
12 down in Concord, and I'm on the Science,
13 Technology and Energy Commission. I'm also on the
14 Coos Transmission Line Commission, so I understand
15 a little bit about transmission lines, and I also
16 understand what these folks are going through up
17 here.

18 And I also understand some of the
19 important things that they're going to consider.
20 The emotional content will be considered. The
21 need will be considered. The cultural aspects
22 will be considered. But there is one very, very
23 important thing that has not been mentioned

1 tonight, and that is reliability.

2 Am I correct, gentlemen? He's nodding
3 his head yes.

4 Reliability is something that they count
5 very heavily in their discussion. Probably the
6 two most important things would be need and
7 reliability. Now, need has been covered.
8 Reliability has not been covered. You might want
9 to check into the background of the electrical
10 company under discussion here and check out some
11 of their reliability percentages. Probably pretty
12 good. They work hard. They're a big company.
13 They're well-stocked with very, very professional
14 people.

15 But if you look into the background,
16 there was an incident where the -- they got a
17 pulse out of the sun that created some kind of an
18 ionization level problem that apparently
19 interacted with the Canadian shield and maybe the
20 iron ore in that rock. I don't know, but they had
21 a problem which resulted in an electrical
22 situation which I would call a problem. And that
23 was certainly affect their reliability.

1 There was another incident when President
2 Bush was in Canada, and he was up there visiting,
3 and somebody dynamited one of the towers, and that
4 took down some of their reliabilities.

5 There was another time where you all
6 remember was when there was a tremendous ice
7 storm, and thank God we weren't connected to them
8 then because Montreal -- a lot of us have friends
9 in Montreal. Um -- they were knocked out of power
10 for several days. So there is a reliability
11 factor.

12 There's another factor that I would
13 mention, and that is the balance of payments. The
14 money is going north, and the balance of payments
15 is something that we have to consider. And these
16 folks consider this on a big picture, not just
17 Coos County. They have to deal with FERC, which
18 is the federal regulatory. They probably have
19 some influence on ISO New England, which is the
20 New England regulatory, and these are the big
21 pictures that they will consider in addition to
22 the other things that have been said here
23 tonight. So I am sure you will now consider them,

1 including the big one, which is reliability.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Bill.

5 THE SPEAKER: Good evening. For those of
6 you who are still here, thank you. It's been a
7 long evening, but it's been an interesting and
8 enlightening evening. My name is Carolyn Hunt. I
9 live at 180 Main Street in Littleton 03561,
10 formerly of Whitefield, formerly of Lincoln.

11 I'd like to start with a very brief
12 genealogy. Parts of my family have been here for
13 12,000 years. We are the Abenaki. We never
14 left. We're still here, and we are connected to
15 our land in every way. My white ancestors have
16 been here since the 1640s.

17 My great-grandfather, Ernest Osgood, was
18 a conservationist and a hiking guide four
19 generations ago here in the White Mountains. His
20 name is now all over Mount Madison if anyone
21 wonders where it came from. He was instrumental
22 in helping local support with the Weeks Act and in
23 supporting the Appalachian Mountain Club who

1 rewarded him by naming trails and ridges and such
2 on Mount Madison for him. The land is dear to my
3 family on every side.

4 Something that hasn't been discussed
5 tonight is the impact of the Weeks Act and a
6 certain kind of effect of the Hydro-Quebec
7 Northeast Utilities project on that. And I'm
8 referring to our water supply.

9 Our snows and rains fall on our
10 mountains, and they fill the rivulets and the
11 brooks and the streams down into the valleys that
12 fill our aboveground and belowground aquifers that
13 supply our municipal water supplies and our
14 private wells.

15 If Hydro-Quebec goes forward with this
16 project and gets approval, whether it's
17 aboveground or below, will make no difference.
18 They must dig and dig deep regardless of what they
19 do. That means foreign substrates will replace
20 our natural ground. These substrates are not
21 water permeable. Water will not flow through 200
22 feet, 140 miles of ground, going through our
23 mountains. These waters will be cut off.

1 They will affect vernal pools, our ponds,
2 our lakes, our rivers, our streams, our fishing,
3 our canoeing, our hiking, everything. It will
4 affect the wildlife, local and those that migrate
5 from other areas. It will affect the larger
6 migratory patterns of birds, animals, insects, but
7 most of all once it's covered over, equipment
8 needs to get in to maintain the lines.

9 They will use herbicides, and they will
10 not use green herbicides. They're too expensive
11 for that much land. Do you want these chemicals
12 in your drinking water? Will the people of Hydro-
13 Quebec and Northeast Utilities purchase our fresh,
14 clean, mountain water with these chemicals in it
15 to drink and give to their children? I don't
16 think so. Think about what you want to put in
17 your children's glass when they want to make Kool-
18 Aid. That's all I ask.

19 I have one more comment to make before I
20 go. A similar project was proposed for New York
21 State. The citizens defeated it. A similar
22 project was proposed for the State of Michigan.
23 The citizens defeated it. They didn't have any

1 more money than we do. We will defeat this.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Carolyn.

5 THE SPEAKER: My name is Peter Duguay.

6 I'm from Bethlehem, New Hampshire. 633 Lehan
7 Road, Bethlehem 03574.

8 THE MODERATOR: Could you do the favor of
9 also spelling your name.

10 THE SPEAKER: Yeah. Last name,
11 D-U-G-U-A-Y. I grew up in Lincoln, New Hampshire,
12 moved to Bethlehem three years ago after returning
13 from Iraq with the Army. Um -- I've spent the
14 last three to five years building a green energy
15 company. We specialize in geothermal heating and
16 cooling. Our heat source is based directly on the
17 cost of electricity.

18 Upon hearing about this project, I wanted
19 to believe that this would help us out. It has
20 not. From everything that we've heard tonight,
21 everything that we've read -- um -- it's not going
22 to bring cleaner, cheaper electricity to New
23 Hampshire. All it's going to do is force out our

1 own businesses from making our own electricity.
2 We would love to see five cents a kilowatt
3 electricity. That would make geothermal available
4 to every single person in New Hampshire. We're
5 not going to see that. That's the problem.

6 We're just here to voice the fact that we
7 do oppose this, and we're not seeing any benefit
8 at this point. We will be at further meetings and
9 continue to be part of this. That's it.

10 (Applause.)

11 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for your
12 comments, Peter. Next speaker, Herb Richardson.

13 THE SPEAKER: I always wait for the
14 others to speak. I'm Herb Richardson. I live at
15 34 Williams Street in Lancaster. I represent Coos
16 District Two to the New Hampshire Legislature.

17 A lot has been said, and, first of all,
18 George, thank you. You did one heck of a job. I
19 was going to say hell of a job, but I didn't want
20 to offend anybody.

21 (Applause.)

22 THE SPEAKER: And for the three members
23 of the Energy Committee, thank you for your

1 patience and really giving your undivided
2 attention to everybody here.

3 (Applause.)

4 THE SPEAKER: The big question. Do we
5 need the energy down here? We don't need it in
6 New Hampshire. It has been said several times.
7 Is there an alternate route in another state? I
8 believe there is. I don't want to push it onto
9 another state either. I'm a New Hampshire person,
10 a United States person. I think that we have to
11 take care of ourselves first before we look to
12 another country.

13 I'm looking at four wood chip plants in
14 the 93 corridor that they don't know from day-to-
15 day whether they will still be in operation
16 because we can't get the power -- any company to
17 take their power. We are facing the loss of 300
18 jobs there. Why don't we take care of the people
19 in New Hampshire and in the United States before
20 we start buying from other countries.

21 We had the Free Trade Agreement go
22 through, and since then the North Country has
23 lost. We have lost everything but our beauty of

1 which people want to take away now. I'm not
2 willing to sit back. They may call us
3 politicians, but we're human beings. We don't
4 make big bucks in the New Hampshire House. We're
5 down there to represent all of these people, and
6 that's what we will do until they don't want us
7 down there anymore.

8 Please insist that the United States be
9 taken care of first. If we have alternate power
10 here already, why can't we use it? Again, the
11 corridor is there. We have wind power in one of
12 our townships in northern New Hampshire in
13 Millsfield coming in. We're trying, and the
14 President has asked us to try to make our own
15 energy. We're trying here in the North Country.

16 Please consider your job is to allow them
17 into this country. Please let us be self-
18 sufficient. We are working on it. We will
19 succeed again. Thank you for everything that you
20 have done tonight.

21 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

1 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Richard. I
2 now open it up to people who have already spoken
3 and would like to speak again. And to simplify
4 the process, if you can just grab a seat in one of
5 these -- like the second row, that will be fine.
6 Or you can grab --

7 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: I
8 don't think you have any takers.

9 THE MODERATOR: Is there anyone who wants
10 to do anything again?

11 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:
12 Quit while we're ahead.

13 THE MODERATOR: Got one. No singers?

14 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: Not
15 that you would want to hear.

16 (Laughter and multiple speakers in the
17 audience.)

18 THE SPEAKER: Linda Chappell, Bressette
19 Road, Clarksville 03592. We have a neighbor in
20 Clarksville who has a tower, communications
21 tower. It has police, emergency, et cetera on
22 it. Where Pittsburg is the town that -- the tower
23 is in Clarksville, but the Town of Pittsburg is

1 all above the -- or 90 percent of it is all above
2 the Vermont/Canadian border, and a concern that's
3 been raised is how would these transmission lines
4 affect communications.

5 The power line is anticipated to go
6 within a quarter mile of that communications
7 tower. We are concerned with homeland security.
8 The border station is 26 miles to the north.
9 Pittsburg has a vast border with Canada. But it
10 is a concern of how -- and it's not been addressed
11 that I know of. How will transmission lines
12 affect the communications that we have on the
13 northern end of the state? Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much for
16 those last comments. No one has moved into my
17 second row, so my assumption is we've got no one
18 who wants to talk again. We thank you all for
19 coming and staying as long as you did. And we
20 adjourn this meeting. Thank you very much.

21 (Hearing adjourned at 10:10 p.m.)

22

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)